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STATES IN MOTION

What's Happening In Indian States



16th October- 31st October

OCTOBER 2026 | VOLUME II

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Key Announcements

This document tracks the various key policy and reform decisions taken by state Governments and UTs from **16th October, 2026 to 31st October, 2026.**

Reform Decisions

I. Tamil Nadu

A. **Amendment To The Tamil Nadu Combined Development And Building Rules, 2019:** The Tamil Nadu Housing and Urban Development Department amended the Combined Development and Building Rules, 2019 to allow greater flexibility in building development while retaining existing FSI and setback controls. The amendments raise the maximum height for specified non-high-rise buildings from 18.3 metres to 19.5 metres, ease parking norms for IT offices and permit commercial use along roads at least 12 metres wide in the Chennai Metropolitan Area.

II. Kerala

A. **Notification Exempting Vigilance T1 And T2 Sections From The RTI Act, 2026:** The Kerala Government notified the exemption of the T1 and T2 Sections of the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB) from the RTI Act, 2005 under Section 24(4). The exemption covers confidential reports, source reports and secure-hotline complaint records, reverses the 2022 decision that brought these sections back under the Act, and keeps information on corruption and human rights violations open to disclosure.

III. Uttar Pradesh

A. **Inland Vessel Rules, 2026:** The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the Uttar Pradesh Inland Vessel Rules, 2026, framed under the Inland Vessels Act, 2021, to register watercraft, improve passenger safety and ghat management, and promote river tourism on the state's rivers. The Rules give every watercraft a unique identification number, require life jackets for 110% of passenger capacity and one rescue boat for every 10 watercraft, and give existing watercraft 90 days to comply

IV. Madhya Pradesh

A. **Coaching Centres (Registration And Regulation) Rules, 2026:** The Madhya Pradesh Higher Education Department notified the Madhya Pradesh Coaching Centres (Registration and Regulation) Rules, 2026, making registration mandatory for coaching centres with more than 20 students. The Rules require disclosure of fees and results, CCTV, fire safety and trained security staff, a counsellor at every centre, and reporting of any suicide attempt within 24 hours.

Policy Level Announcements

I. Maharashtra

A. **Amendments To The Maharashtra Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Policy, 2026:**

Key Announcements

The Maharashtra Cabinet approved 11 amendments to the PPP Policy, 2026 to streamline infrastructure project approvals, clarify viability gap funding, project ownership and risk allocation, and strengthen project preparation. The revised framework assigns PPP projects involving Government assistance, including land costs or premiums, below ₹ 25 crore to the Empowered Committee, while projects involving ₹ 25 crore or more require approval from the Cabinet Committee for Infrastructure (CCI). It also mandates MITRA's involvement, governs the ₹ 200-crore Project Development Fund for 2026–27, and introduces public asset monetisation to unlock value of underutilised resources.

II. Goa

A. **Goa Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy, 2026:** The Goa Government launched the Goa AI Policy, 2026 to build a responsible, innovation-driven AI ecosystem across governance, tourism, healthcare and agriculture over 2026–2029. The policy targets training and certifying 50,000 people in AI by 2030, with at least 25 % women, and proposes AI fundamentals for Classes VI–XII from 2027–28 and AI laboratories in up to 50 Government schools.

III. Madhya Pradesh

A. **Integrated Fisheries Industry Policy, 2026:** The Madhya Pradesh Government granted industry status to fisheries under the Madhya Pradesh Integrated Fisheries Industry Policy, 2026, extending industrial incentives, land allotment and technical support to fish producers and investors. The policy proposes ₹ 7,430 crore in cage-culture investment across four major reservoirs to add four lakh metric tonnes of fish, with ₹ 3,000 crore in investment over three years expected to create 20,000 jobs.

IV. Delhi

A. **Draft Information Technology Policy, 2026–2031:** The Delhi Government's Information Technology Department released the draft Delhi Information Technology Policy, 2026–2031, to position Delhi as a hub for IT investment, Global Capability Centres (GCCs), startups and emerging technologies. The draft targets over 200 GCCs, training for 5–6 lakh youth and a 40% share for women in the tech workforce by 2031, supported by power tariff rebates, employment-linked incentives and at least two Innovation and Technology Districts.

Social Sector Schemes

I. Gujarat

A. **State Additional Subsidy For Residential Rooftop Solar:** The Gujarat Cabinet approved an additional state subsidy of about ₹ 1,000 crore for residential rooftop solar systems of up to 2 kW under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana. With Central

Key Announcements

and state support combined, general-category households will pay only 10% of the installation cost and SC and ST households only 5%, benefiting more than 3 lakh households.

Investment Announcements

I. Haryana

A. **Haryana–Sweden Investment Proposals And Trade Cooperation:** The Haryana Government signed Letters of Intent (LoIs) worth ₹ 4,000 crore with Swedish companies, including ₹ 1,000 crore in retail and warehousing, along with an agreement to expand trade and economic cooperation with Sweden. The agreements include a city-to-city collaboration between Gurugram and Stockholm on technology, smart city solutions and sustainable urban development, and assurances of jobs and skill training for youth from Haryana.

II. Odisha

A. **Investment Proposals In Power, Chemicals, Minerals And Other Industrial Sectors:** The Odisha Government secured investment proposals worth about ₹ 53,894 crore in the chemicals and petrochemicals sector at India Chem 2026 in Mumbai, through nine MoUs and four expressions of investment intent. The proposals are expected to create 20,210 jobs and include ₹ 36,763.51 crore from NLC India Limited (formerly Neyveli Lignite Corporation) for a 3,200 MW thermal power plant with coal gasification and fertiliser facilities.

Other Decisions

I. Delhi

A. **Projects Worth ₹ 8,941 Crore For Water, Sewage And Yamuna Cleaning:** The Delhi Jal Board launched 43 projects worth about ₹ 8,941 crore, inaugurating 10 and laying foundation stones for 33, to improve water supply and sewage treatment and clean the Yamuna. The projects include a 477 MLD water treatment plant at Chandrawal and 29 new decentralised sewage treatment plants, with the Government targeting a clean Yamuna in Delhi by May 2029.

II. Tamil Nadu

A. **Reduction Of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) Value Added Tax (VAT):** The Tamil Nadu Commercial Taxes and Registration Department reduced VAT on ATF for scheduled airlines from 29% to 16% at Chennai Airport and to 1% at other State airports, including Coimbatore, Madurai and Tiruchirappalli. The revised rates are effective from 1st November, 2026 to 31st October, 2027, to reduce airline operating costs and support regional air connectivity.

B. **Revised Contractor Registration System, 2026:** The Tamil Nadu Public Works Department notified the Revised Contractor Registration System, 2026 to simplify

Key Announcements

contractor classification and strengthen scrutiny of financial credentials and compliance. It replaces six classes with four, ranging from works up to ₹ 1 crore to works above ₹ 10 crore, mandates a 15% e-Bank Guarantee for contracts above ₹ 10 crore and allows debarment of up to two years for non-performance or forged documents.

III. Maharashtra

A. **Framework For Fertilizer Sale (FFS), 2026:** The Maharashtra Agriculture Department implemented the Central Government-developed Framework for Fertilizer Sale (FFS). The FFS application provides farmers with real-time information on fertiliser availability, stock levels and prices at nearby authorised retail outlets, and enables them to book the required quantity in advance. It also enables farmers to select their crop and land area and view fertiliser recommendations based on the recorded data.

IV. Bihar

A. **Artificial Intelligence (AI) And Information Technology (IT) Training For Government School Teachers:** The Bihar Education Department announced a partnership with 11 IT companies, including Google Education, to provide hands-on AI and digital skills training to Government school teachers through the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), with training arrangements targeted for January 2027. The initiative also includes plans to establish smart classrooms in 700 model schools and introduce compulsory computer education from Class VI in Government schools from the next academic session.

Reform Decisions

I. Tamil Nadu

A. Amendment To The Tamil Nadu Combined Development And Building Rules, 2019

Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** High

1. On 26th October, 2026, the Tamil Nadu Housing and Urban Development Department amended the Tamil Nadu Combined Development and Building Rules, 2019.
2. It aims to provide greater flexibility in building development, simplify specified commercial land-use requirements and update construction standards while retaining existing floor space index (FSI), setback and other planning controls.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The amendments increase the maximum permissible height for specified non-high-rise buildings from 18.3 metres to 19.5 metres. Specified non-high-rise categories can have stilt/ground plus five floors, subject to conditions applied.
   b. It reduces IT, IT-enabled services and bioinformatics office parking requirements to one car parking space per 75 square (sq.) metres and one two-wheeler space per 50 sq. metres of floor area.
   c. It permits specified sites in designated residential and primary residential zones to qualify for commercial use along roads at least 12 metres wide in the Chennai Metropolitan Area and 9 metres wide elsewhere in Tamil Nadu.
   d. It increases the permissible height for specified residential and commercial buildings in Chennai's restricted aquifer recharge area from 9 metres to 14 metres, while retaining the six-dwelling-unit limit for the covered category.
   e. It strengthens accessibility compliance for persons with disabilities, elderly people and children, requiring applicable provisions to be met before the issue of a completion certificate.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The amendments align with the Union Government's Model Building Bye-Laws, 2016, which provide guidance on building safety, development standards and urban planning for states and urban local bodies.[1]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Telangana amended its Building Rules, 2012, to incentivise vertical growth in commercial buildings.[2] Maharashtra implemented the Unified Development Control and Promotion Regulations (UDCPR), 2020, to standardise development controls and building permissions.[3] Karnataka provides statutory authority for municipal building bye-laws regulating building heights, site use and construction standards.[4]

[1] Model Building Bye-Laws, 2016, NITI For States.
[2] G.O.Ms.No.95, Government Of Telangana.
[3] Unified Development Control And Promotion Regulations For Maharashtra State.
[4] Urban Development Secretariat Notification-I No. UDD 14 TTP 2017(P-3).

A. Amendment To The Tamil Nadu Combined Development And Building Rules, 2019
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** High

6. **Relevance -**
   a. The amendments address urban spatial constraints in Tamil Nadu against NITI Aayog's 2026 assessment estimating a shortage of 5–7 crore houses across metropolitan, urban and semi-urban areas. By raising the permissible height for specified non-high-rise buildings from 18.3 metres to 19.5 metres and relaxing IT office parking requirements, the amendments provide greater flexibility in building design and space utilisation within existing planning controls.[5]
   b. In response, the policy unlocks floor-space efficiency and commercial design flexibility. In Chennai's restricted aquifer recharge area, raising the height limit from 9 metres to 14 metres while retaining the six-dwelling-unit ceiling expands development capacity within established environmental safeguards.
   c. Further, the revision removes procedural friction across the planning approval lifecycle, where Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) data recorded average clearance durations of 64 days in 2024.[6] Permitting commercial use without requiring a separate land-use reclassification for properties along roads at least 12 metres wide in Chennai and 9 metres wide elsewhere eliminates an entire administrative layer, shortening pre-construction timelines for commercial and mixed-use projects.
   d. Lastly, the regulations institutionalise clean-mobility infrastructure. In August 2026, Chennai residents' welfare associations reported that many apartment complexes lacked dedicated EV charging space, forcing residents to rely on domestic electricity connections. The amendments require EV-ready electrical infrastructure in most new residential developments and fast-charging facilities in half the visitor-parking spaces of developments with more than 50 units.[7] This prevents reliance on informal domestic power connections and systematically integrates charging capacity into the state's urban housing stock.

[5] Framework To Promote Affordable Housing, NITI Aayog.
[6] DT next, February 2026.
[7] The New Indian Express, August 2026.

II. Kerala

A. Notification Exempting Vigilance T1 And T2 Sections From The RTI Act, 2026

Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** High

1. On 22nd October, 2026, the Government of Kerala notified, under Section 24(4) of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005,[8] the exemption of the T1 and T2 Sections of the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB)[9] from the purview of the RTI Act, 2005.
2. The Notification aims to take the confidential intelligence and verification wings of the VACB out of RTI Act's disclosure rules, covering confidential/source reports, top-secret files and the records of complaints made through the secure hotline.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. It exempts the T1 and T2 Sections of the VACB from the RTI Act:
      i. The T1 Section keeps the annual confidential reports of ministerial, executive and legal staff, secure personal files and top-secret documents, and handles confidential verifications and sensitive vigilance investigations.
      ii. The T2 Section processes vigilance officers' weekly diaries, collects and analyses intelligence inputs including source reports, manages public complaints received through secure hotlines, and coordinates surprise inspections.
   b. It reverses the 2022 decision[10] that brought the T Section back under the RTI Act, and adds the sections to the list of exempt intelligence and security organisations set by the G.O. of 7th February, 2006,[11] which covered eight organisations.
   c. It keeps the Section 24(4) provisos in place, so information about allegations of corruption and human rights violations stays open. Human rights information can be released only with State Information Commission (SIC) approval, within 45 days.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The notification follows how the Central Government uses Section 24 and the Second Schedule of the RTI Act, 2005.[12] Under these, the Union exempts intelligence and security organisations, including the CBI.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Odisha exempted its General Administration (Vigilance) Department under Section 24(4). The Orissa High Court held this ultra vires as far as corruption information is concerned.[13] Tamil Nadu placed its DVAC under Section 24(4). In October 2026 the Madras High Court held that the DVAC

[8] Right To Information Act, 2005.
[9] Report Of The Work Study Conducted In The Vigilance And Anti-Corruption Bureau, Government Of Kerala.
[10] Subash Mohapatra & Ors. v. State of Odisha & Anr., W.P.(C) No. 14286 of 2016.
[11] G.O.(MS) No. 26/2008/GAD, Government Of Kerala.
[12] Right To Information Act, 2005.
[13] The Indian Law Reports (Cuttack Series), 22nd June, 2022.

A. Notification Exempting Vigilance T1 And T2 Sections From The RTI Act, 2026
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** High

cannot claim a blanket exemption for corruption-related records.[14,15]

6. **Relevance -**
   a. On 28th October, 2026, the Kerala High Court declined to grant an interim stay on the notification's enforcement, while issuing notice to the state Government on Public Interest Litigations (PILs) challenging the order. The Court specifically sought clarification on whether the statutory RTI exemption legally extends to vigilance inquiries conducted against public officials.[16]
   b. The notification restricts administrative transparency surrounding anti-corruption proceedings, taking effect amid an active VACB complaint against Chief Minister V.D. Satheeshan concerning the alleged personal use of chartered flights and government helicopters. The notification places records maintained by the VACB's T1 and T2 sections within the exemption framework under Section 24(4) of the RTI Act, 2005. However, the exemption does not extend to information concerning allegations of corruption and human rights violations, even where the relevant records are held by these sections.[17]
   c. The notification restricts routine disclosure of information held by the VACB's T1 and T2 sections while retaining the statutory exceptions for corruption and human rights allegations. Concerns remain over the classification of vigilance investigation records, particularly as the Kerala High Court sought clarification on 28th October, 2026, regarding the exemption's application to inquiries against public officials.[18]
   d. Moreover, since 2022, Section 8(1) has protected this complaint and source data only case by case.[19] Meanwhile, RTI was one of the few outside checks on cases that stalled before trial. RTI requests concerning allegations of corruption remain subject to the exception under Section 24(4). The requirement for State Information Commission approval and the special 45-day disclosure period apply to information concerning human rights violations, not corruption allegations.[20]
   e. Tamil Nadu exempted its DVAC in 2008. The Madras High Court overrode that exemption in October 2026,[21] holding that internal confidentiality rules and

[14] Case No. Cp 163/Scic/2019, Tamil Nadu Information Commission.
[15] State Of Tamil Nadu V. Tamil Nadu State Information Commission And S.R. Jangid, W.P. No. 22237 Of 2024.
[16] Bar And Bench, October, 2026.
[17] Kerala Gazette Notification, October 2026.
[18] LiveLaw, October 2026.
[19] RTI Act 2005, Section 8(1).
[20] RTI Act, 2005 Section 24(4).
[21] Case No. Cp 163/SCIC/2019, Tamil Nadu Information Commission.

A. Notification Exempting Vigilance T1 And T2 Sections From The RTI Act, 2026
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** High
general claims of operational risk cannot defeat the corruption proviso.[22] Kerala's notification is open to the same challenge.

[22] State Of Tamil Nadu (PIO, DVAC) v. Tamil Nadu State Information Commission & S.R. Jangid.

III. Uttar Pradesh

A. Uttar Pradesh Inland Vessel Rules, 2026
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** High

1. On 27th October, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the Uttar Pradesh Inland Vessel Rules, 2026.
2. The Rules aim to formalise mechanically and non-mechanically propelled watercraft, improve passenger safety and ghat management, and promote river tourism and other economic activities across the state's rivers and waterways, namely, the Ganga, Yamuna, Ghaghara, Gomti, Gandak and Betwa.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The Rules have been framed under the Inland Vessels Act, 2021,[23] and will replace the state's Inland Vessels Rules, 2002.
   b. Mechanically propelled watercraft will receive 10-character unique identification numbers and non-mechanically propelled boats 12-character numbers.
   c. Assistant Regional Transport Officers will register mechanically propelled watercraft at the district level, while Motor Vehicle Inspectors at the district level and Assistant Motor Vehicle Inspectors at the tehsil level will register non-mechanically propelled boats.
   d. The National Inland Navigation Institute, Patna, has been designated to survey and assess watercraft.
   e. A State Development Fund for mechanically propelled watercraft will be financed through fees and penalties, while district-level welfare funds will support non-mechanically propelled watercraft and the welfare of boat operators.
   f. Boats must carry life jackets for 110% of their permitted passenger capacity, a 10-metre rope and a first-aid kit, operators must give passengers safety information before every journey, and one emergency rescue boat will be provided for every 10 watercraft.
   g. Ghats must have permanent lighting, signboards, life buoys and divers, local bodies, development authorities and district committees will set arrangements for their leasing, maintenance, operation and safety, and a district-level committee headed by the District Magistrate will work to prevent boat accidents.
   h. Existing watercraft will be given 90 days to comply with the new standards.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Rules are framed under the Inland Vessels Act, 2021, which sets a uniform national framework requiring vessels to hold a survey certificate, a nationally valid registration and insurance cover.[24]

[23] Inland Vessels Bill, 2021.
[24] Inland Vessels Bill, 2021.

A. Uttar Pradesh Inland Vessel Rules, 2026
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** High

5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Gujarat's Inland Vessel Rules, 2024, require vessels under 10 metres to have registration, a survey certificate, safety equipment and operating permission from the District Magistrate or Municipal Commissioner.[25]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. The Rules follow two fatal boat accidents on the Yamuna in Uttar Pradesh within the past seven months. On 10th April, 2026, a reportedly overcrowded tourist boat carrying 25–27 passengers capsized after hitting a pontoon bridge near Vrindavan in Mathura, killing at least 10 people. On 6th May, 2026, another boat capsized while returning from a river island in Hamirpur district, leaving five people dead and one missing.[26] The requirement of life jackets for 110% of permitted capacity, pre-journey safety briefings, rescue boats and District Magistrate-led committees address overloading and emergency-response gaps.
   b. The Rules replace a 2002 framework that predates the Inland Vessels Act, 2021, and bring Uttar Pradesh's watercraft into the Act's national registration and insurance system. The 2021 Act requires a certificate of survey, a registration certificate valid across the country and insurance cover, with vessel data held in a central electronic record.[27] Unique 10- and 12-character identification numbers, the National Inland Navigation Institute, Patna, as survey authority, and a 90-day compliance window extend these requirements to existing vessels.
   c. The Rules formalise a river economy that is already generating substantial income. During Maha Kumbh 2025, a single Prayagraj boatman family operating 130 boats earned ₹ 30 crore over the 45-day event, about ₹ 23 lakh per boat, according to the state Government.[28] The district-level welfare funds for non-mechanically propelled watercraft and the registration of such boats through Motor Vehicle Inspectors convert those announcements into a standing rule-based system.
   d. The framework arrives as commercial traffic on the Ganga in Uttar Pradesh is being scaled up. Cargo movement on India's national waterways reached 218 million tonnes in 2025-26, exceeding the 200 million tonne Maritime India Vision 2030 target four years early.[29] The ghat standards on lighting, signboards, life buoys and divers, and the State Development Fund for mechanically propelled vessels, provide the state-level safety and management layer for cruise and cargo vessels that will share river stretches with country boats.

[25] Ports And Transport Department, Government Of Gujarat, June, 2026.
[26] Deccan Herald, May, 2026 And Scroll, April, 2026.
[27] Inland Vessel Act, 2021.
[28] The Print, March, 2025.
[29] News On Air, October, 2026.

IV. Madhya Pradesh

A. Madhya Pradesh Coaching Centres (Registration And Regulation) Rules, 2026

Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** High

1. On 23rd October 2026, the Higher Education Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh, notified the Madhya Pradesh Coaching Centres (Registration and Regulation) Rules, 2026.
2. The rules aim to regulate coaching centres through mandatory registration, make their fees and results transparent, and ensure student safety and mental well-being.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. Coaching centres with more than 20 students must register each branch within 90 days of publication of the Rules. Registration is valid for three years and is non-transferable.
   b. Centres must maintain a website disclosing their fee structure, exit and refund policy, tutors' names and qualifications, and enrolment and success records for preceding five years.
   c. Tutors must hold at least a bachelor's degree, persons convicted of offences relating to student safety cannot be hired, and staff lists must be shared with the police.
   d. Centres must install CCTV cameras (except in toilets, changing and counselling rooms), fire-fighting equipment and first aid, deploy trained security staff and restrict access to rooftops.
   e. Centres must follow the state's Uniform Mental Health Policy, 2026 (SPANDAN),[30] engage a counsellor, display helpline numbers, hold parent meetings every three months and report any suicide attempt to the district monitoring committee within 24 hours.
   f. A collector-led district committee will run a grievance cell, registration can be cancelled only after a 15-day show-cause notice, and appeals lie with the Divisional Commissioner.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The rules follow the Central Government's Guidelines for Regulation of Coaching Centres, 2024, issued by the Ministry of Education, which require graduate tutors, fee transparency and counselling support, and ask states to monitor coaching centres.[31]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** The Rajasthan Coaching Centres (Control and Regulation) Act, 2025,[32] requires registration of centres with more than 100 students

[30] Uniform Mental Health Policy, 2026 (SPANDAN).
[31] Free Press Journal, January, 2024.
[32] Rajasthan Coaching Centres (Control and Regulation) Act, 2025.

A. Madhya Pradesh Coaching Centres (Registration And Regulation) Rules, 2026
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** High

and provides for psychological counsellors and a public portal. It prescribes fines of ₹50,000 for a first violation and ₹ 2 lakh for a repeat violation.

6. **Relevance -**
   a. The Rules strengthen oversight of coaching centres in line with the Supreme Court's July 2025 directions on student protection and mental health.[33] The Court had directed States to establish registration requirements, student safety standards and grievance redressal mechanisms for private coaching centres. By mandating CCTV cameras, fire-fighting equipment, first aid and district-level monitoring, the Rules establish a framework for identifying safety violations and holding coaching centres accountable.
   b. The mandatory counselling and suicide-attempt reporting requirements address growing concerns over student mental health. In 2024, Madhya Pradesh recorded 1,447 student suicides, accounting for 10% of the national total of 14,488 and ranking third after Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.[34] The Rules' provisions for counsellors, helpline numbers, quarterly parent meetings and reporting of suicide attempts within 24 hours aim to identify distress early and strengthen student support in coaching centres.
   c. Fee-transparency requirements will help students and parents compare coaching costs and understand refund conditions before enrolment. Between September 2023 and August 2024, the National Consumer Helpline facilitated ₹ 1.15 crore in refunds following complaints against coaching centres withholding fees.[35] While these are national figures, they highlight the financial impact of refund disputes. By requiring centres to publish fee structures and exit and refund policies, the Rules will improve transparency and provide students with a basis for raising complaints through district grievance mechanisms.

[33] Sukdeb Saha v. State Of Andhra Pradesh & Ors.
[34] NCRB, Accidental Deaths And Suicides In India 2024.
[35] PIB, November, 2024.

V. Nagaland

A. Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA) Act, 2026

Source: Link | **Impact:** High

1. On 25th October, 2026, the President of India granted assent to the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority Bill, 2026.[36]
2. The Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority Act, 2026 aims to establish a decentralised self-governing territorial authority for 6 districts.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The Authority covers six districts: Tuensang, Mon, Longleng, Kiphire, Noklak and Shamator, with administrative powers over 46 transferred subjects.
   b. The governing body comprises 62 members out of which 40 are elected representatives, 20 are regional MLAs as ex-officio members without voting rights, and two are Governor-nominated members.
   c. The legislation reserves one-third of the elected seats for women and provides for an Executive Council of up to nine members headed by a Chief Executive Member.
   d. The framework provides for legislative, executive and financial autonomy within Nagaland, subject to the enacted provisions and applicable constitutional safeguards.
   e. The state Government may constitute an interim council of up to 13 members during the transition to the first elected Authority.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The FNTA is based on the tripartite Memorandum of Agreement signed on 5th February, 2026 between the Central Government, the Nagaland Government and the Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO). The agreement provides for the devolution of powers over 46 subjects and dedicated development funding for six eastern districts of Nagaland.[37]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Assam's Bodoland Territorial Council[38] under the Sixth Schedule, providing autonomous regional governance bears resemblance to FNTA. Meghalaya's Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council[39] and other Sixth Schedule councils, exercising specified legislative and administrative powers. It is also similar to West Bengal's Gorkhaland Territorial Administration,[40] established to provide regional administrative autonomy in the Darjeeling hills.
6. **Relevance -**
   a. The establishment of the FNTA establishes a negotiated regional self-governance framework to resolve long-standing development concerns while retaining the six

[36] Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority Bill, 2026.
[37] PIB, February 2026
[38] Autonomous Councils, Assam State Portals.
[39] Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council.
[40] Gorkhaland Territorial Administration.

A. Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA) Act, 2026
Source: Link | **Impact:** High

eastern districts within Nagaland. Responding to demands raised by the Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO) since 2010, which culminated in nearly four lakh voters across 20 Assembly constituencies abstaining during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the FNTA institutionalises autonomy through a statutory framework for regional self-governance, aligning development expenditure and administrative decisions with the needs of eastern Nagaland.[41]

b. The statutory architecture targets deep multidimensional deprivation across eastern Nagaland through formulaic fiscal devolution. Baseline estimates from NITI Aayog's National Multidimensional Poverty Index (2023) record high poverty headcount ratios across the region: 45.56% in Mon, 38.33% in Tuensang, 37.33% in Kiphire, and 33.88% in Longleng. Introducing statutory funding allocations determined by population and land area, reinforced by dedicated special development grants, replaces historical fiscal shortfalls with transparent, needs-based budgetary resources.[42]

c. Further, transferring school education and primary healthcare responsibilities to the FNTA enables rapid, decentralised interventions to resolve critical service delivery gaps. This localised administrative oversight directly targets acute deficits, such as the shortage of 304 teachers alongside classroom and drinking water shortfalls identified by the United Sangtam Students' Conference in September 2026 across Kiphire and adjoining Sangtam areas. It also equips regional authorities to fill chronic medical specialist vacancies documented in the 2026 CAG report across Kiphire, Longleng, Mon, and Tuensang.[43]

d. Lastly, vesting authority over district roads and public transport in the FNTA directly addresses acute connectivity bottlenecks that disrupt daily economic activity. This targeted authority is vital in areas like Kiphire, where the district administration reported three out of seven scheduled Government transport services suspended due to poor road conditions. Devolving infrastructure planning ensures capital outlays prioritise critical arterial links, establishing a responsive institutional pipeline between local requirements and state execution.[44]

[41] The Telegraph, April 2024, And News On Air, October, 2026.
[42] National Multidimensional Poverty Index 2023.
[43] Eastern Mirror, September 2026.
[44] Kiphire Transportation, Government Of Nagaland.

VI. Haryana

A. Mandatory Healthcare Professional Registry (HPR) Registration for Healthcare Professionals

Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 31st October, 2026, the Haryana Government notified that registration with the HPR is mandatory for healthcare professionals seeking new registration or renewal in the state.
2. The initiative aims to strengthen the verification of healthcare professionals and build a complete digital database of registered practitioners in Haryana.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The requirement covers doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists and other eligible healthcare professionals applying for new registration or renewal.
   b. The requirement applies to the Haryana State Medical Council, Haryana State Dental Council, Haryana Nurses and Nurse-Midwives Council, Council of Indian Medicine Haryana and Haryana State Pharmacy Council.
   c. Professionals granted provisional registration must obtain their HPR identification number within 90 days.
   d. Failure to do so will result in suspension of provisional registration, restricting their right to practise until reinstatement.
   e. Councils and departments must complete verification within 10 days of receiving complete applications with a one-time 30-day transition window for professionals whose registration or renewal falls due within 30 days of the notification.
   f. The state Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) Office will periodically review compliance and coordinate implementation with the relevant councils.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions' Registration Regulations, 2026,[45] provides for unique identification numbers, digital registration certificates and QR-based verification of allied and healthcare professionals under the ABDM.[46]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** In Delhi, the Delhi Medical Council has made the HPR identification number mandatory for renewal of registration.[47]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. The requirement addresses the large gap in digital registration between Haryana's public and private healthcare professionals. As of September 2026, only 17.38% of targeted private doctors and about 1% of private nurses were registered under HPR, compared with 90.48% of targeted Government doctors.[48] By linking HPR

[45] The Registration of Allied and Healthcare Professionals Regulations, 2026.
[46] Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare, December, 2024.
[47] Delhi Medical Council, Circular On HPR ID Number.
[48] The Tribune, September, 2026.

A. Mandatory Healthcare Professional Registry (HPR) Registration for Healthcare Professionals
Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

identification to new registration and renewal across professional councils, the requirement will progressively bring more private practitioners into the verified national registry and reduce reliance on voluntary enrolment.

b. The requirement will strengthen Haryana's ability to assess its healthcare workforce and plan staffing more effectively. The National Health Mission's 2024 Common Review Mission identified vacancies among medical officers, nurses, pharmacists and laboratory technicians in Haryana, alongside instances of poorly planned staff deployment.[49] Linking professional registration to a verified national database will provide a more consistent record of qualified practitioners. When combined with employment and facility-level information, this will help authorities identify workforce gaps and inform recruitment and deployment decisions.

c. The requirement will support greater integration of private healthcare professionals into Haryana's digital health system. By September 2026, the state had created over 1.92 crore Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts, covering nearly 65% of its estimated population. However, only 11.92% of targeted private and PPP healthcare facilities were registered under the Health Facility Registry, compared with 97.98% of targeted public facilities.[50] The HPR mandate will strengthen professional verification and support the linking of practitioners to digital health services. Wider onboarding of private healthcare facilities will remain necessary for patients to benefit from connected medical records and coordinated care.

[49] NHM, 16th Common Review Mission Report.
[50] The Tribune, September, 2026.

VII. Maharashtra

A. Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation e-Office System

Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 19th October, 2026, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) rolled out the e-Office System for approximately 14,000 users across its departments.
2. The policy aims to move BMC's internal administration from paper files to a digital workflow.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The system introduces a platform developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) under a Maharashtra Government resolution, covering approximately 14,000 users in a phased rollout.
   b. It digitises official files, correspondence, proposals, notes, drafts and approvals.
   c. It enables electronic authorisation through Digital Signature Certificates issued to authorised signatories.
   d. It provides file tracking that lets officials monitor pending cases, decisions and correspondence.
   e. It mandates an implementation structure in which the IT Department trains nodal officers, runs a centralised helpdesk for technical issues, and core teams under departmental heads oversee rollout, backed by a circular for adoption across the civic body.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** Aligns with DARPG's e-Office programme[51] under Digital India, under which E-Office 7.0[52] was rolled out across all Ministries, achieving over 93% e-file adoption, supported by Vishleshan 2.0 analytics;[53] BMC applies the same NIC platform at the urban local body level.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Assam has all 58 Secretariat departments on NIC e-Office.[54] Mizoram extended e-Office from a four-department pilot to all 41 Secretariat departments and the CMO, with ₹ 1.99 crore sanctioned by DARPG under the State Collaborative Initiative scheme. Uttar Pradesh has implemented 100% e-Office in 93 Secretariat departments and is extending it to districts.
6. **Relevance -**
   a. BMC's earlier e-Office rollout under the 2012 Maharashtra GR covered only about 2,000 users in a corporation with over 1 lakh employees.[55] By March 2024, the Central Secretariat processed 93.9% of receipts electronically, and 41

[51] eOffice, DARPG.
[52] eOffice 7.0, User Manual.
[53] PIB December 2025.
[54] Assam State Centre, NIC.
[55] Office Implementation In Municipal Corporation Of Greater Mumbai, National Informatics Centre.

A. Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation e-Office System
Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

Ministries/Departments had 100% e-files.[56]

b. Earlier BMC e-Office efforts faced limited adoption, with only 440 officials substantially using the system despite nearly 10,000 user accounts being created, alongside technical difficulties during rollout.[57] Electronic file routing and digital signatures can reduce delays associated with physical file movement and manual approval processes.
c. File tracking can help identify where a proposal is pending, who must act and how long it has remained unresolved. This supports monitoring of existing administrative timelines. Section 64C of the Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act ordinarily limits a file's pendency with an individual officer to seven working days, subject to statutory exceptions and further imposes penalties for wilful delays.[58] The 2026 rollout also expands coverage roughly sevenfold, to 14,000 users. It adopts the Centre's nodal-officer model for e-Office adoption.[59]

[56] Secretariat Reforms, DARPG, March 2024.
[57] Hindustan Times, January, 2018.
[58] Section 64C, Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act, 1888.
[59] PIB, July 2024.

Policy Level Announcements

I. Maharashtra

A. Amendments To The Maharashtra Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Policy, 2026

Source: Link 1, Link 2, Link 3 | **Impact:** High

1. On 27th October, 2026, the Maharashtra Cabinet approved amendments to the Maharashtra Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Policy, 2026.[60]
2. The amended policy aims to streamline infrastructure project approvals, reduce procedural duplication and delays, clarify project ownership and risk allocation, and strengthen coordination among Government institutions and private developers.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The amendment introduces 11 changes, including a clearer definition of Viability Gap Funding (VGF)[61] and revised guidelines on developer and project-authority ownership and risk allocation.
   b. The approval framework removes one level of Network Planning Group Committee (NPGC) scrutiny for in-principle approvals in the following manner:
      i. Government assistance below ₹ 25 crore: PPP projects where the total monetary value of Government assistance, including eligible land costs or premiums, is less than ₹ 25 crore require approval from the Empowered Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary.
      ii. Government assistance of ₹ 25 crore or more: PPP projects where the total monetary value of such assistance or premiums is ₹ 25 crore or more require final approval from the Cabinet Committee for Infrastructure (CCI), based on the recommendations of the Empowered Committee.
   c. The Chief Executive Officer of Maharashtra Institution For Transformation (MITRA) will be invited to meetings of the CCI dealing with PPP project approvals.
   d. It clarifies provisions relating to Project Development Funds, departmental project evaluation, Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV), project sanctions and the appointment of transaction advisers and law firms.
   e. It introduces asset monetisation under Clause 13 to unlock revenue from public assets, including land and buildings, that are not commercially viable under conventional PPP development.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The amendments align with the Government of India's VGF Scheme, which provides financial support to eligible PPP infrastructure projects

[60] Maharashtra PPP Policy, 2026.

[61] Viability Gap Funding is a Government grant given to support Public-Private Partnership (PPP) infrastructure projects that are economically and socially useful, but are not financially profitable enough to attract private investment on their own

A. Amendments To The Maharashtra Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Policy, 2026
Source: Link 1, Link 2, Link 3 | **Impact:** High

that are economically desirable but commercially unviable.[62]

5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Odisha,[63] Andhra Pradesh,[64] Tamil Nadu[65] and Karnataka[66] have implemented PPP policies comparable to Maharashtra's PPP Policy 2026.
6. **Relevance -**
   a. The amendments aim to simplify infrastructure project approvals and reduce administrative delays in Maharashtra. India currently has 9,242 infrastructure projects worth ₹ 68.13 lakh crore across 35 states and administrative categories. Maharashtra alone has 31 projects worth ₹ 34,523.89 crore[67] registered under the Central Government's Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme. The amendments streamline the approval process by reducing repeated scrutiny at different project stages, while retaining the Empowered Committee and CCI as the competent approval authorities under the prescribed financial thresholds. The revised framework also provides for MITRA's participation in CCI meetings through its Chief Executive Officer.
   b. However, faster approvals alone may not be sufficient to attract private investment. Recently, three National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) highway packages covering 912.3 km across Maharashtra and Gujarat, valued at ₹ 18,884.69 crore,[68] failed to attract any bids despite extensions of deadlines and revisions to concession terms. This highlights the importance of making projects financially viable and distributing risks appropriately between the Government and private developers, alongside simplifying approvals.
   c. Further, the policy addresses upstream project preparation deficits through a ₹ 200-crore Project Development Fund (PDF) allocated for 2026–27. Earmarking resources for transaction advisers, detailed project reports (DPRs), and legal assessments targets structural flaws in concession structuring
   d. In June 2026, Maharashtra acknowledged that several departments had undertaken projects exceeding their financial capacity, resulting in delayed completion and cost escalation.[69] The amendments introduce an asset monetisation provision covering public assets such as Government land and

[62] Viability Gap Funding Scheme, Department Of Economic Affairs.
[63] Odisha PPP Policy, 2023
[64] G.O.Ms.No. 74, Government Of Andhra Pradesh.
[65] Tamil Nadu PPP Policy, Tamil Nadu Infrastructure Development Board.
[66] State PPP Policy For Infrastructure Projects – 2025.
[67] Infrastructure Projects - State Wise Summary Report, Department Of Economic Affairs.
[68] The Economic Times, March 2026.
[69] The Indian Express, June 2026.

A. Amendments To The Maharashtra Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Policy, 2026
Source: Link 1, Link 2, Link 3 | **Impact:** High
buildings that are unsuitable for conventional PPP development. This provides another route for generating revenue from public assets and financing infrastructure development without relying entirely on budgetary allocations.[70]

II. Madhya Pradesh

A. Madhya Pradesh Integrated Fisheries Industry Policy, 2026
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** High

1. On 23rd October, 2026, Madhya Pradesh Government announced industry status for the fisheries sector under the Madhya Pradesh Integrated Fisheries Industry Policy-2026.
2. The policy aims to convert fisheries from a traditional livelihood into an investment-led industry by using reservoirs more productively, expanding cage culture and supporting investment across the fisheries value chain
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The policy grants industry status to fisheries, extending industrial incentives, land allotment and technical assistance to fish producers and investors.
   b. It proposes ₹ 7,430 crore in cage-culture investment across Indira Sagar, Bargi, Bansagar and Barna reservoirs, targeting an additional four lakh metric tonnes of fish production.
   c. It promotes Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in reservoir fisheries, with the first project involving 500 cages launched at Barna Reservoir in Raisen district.
   d. It provides for fish landing centres, disease diagnostic laboratories and processing units near reservoirs, alongside a Fisheries Investment and Export Guide and an export portal SOP.
   e. The Cabinet approved ₹ 3,000 crore in investment over three years, targeting 20,000 jobs, including 10,000 direct and 10,000 indirect jobs, with a budget provision of ₹ 18.5 crore.
   f. The state's cage-culture guidelines target 10,000 units, implemented by the Fisheries Department in reservoirs of 100–1,000 hectares and the Madhya Pradesh Fisheries Federation in larger reservoirs.
   g. Individuals, including traditional fishers, can receive up to 18 cages, and self-help groups, cooperatives and institutions up to 72. Each cage costs ₹ 3 lakh, with subsidies of 60% (₹ 1.8 lakh) for SC/ST beneficiaries and women, and 40% (₹ 1.2 lakh) for general-category and OBC men.

[70] Timesnet, October 2026.

h. Cage allocations are made through a public application process, district-level scrutiny and a lottery. Successful applicants receive seven-year leases and must install the cages within three months, with compliance monitored by fisheries officials.

4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Policy aligns with the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). The Policy also aligns with the Central Government's Reservoir Fisheries Cluster programme.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Gujarat provides 60% subsidy, up to ₹ 1.8 lakh on a ₹ 3 lakh unit cost, to Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries for cage culture in tribal areas.[71] Assam launched the ₹ 796.88 crore Asian Development Bank-supported S.W.I.F.T project to rejuvenate 71 water bodies covering approximately 4,000 hectares across 23 districts, targeting 6,000 MT of fish and 57 crore fish fry annually.[72]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Fisheries contributed 0.61% of Madhya Pradesh's Gross State Value Addition (GSVA) in 2025–26, valued at approximately ₹ 9,600 crore.[73] Fish production increased by 123%, from 2 lakh MT in 2019–20 to 4.45 lakh MT in 2024–25.[74] Despite having 4.50 lakh hectares of inland water, including 3.75 lakh hectares of reservoirs, the state contributes only 2.9% of India's inland fish production of 151.60 lakh tonnes.[75] The Government aims to raise output to 10–11 lakh tonnes within two to three years, potentially generating an additional ₹ 5,000 crore annually and benefiting at least 50,000 people.[76] This would amount to nearly half the sector's current GSVA, while industry status and expanded cage culture will raise production through better utilisation of reservoir resources.
   b. Agriculture and allied activities contributed 43.09% of Madhya Pradesh's GSVA in 2025–26, including crops (30.17%), livestock (7.22%) and fisheries (0.61%).[77] However, average monthly agricultural household income was ₹ 8,339 in 2018–19, below the national average of ₹ 10,218.[78] The cage-culture guidelines provide up to 18 cages per beneficiary, with 60% subsidies for SC/ST beneficiaries and women and 40% for others.[79] The policy will diversify rural incomes and extend MSME incentives, land access and value-addition opportunities.
   c. Inland states account for only 2% of India's fisheries exports despite a 147% increase in production.[80] The Inland State Export Potential SOP and MPEDA's

[71] Development Support Agency Of Gujarat – Fish Farming And Cage Culture Scheme.
[72] Times Of India, August, 2026.
[73] Madhya Pradesh Economic Survey 2025–26.
[74] PIB, October, 2026.
[75] PIB, October, 2026 And PIB, February, 2026.
[76] PIB, October, 2026.
[77] Madhya Pradesh Economic Survey 2025–26.
[78] PIB, December, 2022.
[79] PIB, October, 2026.
[80] PIB, October, 2026.

market intelligence support aim to address this gap. Of the five FIDF projects approved in Madhya Pradesh, only the fisheries training centre is under way, while four, including cold storage and disease diagnostic facilities, are yet to begin.[81] Completing these projects will strengthen post-harvest infrastructure, improve market access and support fisheries exports.

[81] PIB, October, 2026.

III. Meghalaya

A. Meghalaya Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy, 2026
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 22nd October, 2026, the Government of Meghalaya notified the Meghalaya EV Policy, 2026, replacing the Meghalaya EV Policy, 2021.[82]
2. The policy aims to accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles across private, commercial and public transportation by reducing upfront purchase costs and expanding charging infrastructure, and to establish an integrated electric mobility ecosystem.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The policy provides purchase incentives for electric two-wheelers priced up to ₹ 1.75 lakh, covering 2,000 private and 2,000 commercial vehicles, and 500 commercial electric three-wheelers.
   b. It offers incentives of ₹ 25,000 for private and ₹ 50,000 for commercial electric four-wheelers priced up to ₹ 35 lakh, covering 3,000 vehicles in each category.
   c. Eligible electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers, four-wheelers and buses receive exemptions from motor vehicle tax and registration fees during the policy period.
   d. Incentives of scrappage for replacement of eligible BS-IV and older Meghalaya-registered vehicles through authorised Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities:
      i. ₹ 10,000 for electric two-wheelers (400 applicants),
      ii. ₹ 25,000 for electric three-wheelers (50 applicants),
      iii. ₹ 50,000 for private electric four-wheelers (300 applicants), and
      iv. ₹ 2 lakh for commercial electric four-wheelers (300 applicants).
   e. The policy enables phased development of public charging stations and battery-swapping facilities through coordination between the Transport Department, Meghalaya Power Distribution Corporation Ltd. (MePDCL), Tourism Department, Urban Affairs Department and Public Works Department.
   f. It facilitates project approvals through the Invest Meghalaya Portal's Single Window System[83] and designates the Commissioner of Transport as nodal agency.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the PM E-DRIVE Scheme, 2024.[84] Meghalaya's purchase incentives and charging infrastructure provisions complement the scheme's electric mobility objectives.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Assam's EV Policy, 2021,[85] Delhi's EV Policy,

[82] Meghalaya Electric Vehicle Policy, 2021.
[83] Invest Meghalaya Portal's Single Window System
[84] CG-DL-E-30092024-257594, PM E-Drive Scheme.
[85] Electric Vehicle Policy Of Assam, 2021.

A. Meghalaya Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy, 2026
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

2020,[86] and Maharashtra's EV Policy, 2025,[87] providing purchase subsidies, road tax and registration fee exemptions, and incentives for charging infrastructure.

6. **Relevance -**
   a. Meghalaya's electric mobility adoption remains limited despite the introduction of its 2021 EV Policy. The state had approximately 6.53 lakh registered vehicles as of June 2026, including just over 2,500 electric vehicles against a target of 20,000 EVs set in the 2021 policy.[88] Further, only 718 electric vehicles were registered in Meghalaya between January and September 2026, against 35,220 total vehicle registrations, representing approximately 2.04% of new registrations.[89] The EV policy addresses these constraints through targeted purchase incentives, tax and registration fee exemptions, and category-specific scrappage benefits.
   b. The policy also responds to inadequate charging infrastructure, particularly along Meghalaya's hilly roads and tourist routes. Poor charging availability, concerns about battery performance on steep terrain and limited access to suitable EVs are the major barriers to adoption of EVs in Shillong. Also, an earlier proposal for 11 charging stations across the city had not been implemented.[90] The new policy provides for a geographically distributed network of charging and battery-swapping facilities, supported by coordination with the power utility and private investment.
   c. It supports the replacement of ageing commercial vehicles that contribute to urban air pollution. The 2025 study estimated that around 4,000–4,500 taxis operate in Shillong, dependent on petrol and diesel.[91] The policy introduces scrappage incentives ranging from ₹ 10,000 for electric two-wheelers to ₹ 2 lakh for commercial electric four-wheelers when eligible older vehicles are replaced.[92] This reduces the cost of upgrading ageing vehicles and supports cleaner taxi, tourism and shared transport services.

[86] Delhi Electric Vehicles Policy, 2020.
[87] Maharashtra EV Policy, 2025.
[88] Press Release, Government Of Meghalaya, 22nd October, 2026.
[89] Vahan Dashboard.
[90] Shillong City Wide Ev Demand Planning And EVCI Network Plan 2025-35, July 2025, Page 118.
[91] Shillong City Wide Ev Demand Planning And EVCI Network Plan 2025-35, July 2025, Page 89.
[92] Meghalaya EV Policy, 2026,Offers Purchase Incentives, Tax Waivers and Scrappage Benefits, Page 2

IV. Himachal Pradesh

A. Himachal Pradesh Nutrition Policy, 2026

Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 22nd October, 2026, the Himachal Pradesh Government approved the Himachal Pradesh Nutrition Policy, 2026.
2. The policy aims to reduce malnutrition, anemia and micronutrient deficiencies and improve dietary diversity, through a life-cycle approach focused on the first 1,000 days of life, maternal and child nutrition, adolescents and vulnerable communities.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The policy promotes locally available nutritious foods, including traditional Himachali foods, millets, pulses and dairy, to improve dietary diversity and access to safe, affordable nutrition, particularly in remote and tribal areas.
   b. The Composite Testing Laboratory at Kandaghat will be upgraded, with four additional food-testing laboratories proposed alongside mobile food testing, water-quality monitoring and stronger food-safety surveillance.
   c. A State Nutrition Portal will be developed to integrate nutrition-related data, strengthen monitoring and support evidence-based planning and corrective action
   d. The policy provides for state and District Nutrition Coordination Cells to coordinate departmental action, alongside food-testing laboratories, mobile food-testing facilities and a proposed State Nutrition Portal for monitoring.
   e. The policy is to be implemented jointly by departments including Health, Women and Child Development, Education, Agriculture, Horticulture, Food and Civil Supplies, and Jal Shakti.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy strengthens the Central Government's nutrition programmes in the state, including the Integrated Child Development Services delivered through Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0, alongside the PM POSHAN scheme.[93]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Maharashtra set up a State Nutrition Mission, the Rajmata Jijau Mother-Child Health and Nutrition Mission, to tackle child malnutrition.[94]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. The policy addresses child malnutrition and anemia indicators that worsened in Himachal Pradesh between the last two national surveys. According to NFHS-5 (2019–20), 30.8% of children under five in Himachal Pradesh were stunted, 17.4% were wasted and 25.5% were underweight. Compared with NFHS-4 (2015–16),

[93] Ministry Of Women And Child Development, Saksham Anganwadi And POSHAN 2.0 Guidelines.
[94] Business Today, Maharashtra Nutrition Mission.

A. Himachal Pradesh Nutrition Policy, 2026
Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

these figures represented increases of 4.5, 3.7 and 4.3 percentage points, respectively.[95] Anaemia among children aged 6 to 59 months rose from 53.7% to 55.4%. It affected 53.0% of women aged 15 to 49 and 42.2% of pregnant women.[96] The policy targets malnutrition, anaemia and micronutrient deficiencies through a life-cycle approach that focuses on the first 1,000 days, mothers, children and adolescents.

b. The emphasis on dietary diversity and local foods responds to poor diet quality among young children. Only 19% of children aged 6 to 23 months in the state received a minimum acceptable diet, according to NFHS-5.[97] The policy promotes locally available nutritious foods, including traditional Himachali foods, millets, pulses and dairy. It also strengthens nutrition under the Integrated Child Development Services, PM POSHAN and the Public Distribution System. Including familiar, nutritious foods in Anganwadi centres and schools, as well as in PDS rations, will improve children's dietary diversity through existing programmes.

c. The policy prioritises remote and tribal areas where difficult terrain limits access to nutrition services. Kinnaur, Lahaul-Spiti and parts of Chamba are notified scheduled areas, with winter isolation requiring advance stocking of essential supplies in places such as Pangi.[98] The Himachal Pradesh Human Development Report 2025 identified weak health infrastructure in Kinnaur and Lahaul-Spiti, while Chamba ranked 10th among 12 districts on the Human Development Index.[99] Promoting local foods will reduce dependence on external supplies, while coordination cells and mobile testing will strengthen monitoring in remote areas.

d. Himachal Pradesh ranked 10th in the State Food Safety Index 2023–24, scoring 48.5 out of 100, including 18 out of 36 for testing infrastructure and surveillance.[100] The Government allocated ₹ 8.50 crore to upgrade the Kandaghat laboratory and ₹ 25 crore for a new facility in Kangra, with additional laboratories approved in Mandi, Shimla and Baddi.[101] These facilities will strengthen food testing under PDS, anganwadis and school meal programmes, helping detect contamination and improve food safety.

[95] PIB, December, 2021.
[96] Himachal Pradesh State Food Commission, Survey Data (NFHS-5).
[97] Indian Express, December, 2020.
[98] Himachal Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd.
[99] Himachal Pradesh Human Development Report 2025.
[100] 6th State Food Safety Index.
[101] Tribune, January, 2026.

V. Delhi

A. Draft Delhi Information Technology Policy, 2026–2031

Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** High

1. On 27th October, 2026, the Delhi Government's Information Technology Department released the draft Information Technology Policy, 2026–2031.
2. The draft policy aims to position Delhi as a hub for IT investment, GCCs, startups and emerging technologies, while training 5–6 lakh youth by 2031 and increasing women's share of the tech workforce to 40%.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The draft targets the establishment of over 200 GCCs in Delhi, with a GCC Facilitation Cell as a single point of contact and a single-window mechanism to process standard approvals within 30 days.
   b. It proposes at least two Innovation and Technology Districts, with South Delhi, Dwarka and East Delhi as priority areas, offering office space, laboratories and co-working facilities, with at least one to be developed within five years.
   c. Proposed incentives include:
      i. A 10% power tariff rebate for eligible IT and IT-enabled services companies and GCCs.
      ii. Reimbursement of internet costs of up to ₹ 5 lakh a year for three years.
      iii. ₹ 25,000 per employee a year for three years for GCCs creating over 500 jobs.
      iv. A diversity incentive of ₹ 5,000 a month for five years for each woman, SC, ST and disabled employee.
      v. Support for training, AI computing and cybersecurity certification.
   d. Four dedicated funds are proposed, with ₹ 5 crore a year each for GCC facilitation, emerging technology and skills development, and ₹ 10 crore for GovTech innovation, subject to budgetary allocation and Finance Department concurrence.
   e. It proposes a state Data Centre and a 24x7 cybersecurity monitoring centre by 2027, all notified services online through the 'myDelhi' portal, and AI use in traffic, pollution, health and fraud detection.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The draft aligns with the national framework announced in the Union Budget 2025–26 to guide states in promoting GCCs in tier-2 cities, through measures on talent, infrastructure, and building byelaw reforms.[102]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Karnataka released a draft of India's first GCC policy in September 2024, targeting 500 GCCs and 3.5 lakh jobs by 2029. It proposed three Global Innovation Districts, internships for one lakh students and a ₹ 100 crore innovation fund for academia–GCC research.[103]

[102] The Tribune, February, 2025.
[103] Deccan Herald, September, 2024.

A. Draft Delhi Information Technology Policy, 2026–2031
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** High

6. Relevance -

a. India currently hosts over 2,100 GCCs employing 23.6 lakh people, with industry projections estimating 35 lakh employees and around 400 new centres by 2030.[104] Capturing a meaningful share of this pipeline would place Delhi alongside Bengaluru, Hyderabad and the Gurugram-Noida belt as a serious contender for new GCC investment in the NCR, backed by the GCC Facilitation Cell's single-window, 30-day approval mechanism designed to make Delhi's entry process faster than that of established hubs.

b. Delhi's draft Information Technology Policy, 2026–2031 sets a target of increasing women's representation in the technology workforce to 40% by 2031. The draft proposes an employment-linked diversity incentive of ₹ 5,000 per month for five years for each eligible woman, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe or employee with a disability. These provisions seek to increase women's participation in technology employment while encouraging IT companies and Global Capability Centres to adopt more inclusive recruitment practices.[105]

c. The policy builds on Delhi's existing strength in the services sector, which accounted for 86.32% of the state's Gross State Value Added (GSVA) at current prices in 2025–26, up from 86.13% in 2024–25.[106] Expanding the IT and GCC ecosystem aligns with Delhi's economic strengths and will help attract multinational investment, create high-skilled jobs and strengthen the city's position as a technology and professional services hub.

d. India's capacity to compete as a global data-centre and GCC destination is constrained by power availability, which gives Delhi's 10% power tariff rebate and proposed State Data Centre added significance. The Economic Survey 2025-26 named energy shortages a structural constraint on India's data-centre build-out, alongside water and semiconductor and GPU supply bottlenecks, even as the country's installed data-centre capacity (about 1,280 MW as of June 2025) is targeted to more than triple to around 4 GW by 2030.[107] India currently produces about 20% of the world's data but hosts only about 1% of global data-centre capacity, and data centres' share of national electricity generation is projected to rise from 0.8% to as much as 2.6-6% as AI workloads scale.[108]

[104] Economic Times, June, 2026.
[105] Economic Times, October 2026.
[106] Delhi Economic Survey 2025–26.
[107] Business Today, January, 2026.
[108] The Week, March, 2026.

VI. Goa

A. Goa Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy, 2026
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** High

1. On 22nd October, 2026, the Government of Goa unveiled the Goa Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy, 2026 at the Goa AI Tech Conclave. The policy sets out a three-year framework for AI development and adoption across governance, education, industry and public services, with certain skilling targets extending to 2030.
2. **Key Features -**
   a. The policy establishes a three-year framework organised around five pillars: Skilling and Capacity Building, Startups and Industry Enablement, Capital and Investment, Policy Governance and Infrastructure, and Responsible, Safe and Ethical AI.
   b. The policy targets training and certifying 50,000 people in AI by 2030, including at least 25% women, 30% youth below 30 years and 15% participants from Tier-2 and Tier-3 talukas.
   c. The policy proposes introducing AI fundamentals for Classes VI–XII from academic year 2027–28 and establishing AI laboratories in up to 50 Government schools, beginning with 20 rural schools and subsequently extending to 30 urban or semi-urban schools.
   d. The teacher-training programme proposes training 500 teachers in AI methods through IIT Goa, National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) and the State Institute of Education, supported by an AI Coach Network of 100 experts.
   e. The startup and innovation framework provides for incubation support, regulatory sandboxes, departmental testbeds and an AI Centre of Excellence in collaboration with BITS Pilani Goa Campus.
   f. The Government promotes departmental problem-solving through innovation challenges and hackathons, drawing on approximately 99 Government problem statements covering tourism, healthcare, agriculture, disaster management, solid waste management and climate change.
3. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the IndiaAI Mission, approved by the Union Cabinet in March 2024, through its emphasis on AI compute infrastructure, skills development, innovation and wider access to AI applications.[109] Its safeguards also correspond with the national India AI Governance Guidelines issued in February 2026.[110]
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Tamil Nadu implemented the Safe and Ethical

[109] PIB, March 2024.
[110] PIB Backgrounders, February 2026.

A. Goa Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy, 2026
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** High

Artificial Intelligence Policy, 2020.[111] Telangana also developed its AI Framework and roadmap, supporting AI startups, research, skills development and sectoral applications.[112]

5. **Relevance -**
   a. The policy targets school digital deficits, where UDISE+ 2024–25 data record 1,379 of 1,479 schools (93.2%) with internet access, but only 824 (55.7%) with functional teaching computers, including just 166 of 780 Government schools.[113] To address this equipment gap, the policy proposes introducing AI fundamentals for Classes VI–XII from 2027–28, establishing AI laboratories in up to 50 Government schools and training 500 teachers in AI-related teaching methods.
   b. Under the Mukhyamantri Swayam Rozgar Yojana, Goa trained 342 faculty members, covered 1,370 participants through entrepreneurship awareness programmes and trained 221 participants through entrepreneurship development programmes up to December 2025. Building on these initiatives, the policy targets 50,000 AI-certified professionals by 2030, which will be done through training programmes developed with educational institutions and industry partners.[114]
   c. In 2025, Goa received approximately 1.03 crore domestic and 5.18 lakh foreign tourists, while its hospitality sector had 9,005 registered establishments with nearly 1.20 lakh beds as of March 2025. The Government has identified around 100 departmental problems across tourism, healthcare, agriculture, waste management and other sectors for developing AI-based solutions. Proposed applications include predicting visitor numbers, managing crowds and improving public services.[115]
   d. The policy builds on Goa's existing digital services to improve administrative efficiency. According to the draft policy, GoaOnline provides more than 280 services across 41 departments, with over 9.1 lakh registered users and 19.9 lakh transactions.[116] By June 2025, the Revenue and Labour and Employment departments had received approximately 4.4 lakh and 3.1 lakh service applications respectively. The policy proposes multilingual AI assistance, application tracking and automated grievance routing to reduce difficulties in accessing services and improve the handling of citizen requests.

[111] Safe And Ethical Artificial Intelligence Policy, Government Of Tamil Nadu.
[112] Telangana AI Framework 2020.
[113] Goa Draft Artificial Intelligence Policy.
[114] Goa Economic Survey 2025-2026
[115] The Hindustan Times, October 2026
[116] Times Of India, June 2025.

Social Sector Schemes

I. Gujarat

A. Gujarat State Additional Subsidy For Residential Rooftop Solar

Source: Link | **Impact:** High

1. On 21st October, 2026, the Gujarat Cabinet approved an additional ₹ 1,000 crore subsidy for residential rooftop solar installations under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana.
2. The scheme aims to reduce the upfront cost of residential rooftop solar systems, particularly for low- and middle-income households and Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) beneficiaries.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The scheme provides an additional state subsidy for residential rooftop solar systems with a capacity of up to 2 kW under PM Surya Ghar.
   b. Under the scheme, general-category households pay only 10% of the installation cost and SC and ST households only 5%, with the Central Government and the state covering the rest.
   c. The Government estimates that the additional subsidy will require approximately ₹ 1,000 crore and directly benefit more than 3 lakh households.
   d. The Government will determine eligibility, application procedures and implementation timelines through official guidelines.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The scheme complements the Central Government's PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, the national rooftop solar programme that subsidises household solar installations.[117]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Uttar Pradesh gives a state subsidy of ₹ 15,000 per kW, up to ₹ 30,000 per consumer, on top of the Central subsidy under PM Surya Ghar.[118] Similarly, in December 2025, Rajasthan began disbursing an additional ₹ 17,000 for 1.1 kW rooftop solar systems under its 150-unit free electricity scheme, bringing the combined subsidy to ₹ 50,000 for such systems and up to ₹ 95,000 for larger eligible installations.[119]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. The state subsidy substantially reduces the upfront cost of rooftop solar installations for households. Based on an illustrative benchmark cost of ₹ 50,000 for a 1 kW system and ₹ 1 lakh for a 2 kW system, Central assistance of ₹ 30,000 and ₹ 60,000 leaves household contributions of ₹ 20,000 and ₹ 40,000, respectively. With Gujarat's additional subsidy, general-category households pay ₹

[117] Ministry Of New And Renewable Energy, PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana.
[118] PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana Information Booklet.
[119] Times Of India, December, 2025.

A. Gujarat State Additional Subsidy For Residential Rooftop Solar
Source: Link | **Impact:** High

5,000 for a 1 kW system and ₹ 10,000 for a 2 kW system, representing a 75% reduction in the contribution for both capacities. SC and ST households pay ₹ 2,500 and ₹ 5,000, respectively.[120] The additional assistance reduces the financial burden on eligible households and supports wider adoption of rooftop solar.

b. The scheme would help meet Gujarat's rising electricity demand by adding rooftop generation closer to consumption. The state recorded a peak demand of 29,822 MW on 16th October, 2026, up 36.6% from 21,822 MW in October 2025, while daily consumption rose 27% to 5,740 lakh units.[121] The proposed three lakh rooftop systems of 1–2 kW each would add an estimated 300–600 MW of capacity.[122] By generating electricity at the household level, these systems would reduce participating households' dependence on grid power during daylight hours and ease DISCOMs' reliance on short-term power purchases.

c. The scheme would support Gujarat's renewable energy targets without requiring additional land for solar installations. Under the Gujarat Integrated Renewable Energy Policy, 2025, the state aims to increase renewable energy capacity from about 41 GW to over 100 GW by 2030 and source over 50% of its energy consumption from non-fossil fuels by the same year.[123] By using existing household roofs, the scheme would add solar capacity without requiring land acquisition or new transmission lines for these installations. It would complement utility-scale renewable energy projects by distributing additional capacity across households.

[120] The Hindu, October, 2026.
[121] Indian Express, October, 2026.
[122] Based On Author's calculation: 3,00,000 systems × 1–2 kW per system = 300–600 MW of estimated capacity.
[123] Gujarat Integrated Renewable Energy Policy, 2025.

B. Interest Subsidy On Short-Term Agricultural Loans
Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 27th October, 2026, the Gujarat Government approved an interest subsidy of ₹ 174.1 crore on short-term agricultural loans, benefiting over 10 lakh farmers.
2. The subsidy aims to reduce the cost of short-term agricultural credit for farmers borrowing through the cooperative banking network and compensate cooperative banks for the higher cost of funds.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The subsidy provides ₹ 174.1 crore to cover the 2% interest relief on eligible short-term crop loans disbursed by cooperative banks from their own funds between 1st April and 30th September, 2025.
   b. It will benefit over 10 lakh farmers through the three-tier cooperative credit structure of the apex state cooperative bank, 18 district central cooperative banks and over 10,900 primary agricultural credit societies (PACS).
   c. Under the 2% interest relief scheme, running since 2009–10, farmers get crop loans at 7% interest, down from the 10% to 13% that cooperative banks charged earlier.
   d. As cooperative banks face higher funding costs than commercial banks, the state pays the difference so that farmers are not charged higher rates.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The subsidy complements the Central Government's Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS), continued for 2025–26, under which farmers get short-term loans of up to ₹ 3 lakh at 7%, falling to 4% on prompt repayment.[124]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Madhya Pradesh provides zero % interest short-term crop loans of up to ₹ 3 lakh through primary agricultural cooperative societies, and revised the terms for 2026–27 in June 2026.[125]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. The subsidy provides targeted relief amid the growing scale of agricultural borrowing in Gujarat. As of March 2025, outstanding agricultural loans stood at ₹ 1,45,794 crore, including ₹ 79,104 crore in crop loans.[126] The ₹ 174.1 crore allocation for over 10 lakh farmers translates to an indicative subsidy expenditure of less than ₹ 1,741 per beneficiary. By reducing interest costs on short-term borrowing, the measure will help farmers manage cultivation expenses and reduce the financial burden associated with seasonal agricultural credit.

[124] PM India, May, 2025.
[125] Free Press Journal, June, 2026.
[126] State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC), Gujarat, 185th Meeting Agenda, March 2025.

B. Interest Subsidy On Short-Term Agricultural Loans
Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

b. The measure also supports the availability of affordable agricultural credit through Gujarat's cooperative banking system at a time of expanding credit requirements. NABARD estimated the state's credit potential for agriculture and allied activities at ₹ 1.71 lakh crore in 2025–26, compared with ₹ 1.42 lakh crore in 2024–25, an increase of approximately 20%.[127] By compensating cooperative banks for part of their lending costs, the subsidy will support their ability to continue financing agricultural activities at concessional rates, particularly for farmers dependent on local cooperative institutions.

c. The subsidy draws on Gujarat's extensive village-level credit network. In September 2025, 10,957 PACS covered 13,875 gram panchayats, providing an established channel for concessional crop lending across rural areas.[128] By July 2026, 5,760 PACS had joined the national common accounting software, supporting better record-keeping and loan administration.[129] The subsidy therefore complements the modernisation of this network by addressing lending costs alongside improvements in service delivery.

[127] PIB, February, 2025 Read With PIB, February, 2024.
[128] Times Of India, October, 2025.
[129] PIB, July, 2026.

II. Uttar Pradesh

A. Uttar Pradesh State Livestock Mission

Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 27th October, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the State Livestock Mission.
2. The mission aims to strengthen animal husbandry as a complementary source of rural income through financial assistance for indigenous cattle, livestock insurance, breed improvement and the promotion of allied livestock activities.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. It provides a subsidy of ₹ 40,000 per eligible indigenous cow, with assistance available for up to two cows per farmer. Eligible breeds include Sahiwal, Gir, Hariana, Tharparkar and Gangatiri.
   b. It provides insurance coverage with the state Government bearing 85% of the insurance premium and the beneficiary contributing the remaining 15%.
   c. The mission will also promote goat farming, poultry, piggery and sheep rearing, and improve cattle breeds through artificial insemination and other breeding interventions.
   d. It seeks to address low productivity, fragmented marketing, limited value addition, inadequate traceability and weak digital management in the livestock sector.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The mission follows the Central Government's National Livestock Mission, which supports livestock entrepreneurship, breed improvement and livestock insurance.[130]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States –** Haryana supports farmers who keep indigenous cows through mini dairy schemes for units of three to five milch cows. Bank loans for indigenous cattle dairy units get a 50% subsidy, against 25% for other units.[131]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Uttar Pradesh's milk production rose from 277 lakh metric tonnes in 2016-17 to more than 388 lakh metric tonnes in 2024-25, giving the state a 16% share of national milk output, the highest of any state.[132] Having already built this scale largely through a large animal base, further gains for the state's dairy economy depend more on raising the amount of milk each animal produces than on expanding herd numbers further. By tying the ₹ 40,000 subsidy to specific high-yielding indigenous breeds and pairing it with artificial insemination support, the mission targets this productivity constraint directly, rather than simply adding more animals to an already large indigenous cattle base.

[130] Department Of Animal Husbandry And Dairying, National Livestock Mission.
[131] Government Of Haryana, Mini Dairy Scheme.
[132] Times Of India, April, 2026.

A. Uttar Pradesh State Livestock Mission
Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

b. The subsidy addresses a substantial gap in milk productivity between indigenous and crossbred cattle. Indigenous and nondescript cows yield only 2.4 to 3 kg of milk a day on average, against 7 to 8 kg for crossbred cows, a gap of more than double.[133] Sahiwal cows, one of the breeds eligible under the mission, average about 2,325 kg of milk over a lactation, which works out to roughly 7.8 kg a day, close to the crossbred average and well above ordinary indigenous stock.[134] This illustrates the breed's higher milk-production potential, although comparisons with national daily-yield averages require consistent measurement periods and animal populations.

c. Livestock insurance coverage in India remains limited despite the expansion of subsidised insurance under the National Livestock Mission. According to Government data presented in August 2026, approximately 13.14 lakh livestock were insured under the scheme during 2025–26. The national framework requires beneficiaries to contribute 15% of the insurance premium, with the remaining 85% financed jointly by the Central and State Governments.[135] Uttar Pradesh's proposed insurance assistance reinforces this existing risk-protection framework for livestock owners.

[133] Department Of Animal Husbandry And Dairying, Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics 2025.
[134] NDDB, Sahiwal Breed Profile.
[135] Lok Sabha Unstarred Question 3882, August 2026.

B. Expansion Of Mukhyamantri Krishak Chhatravritti Yojana

Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 18th October, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Government announced the expansion of the Mukhyamantri Krishak Chhatravritti Yojana, its scholarship scheme for the children of farmers, by doubling the seats and raising the financial assistance.
2. The scheme aims to support meritorious students from farming families in pursuing higher education in agriculture and allied subjects, by easing the cost of their studies.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. Under the expansion, the Uttar Pradesh Government doubled the number of scholarships from 1,410 to 2,820, administered by the State Agricultural Produce Market Council.
   b. At each agricultural university the seats doubled from 45 to 90, and at each agricultural college from 15 to 30.
   c. The monthly scholarship was increased from ₹ 3,000 to ₹ 5,000 per student, raising annual assistance from ₹ 36,000 to ₹ 60,000.
   d. The scheme covers students of agriculture, horticulture, forestry, animal husbandry and home science across 11 agricultural universities and 61 agricultural colleges.
   e. It retains merit-based selection and eligibility requirements for students from farming and agricultural labourer families.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Karnataka runs the Chief Minister's Raitha Vidya Nidhi scheme, which provides scholarships to the children of farmers and agricultural labourers.[136]
5. **Relevance -**
   a. The scheme supports students from a farm sector made up mostly of very small holdings. According to the Agriculture Census 2015–16, Uttar Pradesh had 2.38 crore operational holdings, of which 80.2% were marginal holdings below one hectare and 92.8% were small or marginal holdings below two hectares.[137] Agriculture and allied sectors employ 53.2% of the state's workforce and account for 24.9% of its economy.[138] The expansion raises the scholarship from ₹ 3,000 to ₹ 5,000 a month, or from ₹ 36,000 to ₹ 60,000 a year.[139] The increased assistance will help children of small farmers and agricultural labourers afford and complete higher education in agriculture and allied subjects.
   b. The expansion would strengthen the supply of trained agricultural professionals in Uttar Pradesh, which accounted for 20.6% of India's foodgrain production in

[136] Deccan Herald, Raitha Vidya Nidhi.
[137] PIB, December, 2024 Read With PIB, August, 2021.
[138] Free Press Journal, February, 2026.
[139] Free Press Journal, October, 2026.

B. Expansion Of Mukhyamantri Krishak Chhatravritti Yojana
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

2024–25, at 737.4 lakh metric tonnes. Gross value added per hectare of crops also rose from ₹ 0.98 lakh in 2017–18 to ₹ 1.73 lakh in 2024–25.[140] The scheme covers agriculture, horticulture, forestry, animal husbandry and home science at undergraduate and postgraduate levels across 11 agricultural universities and 61 colleges.[141] The expansion will prepare more graduates from farming families for agricultural research, extension and agri-enterprises, while promoting scientific farming practices in rural communities.

c. Between 2017–18 and 2025–26, the scheme supported 6,454 students with ₹ 22.90 crore. The expansion to 2,820 scholarships annually will enable the scheme to reach a comparable number of students in about two and a half years. If all seats are filled, annual expenditure will rise from ₹ 5.08 crore to ₹ 16.92 crore, accounting for only 0.56% of the Mandi Parishad's approved ₹ 3,025.49 crore budget for 2026–27. The expansion can therefore substantially increase scholarship coverage without placing a significant additional burden on the Mandi Parishad's finances.[142]

[140] Business Standard, February, 2026.
[141] Free Press Journal, October, 2026.
[142] Free Press Journal, October, 2026 Read With Free Press Journal, July, 2026.

C. Cashless Medical Treatment For Non-Teaching Staff
Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 27th October, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved cashless medical treatment of up to ₹ 5 lakh for 1,70,366 non-teaching employees of secondary, basic education institutions.
2. The decision aims to extend health insurance protection to non-teaching personnel by providing cashless treatment at Government and empanelled private hospitals.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The Government estimates an annual premium expenditure of ₹ 51.11 crore, comprising ₹ 36.69 crore for 1,22,304 basic education employees and ₹ 14.41 crore for 48,062 secondary education employees.
   b. It entrusts implementation to the State Agency for Comprehensive Health and Integrated Services (SACHIS). Employees already covered under other Government-funded health insurance schemes are excluded.
   c. It provides an annual insurance premium contribution of ₹ 3,000 per beneficiary, with coverage extending to eligible dependent family members.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The scheme complements Ayushman Bharat–Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), which provides cashless healthcare coverage of up to ₹ 5 lakh per family annually for secondary and tertiary hospitalisation at empanelled hospitals.[143]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Rajasthan runs the Rajasthan Government Health Scheme (RGHS), which provides cashless medical treatment to state Government employees, pensioners and their dependents.[144] Similarly, Karnataka's Arogya Sanjeevini Scheme provides cashless healthcare to eligible state employees and their dependent family members.[145]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. The decision extends Uttar Pradesh's January 2026 initiative, which provided cashless healthcare coverage to nearly 15 lakh education personnel at an estimated annual expenditure of ₹ 448 crore.[146] With an additional ₹ 51.11 crore approved for non-teaching employees in October,[147] the two decisions represent a combined annual financial commitment of approximately ₹ 499 crore. The expansion will strengthen social security for employees who were not covered under the earlier arrangements.

[143] Ayushman Bharat–Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana Operational Manual.
[144] Vikaspedia, Rajasthan Government Health Scheme.
[145] Arogya Sanjeevini Scheme.
[146] News On Air, January, 2026.
[147] India Today, October, 2026.

C. Cashless Medical Treatment For Non-Teaching Staff
Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

b. The exclusion of employees already covered under Government-funded health schemes addresses the risk of duplicate public expenditure. In Tamil Nadu, 1.07 lakh Government pensioners were enrolled under AB PM-JAY despite being ineligible, resulting in ₹ 22.44 crore in insurance premiums, as identified by the CAG.[148] By excluding employees with existing coverage, Uttar Pradesh will avoid paying an additional ₹ 3,000 annual premium for those already insured and direct the ₹ 51.11 crore allocation towards employees without Government-funded health cover.

c. In Uttar Pradesh, out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure accounted for 66.1% of the state's total health expenditure in 2022–23, up from 63.7% in 2021–22 and well above the national average of 43.4%.[149] Patients in Uttar Pradesh spent an average of ₹ 12,878 per hospitalisation in Government hospitals, nearly twice the national average of ₹ 6,631.[150] This highlights the continued financial burden of medical treatment on households. Against this background, the ₹ 5 lakh cashless medical cover will reduce the need for non-teaching education employees and their eligible dependent family members to arrange funds upfront for covered hospitalisation expenses.

d. The effectiveness of cashless medical coverage will also depend on adequate hospital staffing. In June 2026, around 6,500 of the 19,659 sanctioned doctor posts in Uttar Pradesh's Government hospitals remained vacant, representing nearly 33% of posts.[151] Nursing shortages also persisted, with 3,257 of 8,113 sanctioned nursing posts in Government medical colleges reported vacant, approximately 40%.[152] These gaps highlight the importance of access to empanelled private hospitals for employees and their dependent families, particularly where public facilities lack adequate staff and services.

[148] The Indian Express, August, 2023.
[149] NHA, Report 2022–23 and PIB, December, 2024.
[150] ThePrint, April, 2026.
[151] Danik Jagarank, June, 2026.
[152] Hindustan Times, June, 2026.

III. Maharashtra

A. Mill Workers' Housing Scheme (Amendment) Government Resolution, 2026

Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 19th October, 2026, the Housing Department, Government of Maharashtra issued a Government Resolution partially amending the Mill Workers' Housing Scheme of 15th March, 2024.[153]
2. The Resolution aims to speed up housing delivery to eligible workers of Mumbai's closed textile mills and their heirs.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. It reduces the minimum land requirement for private developers building on approved layouts under Models 2 and 3 from 30 acres to one acre. The land must be owned by the developer or held through a non-transferable power of attorney.
   b. It raises the Floor Space Index (FSI)[154] for mill-worker housing projects in residential zones from 2.5 to 3.0, and permits an FSI of 1.0 in green/no-development zones.
   c. It mandates that MHADA publish expressions of interest to procure houses from MMR projects that have at least 100 ready units.
   d. The scheme sets a ceiling on the acquisition cost wherein builders are required to sell each housing unit at the lower of ₹ 15 lakh or the prevailing circle rate for the area.
   e. It enables fast-track allotment, so that once developers supply houses on the prescribed terms, eligible mill workers can be allotted homes quickly.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Resolution aligns with Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0.[155]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Haryana's Affordable Housing Policy 2013 set the project area at 5 to 10 acres with a maximum Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of 225, and a later amendment lowered the minimum area to 4 acres.[156] In Rajasthan, The Chief Minister's Jan Awas Yojana, 2015 includes a model for private developers on private land, with incentives to offset land cost for EWS/LIG housing.[157]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Maharashtra's urban land scarcity is acute. Greater Mumbai's density stood at about 20,000 persons per sq km in Census 2011, and its Development Plan 2034 records open space of about 1.2 sq m per person against a planning norm of 4 sq m.

[153] Mill Workers' Housing Scheme, Government Of Maharashtra, Page 121.
[154] Floor Space Index (FSI) is the maximum permissible total built-up area relative to the size of the land plot on which a building stands. FSI is typically expressed as a percentage or a raw ratio
[155] PMAY-U Guidelines.
[156] Notification NO. PF-27/48921, Government Of Haryana.
[157] Chief Minister's Jan Awas Yojana - 2015, Government Of Rajasthan.

A. Mill Workers' Housing Scheme (Amendment) Government Resolution, 2026
Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

The amendment permits MHADA to procure ready housing units from projects in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region offering at least 100 homes, subject to a purchase price of ₹ 15 lakh per unit or the applicable ready reckoner rate, whichever is lower. This maintains the ₹ 15 lakh price ceiling even in areas with higher ready reckoner rates, while allowing smaller land parcels and ready-built housing projects to enter the scheme's supply pipeline.[158]

b. Delivery under the scheme has lagged far behind the verified beneficiary base. MHADA had allotted 15,870 flats to workers of the 58 mills closed after the 1982 strike. Meanwhile, the Labour Department had validated 1.08 lakh of 1.74 lakh applications, leaving a need for about 1 lakh more houses.[159] MHADA's eligibility verification drive for workers and heirs has been running since October 2023.[160] The 30-acre land condition kept most private land out of the supply pipeline.

c. In response, the amendment cuts the land threshold to one acre and raises residential FSI from 2.5 to 3.0. It also lets MHADA procure ready units from MMR projects with at least 100 houses, at ₹ 15 lakh or the ready reckoner rate, whichever is lower. This shifts MHADA from building houses to procuring them, which shortens the gap between eligibility verification and allotment. It keeps prices tied to the ₹ 15 lakh benchmark already set for mill-worker housing.[161]

[158] Hindustan Times, October 2026.
[159] DGIPR Press Release, Housing Minister, 14th October 2024.
[160] MHADA Press Release, 25th October 2023.
[161] DGIPR Press Release, Housing Minister, 14th October 2024.

IV. Mizoram

A. Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN) Roadmap 2030

Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 16th October, 2026, the Mizoram Health and Family Welfare Minister launched the SUMAN Roadmap 2030.
2. The roadmap aims to reduce the maternal mortality ratio (MMR) below 70 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2030, while further reducing newborn and child mortality.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. It targets access gaps in the southern districts of Lawngtlai and Lunglei, where institutional deliveries remained comparatively low, and in Mamit, the state's only aspirational district. It also targets home deliveries conducted without skilled birth attendants.
   b. It mandates conversion of Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (RMNCH) review findings into concrete measures, with timely follow-up at both state and district levels, through district authorities, programme officers and facility in-charges.
   c. It adopts the national framework's four-stage system for identifying, tracking, and managing high-risk pregnancies. It also provides for bi-weekly home visits by Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) during the eighth and ninth months of pregnancy, along with Birth Waiting Homes, Maternal And Child Health (MCH) Wings and Obstetric High Dependency Unit (HDUs) and Intensive Care Units (ICUs) in underserved areas.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** It aligns with the national SUMAN Roadmap 2030, launched on 29th June, 2026,[162] and is anchored in the NHM's RMNCHA+N framework.[163] It converges with PMSMA,[164] PMMVY[165] and Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative (LaQshya)[166] on antenatal care and labour-room quality.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Meghalaya introduced the Measurable Outcomes In Transforming Health Sector Through A Holistic Approach With Focus On Women's Empowerment (MOTHER) programme with a digital pregnancy-tracking app.[167] Kerala runs a Confidential Review of Maternal Deaths[168,169]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. The Roadmap establishes a proactive strategy to arrest and reverse recent

[162] PIB, June 2026.
[163] RMNCAH+N, National Health Mission Components.
[164] Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan
[165] Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana.
[166] LaQshya, National Health Systems Resource Centre.
[167] Press Release, The Government Of Meghalaya.
[168] Maternal Health, Department Of Health & Family Welfare, Government Of Kerala.
[169] CRMD (Confidential Review Into Maternal Death), KFOG.

A. Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN) Roadmap 2030
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

setbacks in infant health outcomes, safeguarding Mizoram's position among the country's leading performers. While the state substantially outperforms India's national Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) of 24 deaths per 1,000 live births,[170] Sample Registration System (SRS) data indicate an upward trajectory from 3 in 2020 to 4 in 2021, 11 in 2022, and 13 in 2023.[171] Although Health Management Information System (HMIS) records for 2023–24 (through Q3) show high institutional delivery rates at 90.4%, first-trimester antenatal care (ANC) registration remains at 75.9%,[172] highlighting the need for earlier clinical engagement to identify and manage high-risk pregnancies.

b. Further, the intervention addresses pronounced geographical disparities across the state's four National Health Mission (NHM) designated High Priority Districts, Lunglei, Lawngtlai, Saiha, and Mamit.[173] Between April and September 2023, newborn care cases following non-institutional home births reached 201 in Lawngtlai, 96 in Mamit, and 79 in Lunglei, contrasted with just 30 in Aizawl, which recorded more than five times the institutional delivery volume of Lawngtlai.[174] Focusing resources on these districts directly targets the structural access barriers that drive regional variations in safe delivery.

c. Moreover, the policy operationalises an integrated continuum of care across vulnerable regions. By prioritising institutional delivery expansion in Lawngtlai, Lunglei, and Mamit, the framework strengthens early complication detection through dedicated high-risk pregnancy tracking and scheduled late-pregnancy ASHA home visits. Establishing Birth Waiting Homes in remote southern blocks mitigates geographic transit hurdles, while coordinated state–district reviews and the Journey of Antenatal, Natal and Neonatal Integrated Care (JANANI) platform enable real-time, end-to-end monitoring across the maternal lifecycle.

d. Lastly, by establishing measurable 2030 targets, the roadmap transitions healthcare delivery from measuring administrative coverage to achieving verified maternal and neonatal outcomes. Emulating successful regional precedents, such as Meghalaya's tracking-led reduction in maternal mortality, the initiative pairs continuous surveillance with reinforced emergency referral networks and responsive grievance redressal mechanisms, ensuring existing clinical infrastructure is fully utilised.

[170] Sample Registration Bulletin, 2024.
[171] RBI, Handbook of Statistics on Indian States 2024-25, Table 4.
[172] HMIS Report 2023-24.
[173] NHM Mizoram.
[174] District Wise HMIS Report, NHM Mizoram.

V. Kerala

A. Special Housing Assistance Scheme, 2026

Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 28th October, 2026, the Kerala Cabinet granted administrative sanction for a special housing scheme and enhanced housing assistance for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and fishing-community families.
2. The Special Housing Assistance Scheme aims to improve access to affordable and secure housing for economically vulnerable households in Kerala. It seeks to address housing affordability constraints by increasing the state Government's financial assistance for house construction.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The Government increases housing assistance for Scheduled Caste families from ₹ 4 lakh to ₹ 6 lakh per household.
   b. The Government increases housing assistance for fishing-community families from ₹ 4 lakh to ₹ 6 lakh per household.
   c. The Government increases housing assistance for Scheduled Tribe families from ₹ 6 lakh to ₹ 8 lakh per household.
   d. The scheme provides category-specific financial assistance for house construction through a dedicated state housing intervention.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** Aligns with the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Gramin's (PMAY-G) national objective of providing permanent housing to rural households through supplementary state-level financial assistance.[175] It also complements the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0) by strengthening financial support for eligible vulnerable households.[176]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Odisha's Mo Ghara provides housing loans with Government capital subsidies, including enhanced subsidies for SC/ST and PwD-headed households.[177] Karnataka's Basava Vasati Yojana provides financial assistance for housing construction among economically weaker and socially disadvantaged households.[178]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Kerala's existing housing delivery architecture continues to face substantial implementation requirements among disadvantaged communities. According to the Kerala State Planning Board's Kerala Report 2026, 1.25 lakh houses for Scheduled Caste beneficiaries had been completed under LIFE Mission as of

[175] PMAY-G: A Door To Dignity.
[176] PMAY- U 2.0, Scheme Guidelines.
[177] Mo Ghara Scheme Guidelines, Government Of Odisha.
[178] Basava Vasati Yojane, Guidelines.

A. Special Housing Assistance Scheme, 2026
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium
October 2025, while another 30,575 remained under construction.[179] b. The existing LIFE Mission framework provides ₹ 4 lakh per house, establishing the previous assistance benchmark that the Cabinet has now revised for Scheduled Caste households and fishing communities.[180] The scale of ongoing construction demonstrates the continuing requirement for housing finance and completion support among vulnerable groups. c. The enhanced assistance directly addresses the financial gap and provides higher state support towards construction costs, reducing the dependence of vulnerable households on personal borrowing and supplementary financing. The category-specific structure also recognises differentiated financial requirements among the beneficiary groups. d. The intervention could improve housing completion, reduce household indebtedness and strengthen the state's social protection architecture. Higher construction assistance could also improve access to basic housing infrastructure, generate demand for local construction materials and labour, and improve asset ownership among historically disadvantaged communities.

[179] Kerala Development Report, 2026, Page 95, 372.
[180] LIFE (Livelihood, Inclusion And Financial Empowerment Mission), Best Practices, DMEO.

B. Revised Women's Representation in Civil Police Recruitment
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 29th October, 2026, the Kerala Cabinet approved a change in the male-female recruitment ratio for Civil Police Officer posts from 9:1 to 7:3.
2. The initiative aims to increase women's representation in the state police force and replaces the earlier arrangement using a revised recruitment allocation through the Kerala Public Service Commission (KPSC) to expand women's participation in policing.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The recruitment framework changes the male-to-female allocation ratio from 9:1 to 7:3.
   b. It replaces the earlier arrangement under which every tenth Civil Police Officer vacancy was allocated to women, with seven vacancies allocated to men and three to women.
   c. The KPSC continues to administer recruitment through separate male and female rank lists, under the revised vacancy allocation.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The reform aligns with the Ministry of Home Affairs' existing advisories recommending 33% representation of women in state police forces,[181] including the creation of women constable and sub-inspector posts to strengthen women's help desks.[182]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Andhra Pradesh,[183] Maharashtra[184] and Telangana[185] have already announced 33% reservation for women in their police forces.
6. **Relevance -**
   a. The revised police recruitment ratio addresses the low representation of women in Kerala's police force. Women constituted only 7.89 % of Kerala's total police personnel as of 1st January 2024, according to the Bureau of Police Research and Development.[186] This was substantially below the national policy benchmark of 33%, limiting progress towards gender-balanced police staffing.[187]
   b. The reform addresses the structural underrepresentation of women by shifting recruitment from a limited quota-based arrangement towards a more gender-balanced intake. The decision to report 48 permanent Sub-Inspector

[181] PIB, August 2024.
[182] PIB, December 2023.
[183] G.O.Ms.No.272, Government Of Andhra Pradesh.
[184] Resolution No. 82/2001/MSE-2000/P.No.415/Ka-2, Government Of Maharashtra.
[185] Rc No. 234 / Rect. / Admn-2 / 2025, Telangana Police Recruitment Board, Page 9.
[186] Data On Police Organisations 2024, Bureau Of Police Research And Development Page 104.
[187] PIB, August 2024.

B. Revised Women's Representation in Civil Police Recruitment
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium
vacancies to the Public Service Commission will also support recruitment against existing posts.[188] c. The initiative supports Kerala's broader efforts to increase women's participation in policing, including through greater deployment of women as Station House Officers and the expansion of women police stations, presented in the Vision 2031 document.[189] Raising women's share of new Civil Police Officer recruits to 30% can improve their availability for recording statements of women complainants and survivors, handling POCSO-related cases, staffing women's help desks and undertaking community policing.

[188] South First, October 2026
[189] Kerala News, Government Of Kerala, October, 2026.

VI. Odisha

A. Protocol For Management Of Pregnancy With Sickle Cell Disease

Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 22nd October, 2026, the Odisha Government unveiled the Protocol for Management of Pregnancy with Sickle Cell Disease, the first such dedicated protocol in the country.
2. The protocol aims to reduce maternal deaths and improve pregnancy outcomes among women with sickle cell disease through systematic management, timely treatment and coordinated follow-up.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. It was developed jointly by experts from state medical colleges, the National Health Mission (NHM), the Health Directorate and UNICEF Odisha.
   b. It sets out clinical guidelines for managing such pregnancies and clearly defines the responsibilities of healthcare providers at different levels of care.
   c. It was unveiled at a workshop organised by NHM Odisha, the Directorate of Blood Safety and UNICEF Odisha, which also reviewed the implementation of the Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Programme.[190]
   d. District Public Health Officers and Assistant Managers for non-communicable diseases from 21 high-burden districts were trained on the protocol, with sessions on screening, treatment, follow-up and transport support.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The protocol adds a dedicated pregnancy-management component to the Central Government's National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission, launched in 2023 to eliminate the disease by 2047 by screening 7 crore people aged up to 40 in tribal areas.[191]
5. **Relevance -**
   a. Odisha's extensive sickle cell screening programme highlights the need to strengthen treatment and follow-up care for people diagnosed with the disease. As of February 2026, the state had conducted 60.83 lakh screenings out of more than 6.83 crore nationally, accounting for approximately 8.9% of all screenings under the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission.[192] By September 2026, Odisha had screened over 68 lakh people and identified more than 1.07 lakh patients and 6.11 lakh carriers.[193] While screening enables early detection, it does not by itself ensure specialised care for women with sickle cell disease during pregnancy. The new protocol addresses this gap by establishing a structured

[190] News On AIR, July, 2025.
[191] PIB, July, 2023.
[192] Economic Times, February, 2026.
[193] Times Of India, September, 2026.

A. Protocol For Management Of Pregnancy With Sickle Cell Disease
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

approach to pregnancy management, particularly relevant to the state's 21 high-burden districts.

b. Pregnant women with sickle cell disease face substantially higher risks of complications, including pre-eclampsia, acute chest syndrome, severe pain crises and premature delivery. Clinical evidence indicates a fourfold to elevenfold higher risk of maternal death among women with the disease compared with those without it.[194] These risks require specialised monitoring and timely medical intervention beyond routine antenatal care. Odisha's new protocol establishes clinical guidelines and defines the responsibilities of healthcare providers at different levels, providing a common framework for identifying complications, coordinating treatment and strengthening follow-up care for high-risk pregnancies.

c. The protocol addresses a continuing maternal health challenge in Odisha despite recent improvements in maternal mortality. The state's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) declined from 153 deaths per lakh live births in 2021–23 to 124 in 2022–24, a reduction of 29 points. However, it remained substantially above the national average of 87 and among the five highest reported for major states.[195] The gap highlights the need for better identification and treatment of high-risk pregnancies, particularly in remote and tribal areas. Specialised clinical guidelines for pregnant women with sickle cell disease strengthen care for this high-risk group and support efforts to reduce preventable maternal deaths.

[194] WHO, June, 2025.
[195] Times Of India, June, 2026.

VII. Goa

A. Rehabilitation Of Acid Attack Victims Scheme, 2026
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 23rd October, 2026, the Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Government of Goa, notified the Rehabilitation of Acid Attack Victims Scheme, 2026.
2. The scheme aims to support acid attack survivors in Goa through immediate financial assistance, medical treatment, counselling, education and employment support, ensuring rehabilitation benefits regardless of the status of criminal proceedings.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The scheme will provide immediate financial assistance of ₹ 25,000, preferably within 48 hours of the Department receiving information or an application from District Administration.
   b. It enables an additional rehabilitation grant of up to ₹ 75,000 within 15 days of verification, taking the total immediate and rehabilitation assistance to ₹ 1 lakh.
   c. It provides 100% financial coverage for medically necessary treatment, including reconstructive and plastic surgeries, at Government or approved private hospitals, with referrals to specialised institutions outside Goa where required.
   d. It facilitates psychological counselling, family support, educational scholarships, skill development, employment opportunities and self-employment assistance.
   e. The scheme provides legal assistance, disability certification, assistive devices, welfare benefits, housing support and temporary shelter, without making eligibility conditional on the completion of criminal proceedings.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The scheme aligns with the Central Victim Compensation Fund (CVCF) Scheme, 2015,[196] and the Ministry of Home Affairs' framework for acid attack compensation and rehabilitation.[197]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Uttar Pradesh implemented the Victim Compensation Scheme, 2014,[198] alongside the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) Legal Services for Victims of Acid Attacks Scheme, 2016.[199] Maharashtra[200] and Rajasthan[201] provide acid attack survivor compensation through their respective state victim compensation frameworks under Section 396 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.[202]
6. **Relevance -**

[196] Central Victim Compensation Fund Scheme (CVCF) Guidelines.
[197] No. 24013/94/Misc./2014-CSR-III, Ministry Of Home Affairs.
[198] Uttar Pradesh Victim Compensation Scheme, 2014.
[199] NALSA Legal Services To Victims Of Acid Attacks Scheme, 2016.
[200] Maharashtra Victim Compensation Scheme.
[201] Rajasthan Victim Compensation Scheme, 2011.
[202] Section 396 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023

A. Rehabilitation Of Acid Attack Victims Scheme, 2026
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

a. The scheme addresses the immediate financial and medical difficulties faced by acid attack survivors. India recorded 207 acid attack cases in 2024, compared with 202 cases in 2022 and 200 cases in 2023, indicating the persistence of acid violence despite existing criminal and victim-compensation frameworks.[203] Goa recorded no acid attack cases in the 2024 NCRB data, although incidents have subsequently been reported.[204] In June 2025, a 17-year-old student suffered serious burns after being attacked with acid at a bus stop in Dhargal, highlighting the need for urgent medical treatment and financial support.[205]
b. The scheme addresses the high cost and prolonged nature of treatment following acid attacks. Survivors often require repeated reconstructive surgeries and specialised medical care to recover from permanent injuries.[206] The Government will bear the full cost of medically necessary treatment in Government or approved private hospitals, including reconstructive and plastic surgeries without a fixed limit on the number of procedures. Where specialised care is unavailable in Goa, survivors will receive support for treatment outside the state, including approved travel and accommodation expenses.
c. The existing national framework provides for compensation and free medical treatment, but survivors also require sustained psychological, social and economic rehabilitation.[207] The Goa scheme addresses these gaps through a defined assistance mechanism. Survivors with disabilities will also be eligible for support under the Dayanand Social Security Scheme,[208] alongside assistance in obtaining disability certificates and other welfare benefits.
d. The initiative also strengthens the rehabilitation framework in response to concerns raised by the Supreme Court. In August 2026, the Court directed states to formulate schemes covering medical treatment, education, employment and social security for acid attack survivors.[209] Goa's scheme brings these forms of assistance under a dedicated framework and allows eligible survivors to receive benefits without waiting for criminal proceedings to conclude.

[203] Crime In India 2024, Volume I, Page 4.
[204] Crime In India 2024, Volume II, Page 666.
[205] Times Of India, June 2025
[206] The Indian Police Journal, Volume 69, Number 2, April-June, 2022, Page 105-116.
[207] The Indian Police Journal, Volume 69, Number 2, April-June, 2022, Page 105-116.
[208] Goa, Dayanand Social Security Scheme
[209] ETV Bharath, August 2026

Investment Announcements

I. Haryana

A. Haryana–Sweden Investment Proposals And Trade Cooperation

Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** High

1. On 16th October, 2026, the Haryana Government announced the signing of Letters of Intent (LoIs) worth ₹ 4,000 crore with Swedish companies during the Chief Minister's visit to Sweden.
2. The ₹ 4,000 crore LoIs with Swedish companies aim to attract Swedish investment and technology into Haryana, expand bilateral trade and create employment opportunities for skilled youth from the state.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The agreements signed by the Haryana Government include one LoI worth ₹ 3,000 crore and LoIs worth ₹ 1,000 crore in the retail and warehousing sectors, covering modern warehousing infrastructure, retail chain expansion and logistics.
   b. The agreements also include a city-to-city collaboration between Gurugram and Stockholm covering technological innovation, smart city solutions, sustainable urban development, knowledge exchange and investment promotion.
   c. The Haryana Government also signed an agreement to expand trade and strengthen economic cooperation between Haryana and Sweden.
   d. Under the agreements, Swedish companies assured employment opportunities, skill development and training for skilled youth from Haryana.
   e. During the visit, the Haryana Government discussed cooperation with the Swedish Government in trade, education, skill development and energy, and highlighted IKEA's proposed ₹ 3,500 crore integrated project in Gurugram.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The ₹ 4,000 crore LoIs with Swedish companies were signed against the backdrop of the India–Sweden Strategic Partnership agreed in May 2026, under which both countries aim to double bilateral trade and investment within five years.[210]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Tamil Nadu signed 33 MoUs worth ₹ 15,516 crore during the Chief Minister's visit to Germany and the United Kingdom in September 2025,[211] while Telangana secured investment commitments of ₹ 1,78,950 crore at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January 2025.[212]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. The Letters of Intent add to Haryana's investment pipeline in support of its broader industrial and employment targets. The Make in Haryana Industrial

[210] The Tribune, May, 2026.
[211] Deccan Herald, September, 2025.
[212] Deccan Herald, January, 2025.

A. Haryana–Sweden Investment Proposals And Trade Cooperation
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** High

Policy, 2026, approved by the Cabinet on 18th May 2026, sets five-year targets of attracting ₹ 5 lakh crore in new investment, creating 10 lakh jobs and increasing exports.[213] The ₹ 4,000 crore in LoIs with Swedish companies adds to the pipeline of investment proposals, which included MoUs worth ₹ 66,870 crore reported by the state in August 2026 ahead of the Happening Haryana Global Investors Summit 2027.[214] Under its Vision 2047 document, Haryana aims to contribute more than US $ 1 trillion (₹ 95.12 lakh crore) to India's economy by 2047.[215] Attracting foreign investment in specific sectors is one of the avenues through which the state is pursuing these targets.

b. The Swedish companies' employment, training and skill-development assurances align with Haryana's efforts to expand local employment and improve youth employability. The Make in Haryana Industrial Policy, 2026, increased the employment subsidy for hiring local youth from ₹ 48,000 to ₹ 1 lakh per employee annually for 10 years.[216] Haryana also ranks first nationally in implementing the National Apprenticeship Programme, with 1,520 apprentices per lakh population.[217] These commitments are relevant in the context of urban youth unemployment, which stood at 11.8% in April–June 2026,[218] and the state's efforts to connect young people with employment and skill-development opportunities.

c. The Swedish agreements complement the ₹ 5,500 crore in Singapore-linked investment proposals announced on 6th October, 2026, covering healthcare (₹ 3,000 crore), water management (₹ 1,500 crore) and education and skills (₹ 1,000 crore).[219] Swedish proposals for retail, warehousing and logistics, alongside the Gurugram–Stockholm urban-development partnership, broaden this sectoral mix.[220] Together, these initiatives could support commercial expansion alongside improvements in water infrastructure, urban management and workforce training. Their contribution will depend on converting the proposals into operational projects, rather than the announced investment amounts alone.

[213] Make In Haryana Industrial Policy, 2026.
[214] ANI, August, 2026.
[215] The Tribune, June 2026.
[216] The Tribune, May 2026.
[217] The Tribune, June 2026.
[218] Times Of India, August, 2026.
[219] CMO Haryana, Press Release, 6th October 2026.
[220] Times Of India, October, 2026.

II. Madhya Pradesh

A. ₹ 5,800 Crore Semiconductor Investment Proposals At The Madhya Pradesh Semiconductor Summit, 2026

Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 23rd October, 2026, the Madhya Pradesh Government received semiconductor investment proposals worth about ₹ 5,800 crore at a summit in Indore, ahead of the Global Investors Summit scheduled for January 2027.
2. The summit aims to build a semiconductor and electronics manufacturing ecosystem in Madhya Pradesh and attract investment and employment to the sector.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The investment proposals received at the summit, worth about ₹ 5,800 crore, are expected to create more than 10,000 jobs.
   b. The major investment proposals include:
      i. Una Ecosystems proposed ₹ 2,000 crore for an electronics system design and manufacturing facility, expected to create 2,000 jobs.
      ii. Spintronics AI Semiconductors proposed ₹ 1,800 crore, to be invested in two phases.
      iii. Lalwala Industries proposed ₹ 1,200 crore for semiconductor manufacturing and chip design.
   c. The proposals are being promoted under the Madhya Pradesh Semiconductor Policy 2025,[221] which offers capital, interest and power tariff subsidies to semiconductor units.
   d. The state also plans Centres of Excellence for semiconductors and for photonics and quantum technologies, with chip manufacturing and design as priorities for the Indore–Ujjain Economic Corridor.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative supports the India Semiconductor Mission, the Central Government's programme to develop a domestic semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystem.[222]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Gujarat has emerged as a major semiconductor manufacturing hub, attracting large investments including facilities at Dholera and Sanand.[223]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Madhya Pradesh's electronics and semiconductor investments support its goal of expanding manufacturing and diversifying its industrial base. The state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) grew by 11.14% at current prices in FY2025–26 to ₹

[221] Business Standard, October, 2026.
[222] Ministry Of Electronics And Information Technology, India Semiconductor Mission.
[223] Deccan Herald, Semiconductor Manufacturing In Gujarat.

A. ₹ 5,800 Crore Semiconductor Investment Proposals At The Madhya Pradesh Semiconductor Summit, 2026

Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

16.7 lakh crore, while manufacturing accounted for about 7.2% of GSDP, compared with agriculture's 43%.[224] The summit's ₹ 5,800 crore in investment proposals, expected to generate over 10,000 jobs, will contribute to manufacturing growth. Electronics and semiconductor units will also diversify manufacturing employment towards technical and assembly-line roles, complementing the state's established metals and mining base and broadening industrial opportunities around Indore.

b. The summit proposals add to an emerging pipeline of semiconductor investments around Indore. On 22nd July 2026, Paras Semiconductors signed an MoU with the Government of Madhya Pradesh for a ₹ 6,200 crore Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) plant on 50 acres of state-allotted land along the Ujjain–Indore corridor.[225] Including the summit proposals, around ₹ 12,000 crore in planned semiconductor investments is now linked to the Indore region.

c. These investments will help Madhya Pradesh establish a presence in a sector where approved projects are concentrated in other states. Under the Semicon India Programme, the major approved projects are located in Gujarat (Micron, ₹ 22,516 crore; Tata–PSMC, ₹ 91,526 crore; and CG Power, ₹ 7,584 crore) and Assam (Tata, ₹ 27,120 crore).[226] Madhya Pradesh does not yet have an approved project under the programme. If the proposed investments translate into operational units, a cluster of semiconductor packaging, design and component units around Indore will give the state an entry point into the semiconductor value chain.

[224] Madhya Pradesh Economic Survey 2025–26.
[225] Economic Times, July 2026 .
[226] PIB, February, 2026.

B. ₹ 9,625 Crore Technology And Advanced Manufacturing Investment Projects

Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 23rd October, 2026, the Madhya Pradesh Government issued letters of intent for land allotment to five companies proposing technology and advanced manufacturing investments totalling approximately ₹ 9,625 crore.
2. The investments aim to bring data centres, Global Capability Centres (GCC) and electronics manufacturing to the state and create technology jobs.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The Government issued letters of intent (LoIs) for land allotment to five companies, involving proposed investments of ₹ 9,625 crore and over 4,450 direct jobs. The projects include:
      i. CyTac RE proposed a ₹ 6,415 crore, 50 MW hyperscale data centre at Ganga Malanpur in Gwalior.
      ii. Una Ecosystems proposed a ₹ 2,000 crore lithium-cell manufacturing facility with a planned capacity of 1.5 GWh at Electronics Manufacturing Cluster-2 in Bhopal.
      iii. Meena Circuits proposed a ₹ 400 crore Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) unit, while Kaynes Electronics proposed a ₹ 310 crore electronics manufacturing facility at Badwai IT Park in Bhopal.
      iv. Auriga IT Solutions proposed a ₹ 500 crore Global Capability Centre (GCC) at Sinhasa IT Park in Indore.
   b. The state announced plans to establish a Semiconductor Centre of Excellence for chip design, research, prototyping and skill development, alongside a Centre of Excellence for Photonics and Quantum Technologies.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The investments support Digital India, the Central Government's programme to expand the country's digital infrastructure and technology ecosystem, including data centres and GCCs.[227]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Telangana signed an MoU in January 2026 for a ₹ 5,000 crore, 100 MW AI data centre at Bharat Future City near Hyderabad.[228] Uttar Pradesh also laid the foundation stones for electronics manufacturing projects worth ₹ 6,750 crore at Jewar in June 2026, aimed at expanding domestic electronics manufacturing capacity.[229]
6. **Relevance -**

[227] Ministry Of Electronics And Information Technology, Digital India Programme.
[228] Indian Express, January, 2026.
[229] Times Of India, June, 2026.

B. ₹ 9,625 Crore Technology And Advanced Manufacturing Investment Projects

Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

a. The proposed Gwalior data centre accounts for a substantial share of the investment commitments received by Madhya Pradesh. The proposed ₹ 6,415 crore, 50 MW hyperscale data centre in Gwalior represents approximately two-thirds of the ₹ 9,625 crore in proposed investments covered by the five land-allotment letters of intent.[230] This investment comes amid the concentration of data centre capacity in a few major cities. By the first half of 2026, India's operational data centre capacity had reached 1.8 GW, with Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi-NCR and Hyderabad accounting for 97% of absorption. Tier-II cities accounted for only 7% of new supply.[231]

b. The Gwalior project will extend the state's planned data centre footprint beyond the Indore–Bhopal region. In July 2026, Submer Group proposed an AI-ready data centre worth about ₹ 19,000 crore in Bhopal at the MP Tech Growth Conclave.[232] The Gwalior proposal will add another location in the Gwalior–Chambal region, broadening the geographical spread of planned investments. The project will help Madhya Pradesh attract data centre capacity to a tier-II city market that has so far received a relatively small share of new supply.

c. Auriga IT's ₹ 500 crore Global Capability Centre at Sinhasa IT Park, Indore is expected to create about 3,500 jobs, the highest figure among the five companies. The Madhya Pradesh GCC Policy 2025[233] aims to attract more than 50 GCCs and generate over 37,000 direct jobs. This single centre would meet about 9.5% of the policy's job target. It would expand employment for Indore's graduate workforce and build on the IT parks already operating on the Super Corridor and at Sinhasa.

[230] Free Press Journal, October, 2026.
[231] Savills India, Data Centre Market Watch, 2026.
[232] Free Press Journal, July, 2026.
[233] Madhya Pradesh GCC Policy 2025.

III. Uttar Pradesh

A. PRAGATI Robotics And AI Park In Greater Noida

Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 27th October, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the setting up of the Platform for Robotics and AI Growth Through Technology and Innovation (PRAGATI) Park in Greater Noida, spread over about 69.52 acres.
2. The park aims to make Uttar Pradesh a hub for robotics manufacturing, AI and advanced technology by providing integrated facilities for robotics companies, start-ups, research institutions and industries.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The park is expected to generate over one lakh direct and indirect jobs and add about ₹ 2,000 crore a year in gross value addition to the state's economy at full operation.
   b. It will be developed in two zones:
      i. Zone 1 (8 acres) will be developed under a public-private partnership (PPP) through a special purpose vehicle, with 26% equity held by the Greater Noida Authority and 74% by an industrial partner chosen through quality-based selection, funded by ₹ 21.1 crore of Authority equity and a ₹ 126.2 crore interest-free state loan for 30 years.
      ii. Zone 2 (about 61.52 acres) will be funded by private enterprises with no capital cost to the state, and the special purpose vehicle will earn a service fee of 5% of revenue from land allotment and development fees.
   c. The state's IT and Electronics Department will reimburse the lease premium for Zone 1's 8 acres, which must begin commercial operations within 36 months of the special purpose vehicle's registration, extendable to 48 months, with a monitoring committee overseeing progress.
   d. The campus will have a robotics testing and certification centre, rapid prototyping, AI computing, motion capture and data laboratories, with GPU-based computing and testing for start-ups at affordable rates and support for Conformité Européenne (CE) marking and Underwriters Laboratories (UL) certification.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The park supports the IndiaAI Mission, approved by the Union Cabinet in March 2024 with an outlay of ₹ 10,371.92 crore to build AI computing capacity, support start-ups and develop AI skills.[234]

[234] PIB, March, 2024.

A. PRAGATI Robotics And AI Park In Greater Noida
Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Telangana launched India's first state robotics framework in May 2023, proposing a robotics park with testing, co-working and manufacturing facilities and a start-up accelerator.[235]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. The park positions Uttar Pradesh to capture a genuine production-side opportunity in Indian manufacturing. India moved up to 6th place globally in factory robot installations in 2024, with 9,120 units installed, a 7% increase over the previous year, continuing a consistent upward trend as Indian industry adopts automation faster.[236] However, India remains heavily dependent on imported robotics hardware. According to an October 2026 industry report, imports account for 85–90% of the value of robotic components, including sensors, motors and precision parts.[237]
   b. By establishing a dedicated testing and certification centre, rapid-prototyping facilities and GPU-based computing infrastructure, PRAGATI will support domestic robotics manufacturing and component development. This will help Uttar Pradesh participate in supplying automation technologies rather than only consuming imported products, while strengthening the state's manufacturing capabilities as demand for industrial robots continues to grow.
   c. Limited testing and prototyping facilities remain a barrier to robotics manufacturing in India. In 2026, 36% of surveyed researchers reported a lack of fabrication workshops, while 18% lacked access to required instrumentation facilities.[238] PRAGATI's proposed shared testing laboratories, graphics processing unit (GPU)-based computing and support for CE marking and UL certification will help firms develop, test and prepare products for domestic and export markets.

[235] Business Standard, May, 2023.
[236] IFR, India Industrial Robot Installations.
[237] Times Of India, October, 2026.
[238] Survey Report On Ease Of Doing R&D In India, Niti Aayog, 2026.

B. Industrial Enclave Projects In Gorakhpur And Banda

Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 19th October, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Government approved two industrial enclave projects worth a combined ₹ 480 crore in Gorakhpur and Banda.
2. The projects aim to develop ready industrial land with shared infrastructure in Gorakhpur and Banda, to attract manufacturing investment and create employment.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The projects cover more than 420 acres across the two sites, approved at a combined cost of about ₹ 480 crore.
   b. The Gorakhpur enclave at Dhuriyapar, proposed by the Gorakhpur Industrial Development Authority, spans over 120 acres at about ₹ 102 crore, with industrial plots, flatted factories, warehousing and a Common Facility Centre.
   c. The Banda enclave, an Integrated Manufacturing and Logistics Cluster developed by the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority, spans 310 acres at about ₹ 378 crore, with a sewage treatment plant, a common effluent treatment plant and a power substation.
   d. The projects are approved under the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA), with detailed project reports to be placed before the National Level Steering Committee.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The projects are developed under the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA), the Central Government's scheme to develop 100 plug-and-play industrial parks with ready infrastructure for manufacturers.[239]
5. **Relevance -**
   a. The industrial enclaves would help Uttar Pradesh convert its investment pipeline into operational projects by providing serviced industrial plots with essential infrastructure in place. The UP Global Investors Summit 2023 attracted investment proposals worth ₹ 40 lakh crore, while projects worth ₹ 10 lakh crore were launched at the fourth Ground Breaking Ceremony on 19th February 2024. Invest UP has identified projects worth ₹ 6 lakh crore for the next ceremony, with the pipeline expected to rise to ₹ 8 lakh crore.[240] The proposed industrial enclaves will help accommodate this pipeline by providing ready-to-use industrial land and reducing delays in project implementation.

[239] Press Information Bureau, March, 2026.
[240] Business Standard, October, 2026.

B. Industrial Enclave Projects In Gorakhpur And Banda
Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

b. The two enclaves will offer plots supported by flatted factories,[241] warehousing, a Common Facility Centre, a sewage treatment plant, a common effluent treatment plant and a power substation. Under the BHAVYA scheme, this infrastructure would help investors who have signed MoUs move towards project implementation without waiting for land acquisition or basic utilities.[2] By reducing these initial setup requirements, the enclaves will shorten the time between investment commitments and the start of production, bringing forward the associated employment opportunities.

c. The two industrial enclaves have received approval from the Uttar Pradesh Government under the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA). Their eligibility for Central financial assistance remains subject to approval of the Detailed Project Reports by the National Level Steering Committee. Under the scheme, eligible industrial parks receive financial assistance of up to ₹ 1 crore per acre for specified infrastructure components, along with support for external connectivity of up to 25% of the applicable project cost.[242] The actual assistance will depend on approved project costs and the scheme's conditions.

[241] Flatted factories are multi-storey industrial buildings that accommodate several manufacturing units within a single building, rather than requiring each enterprise to establish a separate factory on its own plot of land.

[242] Business Standard, October 2026 And PIB March 2026.

C. Meerut Lithium-Ion Battery And Rare Earth Refinery Project

Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 20th October, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Circulogy Cleantech for a ₹ 200 crore lithium-ion battery and rare earth refinery in Meerut.
2. The project aims to set up battery and rare earth recycling in the state, recovering critical minerals from used batteries and magnets, and to create employment in Meerut.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. Circulogy Cleantech, a Meerut-based deep-tech startup, signed the Memorandum of Understanding with Invest UP, the state's investment agency, for an investment of about ₹ 200 crore.
   b. The refinery will recover lithium, cobalt and nickel from used batteries and rare earths such as neodymium, dysprosium and terbium from discarded permanent magnets.
   c. The project is to be built in phases, aiming for 10,000 tonnes of annual processing at full capacity.
   d. It is expected to create about 300 direct and 1,000 indirect jobs.
   e. Under the agreement, the state Government will help the company obtain clearances and access Central and state incentives.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The project complements the ₹ 1,500 crore Critical Mineral Recycling Incentive Scheme under the National Critical Mineral Mission.[243]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Karnataka signed a memorandum of understanding with MiniMines Cleantech Solutions in November 2025 for a ₹ 350 crore critical minerals refining complex in Bengaluru, which will recycle lithium-ion batteries to supply refined materials that are currently imported.[244]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. The refinery would provide India with a domestic source of critical minerals for which it currently depends heavily on imports. India meets nearly all its demand for lithium, cobalt and nickel through imports and relies heavily on imported rare earth magnets. China supplied 60–90% of the permanent magnets used by India between 2022 and 2025.[245] These magnets are essential for EV motors, wind turbines, electronics, aerospace and defence.[246]

[243] PMO, September, 2025.
[244] The Week, November, 2025.
[245] PIB, August, 2025.
[246] PIB, February, 2026.

C. Meerut Lithium-Ion Battery And Rare Earth Refinery Project
Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

b. To address this dependence, the Meerut refinery will recover lithium, cobalt and nickel from used lithium-ion batteries, and neodymium, dysprosium and terbium from discarded magnets, processing up to 10,000 tonnes of material annually at full capacity.[247] This would provide battery and magnet manufacturers in India with a domestic source of recycled critical minerals, reducing their exposure to global price fluctuations and export restrictions.
c. The Meerut refinery would expand Uttar Pradesh's existing battery and rare-earth recycling infrastructure. Rocklink India's Sikandrabad facility, commissioned in April 2026, has capacity to recycle 10,000 tonnes of lithium-ion batteries annually and process 60 tonnes of rare-earth magnets monthly.[248] Circulogy's proposed refinery would add capacity to process 10,000 tonnes of material annually, recovering lithium, cobalt and nickel from batteries and neodymium, dysprosium and terbium from discarded magnets. Together, these facilities could strengthen domestic supplies of recovered critical minerals and reduce manufacturers' exposure to import disruptions.
d. Uttar Pradesh's large and growing electric vehicle market provides a potential domestic feedstock base for the Meerut refinery. Between January and September 2026, the state recorded approximately 3.57 lakh electric vehicle registrations, the highest among states, compared with 2.86 lakh in Maharashtra.[249] As these vehicles reach the end of their useful life, the refinery could provide a formal channel for recovering critical minerals from their discarded batteries, reducing reliance on informal recycling.
e. The project is being developed by Circulogy Cleantech, a Meerut-based startup recognised by DPIIT and supported by the UP Startup Mission, and is expected to create about 300 direct and 1,000 indirect jobs.[250] It would therefore link the state's EV market with critical-mineral recovery, while bringing skilled employment to western Uttar Pradesh and creating a pathway for a state-supported startup to expand into industrial-scale operations.

[247] Free Press Journal, October, 2026.
[248] Economic Times, April, 2026.
[249] Solentra, State-Wise Electric Vehicle Registrations, January–September 2026.
[250] Free Press Journal, October, 2026.

IV. Odisha

A. Investment Proposals In Power, Chemicals, Minerals And Other Industrial Sectors

Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** High

1. On 22nd October, 2026, the Odisha Government secured investment proposals worth about ₹ 53,894 crore in the chemicals and petrochemicals sector at India Chem 2026 in Mumbai.
2. The proposals aim to diversify Odisha's mineral- and metal-based industrial economy by attracting investments in chemicals, petrochemicals, power, metal downstream industries, textiles and agro-processing.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The state secured nine MoUs worth ₹ 51,443.51 crore and four expressions of investment intent worth ₹ 2,450 crore, and are expected to create 20,210 jobs.
   b. NLC India Ltd proposed investments of ₹ 36,763.51 crore across the power and chemical sectors, including a proposed 3,200 MW thermal power plant and associated coal gasification and fertiliser facilities.
   c. Larsen & Toubro signed an MoU proposing ₹ 8,100 crore in investment, with opportunities for manufacturing, engineering and technology-related activities.
   d. Paradeep Phosphates proposed ₹ 4,750 crore in investment in the chemical sector, while the state also pursued opportunities in metal downstream industries, textiles and agro-processing.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative supports the Central Government's Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemical Investment Region (PCPIR) Policy, under which the Paradip region in Odisha is being developed as an investment region for the sector.[251]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Gujarat has developed the Dahej Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemical Investment Region into one of India's leading chemical and petrochemical manufacturing hubs.[252]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. The investment proposals will support Odisha's efforts to diversify its industrial base beyond mining and metals and expand skilled manufacturing employment. Mining generated ₹ 51,127.10 crore in FY2025–26, while the proposals secured at India Chem 2026 amount to ₹ 53,894 crore, indicating the scale of investment interest in the state's chemical and petrochemical sector.[253] Unlike recurring mining revenue, these proposals represent prospective capital commitments.

[251] Department Of Chemicals And Petrochemicals, Petroleum, Chemicals And Petrochemical Investment Region (PCPIR) Policy.
[252] Department Of Chemicals And Petrochemicals, Petroleum, Chemicals And Petrochemical Investment Region (PCPIR) Policy.
[253] Indian Express, September, 2026.

A. Investment Proposals In Power, Chemicals, Minerals And Other Industrial Sectors
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** High

They are expected to generate 20,210 jobs,[254] with an average proposed investment of about ₹ 2.67 crore per job. If implemented, the projects will add process-operation and technical roles in chemical, petrochemical and plastics manufacturing, complementing existing extraction-linked employment. With industry accounting for about 41.3% of Odisha's Gross State Value Addition (GSVA),[255] largely driven by mining and metals, these investments will broaden the state's industrial base and diversify its manufacturing employment.

b. The chemical-sector investments support India's efforts to reduce import dependence. In 2024–25, India imported chemicals and chemical products worth ₹ 6.32 lakh crore against exports of ₹ 3.93 lakh crore, resulting in a trade deficit of approximately ₹ 2.39 lakh crore, excluding pharmaceuticals and fertilisers.[256] Odisha's access to Paradip port and its developing petrochemical infrastructure provide a base for expanding domestic production of chemicals currently sourced from overseas. The extent of import substitution will depend on the products manufactured and the implementation of the proposed projects.

c. The proposals offer opportunities to expand smaller manufacturing units around Paradip's petrochemical infrastructure. The 120-acre Paradip Plastic Park has an approved project cost of ₹ 106.78 crore.[257] Indian Oil's proposed ₹ 61,077 crore petrochemical complex will produce polymers and speciality chemicals that support downstream industries such as plastics, pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, personal care products and paints.[258] Linking new investments to these facilities will support local processing of raw materials into higher-value products, creating opportunities for MSMEs, suppliers and skilled workers. Realising these benefits will require the planned facilities to become operational and supply arrangements with downstream manufacturers to be established.

[254] Press Trust Of India, October, 2026.
[255] Odisha Economic Survey 2025–26.
[256] Department Of Chemicals And Petrochemicals, Statistics At A Glance 2025.
[257] Plastic Park Scheme.
[258] Indian Oil Corporation.

Other Decisions

I. Delhi

A. Projects Worth ₹ 8,941 Crore For Water, Sewage And Yamuna Cleaning

Source: Link | **Impact:** High

1. On 22nd October, 2026, the Union Home Minister, inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for 43 Delhi Jal Board projects worth about ₹ 8,941 crore, to overhaul Delhi's water supply and sewage and to clean the Yamuna.
2. The projects aim to improve Delhi's water supply and sewage treatment, intercept polluting drains and clean the Yamuna.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The Union Home Minister inaugurated 10 projects worth about ₹ 2,827 crore and laid the foundation stones for 33 projects worth about ₹ 6,114 crore, in the presence of the Chief Minister of Delhi.
   b. The inaugurated projects include a 477 MLD water treatment plant at Chandrawal, costing about ₹ 598.6 crore and expected to serve around 22 lakh people, and a 124 MGD sewage treatment plant at Okhla.
   c. The foundation-stone projects include 29 new decentralised sewage treatment plants worth about ₹ 3,000 crore, along with the upgradation of existing plants, sewer lines and household sewer connections.
   d. The projects are aimed at intercepting drains, modernising and building sewage treatment plants and connecting households to the sewer network, as part of the plan to clean the Yamuna.
   e. The Government set a target of cleaning the Yamuna in Delhi by May 2029, with a three-year plan to provide sewer connections to every household.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The projects support the Namami Gange Programme, implemented by the National Mission for Clean Ganga, which funds pollution abatement and sewage treatment for the Yamuna, a tributary of the Ganga, in Delhi.[259]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Gujarat developed the Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad, diverting sewage away from the river and building embankments to clean and revive the waterfront.[260]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. The treatment capacity in the package addresses Delhi's shortfall in treating sewage. As of June 2025, Delhi generated about 3,596 Million Liters per Day (MLD) of sewage a day. The Delhi Jal Board's 37 sewage treatment plants had an installed capacity of 3,474 MLD, but only 2,955 MLD was being used. About 641 MLD of

[259] Namami Gange Programme, NMCG.
[260] Sabarmati Riverfront Development Corporation.

A. Projects Worth ₹ 8,941 Crore For Water, Sewage And Yamuna Cleaning
Source: Link | **Impact:** High

sewage went untreated into the Yamuna or its drains, and 14 of the plants did not meet discharge standards.[261] The package includes a new 124 MGD sewage treatment plant at Okhla. It also upgrades eight existing plants from 78.2 MGD to 140.8 MGD, which adds about 285 MLD of treatment capacity on its own.[262] More of the city's sewage will be treated before it reaches the river. The upgrades will also help plants that now fall short meet the discharge standards set by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee.

b. The projects respond to the very poor water quality in the Delhi stretch of the river. The Yamuna runs 52 km through Delhi, about 2% of its length, but Delhi contributes 76% of the river's total pollution load.[263] Between January and June 2025, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) monitoring at Asgarpur recorded biochemical oxygen demand of up to 72 mg/litre and faecal coliform of up to 1.6 crore Most Probable Number (MPN)[264] per 100 ml. The prescribed limits are below 3 mg/litre and 2,500 MPN per 100 ml respectively.[265] Cutting off untreated sewage at the source, through collection, treatment and plant upgrades, deals with the main cause of this pollution. This will bring down biochemical oxygen demand and faecal coliform levels below Delhi.

[261] The Week, July, 2025.
[262] Financial Express, October, 2026.
[263] Tribune, June, 2025.
[264] *It is a statistical method used to estimate the concentration of microorganisms, such as faecal coliform bacteria, in a water sample.*
[265] The Week, July, 2025.

B. Go-Delhi Foundation For Startups And Innovation

Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 18th October, 2026, the Delhi Cabinet approved the Go-Delhi Foundation, a not-for-profit body to support startups, innovators and entrepreneurs in the city.
2. The foundation aims to help young people, researchers and entrepreneurs in Delhi turn ideas into products and businesses, by providing access to mentorship, facilities and investors.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The foundation will function under the Department of Industries as a not-for-profit company incorporated under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013.[266]
   b. The foundation has a corpus of ₹ 50 crore and will operate on a hub-and-spoke model through existing facilities and partner institutions.
   c. It will provide prototyping, laboratory and testing facilities, along with mentorship, incubation and connections with investors.
   d. It will run pilot projects allowing Government departments to test startup solutions to real-world problems, with successful ones considered for adoption.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The foundation complements Startup India, the Central Government's initiative to build a supportive ecosystem for startups through funding, incubation and regulatory support.[267]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Telangana set up T-Hub, a Government-backed incubator that supports startups with mentoring, funding and workspace,[268] while Kerala runs the Kerala Startup Mission, the state's nodal agency for incubating and funding startups.[269]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. The foundation gives shared product-development facilities to one of the country's largest startup bases. As of December 2025, Delhi had 19,913 startups recognised by DPIIT, the fourth-highest of any state and about 9.6% of the national total of 2,07,135.[270] The foundation will give startups and MSMEs access to product engineering, prototyping, laboratories and testing facilities. It will run on a hub-and-spoke model through existing facilities and partner institutions across Delhi. Early-stage firms will be able to build and test products without first spending money on their own labs and equipment. Using existing institutions also

[266] Ministry Of Corporate Affairs, Companies Act, 2013.
[267] Startup India, Government Of India.
[268] Business Standard, T-Hub.
[269] Kerala Startup Mission, Government Of Kerala.
[270] Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 588.

B. Go-Delhi Foundation For Startups And Innovation
Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

means the ₹ 50 crore corpus can support more startups than it could if it had to pay for new facilities.

b. The Go-Delhi Foundation complements the Delhi Start-up and Incubation Policy, approved by the Delhi Cabinet on 16th July 2026, which commits more than ₹ 400 crore over five years. In its first phase, the policy establishes incubation centres in 11 state universities, 13 Government-aided colleges, and polytechnics, ITIs and Government schools. Institutions receive one-time support to establish or strengthen these centres, along with annual funding for their operations.[271] While the policy builds incubation capacity within educational institutions, the Go-Delhi Foundation extends support beyond the campus stage, helping startups access the facilities and networks needed to develop and commercialise their products.

c. The pilot-project route lets the Delhi Government act as an early customer for local startups. Government departments will be able to test startup solutions to real problems through pilot projects, and successful ones will be considered for adoption. Startups will get a first user and evidence that their product works, which they need to attract investors and win larger contracts. Departments will be able to test new technology at small scale before committing public money to it, and adopt only the solutions that have proved themselves on the ground.

[271] Indian Express, July, 2026.

C. Draft Delhi E-Rickshaw (Registration And Operation) Scheme, 2026
Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 18th October, 2026, the Delhi Government released the draft Delhi E-Rickshaw (Registration and Operation) Scheme, 2026, proposing a city-wide cap on e-rickshaws and stricter rules for drivers.
2. The draft scheme aims to regulate the growing number of e-rickshaws in Delhi to ease traffic congestion, improve road safety and reduce air and noise pollution, while formalising driver and vehicle standards.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The draft scheme proposes a city-wide cap of 2,50,000 e-rickshaws, beyond which no new registrations would be issued unless the cap is revised.
   b. It requires a digital E-Rickshaw Compliance Certificate (ECC), valid for two years and linked to one vehicle and one authorised driver, covering registration, fitness, insurance and battery compliance.
   c. It requires every driver to hold a valid e-rickshaw driving licence and a Public Service Vehicle (PSV) badge, with each compliance certificate linking one vehicle to one driver.
   d. Individuals can own up to five e-rickshaws and eligible entities up to 100, with an aggregator licence mandatory for fleets of 25 or more vehicles.
   e. It limits each vehicle to four passengers and 40 kg of luggage, prohibits standing passengers, bull bars and frontal crash guards, mandates reflective markings and high-security registration plates, and requires drivers to assist elderly and disabled passengers.
   f. The scheme mandates approved battery technology and disposal of used or seized batteries through authorised recyclers under the Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022.[272]
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The scheme operates within the framework of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, the Central law governing the registration and operation of motor vehicles, including e-rickshaws.[273]
5. **Relevance -**
   a. The cap of 2.5 lakh e-rickshaws seeks to bring Delhi's largely undocumented fleet under a verifiable regulatory system. Against 2.06 lakh registered e-rickshaws as of May 2026, officials estimate that a nearly equal number operate without registration, suggesting that demand for registration could exceed the permitted

[272] Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022.
[273] Ministry Of Road Transport And Highways, Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

C. Draft Delhi E-Rickshaw (Registration And Operation) Scheme, 2026
Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

limit.[274] The mandatory two-year ECC, linking each vehicle to a verified driver, licence, insurance and fitness record, will strengthen enforcement by the Transport Department and Traffic Police.

b. The draft addresses safety concerns raised in a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) before the Delhi High Court, which cited 108 e-rickshaw accidents between 1st January and 20th August, 2025, resulting in 26 deaths and 130 injuries. The four-passenger and 40 kg limits, prohibition on standing passengers and bull bars, and mandatory reflective markings, high-security registration plates and PSV badges aim to reduce risks from overloading, unsafe fittings and unverified drivers.[275] These requirements also provide the Delhi Government with a regulatory framework to address the safety and enforcement concerns raised before the Court.

c. The draft gives a framework for improving e-rickshaw management in high-density areas, including Rohini (46,150 registered vehicles), Wazirpur (30,252), Janakpuri (26,661) and Dwarka (20,223) as of January 2026.[276] Compliance with notified road restrictions and parking rules could reduce congestion near metro stations, markets and residential areas, while ownership caps and aggregator licensing requirements bring larger fleets under regulation. Mandatory assistance to elderly and disabled passengers and reporting of harassment of women passengers also strengthens passenger safety and accessibility.

d. The draft addresses battery and charging risks beyond road safety. In June 2025, Delhi's distribution companies estimated annual electricity-theft losses of around ₹ 120 crore from e-rickshaw charging and identified illegal wiring and substandard batteries as safety hazards.[277] Battery-compliance checks and mandatory disposal through authorised recyclers will strengthen oversight during use and at the end of battery life. Charging or battery-swapping facilities for fleet operators could reduce reliance on illegal connections, provided these facilities use lawful electricity connections and meet safety requirements.[278]

[274] Hindustan Times, May, 2026.
[275] The Pioneer, October, 2026.
[276] Outlook, February, 2026.
[277] Indian Express, June, 2025.
[278] Indian Express, October, 2026.

II. Tamil Nadu

A. Reduction Of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) Value Added Tax (VAT)
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** High

1. On 23rd October, 2026, the Tamil Nadu Commercial Taxes and Registration Department notified reductions in VAT on ATF for scheduled airlines under the Tamil Nadu Value Added Tax Act, 2006.[279]
2. The Notification aims to reduce fuel-related operating costs for scheduled domestic airlines, improve the commercial viability of Chennai and regional airports, and encourage additional routes and flight frequencies.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The Commercial Taxes and Registration Department reduces ATF VAT for scheduled airlines at Chennai Airport from 29 % to 16 %.
   b. The department reduces ATF VAT from 29 % to 1 % at other Tamil Nadu airports, including Coimbatore, Madurai and Tiruchirappalli.
   c. The notification framework reduces VAT on ATF supplied to scheduled aircraft with a maximum take-off mass below 40,000 kg at airports outside Chennai from 5 % to 1 %.
   d. The revised tax rates take effect on 1st November, 2026 and remain valid until 31st October, 2027.
   e. Oil companies supplying ATF are required to submit purchaser-signed declarations with monthly returns to the jurisdictional assessing officer, identifying the domestic flight for which the fuel was purchased.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The reform aligns with the Ministry of Civil Aviation's Regional Connectivity Scheme–UDAN. Lower ATF taxation can complement UDAN by improving the operating economics of eligible regional routes.[280]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Kerala applies a 1 % VAT rate on ATF, supporting lower fuel-tax costs for airlines.[281] Andhra Pradesh rationalised ATF VAT to 1 % at applicable airports.[282]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Tamil Nadu's high aviation fuel taxes have been a longstanding concern for airlines operating in the state. ATF accounts for approximately 35–40% of airline operating costs,[283] making fuel taxation an important factor in determining the viability of flight operations. Fuel taxation remains a state-level cost variable because ATF is

[279] The Tamil Nadu Value Added Tax Act, 2006
[280] Our Performance, UDAN.
[281] S.R.O. No. 267/2020, Government Of Kerala.
[282] Times Of India, 18th September, 2014.
[283] The Print, October 2026

A. Reduction Of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) Value Added Tax (VAT)
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** High

outside the GST regime.[284] Tamil Nadu's earlier VAT rate of 29% was among the highest in India and had reportedly discouraged airlines from refuelling extensively at Chennai.[285] The reduction to 16% at Chennai and 1% at regional airports addresses this cost burden and industry demand and brings the state's regional airports closer to the rates prevailing in neighbouring states such as Kerala and Andhra Pradesh.[286]

b. In January 2026, passengers reported that daily flight movements between Chennai and Madurai had fallen from 16 to six, while those between Chennai and Tiruchirappalli declined from eight to four.[287] During Pongal, limited seat availability forced some Chennai–Coimbatore passengers to consider connecting flights costing up to ₹ 16,500 against regular direct fares of around ₹ 3,499.[288] Although these disruptions were also linked to changes in aircraft deployment and seasonal demand, lower fuel taxes improve the financial viability of regional services and provide an incentive for airlines to increase flight frequencies, as seen in Indigo and Air India considering expanding their operations in Tamil Nadu.[289]

c. The larger tax reduction outside Chennai is particularly relevant for improving connectivity between industrial and regional centres. In August 2026, industry associations sought direct flights between Coimbatore and Thoothukudi,[290] as manufacturers and exporters continued to depend on road and rail transport between the industrial hub and port city. The reform could improve regional airport competitiveness, support additional flight frequencies and strengthen connectivity to Coimbatore, Madurai and Tiruchirappalli.

[284] Section 9(2) of the Central Goods And Services Tax Act, 2017
[285] NDTV Profit, October 2026
[286] NDTV Profit, October 2026
[287] DT Next Bureau, January 2026
[288] DT Next Bureau, January 2026
[289] The New Indian Express, October 2026
[290] DT Next, August 2026

B. Revised Contractor Registration System, 2026
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** High

1. On 16th October, 2026, the Public Works Department (PWD), Government of Tamil Nadu, issued a Government Order notifying the Revised Contractor Registration System, 2026.
2. The Order aims to simplify contractor classification, make registration requirements more proportionate to the value of works, and strengthen scrutiny of contractors' financial credentials, work experience, and compliance.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. It introduces four classes in place of six:
      i. Class I covers works above ₹ 10 crore (₹ 1.50 crore solvency);
      ii. Class II covers works above ₹ 5–10 crore (₹ 75 lakh);
      iii. Class III covers works above ₹ 1–5 crore (₹ 15 lakh); and
      iv. Class IV covers works up to ₹ 1 crore (15% of value, capped at ₹ 7.50 lakh).
   b. It mandates a 15% e-Bank Guarantee for contracts above ₹ 10 crore, valid through the contract and defect liability period.
   c. It fixes the application fee at ₹ 10,000 and the registration and class-upgrade fee at ₹ 1 lakh, while requiring prior approval for changes in ownership, partnerships, directorship or management.
   d. It prohibits more than one registration per class, benami or common-ownership registrations, and ownership changes without prior approval.
   e. It provides for suspension, downgrading, removal, or debarment of up to 2 years for non-performance, substandard materials, forged documents, or tax default, after a hearing. Action is recorded on the e-Sevai portal.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Government Order mirrors the class-wise, value-based registration of the Central PWD Enlistment Rules, 2021.[291] Its debarment provisions follow General Financial Rules' (GFR), 2017 Rule 151[292] and the Department of Expenditure guidelines of 2nd November, 2021.[293]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** The Government of Karnataka registers contractors in four classes (I–IV), with one single-window registration valid across all state departments.[294] Madhya Pradesh replaced its A/B/C/D classes with a single Centralised Registration System.[295] The Government Of Rajasthan links its AA, A, B and C classes to tender ceilings of unlimited, ₹ 10 crore, ₹ 5 crore and ₹ 1.5 crore.[296]

[291] Publication Of Rules For Enlistment Of Contractors In CPWD 2021, Director General, CPWD.
[292] Amendment In The General Financial Rules, 2017 (GFR, 2017)- Rule 151.
[293] File No.G.25016/02/2022-B(NHM), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
[294] Karnataka Public Works Departmental Code - 2014.
[295] Centralized Registration System for Contractors.
[296] Public Procurement Under Rtpp Act And Rules, Government Of Rajasthan.

B. Revised Contractor Registration System, 2026
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** High

6. **Relevance -**
   a. Tamil Nadu PWD's previous framework registered contractors in six classes (Class IA to Class V), with Class I covering works of ₹ 10–25 crore against ₹ 1.50 crore solvency and Class IA set at ₹ 2.50 crore solvency.[297]
   b. In State PWD tendering, a single contractor or family often holds registrations under several names: relatives, employees, shell firms. These registrations bid against each other on the same work, creating the appearance of competition while one interest controls every bid. It verified solvency but had no rule against multiple or proxy registrations through common ownership.[298]
   c. Higher-class registrations carry value because they unlock bigger works. Holders rent or sell them to contractors who could not qualify on their own, and the actual executor never appears on paper. Prior approval for any change in management or shareholding stops a quiet transfer of a registered firm to a new controller.
   d. It verifies four-year work experience against GST returns and audited accounts, and requires a 15% e-Bank Guarantee above ₹ 10 crore. Graded solvency thresholds further filter out contractors who cannot fund working capital. Its two-year debarment cap, after a hearing, follows the central standard Department Of Expenditure OM No. F.1/20/2018-PPD, 02.11.2021.[299]
   e. Requiring the electronic bank guarantee to remain valid through the contract and defect liability period maintains financial security against eligible contractual defaults, including defects discovered after completion. The department can invoke the guarantee in accordance with its terms rather than holding an equivalent amount as cash security.

[297] G.O.(Ms) No.37, Public Works (G2) Department, Government Of Tamil Nadu.
[298] G.O.(Ms) No.221, Public Works (G2) Department.
[299] OM No. F.1/20/2018-PPD, 02.11.2021, Department Of Expenditure.

C. Tamil Nadu Rainwater Harvesting And Rejuvenation Programme
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 16th October, 2026, the Tamil Nadu Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department issued a Government Order directing all urban and rural local bodies to enforce mandatory rainwater harvesting in all buildings and restore defunct rainwater harvesting structures across the state.
2. The programme aims to strengthen groundwater recharge by ensuring the installation, functionality and maintenance of rainwater harvesting systems in Government, residential, commercial, and institutional buildings.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The order mandates inspections of Government offices, schools, hospitals, residential buildings and commercial establishments to verify the functionality of rainwater harvesting systems.
   b. Local bodies are directed to clean and desilt rooftops, rainwater channels, filter chambers, recharge pits and wells, and restore defunct structures wherever technically feasible.
   c. Government establishments are required to harvest, store, reuse or recharge rainwater through recharge trenches, shafts, percolation pits, wells, storage structures and silt traps.
   d. The Municipal Administration and Water Supply Department is designated as the coordinating authority, supported by a state-level committee headed by the Chief Secretary and district-level committees chaired by District Collectors.
   e. The campaign introduces annual performance awards for districts, local bodies, educational institutions, Government establishments and community organisations for infrastructure creation, restoration, functionality, coverage and maintenance.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** It aligns with the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR),[300] promotes rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and restoration of traditional water bodies across rural and urban areas.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** In Karnataka, Section 241 of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Act, 2020 mandates rainwater harvesting in buildings, with provisions linked to plot sizes.[301] Similarly, Section 238 of the Rajasthan Municipalities Act, 2009 mandates rainwater harvesting in Government and private buildings, with penalties for non-compliance.[302]

[300] PIB, October 2026.
[301] The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Act, 2020.
[302] Rajasthan Municipalities Act, 2009.

C. Tamil Nadu Rainwater Harvesting And Rejuvenation Programme
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

6. **Relevance -**
   a. The initiative addresses poor maintenance of rainwater harvesting systems despite their mandatory installation in Tamil Nadu since 2003.[303] A Chennai Metrowater survey in 2023 found that only 65% of the 10.27 lakh buildings inspected had functional rainwater harvesting structures.[304] Earlier campaigns had increased installation, but many systems subsequently became unusable due to inadequate maintenance.[305] The new order directs inspections, desilting and repairs across the state and shifts the focus from merely installing structures to ensuring that existing facilities continue collecting and recharging rainwater.
   b. The programme also responds to increasing groundwater depletion and dependence on borewells, particularly in urban and agricultural areas. According to the Central Ground Water Board's 2025–26 assessment,[306] 56 of 111 taluks examined across 13 Tamil Nadu districts had exceeded sustainable groundwater extraction limits, with another 11 classified as critical.[307] In Chennai, average groundwater depth increased from 5.66 metres in May 2026 to 6.13 metres in June, indicating declining water levels.[308] The order promotes rooftop harvesting, recharge wells and percolation pits to retain rainfall locally and replenish groundwater.
   c. The initiative addresses the loss of rainwater through surface runoff amid recurring urban flooding. On 21st October, 2026, Chennai recorded an average rainfall of 70.25 mm within 24 hours, resulting in 1,212 rain-related complaints, largely concerning waterlogging.[309] The order directs local bodies to identify suitable locations for recharge trenches, percolation pits and storage facilities. Capturing part of this runoff will support groundwater replenishment and help reduce the volume of rainwater entering drainage systems.
   d. The order strengthens accountability for rainwater harvesting maintenance. Local bodies must maintain geo-tagged records of existing, repaired and new structures, with oversight by District Collectors and the Chief Secretary.[310] This establishes a more systematic approach to monitoring the functionality of rainwater harvesting facilities rather than relying on periodic installation drives.

[303] The News Minute, September 2019
[304] The Hindu, September 2026
[305] The Times Of India, October 2026
[306] Central Ground Water Board's 2025–26 Assessment
[307] DT Next, October 2026
[308] The Times Of India, July 2026
[309] Live Chennai, October 2026
[310] The Times Of India, October 2026

D. Revision of Contract Carriage Auto-Rickshaw Fares

Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 27th October, 2026, the Tamil Nadu Home (Transport-I) Department issued a Government Order (G.O. Ms. No. 366) revising the fares for contract carriage auto-rickshaws, replacing the previous fare structure notified in 2013[311] and 2014.[312]
2. The fare revision aims to update regulated contract-carriage autorickshaw fares across Chennai Metropolitan Area and other regions of Tamil Nadu by revising minimum, distance-based, waiting-time and night-travel charges.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The revised fare structure fixes the minimum fare at ₹ 50 for the first 1.8 kilometres and ₹ 25 for every additional kilometre.
   b. It prescribes a ghat-area base fare of ₹ 60 and an additional charge of ₹ 30 per kilometre.
   c. The revised schedule sets waiting charges at ₹ 1 per minute and night fares at 1.5 times the regular fare for journeys between 10 pm and 5 am.
   d. It requires auto-rickshaw owners and drivers to recalibrate meters within six months. Until then, vehicles must display the prescribed fare chart, with a QR code for verification. A toll-free number is provided for complaints of overcharging.
   e. The notification seeks to establish a standard fare structure for implementation under Section 67 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.
   f. The order directs the State Transport Authority and Regional Transport Authorities to implement the revised fare structure across Tamil Nadu, replacing the earlier notifications.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The revision operates within the regulatory framework of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, particularly Section 67, which empowers state Governments to issue directions concerning transport fares and public transport regulation.[313]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Kerala revised autorickshaw fares in May 2022, raising the minimum fare to ₹ 30 for 1.5 kilometres.[314] Delhi revised autorickshaw fares in 2022, increasing the minimum fare from ₹ 25 to ₹ 30 for the first 1.5 kilometres and the subsequent kilometre rate from ₹ 9.50 to ₹ 11.[315]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Tamil Nadu's regulated autorickshaw fares have remained unchanged since August

[311] GO.MS.NO.611, Home (Transport.III) Department)
[312] G.O. Ms. No. 772 , October 2014
[313] The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.
[314] G.O. (P) No. 14/2022/TRANS, Government Of Kerala.
[315] F.NO.MLO/ARU/TPT/2023, Government Of NCT Of Delhi.

D. Revision of Contract Carriage Auto-Rickshaw Fares
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

2013, failing to reflect sustained operating cost inflation. Over this period, Chennai's petrol prices rose 44.7%, from ₹ 74.49 per litre in August 2013[316] to ₹ 107.77 per litre on 27th October, 2026,[317] widening the deficit between administered tariffs and basic fuel expenditures.

b. Autorickshaw drivers also reported higher insurance premiums, spare-parts prices and vehicle maintenance expenses, which had reduced their earnings. Addressing this 13-year gap, the 2026 revision doubles the minimum fare from ₹ 25 to ₹ 50 for the first 1.8 kilometres and increases the subsequent kilometre rate from ₹ 12 to ₹ 25. The notification also introduces a separate fare schedule for ghat areas, waiting charges of ₹ 1 per minute and a 50 % night-fare premium.

c. Tamil Nadu had 3.47 lakh registered auto-rickshaws as of 1st April, 2025, including about 1.02 lakh operating in Chennai.[318] The revised fare structure therefore affects a substantial number of operators and passengers. The revised minimum charges are lower than the Autorickshaw unions demand for a minimum fare of ₹ 60 for the first 1.5 km and ₹ 30 for every additional kilometre.[319]

d. The Government has addressed the outdated fare structure, while the actual effect on drivers' earnings, passenger expenditure and overcharging will depend on compliance with the new rates. The six-month meter recalibration period addresses practical difficulties in implementing the revised fares and gives drivers sufficient time to update their meters without disrupting services.

[316] The Hindu, July 2013
[317] NDTV, Petrol Price In Chennai
[318] Monthly Information Booklet, Government Of Tamil Nadu, March 2025, Page 98
[319] DT Next, October 2026

E. Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAC) Mandatory Digital Payments Guidelines

Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 26th October, 2026, the TASMAC made digital payment mandatory for liquor purchases exceeding ₹ 1,000.
2. The mandate aims to reduce cash-handling risks, prevent overcharging, improve transaction transparency and ensure sales revenue flows through authorised banking channels.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. It mandates UPI, debit card or credit card payments for individual purchases exceeding ₹ 1,000 from 1st November, 2026, with the threshold reduced to ₹ 500 from 1st January 2027.
   b. TASMAC requires all 4,048 retail outlets to process digital payments through point-of-sale (POS) machines connected to authorised banking systems.
   c. It prohibits employees from accepting customer payments through personal UPI IDs, QR codes or individual bank accounts, with violations subject to disciplinary action.
   d. It requires outlet supervisors to issue physical bills for every sale, verify payments through official POS systems before handing over liquor, and ensure that the billed amount matches the applicable Maximum Retail Price (MRP).
   e. The corporation directs district managers to inspect POS functionality and network connectivity, conduct weekly implementation reviews, and display customer information boards measuring 2 feet by 3 feet.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative aligns with the national digital payments framework by expanding traceable, electronically recorded retail transactions. UPI accounted for 81% of India's retail digital payment transactions in FY 2024–25.[320,321]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Andhra Pradesh introduced UPI and QR-code payments at selected Andhra Pradesh State Beverages Corporation Limited (APSBCL) outlets in February 2023, with plans for wider coverage.[322] Uttar Pradesh mandates digital payment facilities at retail liquor shops under its 2026–27 Excise Policy and provides for POS-based sales and QR-code tracking.[323]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. The decision addresses persistent overcharging at TASMAC liquor outlets across Tamil Nadu. Despite repeated enforcement drives, customers continued reporting additional charges of up to ₹ 40 per bottle, with nearly 200 employees suspended

[320] PIB, March 2026.
[321] PIB, December 2024.
[322] G.O.MS.No.466, Andhra Pradesh Gazette.
[323] Uttar Pradesh Excise Policy 2026-27.

E. Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation (TASMAC) Mandatory Digital Payments Guidelines
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

for alleged overcharging by June 2026.[324] Mandatory digital payments for purchases above ₹ 1,000 from 1st November, 2026,[325] together with compulsory billing and official payment channels, will make transactions easier to verify against the prescribed retail price and reduce opportunities for unauthorised collections.

b. The measure also aims to reduce cash-handling risks and strengthen financial accountability across TASMAC's 4,048 outlets.[326] The corporation generated around ₹ 50,846 crore in tax and excise revenue during 2025–26, making accurate transaction records particularly important.[327] Requiring payments through official bank-linked systems and prohibiting personal QR codes will improve the tracking of sales receipts, reduce accounting discrepancies and limit risks associated with handling and transporting large amounts of cash.
c. Further, CAG audit of TASMAC highlights operational vulnerabilities and retail non-compliance across the retail network, recording that only 3,114 of 5,359 installed POS machines (58%) were functional. Furthermore, 177 out of 238 recorded consumer complaints involved overcharging above maximum retail prices.[328] These baseline metrics demonstrate that hardware downtime and deficient transaction controls directly facilitate billing discrepancies, establishing the empirical necessity for robust digital payment infrastructure and automated billing enforcement.
d. Lastly, the phased rollout responds to the limited adoption of digital payments despite earlier computerisation efforts. Previous initiatives faced resistance from employees and technical problems, including delayed transactions and unreliable connectivity. Lowering the mandatory digital payment threshold to ₹ 500 from 1st January 2027 will bring smaller purchases into the system.[329]

[324] The Hindu, September 2026.
[325] The Economic Times, October 2026
[326] The Times Of India, October 2026
[327] The Times Of India, September 2026
[328] CAG Report Number 4 Of 2024.
[329] Live Mint, October 2026

III. Maharashtra

A. Framework For Fertilizer Sale (FFS), 2026

Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 22nd October, 2026, the Maharashtra Agriculture Department implemented the Central Government-developed Framework for Fertilizer Sale (FFS) across the state.
2. The framework aims to digitise and streamline access to subsidised chemical fertilizers by enabling farmers to check retail-level stock and prices, reserve fertilizers in advance, and plan purchases according to agricultural landholdings.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The FFS application provides farmers with real-time information on fertiliser availability, stock levels and prices at nearby authorised retail outlets and enables them to book the required quantity in advance.
   b. The system enables farmers to select their crop and land area and view fertiliser recommendations based on the recorded details.
   c. The retailer verification system requires sellers to honour advance bookings made through the application.
   d. The digital distribution framework integrates mobile-based booking with the existing Integrated Fertilizer Management System (iFMS) and point-of-sale (PoS) infrastructure through QR-based verification.[330]
   e. The grievance mechanism directs farmers to taluka agriculture officers and agriculture officers at Panchayat Samiti offices for assistance and complaints.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The framework aligns with the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in Fertilizers system, by adding advanced digital booking and verification to the existing PoS-based subsidised fertiliser distribution architecture.[331]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Tamil Nadu has provided an online application facility for the FFS pilot, enabling farmers to submit fertiliser requests and generate QR codes or tokens for collection.[332,333]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Maharashtra's fertiliser distribution system has faced recurring shortages.[334] The FFS framework allows farmers to check fertiliser stocks and prices at nearby dealers, book required quantities and collect them using a QR code valid for 72 hours. This reduces repeated visits and improves access to available supplies during critical agricultural periods.
   b. India's existing fertilizer distribution system relies on Aadhaar-authenticated PoS

[330] PIB, August 2026.
[331] PIB, March 2026.
[332] Pilot Phase – Framework for Fertilizer Sale (FFS).
[333] Framework for Fertilizer Sale-PR.No.62, Government Of Tamil Nadu.
[334] UNI, 31st October, 2026.

A. Framework For Fertilizer Sale (FFS), 2026
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

transactions and retailer-level stock management. In 2024–25, national fertilizer sales included 387.92 lakh tonnes of urea and 96.29 lakh tonnes of DAP, illustrating the scale of distribution that requires effective monitoring. The Government has also identified hoarding, diversion and black marketing as continuing regulatory concerns.[335]

c. Forced purchases of unwanted agricultural inputs have increased farmers' cultivation costs. In June 2026, a farmer from Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar reported having to purchase two bags of compound fertiliser to obtain one bag of subsidised urea. FFS allows farmers to select specific fertilisers and quantities in advance, reducing opportunities for such compulsory sales, known as *linking*, and overcharging.[336]

d. Irregularities in subsidised fertiliser sales have persisted despite existing monitoring systems. An enforcement drive covering 16,169 agricultural input outlets by May 2026 resulted in 697 licence suspensions, 55 cancellations and 34 FIRs. By linking bookings to verified farmer identities, landholdings and crop requirements, and matching them with point-of-sale transactions, FFS strengthens checks against fictitious purchases, hoarding and diversion.[337]

e. However, digital access remains a concern. During the June 2026 pilots, frequent technical glitches, low digital literacy and inadequate training were cited and sought suspension of the app for the kharif season.[338] Local reports documented OTP delays, registration errors and the burden of in-person biometric verification on women and elderly farmers. The State Agriculture Minister directed officials to resolve the app's operational issues.[339] Effective statewide implementation will require reliable authentication, farmer assistance and alternative arrangements during technical failures to prevent delays in fertiliser procurement.

[335] Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1021.
[336] The Indian Express, June 2026
[337] The Times Of India, May 2026
[338] The Print, 19th June, 2026.
[339] Pudhari, 12th June, 2026.

IV. Andhra Pradesh

A. Andhra Pradesh Development Permission Management System (APDPMS)

Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 16th October, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department issued an order to simplify and streamline the procedure for issuing Occupancy Certificates (OC) and releasing mortgage-related documents through the APDPMS.
2. The order aims to automate the scrutiny and issuance of OC for buildings by integrating online application processing, automated verification of construction parameters and digital generation of mortgage-release documents.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The APDPMS portal enables applicants to submit OC applications and construction-related details online for automated scrutiny against sanctioned building plans and applicable building regulations.
   b. The automated scrutiny engine verifies building height, number of floors and other construction parameters against approved plans.
   c. The system calculates and generates applicable compounding fees automatically for permissible deviations of up to 10% from the sanctioned building plan.
   d. The digital mechanism generates mortgage-release letters and relinquishment deeds, wherever applicable, alongside the OC.
   e. The town planning authorities conduct post-issuance verification and receive a 15-day window to raise objections. OCs are treated as approved if no objection is raised within the stipulated period, while violations remain subject to regulatory action.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** It aligns with the National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM), 2021[340] to digitise urban service delivery, improve municipal transparency and strengthen technology-enabled governance through integrated digital platforms such as Urban Platform for deliverY of Online Governance (UPYOG).[341]
5. **Similar Initiative Alignment -** Telangana's Telangana Building Permission Approval And Self Certification System (TG-bPASS), 2020,[342] introduced online building permissions, self-certification, single-window approvals and online OCs with post-verification mechanisms. Maharashtra: Building Plan Management System (BPMS) enables online building-plan scrutiny, digital processing and issuance of Occupancy Certificates through metropolitan planning authorities.[343] Karnataka's Nambike Nakshe and the Land and Building Plan Approval System introduced online

[340] National Urban Design Mission, Pilot, Ministry Of Housing And Urban Affairs.
[341] Urban Platform For Delivery Of Online Governance, UPYOG.
[342] The Telangana State Building Permission Approval And Self Certification System (TS-BPASS) Act, 2020.
[343] User Manual - BPMS.

A. Andhra Pradesh Development Permission Management System (APDPMS)
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

applications, single-window construction permits and digitally signed certificates in Bengaluru.[344]

6. **Relevance -**
   a. The reform addresses delays in occupancy certification amid growing urbanisation in Andhra Pradesh. According to National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) January 2026 state profile, the state's urban population is estimated at 37.1% in 2024,[345] compared to 33.4% in 2011,[346] increasing demand for housing and municipal approvals. Despite an earlier reduction to three approval levels, OCs continued to require physical inspections and multiple levels of scrutiny. The new system automates verification of construction details against approved plans and gives officials 15 days to raise objections.[347]
   b. The initiative also simplifies the treatment of minor construction deviations that previously required lengthy manual scrutiny. The revised system automatically calculates compounding fees for eligible deviations of up to 10%, providing a clearer process for resolving them. This reduces administrative delays and helps property owners complete approval formalities without unnecessary visits to municipal offices.[348]
   c. Moreover, only 1,498 Occupancy Certificates were issued against 6,886 building permissions in 18 test-checked ULBs during 2016–18, a coverage of approximately 22%.[349] The revised automated process can reduce procedural bottlenecks in issuing OCs and improve the recording of completed buildings in municipal databases.
   d. The reform also responds to concerns over irregularities in building approvals. In March 2026, Anti-Corruption Bureau inspections across municipal corporations identified irregularities in building permissions and regularisation applications, including files remaining pending without decisions.[350] Automated scrutiny and defined objection timelines reduce opportunities for unnecessary delays and discretionary decision-making. However, officials retain the authority to identify violations through subsequent verification.

[344] Nambike Nakshe, Greater Bengaluru Authority.
[345] Summary Report Of The State Of Andhra Pradesh, 2026, Page 2.
[346] Macro And Fiscal Landscape Of The State Of Andhra Pradesh, Page 4.
[347] The Times Of India, October 2026
[348] Times Of India, October, 2026.
[349] CAG Report 2 Of 2023, Government Of Andhra Pradesh, Page 124.
[350] The New Indian Express, March 2026

V. Karnataka

A. Karnataka Kartavya Night-Attendance Pilot For Government Doctors And Digital Attendance Requirements For Contractual Staff, 2026

Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 17th October 2026, Karnataka introduced geofencing-based night-time attendance through the Kartavya app for doctors in taluk hospitals and PHCs from 1 November, alongside a separate circular extending app-based attendance to contractual and outsourced government personnel.
2. The order aims to keep Government officials and employees accessible within their jurisdiction, enabling timely delivery of public services and effective implementation of development works.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The order requires Government doctors posted at taluk hospitals and Primary Health Centres under the Health and Family Welfare Department to mark attendance after 9 PM through the geofenced Kartavya application from 1st November, 2026, on a pilot basis. The requirement is subject to permitted leave, authorised official duty and prior approval to remain outside headquarters.
   b. District Health Officers and Commissioners must review night-attendance reports monthly. Officials found residing outside headquarters without permission face disciplinary action under applicable civil service rules.
   c. A separate circular requires contractual and outsourced personnel working in Government departments, offices, boards, corporations, authorities and Government-aided institutions to register on the Kartavya application by 25th November, 2026. Their attendance must be recorded exclusively through the application from 1st December, 2026.
   d. From 1st January, 2027, contractual salaries and bills submitted by outsourcing agencies will be processed on the basis of app-generated attendance records. Drawing and Disbursing Officers have been directed not to release payments without the prescribed attendance records.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The order aligns with the Aadhaar Enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS),[351] already operational across Central Government offices, by extending verifiable, technology-based attendance to field-level presence and linking it to salary release.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Madhya Pradesh operates Sarthak, a GPS-fencing and face-recognition attendance system, with non-compliance resulting in salary deductions at the district level.[352] Maharashtra also mandated Face App and

[351] Aadhaar Enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS).
[352] SARTHAK, Madhya Pradesh.

A. Karnataka Kartavya Night-Attendance Pilot For Government Doctors And Digital Attendance Requirements For Contractual Staff, 2026
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

geofencing-based attendance for Revenue Department employees, linking salary release to app-recorded attendance.[353]

6. **Relevance -**
   a. The directive mitigates critical operational constraints across Karnataka's primary healthcare network, where 2024–25 data show 1,194 vacant Community Health Officer posts out of 6,780 sanctioned positions and 2,949 vacant Primary Health Care Officer posts.[354] Responding to Upa Lokayukta findings on personnel operating remotely from distant locations, mandating physical residency within assigned headquarters eliminates transit delays from external urban centres to ensure immediate mobilisation for after-hours cases, obstetric emergencies, and road trauma.[355]
   b. Further, the order reinforces supervisory accountability by expanding digital location verification. The October order introduces location-based verification of headquarters presence after 9 PM for Government doctors covered by the pilot. Its extension to employees in other departments and cadres depends on the outcome of the pilot and further Government decisions.[356]
   c. Lastly, the policy secures public expenditure integrity by dismantling the manual attendance framework for contractual and outsourced personnel. Linking contractual salary payments and outsourcing agency bills to app-generated attendance records introduces a verification requirement at the payment stage. This will strengthen the documentation of staff attendance and provide a basis for identifying irregular or unsupported payment claims.

[353] NDTV, July, 2025.
[354] The New Indian Express, April 2026
[355] Hindustan Times, October 2026
[356] Hindustan Times, October 2026.

VI. Kerala

A. Payment Of Salaries And Allowances Amendment Bill, 2026

Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 29th October, 2026, the Kerala Legislative Assembly passed the Payment of Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2026, amending the Payment of Salaries and Allowances Act, 1951.[357]
2. The Bill aims to revise the salaries and allowances of Kerala's ministers, the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition, the Chief Whip and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) to account for increased living costs, fuel prices and constituency-related expenditure.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The Bill proposes a 40% increase in monthly remuneration for MLAs from ₹ 70,000 to ₹ 98,000, an increase of ₹ 28,000.
   b. It proposes to raise monthly remuneration for ministers from ₹ 1.08 lakh to ₹ 1.33 lakh, an increase of ₹ 25,000.
   c. It increases the annual air travel reimbursement ceiling from ₹ 50,000 to ₹ 75,000. For ordinary MLAs, road mileage reimbursement within Kerala rises from ₹ 10 to ₹ 15 per kilometre, while daily allowances increase from ₹ 1,000 to ₹ 1,500 for travel within the state and from ₹ 1,200 to ₹ 1,800 for travel outside the state.
   d. It provides for accident insurance coverage increases from ₹ 20 lakh to ₹ 25 lakh. The interest-free vehicle advance rises from ₹ 10 lakh to ₹ 15 lakh, while the concessional-interest house-building advance increases from ₹ 20 lakh to ₹ 25 lakh.
   e. The basic salary of a minister has been also revised from ₹ 2,000 to ₹ 3,000 and constituency allowance has been increased from ₹ 40,000 to ₹ 45,000 and ministers local conveyance allowance from ₹ 17,000 to ₹ 25,000.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** Article 195 of the Constitution of India[358] provides the constitutional framework for determining salaries and allowances of state legislators through state legislation.[359] The proposed revision operates within this established legislative framework.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Tamil Nadu revised legislators' monthly remuneration from ₹ 1.05 lakh to ₹ 1.80 lakh through a legislative amendment.[360] Telangana provides a higher remuneration package for legislators, reported at approximately ₹ 2.75 lakh monthly.[361] Maharashtra provides a higher remuneration

[357] Payment Of Salaries And Allowances Act, 1951.
[358] Article 195, Constitution Of India.
[359] Article 195, The Constitution Of India.
[360] Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, List Of Business, 7th September 2026.
[361] The Telangana Payment Of Salaries And Pension And Removal Of Disqualifications (Amendment) Act, 2016.

A. Payment Of Salaries And Allowances Amendment Bill, 2026
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

package for legislators, reported at approximately ₹ 2.52 lakh monthly.[362]

6. **Relevance -**
   a. The proposed salary revision introduces an additional recurring burden amid severe fiscal distress and expenditure rigidity. According to the State's June 2026 White Paper on fiscal health, Kerala's outstanding liabilities stand at ₹ 5.07 lakh crore, or 35.5% of GSDP.[363] Crucially, committed expenditure, salaries, pensions, and interest servicing, already absorb 77% of total revenue receipts, leaving minimal room for discretionary developmental spending.
   b. Further, the measure coincides with deteriorating deficit indicators. Revised estimates for 2025–26 place the fiscal deficit at 3.8% of GSDP, overshooting the budgeted 3.2% ceiling.[364] While the Bill seeks to adjust MLA remuneration from the ₹ 70,000 monthly baseline established under the Payment of Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Act, 2018[365] following an eight-year freeze, authorising salary increases during an active deficit overshoot directly contradicts the state's fiscal consolidation targets.
   c. Lastly, expanding non-developmental revenue expenditure under these conditions compounds structural budget vulnerabilities. Committing additional public funds to political allowances when three-quarters of state revenue is already locked into non-discretionary payments elevates debt-servicing risks and diverts scarce resources from competing development priorities.

[362] Salaries, Allowances, And Other Facilities For The Members Of The Maharashtra Legislature.
[363] Kerala's Fiscal Health, A Status Report, Page 21.
[364] Kerala Revised Budget Analysis 2026-27, Page 2.
[365] The Payment Of Salaries And Allowances Amendment Bill, 2018, Fourteenth Kerala Legislative Assembly.

VII. Bihar

A. Artificial Intelligence (AI) And Information Technology (IT) Training For Government School Teachers

Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 25th October 2026, the Bihar Education Department announced a partnership with 11 IT companies, including Google Education, to train Government school teachers in AI and digital skills.
2. The initiative aims to strengthen teachers' digital skills and enable the use of information technology and AI in classroom instruction, lesson preparation and other teaching activities.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. It provides hands-on IT training, with particular emphasis on AI applications to improve teaching quality, with school principals nominating teachers for the programme.
   b. It establishes a centralised training arrangement at the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) campus, with participating companies conducting sessions in separate batches.
   c. It receives support from the Union Government's skill development department, with the state targeting January 2027 to put the training arrangements in place.
   d. Separately, the state also plans to set up smart classrooms in 700 model schools, with the initiative to be extended to other Government schools in phases and making computer education compulsory from Class 6 in Government schools from the next academic session.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The training aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020,[366] which emphasises continuous professional development of teachers and the use of digital technologies in education.[367] It complements the Centre's Skilling for AI Readiness (SOAR) programme, launched in July 2025 with a 45-hour AI training module for educators.[368]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Kerala, through Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE), began training 80,000 school teachers in artificial intelligence in 2024.[369] Andhra Pradesh introduced mandatory AI training for around 80,000 Government schoolteachers of Classes 6–8 in October 2026, covering lesson

[366] National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
[367] PIB, July, 2026.
[368] PIB, October, 2025.
[369] IndiaAI, May, 2024.

A. Artificial Intelligence (AI) And Information Technology (IT) Training For Government School Teachers
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

planning, assessments and responsible AI use.[370] Telangana trained over 28,000 teachers in 2026 to deliver AI education in Government schools.[371]

6. **Relevance -**
   a. Bihar faces a substantial gap in computing infrastructure despite relatively high reported internet availability in Government schools. UDISE+ 2024–25 shows that only 16.5% of the state's Government schools had computer facilities, with just 15.7% having functional computers for teaching, compared with 84.7% reporting internet access.[372] This indicates that the shortage of functioning computing equipment remains a major constraint on technology-enabled education.
   b. The initiative complements Bihar's January 2026 teacher-training plan under Samagra Shiksha, which targeted 5.87 lakh teachers with a ₹ 63.20 crore Central allocation. The earlier plan covered AI, cybersecurity, data privacy and responsible technology use, including online modules through DIKSHA.[373] The October partnership adds hands-on, company-led training at SCERT alongside planned smart classrooms in 700 model schools and compulsory computer education from Class 6.[374] Taken together, these initiatives address digital safety and practical teaching skills, preparing teachers to apply technology in lessons.
   c. The proposed smart classrooms in 700 model schools will help address this gap in the initial phase, but teachers will also need practical training to use the equipment and digital tools effectively. Extending both digital infrastructure and teacher training to other schools will be important for integrating AI tools into regular classroom instruction.
   d. Bihar had 5.36 lakh teachers in Government schools in 2025–26, according to UDISE+, making sustained training important for developing digital teaching skills across this large workforce.[375] The partnership with 11 IT companies, including Google Education, adds an industry-led component through practical AI and IT training delivered in batches at the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT).[376] This brings technology providers' expertise into teacher development, helping participants learn how to apply digital tools rather than receive general technology awareness alone.

[370] Times Of India, October, 2026.
[371] Indian Express, July, 2026.
[372] Ministry Of Education, UDISE+ 2024–25 Report.
[373] Dainik Jagran, January, 2026.
[374] NDTV, October, 2026.
[375] PIB, July, 2026.
[376] Times Of India, October, 2026.

VIII. Haryana

A. Inclusion Of Beekeeping Under Mukhyamantri Bagwani Bima Yojana

Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 27th October, 2026, the Haryana Government included beekeeping under the Mukhyamantri Bagwani Bima Yojana.[377]
2. The initiative aims to reduce financial risks associated with beekeeping by providing insurance protection for bee colonies and boxes, thereby supporting the state's efforts to expand honey production and diversify agricultural incomes.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. It covers losses from the submergence of bee boxes and colonies in floods, fire, transport accidents and epidemics affecting honeybees, with transport accidents covered only if they occur within Haryana and a First Information Report (FIR) or Daily Diary Report (DDR) is registered.
   b. Each beekeeper can insure up to 250 bee colonies and 250 bee boxes, with a premium of ₹ 50 each and a cover of ₹ 1,250 each, giving a maximum cover of ₹ 3,12,500 each for colonies and boxes, or ₹ 6.25 lakh in total, and each box must carry its Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana unit number.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative supports the Central Government's National Beekeeping and Honey Mission, run by the National Bee Board to promote scientific beekeeping, including the Madhukranti portal for registering beekeepers.[378]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Himachal Pradesh supports beekeepers through annual training courses, subsidies of 25 to 50% on beekeeping equipment and Government beekeeping stations in every district.[379]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Haryana's honey production currently stands at approximately 5,000 metric tonnes, against the state's target of 15,500 metric tonnes by 2030, requiring output to increase more than threefold.[380] Achieving this expansion will depend on increasing the number of productive bee colonies while protecting existing investments against unexpected losses. By providing insurance against damage to colonies and equipment, the measure will reduce the financial risks associated with expanding beekeeping operations and support the state's efforts to increase honey production.
   b. Protecting bee colonies is also important for agricultural productivity beyond honey production. Mustard plots pollinated by honeybees recorded 19.66% higher

[377] Mukhyamantri Bagwani Bima Yojana.
[378] PIB, National Beekeeping And Honey Mission.
[379] Government Of Himachal Pradesh, Development Of Beekeeping.
[380] Government Of Haryana, Press Release, May, 2026.

A. Inclusion Of Beekeeping Under Mukhyamantri Bagwani Bima Yojana
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Medium

seed yields than plots where pollinators were excluded.[381] This is particularly relevant to Haryana, which accounted for 11.32% of India's total rapeseed and mustard production in 2024–25.[382] By providing financial protection against the loss of bee colonies, the insurance initiative will support the continuity of beekeeping activities that contribute to crop pollination, agricultural productivity and farmers' incomes.

c. The insurance supports Haryana's target of increasing its beekeeper population to 7,750 by 2030. As of May 2026, over 3,000 beekeepers were registered on the National Madhukranti Portal, the highest among states. Haryana already provides subsidies of up to 85% on bee colonies, boxes and equipment, but these do not protect against subsequent losses.[383] A survey of 150 farmers across three districts found that 65.33% faced financial difficulties, while 42% reported limited access to loans.[384] By covering losses from floods, fires, transport accidents and epidemics, the insurance will reduce the financial burden of replacing damaged assets, help existing beekeepers sustain their operations and encourage wider participation in the sector.

[381] ICAR, Effect Of Pollination Modes On Yield Components In Indian Mustard.
[382] Agricultural Statistics At A Glance 2024-25.
[383] PIB, May, 2026.
[384] Determinants Of Beekeeping Adoption Among Farmers In Haryana.

IX. Meghalaya

A. Five-Year HIV/AIDS Mission (2026–2031)
Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 27th October, 2026, the Meghalaya Government announced a five-year Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Mission from 2026 to 2031.
2. The Mission aims to expand HIV testing, improve access to and continuity of antiretroviral treatment, prevent new infections and reduce stigma through coordinated action by Government departments, district administrations, educational institutions and communities.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. It provides an initial state allocation of ₹ 25 crore for implementing the five-year HIV/AIDS mission, with scope for additional funding if required.
   b. The mission adopts the Joint United Nations Programme on AIDS (UNAIDS) 95-95-95 targets, seeking 95% diagnosis coverage, 95% treatment coverage among diagnosed individuals, and 95% viral suppression among those receiving Antiretroviral therapy (ART).
   c. The mission prioritises expanded HIV testing, sustained access to antiretroviral medicines, and continuity of treatment for people living with HIV.
   d. The mission adopts a whole-of-Government implementation mechanism involving the Meghalaya AIDS Control Society (MACS), Health Department, district administrations, educational institutions and community organisations.
   e. The mission promotes youth-led awareness, peer education and stigma reduction to encourage voluntary testing, treatment uptake and safer health practices.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The mission aligns with the National AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Control Programme Phase V, 2021–2026.[385] It complements the national framework through state-level funding and coordinated service delivery.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Mizoram implements intensified HIV awareness and testing campaigns, alongside targeted interventions for high-risk populations through the Mizoram State AIDS Control Society.[386] Nagaland implements the Intensified IEC Campaign and integrated district-level HIV testing, prevention and treatment initiatives through the Nagaland State AIDS Control Society.[387]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. The mission addresses a critical public health burden in Meghalaya, where September 2026 figures record an adult HIV prevalence rate of 0.40%, double the

[385] PIB, March 2022.
[386] Mizoram State AIDS Control Society.
[387] DIPR, Government Of Nagaland, 11th August, 2026.

A. Five-Year HIV/AIDS Mission (2026–2031)
Source: Link | **Impact:** Medium

national benchmark of 0.20%.[388] Against an estimated baseline of 9,244 people living with HIV (PLHIV) in the 2025 HIV Estimation Report, active surveillance between April and June 2026 detected 558 positive cases among the general population and 60 cases among pregnant women, establishing an urgent clinical need for continuous diagnosis and prevention of vertical transmission.[389]

b. The initiative also targets acute treatment initiation and retention deficits. Only 77.2% diagnosed with HIV receive ART, leaving 2,381 confirmed positive individuals without active treatment coverage. Social stigma and financial constraints drive substantial follow-up attrition, turning diagnostic identification into a clinical dead-end unless paired with sustained patient navigation.[390] Financial difficulties and social stigma were identified as major reasons for missed follow-ups.
c. Moreover, the strategy directly addresses localised infrastructure deficits, exemplified by East Jaintia Hills, where low community awareness and testing reluctance have prompted calls for dedicated testing expansion and a local ART centre. Establishing mobile testing units alongside decentralised treatment facilities lowers geographic and procedural barriers, moving diagnostic screening and dispensing closer to high-vulnerability populations. [391]
d. Lastly, adopting a structured five-year mission horizon replaces episodic awareness campaigns with an integrated continuum of care. Institutionalising cross-sectoral coordination and sustained clinical follow-up provides the administrative continuity necessary to bridge the reported gap in treatment initiation and retention, reduce stigma-driven dropouts, and secure long-term disease management across underserved districts.

[388] The Meghalayan Express, September 2026.
[389] Press Release, Government Of Meghalaya, 14th August, 2026.
[390] India Today NE, September 2026.
[391] India Today NE, September 2026.

B. Amendment To The Meghalaya Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2016
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Low

1. On 27th October, 2026, the Meghalaya Cabinet approved an amendment to the Meghalaya Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2016,[392] permitting the use of minor minerals incidentally extracted during small-scale construction activities on private land.
2. The amendment aims to address regulatory constraints on the use of boulders, stones and other minor minerals excavated while constructing houses, digging wells without treating such activities as standalone mining operations.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The amendment permits the use of minor minerals unintentionally extracted during non-mining activities on private land.
   b. The provision covers small-scale construction and land-development activities.
   c. The eligibility threshold limits the provision to plots measuring up to half an acre.
   d. The landowners gain the ability to utilise incidentally extracted boulders, stones and other minor minerals instead of leaving the materials unused.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The amendment operates within the regulatory framework of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, under which state Governments are empowered to frame rules governing minor mineral concessions under Section 15.[393]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Comparable minor-mineral concession frameworks exist in Rajasthan,[394] Karnataka[395] and Odisha,[396] where state-specific rules regulate quarry permits, mineral extraction and associated compliance requirements.
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Meghalaya's existing mineral extraction rules have created difficulties for households undertaking routine construction activities. Stones and boulders excavated during house construction, well digging and other land improvement works could not always be used without additional regulatory requirements. The amendment allows eligible households to reuse these materials, reducing wastage and the need to purchase construction materials separately. This particularly benefits households undertaking small-scale construction and land

[392] The Meghalaya Minor Minerals Concession Rules, 2016.
[393] Mines And Minerals (Development And Regulation) Act, 1957.
[394] G.S.R. 118, Government Of Rajasthan.
[395] Karnataka Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1994.
[396] Orissa Minor Mineral Concession Rules 1990.

B. Amendment To The Meghalaya Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2016
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Low

improvement.[397]

b. The earlier incidental-extraction framework faced enforcement and revenue-protection concerns. In 2022, the Meghalaya High Court highlighted potential losses of tens of crores of rupees in state revenue associated with incidental extraction between 2018 and 2021, alongside inadequate controls over mineral transportation and disposal.[398]
c. Improper disposal of construction materials has also raised environmental concerns. In March 2026, the East Khasi Hills administration reported complaints about soil, stones and boulders from construction sites being dumped along roads and near water sources, threatening drainage and water quality.[399] Permitting the reuse of suitable excavated stones on small private plots offers an alternative to leaving such material unused or discarding it.
d. Lastly, restricting the provision to plots measuring up to half an acre helps distinguish routine household construction from commercial mineral extraction. This provides regulatory relief to small landowners while establishing clearer eligibility limits.

[397] Hub News, October 2026.
[398] PIL No. 18 Of 2019, High Court Of Meghalaya.
[399] The Times Of India, March 2026.

X. Assam

A. Employee Transfer Randomisation System (ETRS), 2026
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Low

1. On 23rd October, 2026, the Assam Chief Minister launched the Employee Transfer Randomisation System (ETRS) for the Department of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
2. The system aims to improve transparency, fairness and administrative efficiency in employee transfers by using digital randomisation rather than relying entirely on discretionary posting decisions.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The innovative digital platform is built by National Informatics Centre (NIC) to facilitate online transfer randomisation for eligible forest department personnel, with 2,137 employees transferred in the first phase.
   b. The first phase covers deputy rangers, Foresters Grade-I and Grade-II, forest guards, fixed-pay workers and game watchers who have completed three years at their current postings.
   c. The department exempts staff aged 58 and above who have not sought a transfer, those with specified serious medical or pregnancy-related conditions, those with under three years at their current posting, specialised wildlife personnel essential to conservation, and employees under suspension.
   d. The department enables Divisional Forest Officers to access and download transfer orders through official portal logins for circulation to affected personnel.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The system aligns with the Digital India Programme[400] and National e-Governance Plan,[401] particularly its objective of improving Government transparency, accountability and administrative efficiency through digital workflows.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Haryana implemented the Model Online Transfer Policy, 2026, establishing a merit-based online transfer framework for eligible Government employees.[402,403] Telangana has also implemented online employee transfer mechanisms to streamline departmental postings.[404]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Assam's forest administration has faced concerns over transparency in staff transfers and postings. According to the India State of Forest Report 2023, Assam has 28,313.55 sq. km of forest cover, accounting for approximately 36.10% of its

[400] Digital India Programme.
[401] National E-Governance Plan 2.0
[402] PIB, June 2026.
[403] Online Transfer Policy, Government Of Haryana.
[404] Online Transfer Options Guidelines, Government Of Telangana.

A. Employee Transfer Randomisation System (ETRS), 2026
Source: Link 1, Link 2 | **Impact:** Low

geographical area.[405] Before the portal was launched, the State Forest Minister had raised concerns about payments being made to secure preferred postings, the involvement of intermediaries claiming political connections and employees remaining at the same location beyond their prescribed tenure.[406]

b. In June 2026, complaints from the Hajo Forest Range's Khopnikuchi area alleged that money was being collected from dumpers and tractors in connection with illegal sand extraction. Reporting described the transfer of a range officer and suspension of a forester following those allegations. A systematic transfer process reduces opportunities for employees to retain preferred postings through personal influence and ensures regular staff rotation.[407]
c. The ETRS introduces a three-year posting criterion while allowing exemptions based on medical conditions, age and operational requirements. These exemptions account for employee welfare and the need to retain experienced personnel in specialised wildlife protection roles.
d. The initiative could improve workforce distribution, administrative accountability and continuity in forest management if randomisation rules are consistently enforced and exemption decisions remain auditable. Extending similar systems to other departments could standardise transfer procedures across Assam's administration.

[405] India State Of Forest Report, 2023, Page 256.
[406] Freepress Journal, June 2026.
[407] The Sentinel, June 2026.



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