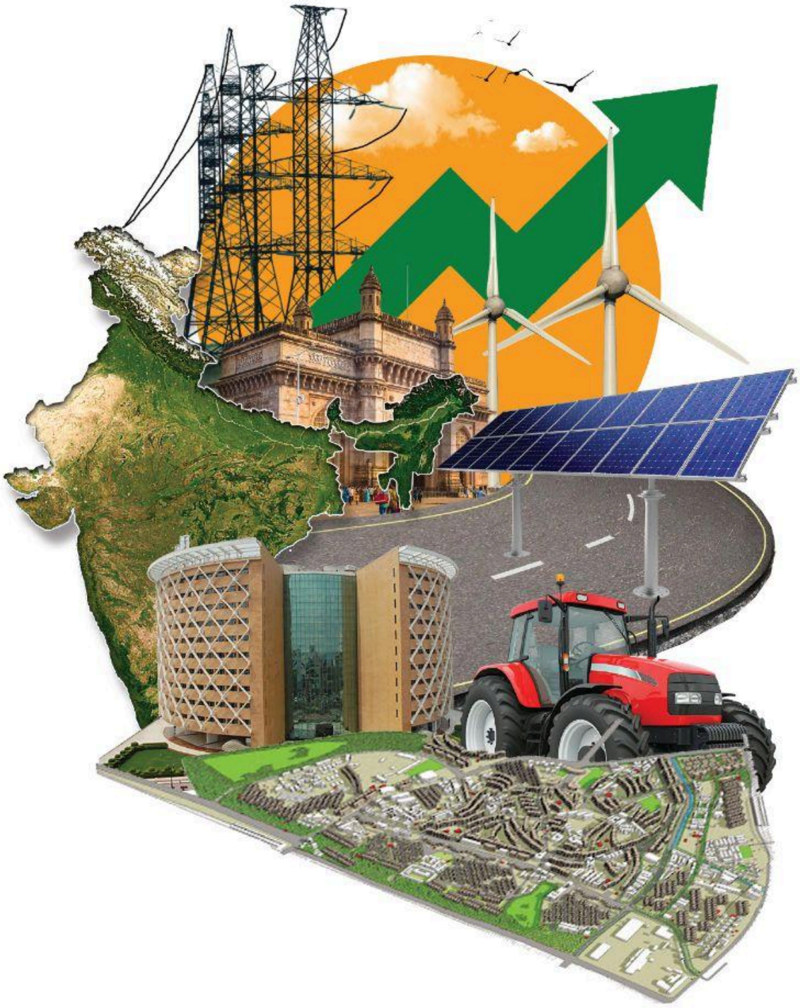
STATES IN MOTION

What's Happening In Indian States



16th July - 31st July

JULY 2026 | VOLUME II

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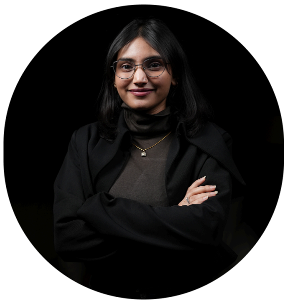

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Key Announcements

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

Reform Decisions

I. **Delhi**

A. **Programme For Accelerated Renewal And Incentivisation Of Vehicle Assets (PARIVARTAN), 2026:** The Delhi Government launched PARIVARTAN to replace Bharat Stage IV and older commercial vehicles with Bharat Stage VI and electric vehicles through purchase incentives, Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) discounts, interest subvention, and tax benefits. It targets around 2.07 lakh truck and bus owners.

II. **Kerala**

A. **Cabinet Approval To Administrative And Digital Governance Reforms:** The Kerala Cabinet approved an administrative reform programme to digitise workflows, and prevent project delays. It introduces the Special Asset Management Platform for Administration, Tracking and Harmonisation (SAMPATH) asset tracking platform, PlanSpace 2.0 Geographic Information System monitoring and a comprehensive audit of state-funded entities.

III. **Madhya Pradesh**

A. **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026:** The Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed the UCC Bill to introduce uniform provisions on marriage, divorce, inheritance, and succession across communities. It mandates marriage, divorce, and live-in relationship registration, prohibits polygamy and Nikah Halala and provides equal inheritance rights to sons and daughters. The framework seeks to strengthen legal safeguards through mandatory documentation and enforcement.

IV. **Bihar**

A. **Bihar Gambling (Prohibition) Bill, 2026:** The Bihar Legislative Assembly passed the Bihar Gambling (Prohibition) Bill, 2026 to prohibit physical, online, electronic, digital, and virtual gambling activities in the state. The bill repeals the Public Gambling Act, 1867, empowers law enforcement agencies to act against gambling offences, and introduces a graded penalty framework for operators, participants, and promoters of gambling activities.

V. **Assam**

A. **Assam State Higher Education Council Bill, 2026:** The Assam Legislative Assembly passed the Assam State Higher Education Council Bill, 2026, establishing an apex statutory body to align university curricula with National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 guidelines. This unified governance framework enhances institutional quality

Key Announcements

monitoring, systematically upgrades degree college accreditation standards, and addresses low higher education enrollment ratios state-wide.

Policy Level Announcements

I. **Maharashtra**

A. **Maharashtra Bioplastics Policy, 2026:** The Government of Maharashtra approved the Maharashtra Bioplastics Policy 2026 to establish a green manufacturing hub and attract ₹ 25,000 crore in investments. It provides capital subsidies, tax reimbursements and agricultural feedstock integration to substitute single-use plastics. This policy mitigates urban microplastic pollution while insulating local industries from volatile imported supply chains.

II. **Delhi**

A. **Start-Up And Incubation Policy, 2026:** The Delhi Government approved the Start-Up and Incubation Policy, 2026 to build an education-linked innovation ecosystem and promote youth entrepreneurship. The policy provides seed funding of up to ₹ 10 lakh for student-led ventures, allocates ₹ 400 crore over five years for startup support, and promotes incubation centres across universities and colleges. By integrating mentoring, intellectual property support and institutional incubation, the framework aims to improve startup sustainability and strengthen Delhi's innovation ecosystem.

III. **Haryana**

A. **Haryana Industrial Regularisation Policy, 2026:** The Haryana Government introduced the Haryana Industrial Regularisation Policy, 2026 to grant statutory recognition to unauthorised industrial colonies outside municipal areas. The policy covers colonies spread over at least 10 acres with 50 or more units and links regularisation to key regulatory and safety clearances.

IV. **Meghalaya**

A. **Meghalaya Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy, 2026:** The Meghalaya Cabinet approved the Meghalaya EV Policy, 2026 to accelerate clean mobility across eco-sensitive hill regions. The policy introduces a purchase incentive of ₹ 25,000 across vehicle segments alongside registration fee waivers. This transition leverages local renewable energy to lower fossil fuel dependence and protect fragile tourism corridors.

Social Sector Schemes

I. **Telangana**

A. **Indiramma Indlu Urban Housing Scheme, 2026:** The Telangana Government launched the Core Urban Region (CURE) housing scheme to build 1 lakh multi-storey flats inside Hyderabad's Outer Ring Road for low-income families. Featuring a ₹ 5 lakh state subsidy per ₹ 11 lakh unit, Phase 1 delivers 7,680 flats across 16 constituencies,

Key Announcements

expanding the state's cumulative pipeline to 8 lakh units. Constructing directly on core public land prevents worker displacement and overcomes extreme urban real estate costs.

II. Gujarat

A. **Samras Vidya Setu Mega Campaign, 2026:** The Government of Gujarat launched the Samras Vidya Setu Mega Campaign, 2026 to re-enrol over 80,000 out-of-school children and achieve zero school dropouts. The campaign provides bridge courses, academic support, and community-led outreach to facilitate age-appropriate re-entry into formal schooling. It seeks to improve enrolment and retention outcomes by addressing learning gaps and strengthening local monitoring of school attendance.

Investment Announcements

I. Madhya Pradesh

A. **Telecom Manufacturing Zone, Gwalior (2026):** The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Madhya Pradesh Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish India's first dedicated Telecom Manufacturing Zone in Gwalior. Spread across 170 acres with ₹ 493 crore support from the DoT, the zone will provide testing infrastructure, manufacturing incentives, and Research and Development (R&D) support.

Other Decisions

I. Arunachal Pradesh

A. **Arunachal Pradesh Infrastructure And Governance Transformation Package, 2026–2029:** The Arunachal Pradesh Cabinet approved a capital outlay of ₹ 7,834 crore for administrative and infrastructure reforms package. The framework targets rural road connectivity, power distribution, digital school monitoring and police quotas for retired Agniveers. This package addresses last-mile border infrastructure deficits while building a skilled workforce to diversify the rural economy.

II. Chhattisgarh

A. **Chhattisgarh Civil Services Reservation Rules for Agniveer Soldiers, 2026:** The Chhattisgarh Cabinet approved the Chhattisgarh Civil Services Reservation Rules for Agniveer Soldiers, 2026 to facilitate the transition of former Agniveers into civilian employment. The rules provide 10% reservation in direct recruitment to Class-III state service posts, including Police Constable, Forest Guard, and Jail Guard positions, for candidates who have completed four years of service under the Agnipath Scheme.

मुख्य घोषणाएं

यह लेख **16 जुलाई से 31 जुलाई, 2026 के** बीच विभिन्न राज्य सरकारों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों द्वारा लिए गए प्रमुख नीतिगत और सुधार निर्णयों को ट्रैक करता है।

सुधार संबंधी निर्णय

I. **दिल्ली**

A. **वाहन परिसंपत्तियों के त्वरित नवीनीकरण और प्रोत्साहन के लिए कार्यक्रम (PARIVARTAN), 2026:** दिल्ली सरकार ने खरीद प्रोत्साहन, मूल उपकरण निर्माता (OEM) छूट, ब्याज सहायता और कर लाभों के माध्यम से भारत स्टेज IV और पुराने वाणिज्यिक वाहनों को भारत स्टेज VI और इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों से बदलने के लिए 'परिवर्तन' (PARIVARTAN) शुरू किया हैं। यह लगभग 2.07 लाख ट्रक और बस मालिकों को लक्षित करता है।

II. **केरल**

A. **प्रशासनिक और डिजिटल गवर्नेंस सुधारों को कैबिनेट की मंजूरी:** केरल कैबिनेट ने कार्यप्रवाह को डिजिटल बनाने और परियोजना में देरी को रोकने के लिए एक प्रशासनिक सुधार कार्यक्रम को स्वीकृति दी गई हैं। यह प्रशासन, ट्रैकिंग और सामंजस्य के लिए विशेष संपत्ति प्रबंधन मंच (SAMPATH) संपत्ति ट्रैकिंग प्लेटफॉर्म, प्लानस्पेस 2.0 भौगोलिक सूचना प्रणाली (GIS) निगरानी और राज्य द्वारा वित्त पोषित संस्थाओं का व्यापक ऑडिट प्रस्तुत करता है।

III. **मध्य प्रदेश**

A. **समान नागरिक संहिता (UCC) विधेयक, 2026:** मध्य प्रदेश विधानसभा ने सभी समुदायों में विवाह, तलाक, विरासत और उत्तराधिकार पर समान प्रावधान प्रस्तुत करने के लिए यू.सी.सी विधेयक पारित किया। यह विवाह, तलाक और लिव-इन रिलेशनशिप पंजीकरण को अनिवार्य करता है, बहुविवाह और निकाह हलाला को प्रतिबंधित करता है साथ ही, बेटों और बेटियों को समान विरासत अधिकार प्रदान करता है। यह ढांचा अनिवार्य प्रलेखन और प्रवर्तन के माध्यम से कानूनी सुरक्षा उपायों को मजबूत करना चाहता है।

IV. **बिहार**

A. **बिहार जुआ (निषेध) विधेयक, 2026:** बिहार विधानसभा ने राज्य में भौतिक, ऑनलाइन, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक, डिजिटल और आभासी जुआ गतिविधियों को प्रतिबंधित करने के लिए बिहार जुआ (निषेध) विधेयक, 2026 पारित किया। यह विधेयक सार्वजनिक जुआ अधिनियम, 1867 को निरस्त करता है, कानून प्रवर्तन एजेंसियों को जुआ अपराधों के खिलाफ कार्रवाई करने का अधिकार देता है, और जुआ गतिविधियों के संचालकों, प्रतिभागियों और प्रचारकों के लिए एक श्रेणीबद्ध दंड ढांचा पेश करता है।

V. **असम**

मुख्य घोषणाएं

A. **असम राज्य उच्च शिक्षा परिषद विधेयक, 2026:** असम विधानसभा ने असम राज्य उच्च शिक्षा परिषद विधेयक, 2026 पारित किया, जो राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति (NEP), 2020 के दिशा-निर्देशों के साथ विश्वविद्यालय के पाठ्यक्रम को संरेखित करने के लिए एक शीर्ष वैधानिक निकाय की स्थापना करता है। यह एकीकृत शासन ढांचा संस्थागत गुणवत्ता निगरानी को बढ़ाता है, व्यवस्थित रूप से डिग्री कॉलेज प्रत्यायन मानकों को अपग्रेड करता है, और राज्य भर में कम उच्च शिक्षा नामांकन अनुपात को संबोधित करता है।

नीतिगत घोषणाएं

I. **महाराष्ट्र**

A. **महाराष्ट्र बायोप्लास्टिक्स नीति, 2026:** महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने एक हरित विनिर्माण केंद्र स्थापित करने और ₹25,000 करोड़ के निवेश को आकर्षित करने के लिए महाराष्ट्र बायोप्लास्टिक्स नीति 2026 को स्वीकृति दी हैं। यह एकल-उपयोग वाले प्लास्टिक के विकल्प के रूप में पूंजीगत सब्सिडी, कर प्रतिपूर्ति और कृषि फीडस्टॉक एकीकरण प्रदान करता है। यह नीति स्थानीय उद्योगों को अस्थिर आयातित आपूर्ति श्रृंखलाओं से सुरक्षित रखते हुए शहरी सूक्ष्म-प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण को कम करती है।

II. **दिल्ली**

A. **स्टार्ट-अप और इनक्यूबेशन नीति, 2026:** दिल्ली सरकार ने शिक्षा से जुड़े नवाचार पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के निर्माण और युवा उद्यमिता को बढ़ावा देने के लिए स्टार्ट-अप और इनक्यूबेशन नीति, 2026 को स्वीकृति दी हैं। यह नीति छात्र-नेतृत्व वाले उद्यमों के लिए ₹10 लाख तक की सीड फंडिंग प्रदान करती है, स्टार्टअप सहायता के लिए पांच वर्षों में ₹400 करोड़ आवंटित करती है, साथ ही, विश्वविद्यालयों और कॉलेजों में इनक्यूबेशन केंद्रों को बढ़ावा देती है। मेंटरिंग, बौद्धिक संपदा सहायता और संस्थागत इनक्यूबेशन को एकीकृत करके, इस ढांचे का उद्देश्य स्टार्टअप स्थिरता में सुधार करना और दिल्ली के नवाचार पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को मजबूत करना है।

III. **हरियाणा**

A. **हरियाणा औद्योगिक नियमितीकरण नीति, 2026:** हरियाणा सरकार ने नगर निगम क्षेत्रों के बाहर अनधिकृत औद्योगिक कॉलोनियों को वैधानिक मान्यता देने के लिए हरियाणा औद्योगिक नियमितीकरण नीति, 2026 प्रस्तुत की हैं। यह नीति कम से कम 10 एकड़ में फैली 50 या अधिक इकाइयों वाली कॉलोनियों को कवर करती है और नियमितीकरण को प्रमुख नियामक और सुरक्षा मंजूरी से जोड़ती है।

IV. **मेघालय**

मुख्य घोषणाएं

A. **मेघालय इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (EV) नीति, 2026:** मेघालय कैबिनेट ने पारिस्थितिक रूप से संवेदनशील पहाड़ी क्षेत्रों में स्वच्छ गतिशीलता में तेजी लाने के लिए मेघालय ईवी नीति, 2026 को स्वीकृति दी हैं। यह नीति पंजीकरण शुल्क छूट के साथ-साथ विभिन्न वाहन श्रेणियों में ₹25,000 का खरीद प्रोत्साहन प्रस्तुत करती है। यह परिवर्तन जीवाश्म ईंधन पर निर्भरता कम करने और नाजुक पर्यटन गलियारों की रक्षा के लिए स्थानीय नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा का लाभ उठाता है।

सामाजिक क्षेत्र की योजनाएं

I. **तेलंगाना**

A. **इंदिरम्मा इंदुलु शहरी आवास योजना, 2026:** तेलंगाना सरकार ने कम आय वाले परिवारों के लिए हैदराबाद के आउटर रिंग रोड के अंदर 1 लाख बहुमंजिला फ्लैट बनाने के लिए कोर अर्बन रीजन (CURE) आवास योजना शुरू की। ₹11 लाख प्रति यूनिट पर ₹5 लाख की राज्य सब्सिडी के साथ, चरण 1 के अंतर्गत 16 निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों में 7,680 फ्लैट दिए जाएंगे, जिससे राज्य का संचयी लक्ष्य 8 लाख इकाइयों तक बढ़ जाएगा। मुख्य सार्वजनिक भूमि पर सीधे निर्माण करने से श्रमिकों के विस्थापन को रोका जा सकता है और अत्यधिक शहरी रियल एस्टेट लागत को नियंत्रित किया जा सकता है।

II. **गुजरात**

A. **समरस विद्या सेतु मेगा अभियान, 2026:** गुजरात सरकार ने 80,000 से अधिक स्कूल से बाहर के बच्चों को फिर से नामांकित करने और शून्य स्कूल ड्रॉपआउट प्राप्त करने के लिए समरस विद्या सेतु मेगा अभियान, 2026 शुरू किया। यह अभियान औपचारिक स्कूली शिक्षा में आयु-उपयुक्त पुनः प्रवेश की सुविधा के लिए ब्रिज कोर्स, शैक्षणिक सहायता और समुदाय के नेतृत्व वाली पहुंच प्रदान करता है। यह सीखने के अंतराल को दूर करके और स्कूल उपस्थिति की स्थानीय निगरानी को मजबूत करके नामांकन और प्रतिधारण परिणामों में सुधार करना चाहता है।

निवेश घोषणाएं

I. **मध्य प्रदेश**

A. **दूरसंचार विनिर्माण क्षेत्र, ग्वालियर (2026):** दूरसंचार विभाग (DoT) और मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने ग्वालियर में भारत का पहला समर्पित दूरसंचार विनिर्माण क्षेत्र स्थापित करने के लिए एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए। DoT से ₹493 करोड़ की सहायता के साथ 170 एकड़ में फैला यह क्षेत्र परीक्षण बुनियादी ढांचा, विनिर्माण प्रोत्साहन और अनुसंधान एवं विकास (R&D) सहायता प्रदान करेगा।

मुख्य घोषणाएं

अन्य निर्णय

I. **अरुणाचल प्रदेश**

A. **अरुणाचल प्रदेश बुनियादी ढांचा और शासन परिवर्तन पैकेज, 2026-2029:** अरुणाचल प्रदेश कैबिनेट ने प्रशासनिक और बुनियादी ढांचा सुधार पैकेज के लिए ₹7,834 करोड़ के पूंजीगत परिव्यय को स्वीकृति दी हैं। यह ढांचा ग्रामीण सड़क संपर्क, बिजली वितरण, डिजिटल स्कूल निगरानी और सेवानिवृत्त अग्निवीरों के लिए पुलिस कोटा को लक्षित करता है। यह पैकेज ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था में विविधता लाने के लिए एक कुशल कार्यबल का निर्माण करते हुए अंतिम-मील सीमा बुनियादी ढांचे के घाटे को संबोधित करता है।

II. **छत्तीसगढ़**

A. **अग्निवीर सैनिकों के लिए छत्तीसगढ़ नागरिक सेवा आरक्षण नियम, 2026:** छत्तीसगढ़ कैबिनेट ने पूर्व अग्निवीरों के नागरिक रोजगार में संक्रमण की सुविधा के लिए छत्तीसगढ़ नागरिक सेवा आरक्षण नियम, 2026 को स्वीकृति दी गई हैं। नियम उन उम्मीदवारों के लिए पुलिस कांस्टेबल, वन रक्षक और जेल गार्ड पदों सहित तृतीय श्रेणी के राज्य सेवा पदों पर सीधी भर्ती में 10% आरक्षण प्रदान करते हैं, जिन्होंने अग्निपथ योजना के अंतर्गत चार साल की सेवा पूरी की है।

Reform Decisions

I. Maharashtra

A. Maharashtra Motor Vehicle Aggregator Rules, 2026
Source: The Government Of Maharashtra, The Indian Express | **Impact**: Medium

1. On 15th July, 2026, the Transport Department notified the Maharashtra Motor Vehicle Aggregator Rules, 2026, framed under Section 93 read with Section 96(2)(xi) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.[1]
2. The rules operationalise **licensing, fare caps** and driver welfare norms for app-based platforms such as Ola, Uber and Rapido, superseding the transitional Draft Maharashtra Motor Vehicle Aggregator Rules, 2025.[2]
3. **Key Features -**
   a. Aggregators must obtain a State Transport Authority (STA) licence and Unique Licence Identification Number under rule 4 of the rules, with existing licences valid for 60 days from commencement.
   b. Under rule 9, fares are capped between 25% below and 1.5 times the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) base fare, while drivers are guaranteed a minimum 80% share of the total fare.
   c. Under the structured pricing framework, the base fare applies for a minimum distance of 3 km to compensate drivers for dead mileage, and under the convenience fee model, drivers must receive at least 95% of the base fare.
   d. One owner may register a maximum of 50 vehicles per platform in Mumbai, Pune, Nashik and Nagpur, and 25 elsewhere, under the fleet-concentration clause.
   e. Under rule 11, cabs and autos older than 9 years and buses older than 12 years are banned, and all vehicles must be fitted with panic buttons and AIS-140 GPS tracking.
   f. Drivers are also capped at 12 consecutive duty hours and require a Public Service Vehicle Authorisation badge contingent on Maharashtra domicile and Marathi proficiency. Further, penalties for violations range from ₹ 1 lakh to ₹ 1 crore under the licence suspension clause of the rules.
4. **Legal Alignment -** The rules align with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines, 2025,[3] which mandate Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking and a minimum 80% fare share for drivers.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** The rules align with similar state initiatives, such

[1] Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.
[2] Draft Maharashtra Motor Vehicle Aggregator Rules, 2025.
[3] Ministry Of Road Transport and Highways' Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines, 2025.

A. Maharashtra Motor Vehicle Aggregator Rules, 2026
Source: The Government Of Maharashtra, The Indian Express | **Impact**: Medium

as the Karnataka On-Demand Transportation Technology Aggregators Rules, 2016[4] (which cap aggregator commissions and mandate driver welfare funds) and the Delhi Motor Vehicle Aggregator and Delivery Service Provider Scheme, 2023.[5]

6. **Relevance -**
   a. On 7th February, 2026, cab drivers went on a nationwide strike, covering Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur, demanding Government-notified minimum base fares under the Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines framework.[6] The February, 2026 strike was preceded by a one-day strike in October, 2025, which disrupted mobility across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, including Thane, Palghar, Raigad, Pune and Nashik.[7] The rules' 80% minimum fare-share mandate and RTA-linked fare band directly respond to this recurring demand for a notified, transparent fare structure.
   b. Mumbai's app-based cab market remains highly fragmented and dominated by individual vehicle owners and driver-partners rather than platform-owned fleets. According to the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Transport Authority, more than 1.2 lakh app-based taxis were operating in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region as of 2024.[8] The rules' fleet-concentration clause targets this fragmented ownership structure to prevent large-scale fleet aggregation by a few operators.
   c. India's gig and platform workforce has expanded rapidly, growing 55% from 7.7 million in FY 2020–21 to around 1.2 crore in FY 2024–25, and is projected to reach 2.35 crore by 2029–30.[9] Within this national growth, Maharashtra represents one of the largest concentrations of digital delivery and mobility operations, with an estimated 10 lakh (1 million) gig and platform workers operating across 350 aggregator platforms.[10]
   d. However, because aggregators classify workers as "independent partners" rather than employees, severe tracking and social security gaps persist. To bridge these gaps, the rules establish key provisions for the welfare of the cab drivers, which includes the 12-hour duty cap and 80% fare-share floor and are calibrated against this expanding but under-covered workforce base.

[4] Karnataka On-Demand Transportation Technology Aggregators Rules, 2016.
[5] Delhi Motor Vehicle Aggregator and Delivery Service Provider Scheme, 2023.
[6] India Today, February, 2026.
[7] Free Press Journal, October, 2025.
[8] The Indian Express, July, 2025.
[9] ORF, July, 2026.
[10] Hindustan Times, March, 2026.

B. Urban Challenge Fund, 2025–2031
Source: Deccan Chronicle | **Impact**: Medium

1. The Maharashtra Government has approved the establishment of the Urban Challenge Fund to accelerate **civic infrastructure creation** across small and medium-sized cities.
2. It seeks to reduce dependence on conventional state grants by encouraging urban local bodies to mobilise market capital through municipal bonds, bank loans and public-private partnerships.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The fund establishes an aggregate capital outlay of ₹ 44,800 crore to finance civic infrastructure projects across 423 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and extend it to smaller cities with populations below 1 lakh between FY 2025–26 and FY 2030–31.
   b. It incorporates a blended financing framework where the Central and the State Governments each contribute ₹ 11,200 crore, while the remaining ₹ 22,400 crore is raised through market instruments including municipal bonds and public-private partnerships.
   c. It targets 22 priority urban development sectors including digital governance, circular economy initiatives, traffic decongestion, last-mile connectivity, and water supply and sanitation infrastructure.
   d. It supports urban regeneration across identified city clusters including slum redevelopment, transit-oriented development, modernisation of transport hubs, and pedestrian-friendly transit corridors.
   e. The fund promotes the establishment of regional growth hubs in emerging non-metropolitan towns to decentralise economic development beyond major metropolitan centres.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The fund aligns directly with the Central Government Urban Challenge Fund Scheme,[11] which provides central assistance to states and urban local bodies to promote market-based urban infrastructure financing.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Gujarat operationalised the Gujarat Urban Development Mission (GUDM Official Portal)[12] and Tamil Nadu operationalised the Tamil Nadu Urban Development Fund (TNUDF)[13] which provides capital support and market borrowing mechanisms to strengthen civic infrastructure.
6. **Relevance -**

[11] MoHUA Portal.
[12] GUDM Portal.
[13] TNUIFSL Portal.

B. Urban Challenge Fund, 2025–2031
Source: Deccan Chronicle | **Impact**: Medium
a. Economic activity and urban infrastructure investments in Maharashtra remain hyper-concentrated in primary hubs like the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, Pune, and Nagpur, resulting in severe urban congestion and underdeveloped peripheral economies. The fund addresses this spatial imbalance by extending challenge-based capital across 423 ULBs, incentivising urban regeneration, transit-oriented development, and digital governance. b. Notably, transforming emerging tier-2 and tier-3 municipalities into competitive regional growth centers decentralises economic opportunities and relieves municipal pressure on major megacities. c. Maharashtra faces state-level fiscal constraints, with the fiscal deficit targeted at approximately 2.78%[14] of GSDP (₹ 1,50,491 crore)[15] for FY 2026–27 and public debt exceeding ₹ 9.76 lakh crore,[16] restricting the scope for direct state-funded capital grants. d. Instead of fully funding projects, Maharashtra caps its state contribution at 25% (₹ 11,200 crore). State funds are released only when matched by 25% in Central grants and 50% from market borrowings, municipal bonds, and PPPs.[17] This financing architecture enables Maharashtra to leverage every ₹ 1 of state expenditure to attract nearly ₹ 3 of non-state capital, substantially expanding urban infrastructure investment while limiting the fiscal burden on the state exchequer. e. Rapid spatial expansion across Maharashtra's urban centres has generated significant environmental infrastructure deficits. The state generates approximately 9,196 Million Litres per Day (MLD) of urban sewage every day, of which only 51.4% is treated, leaving nearly 48.6% discharged untreated into rivers and water bodies.[18] The fund, together with the state's Circular Economy Wastewater Policy, 2025[19] addresses this challenge by mobilising investment towards sewage treatment infrastructure, wastewater reuse systems and circular economy projects across all 423 ULBs, while strengthening municipal financial sustainability through reform-linked financing.

[14] Maharashtra Budget Analysis 2026-27, NFPRC Foundation, June, 2026.
[15] The Business Standard, March, 2026.
[16] Times Of India, March, 2026.
[17] Times Of India, July, 2026.
[18] Times Of India, March, 2026.
[19] Times Of India, October, 2025.

C. Five-Star Rating System For Government Hospitals, 2026
Source: Deccan Chronicle, The Economic Times | **Impact**: Medium

1. On 24th July, 2026, the Maharashtra Public Health Department issued a Government Resolution introducing a **five-star rating system for Government-run hospitals** across the state.
2. The initiative seeks to establish transparent quality benchmarks, enhance institutional accountability, and encourage continuous service delivery improvements across public healthcare facilities.
3. **Key Features -**
    a. The rating system covers 623 public healthcare institutions across the state, including 373 rural hospitals, 78 trauma care centres, 33 sub-district hospitals, 20 district hospitals, 20 women's hospitals, 12 Employees' State Insurance (ESI) hospitals, 8 general hospitals, and 2 referral service hospitals.
    b. It also extends to facilities representing other specialised state-run centers under the department such as regional mental hospitals, super-specialty hospitals, chest/TB hospitals and AYUSH/Ayurvedic hospitals.
    c. It evaluates hospital performance on a zero to five-star scale across five broad parameters comprising 10 measurable quality indicators, awarding half a star for each fulfilled criterion marked as complete.
    d. The rating system assesses critical operational benchmarks, including 80% minimum availability of specialist services, staff biometric attendance, 80%+ stock of essential medicines, operational diagnostic laboratories, functional X-ray and ECG facilities, outpatient attendance, bed occupancy rates, and facility sanitation.
    e. It integrates patient-centric quality metrics by capturing telephonic survey feedback regarding medical communication, staff conduct, cleanliness, and dietary support.
    f. It also mandates bi-annual performance audits in January and August through physical inspections and digital database verification, awarding special certificates of recognition to hospitals securing four stars or higher.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The decision aligns directly with the National Quality Assurance Standards under the National Health Mission,[20] which promotes systematic quality certification, patient safety, and infrastructure enhancement across public health facilities.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Gujarat, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh

[20] National Health Mission.

C. Five-Star Rating System For Government Hospitals, 2026
Source: Deccan Chronicle, The Economic Times | **Impact**: Medium

assess public health facilities using A-Grade Hospital Certification,[21] Quality Accreditation Framework[22] and Quality Benchmark Metrics.

6. **Relevance -**
   a. Primary and secondary facilities across Maharashtra's semi-urban and rural districts face significant patient distrust due to unverified quality, driving a massive influx of non-critical cases into overcrowded tertiary medical colleges in Mumbai, Pune, and Nagpur.[23] Applying transparent star ratings in rural and sub-district hospitals establishes verifiable quality benchmarks at the local level, reassuring patients of facility capability.[24]
   b. This incentivises local healthcare utilisation, drastically reducing unnecessary secondary-to-tertiary transfers and relieving severe overcrowding at major metropolitan medical centers.
   c. In major manufacturing corridors like Thane, Chakan, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, and Nashik, operational gaps in ESI facilities force industrial workers to seek private care, inflating out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure (OOPE), which constitutes 38.1%–44.0% of total health expenditure in Maharashtra and driving preventable absenteeism.[25]
   d. To mitigate these financial and productivity drains, the rating system enforces a binding accreditation to 80%+ stock of essential medicines, functional diagnostics, and biometric staff attendance ensures reliable, free secondary care for low-wage laborers, reducing wage loss and protecting industrial productivity across the state's manufacturing hubs.[26]
   e. With Maharashtra's public health outlay standing at ₹ 33,653 crore for 2026–27,[27] maximising the operational utility of healthcare infrastructure and diagnostic assets remains central to fiscal efficiency. The rating system boosts performance tracking across the state network and linking accreditation ratings directly to operational metrics. It also ensures public capital deployment yields verifiable clinical outcomes, enabling targeted financial allocations and sustained asset efficiency across state-run facilities.[28]

[21] NABH.
[22] Quality Accreditation Framework.
[23] Times Of India, July, 2024.
[24] Deccan Chronicle, July, 2026.
[25] PIB, December, 2024.
[26] Economic Times, July, 2026.
[27] Times Of India, May, 2026.
[28] Deccan Chronicle, July, 2026.

II. Delhi

A. Programme For Accelerated Renewal And Incentivisation Of Vehicle Assets (PARIVARTAN)
Source: The Hindu Business Line | **Impact**: High

1. On 20th July, 2026, the Delhi Government approved the implementation of the Programme for Accelerated Renewal and Incentivisation of Vehicle Assets for Reducing Transport Air Pollution and Network Emissions (PARIVARTAN), following the Central Government's approval of the programme in June 2026.
2. The programme aims to accelerate the replacement of **old and polluting commercial vehicles** with Bharat Stage (BS)-VI and electric vehicles.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. It provides replacement incentives for BS-IV and older trucks and buses through the purchase of BS-VI-compliant or electric vehicles, with electric vehicles mandated for all Light Goods Vehicles (LGVs) purchased in Delhi.
   b. To reduce replacement costs, the programme provides an 8% discount on eligible trucks and buses through participating original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), including Tata Motors, Ashok Leyland, and Switch Mobility, while the Central Government provides a 5% interest subvention and monthly fuel vouchers for 5 years.
   c. Eligible owners scrapping older LGVs and purchasing new electric LGVs will receive a **100% exemption** from motor vehicle tax and registration fees for 10 years, while purchasers of used electric LGVs will be entitled to a 50% motor vehicle tax exemption for the same period, along with interest subvention and a one-time fuel voucher benefit.
   d. The programme permits only BS-VI Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) or electric buses under the programme and caps EV manufacturer discounts at the equivalent discount applicable to internal combustion engine vehicles of the same gross vehicle weight category.
   e. Covering an estimated 2.07 lakh truck and bus owners across Delhi-NCR, the initiative also advances the objectives of the Delhi EV Policy, 2026.[29]
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The programme builds on the Vehicle Scrapping Policy,[30] and the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP),[31] which collectively promote fleet modernisation, electric mobility, and reduced vehicular emissions.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Similar commercial vehicle scrappage and clean

[29] Delhi EV Policy, 2026.
[30] PIB, August, 2024.
[31] PIB, March, 2015.

A. Programme For Accelerated Renewal And Incentivisation Of Vehicle Assets (PARIVARTAN)
Source: The Hindu Business Line | **Impact**: High
mobility initiatives have been undertaken by Telangana,[32] Haryana,[33] and Maharashtra,[34] which have introduced incentives for vehicle replacement, promoted electric mobility, and accelerated the adoption of cleaner commercial vehicles. 6. **Relevance -** a. Trucks and buses account for only about 3% of vehicles in Delhi-NCR but contribute 36% of transport-related PM2.5 emissions.[35] The programme's exclusive focus on replacing BS-IV and older trucks and buses, rather than private vehicles generally, targets precisely this narrow but disproportionately high-emitting segment of the fleet. b. A significant emissions gap exists between older and newer vehicles. Notably, a single pre-BS-VI heavy-duty vehicle emits as much pollution as roughly 14 BS-VI-compliant vehicles, while a BS-IV vehicle emits about 2.7 times more than its BS-VI counterpart.[36] This disproportionate contribution from ageing vehicles poses a major obstacle to reducing urban air pollution. c. The programme addresses this challenge by prioritising the scrappage and replacement of older vehicles rather than relying solely on incremental tightening of emission standards. d. Delhi's public transport fleet has already begun a large-scale electrification transition, with 3,400 electric buses in operation and the fleet expected to reach 5,000 by March, 2026. At the same time, authorities have identified below-BS-IV commercial vehicles as a major source of urban emissions requiring targeted intervention.[37] The programme builds on these parallel efforts by extending the transition beyond public transport to freight operators and private bus fleets.

[32] Telangana Today, August, 2025.
[33] Mint, June, 2026.
[34] The Indian Express, March, 2026.
[35] Business Standard, June, 2026.
[36] Tribune, June, 2026.
[37] Tribune, December, 2025.

B. Delhi Right Of Citizens To Time-Bound And Easy Delivery Of Services Bill, 2026
Source: The Financial World | **Impact**: High

1. On 15th July, 2026, the Delhi Government approved the Delhi Right of Citizens to Time-Bound and Easy Delivery of Services Bill, 2026.
2. The bill aims to establish a statutory right for citizens to receive notified Government services within prescribed timelines by replacing the Delhi Right of Citizens to Time Bound Delivery of Services Act, 2011[38] with a technology-enabled accountability framework.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The bill provides citizens a statutory right to receive notified Government services within specified timelines, with the Delhi Government empowered to notify covered services, deadlines, and responsible officials.
   b. It introduces a digital service delivery framework enabling online applications, unique application numbers, real-time status tracking, and digital monitoring of service processing stages.
   c. Officials responsible for unjustified delays face penalties of ₹ 250 per day, subject to a maximum limit of ₹ 5,000, after being provided an opportunity for explanation under principles of natural justice.
   d. Departmental Citizen Grievance Redressal Authorities are established under the bill to handle and dispose of appeals within 30 days, issue service delivery directions, and determine responsibility for delays.
   e. The bill provides for the constitution of an independent Delhi Right to Service Commission to hear second appeals, monitor implementation, inspect Government offices, recommend departmental action, and expand notified services.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The bill aligns with the Digital India Programme[39] and the Sevottam Model of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG),[40] which promotes citizen-centric, accountable, and time-bound public service delivery.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Madhya Pradesh,[41] Rajasthan[42] and Bihar[43] have enacted similar legislations, namely the Madhya Pradesh Lok Sewaon Ke Pradan Ki

[38] Delhi Right Of Citizens To Time-Bound And Easy Delivery Of Services Act, 2011.
[39] Digital India.
[40] SEVOTTAM, Department Of Administrative Reforms And Public Grievances.
[41] The Madhya Pradesh Lok Sewaon Ke Pradan Ki Guarantee Adhiniyam, 2010.
[42] The Rajasthan Guaranteed Delivery Of Public Services Act, 2011.
[43] Bihar Right To Public Services Act, 2011.

B. Delhi Right Of Citizens To Time-Bound And Easy Delivery Of Services Bill, 2026
Source: The Financial World | **Impact**: High
Guarantee Adhiniyam, 2010, the Rajasthan Guaranteed Delivery of Public Services Act, 2011, and the Bihar Right to Public Services Act, 2011, to guarantee the time-bound delivery of Government services and strengthen administrative accountability. 6. **Relevance –** a. Delhi's time-bound service delivery mechanism currently covers around 560 Government services. In June 2026, the Government expanded its scope by adding 23 more services, including approvals for new factory plans, sewage connections, and film-shooting permissions within 15 days.[44] The bill is being introduced alongside this expansion and seeks to strengthen implementation through digital tracking, penalties for delays and appellate mechanisms. b. Under the erstwhile legislation, appeals against service delays were handled by departmental appellate authorities, keeping the process within the same administrative hierarchy responsible for the delay.[45] The bill introduces a two-tier mechanism, with first appeals before department-level grievance authorities and second appeals before an independent Delhi Right to Service Commission with oversight and inspection powers. This shifts final accountability from an internal departmental process to an external statutory body. c. The bill's penalty provision, which imposes a fine of ₹ 250 per day capped at ₹ 5,000 for each unjustified delay,[46] introduces direct financial accountability for officials, unlike the previous Act, which lacked a comparable mechanism. By fixing liability on the responsible official rather than the department, it creates a stronger incentive for timely service delivery. Coupled with digital tracking, unique application numbers, and real-time status monitoring, delays can be verified through system-generated timestamps, making enforcement more objective and strengthening the credibility of the accountability framework.

[44] Business Standard, July, 2026.
[45] Delhi Right Of Citizens To Time Bound Delivery Of Services Act, 2011.
[46] Business Standard, July, 2026.

III. Punjab

A. Urban Planning And Development Building (Amendment) Rules, 2026
Source: The Government Of Punjab, The Tribune | **Impact**: High

1. On 15th July, 2026, the Punjab Government notified the Punjab Urban Planning and Development Building (Amendment) Rules, 2026.
2. The rules aim to **streamline urban development** by establishing a regulatory framework for mixed-use projects, simplifying building approval procedures through self-certification, and updating development norms for residential and commercial buildings.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The rules introduce a statutory framework for mixed-use projects on sites of at least 8,000 sq. m. with a minimum 24-metre approach road, permitting 45% ground coverage and unrestricted building height subject to airport clearance. Floor Area Ratio (FAR)[47] is tiered by road width: 1:2.5 on a minimum 24-metre road, 1:3.0 on a minimum 30-metre road, with no upper limit on FAR for wider roads (subject to airport clearance and other applicable norms).
   b. The rules also prohibit regular schools and colleges, hospitals with more than 10 beds, and polluting industries within mixed-use projects, while permitting White Category industries[48] and IT/Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES) units.
   c. They mandate a minimum 6-metre setback, 15% organised green space, and compliance with prescribed parking, fire safety, and structural safety standards for mixed-use developments.
   d. The rules introduce planning norms for standalone Multi-Level car parking facilities, permitting 80% ground coverage on sites of at least 4,000 sq. m. with limited commercial use on two floors.
   e. Lastly, the rules provide self-certification by empanelled architects for buildings up to 21 metres in approved layouts, with deemed approval after seven days if no objections are raised, while retaining inspections and enforcement against violations.
4. **Legal Alignment -** The rules align with the Model Building Bye Laws, 2016 issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA),[49] which promote online building permissions, self-certification, and simplified building regulations.

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[47] Floor Area Ratio (FAR) is the ratio of a building's total floor area to the size of the piece of land upon which it is built.

[48] White category industries are non-polluting and eco-friendly sectors with a Pollution Index (PI) of up to 20 - 25.

[49] Model Building Bye Laws- 2016.

A. Urban Planning And Development Building (Amendment) Rules, 2026
Source: The Government Of Punjab, The Tribune | **Impact**: High

5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Similarly, Haryana,[50] Rajasthan,[51] and Uttar Pradesh[52] have undertaken reforms to revise FAR norms and building height restrictions to facilitate planned urban development and improve urban infrastructure.
6. **Relevance -**
    a. These rules are, in a specific sense, a course correction to actual litigation rather than a routine regulatory update. In December, 2025, the Punjab and Haryana High Court, while hearing a writ petition filed by residents, stayed key provisions of the Punjab Unified Building Rules, 2025, citing concerns that they were inconsistent with the Punjab Fire Prevention and Fire Safety Act, 2004 and the National Building Code, 2016, and directed that violations under the earlier rules "not be regularised" in the interim.[53]
    b. The statutory recognition of mixed-use development shifts Punjab from segregated zoning to a model permitting residential, commercial, retail, and IT/ITES uses on a single site, while excluding schools, large hospitals, and polluting industries. By allowing FAR up to 1:3.0 and unrestricted height along 24-metre roads, the rules substantially increase development potential and are likely to boost land values and density along key corridors.
    c. Following that stay, the state formally withdrew the Unified Building Rules, 2025[54] on 28th April, 2026, reverting construction activity to the Punjab Municipal Building Bylaws, 2018 and the Punjab Urban Planning and Development Building Rules, 2021, a rollback a senior Government official attributed to building-plan approvals having nearly come to a halt after the court order.[55]

50 Projects Today, December, 2025.
51 The Times Of India, June, 2026.
52 Invest UP.
53 Tribune, December, 2025.
54 Unified Binding Rules, 2025.
55 PTC News, April, 2026.

IV. Madhya Pradesh

A. Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026
Source: The New Indian Express | **Impact**: High

1. On 21st July, 2026, the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026.
2. The bill aims to safeguard the interests of women and children across all religious communities by establishing uniform laws for marriage, divorce, inheritance, and succession.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The bill mandates monogamy across all religious communities and completely prohibits practices such as polygamy and "Nikah Halala."
   b. It introduces mandatory registration for all marriages, divorces, and live-in relationships within one month of commencement, with penalties of up to six months' imprisonment for non-compliance.
   c. A formal declaration process is established for live-in relationships, requiring couples to submit a statement to the designated registrar within one month of commencement, with records shared with local authorities and penalties prescribed for non-registration, false information, or concealment of existing marital status.
   d. It provides equal inheritance rights to sons and daughters and ensures that children born from live-in relationships are considered legitimate with full succession rights.
   e. It establishes a minimum marriage age of 21 years for men and 18 years for women while declaring oral divorce and decisions by informal community councils as entirely illegal.
   f. It enables any adult of sound mind to **bequeath 100% of their property**, both self-acquired and ancestral, to anyone through a will, overriding previous religious restrictions on mandatory succession.
4. **Legal Alignment -** The bill aligns with Article 44 of the Directive Principles of State Policy,[56] and also builds upon the constitutional principles of gender equality reinforced through judicial interventions, including the Supreme Court's landmark judgment in *Shayara Bano* v. *Union of India* (2017), which declared the practice of instant triple talaq (talaq-e-biddat) unconstitutional.[57]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Similarly, Uttarakhand, Assam, and Gujarat have implemented their respective Uniform Civil Codes through the Uniform Civil Code,

[56] Directive Principles Of State Policy, Article 44.
[57] Supreme Court Observer, July, 2022.

A. Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026
Source: The New Indian Express | **Impact**: High

Uttarakhand, 2024[58]; the Uniform Civil Code, Assam, 2026[59]; and the Gujarat Uniform Civil Code Act, 2026.[60]

6. **Relevance -**
   a. By replacing community-specific personal laws with a common civil code, the bill brings uniformity to marriage, divorce, succession and inheritance across religious lines. It bans polygamy along with the practices of triple talaq and nikah halala, directly targeting practices that have historically disadvantaged Muslim women under personal law. This positions the state's law as an instrument of substantive equality rather than mere procedural uniformity, extending equal legal standing to every resident irrespective of faith.
   b. As per National Family Health Survey (NFHS) data, the share of women aged 20–24 in Madhya Pradesh who were married before turning 18 fell from 32.4% (NFHS-4, 2015–16) to 23.1% (NFHS-5, 2019–21), meaning nearly one in four young women in the state were still being married before the legal age as of the last available survey round.[61] The bill's uniform minimum age of 18 for women, backed by criminal penalties for non-registration, is aimed at closing this residual gap through stricter enforcement and documentation.
   c. The bill allows any adult of sound mind to bequeath 100% of their self-acquired and ancestral property to anyone via a will, overriding prior religious restrictions. This is a significant shift for Muslim residents, whose personal law traditionally caps bequeathable property at one-third, and for Hindus, where distinctions between ancestral coparcenary property and self-acquired property previously constrained free disposal.
   d. Further, the exclusion of Scheduled Tribes from the bill's scope reflects an effort to preserve and respect their distinct customary laws and traditional practices. The state has the largest Scheduled Tribe population with 1.53 crore people, or 21.1% of the state's population as per the 2011 Census.[62] Consequently, provisions relating to monogamy, inheritance, marriage age, and mandatory registration will not apply to these communities, allowing existing customary systems to continue alongside the broader legal framework established by the bill.

[58] Uniform Civil Code, Uttarakhand, 2024.
[59] Uniform Civil Code, Assam, 2026.
[60] Gujarat Uniform Civil Code Act, 2026.
[61] The India Express, May, 2022.
[62] Census India, 2011.

V. Bihar

A. Bihar Gambling (Prohibition) Bill, 2026
Source: The Government Of Bihar | **Impact**: High

1. On 21st July, 2026, the Bihar Legislative Assembly passed the Bihar Gambling (Prohibition) Bill, 2026.
2. The bill aims to prohibit **all forms of gambling**, including physical, online, mobile application-based, electronic, digital, and virtual gambling activities in Bihar.
3. **Key Features -**
    a. The bill proposes the repeal of the Public Gambling Act, 1867[63] and introduces the Bihar Gambling (Prohibition) Bill, 2026 as the state's legal framework for regulating gambling activities.
    b. It defines betting and gambling to include wagers placed through physical, online, electronic, digital, or virtual means involving money, virtual currency, digital currency, or any valuable item.
    c. The bill empowers police officers of the rank of sub-inspector or above to search and arrest, without a warrant, persons involved in gambling activities in public places.
    d. It prohibits online gambling games including Baccarat, Big Six Wheel, Chemin de Fer, Craps, Flush, Brag, Keno, Pontoon, Roulette, Slots, Super Pan, and other games of chance notified by the state Government.
    e. The bill introduces penalties of up to six months' imprisonment or fines ranging from ₹ 3,000 to ₹ 10,000 for gambling offences.
    f. It introduces imprisonment from six months to three years and fines up to ₹ 50,000 for operating public casinos, with repeat offences attracting two to five years' imprisonment and fines up to ₹ 1 lakh.
4. **Legal Alignment -** The bill aligns with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs' advisory urging states and Union Territories to repeal the colonial-era Public Gambling Act, 1867[64][65] and enact updated gambling legislation, while complementing the Online Gaming Act, 2025[66] framework to strengthen regulation of online betting and gambling.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Similarly, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have enacted laws prohibiting online games played for stakes, a position upheld by the

[63] The Public Gambling Act, 1867.
[64] Hindustan Times, July, 2026.
[65] The Public Gambling Act, 1867.
[66] PIB, March, 2026.

A. Bihar Gambling (Prohibition) Bill, 2026
Source: The Government Of Bihar | **Impact**: High

Supreme Court in 2026,[67] while Chhattisgarh's Gambling (Prohibition) Act, 2022[68] prohibits both physical and online gambling.

6. **Relevance -**
   a. Tamil Nadu's 2022 online gambling ban was challenged before the judiciary by the E-gaming Federation shortly after passage, with the state citing deaths linked to online rummy losses as justification for the law.[69] Bihar's bill, which similarly empowers sub-inspector-rank officers to search and arrest without a warrant in public places, reflects a more enforcement-oriented regulatory approach that has historically drawn constitutional and proportionality challenges from gaming industry stakeholders in other states.[70]
   b. The Public Gambling Act, 1867,[71] being a colonial-era statute, was drafted to address physical gambling houses and public gaming spaces, and consequently has no provision covering online, mobile, or digital gambling activity, a gap that has widened considerably as digital betting platforms have proliferated. The bill addresses this gap by explicitly defining gambling to include physical, online, electronic, digital, and virtual forms, empowering enforcement authorities, and creating criminal liability mechanisms within the state.
   c. Notably, unregulated physical and online gambling can contribute to household financial distress, particularly among low-income families. The bill's tiered penalty structure reflects this concern. A repeat offence involving online gambling or its abetment attracts the bill's highest penalty of up to seven years' imprisonment and a fine of up to ₹ 10 lakh.
   d. The bill also introduces penalties for printing, publishing, or broadcasting gambling-related content, establishing a maximum punishment of five years' imprisonment and fines up to ₹ 5 lakh. Restricting local marketing and promotional channels essentially helps limit the visibility of illegal betting platforms.

[67] The New Indian Express, May, 2026.
[68] Chhattisgarh's Gambling (Prohibition) Act, 2022.
[69] Deccan Herald, October, 2022.
[70] Bar And Bench, June, 2026.
[71] The Public Gaming Act, 1867.

B. Bihar Control Of Crimes (Amendment) Bill, 2026
Source: The New Indian Express | **Impact**: Medium
1. On 20th July, 2026, the Bihar Cabinet approved amendments to the Bihar Control of Crimes Act, 2024,[72] bringing competitive examination paper leaks and digital offences within its ambit. 2. **Key Features -** a. The bill proposes inclusion of competitive examination question paper leaks under the Bihar Control of Crimes Act, 2024, enabling action against persons involved in such offences. b. It introduces provisions to prosecute individuals using abusive language, obscene words, or indecent remarks against persons through internet-based social media platforms. c. Provides for imprisonment ranging from six months to one year for offences involving misuse of digital platforms and objectionable online content. d. It enables police authorities to invoke enhanced provisions of the Bihar Control of Crimes Act, 2024 against cyber criminals, social media offenders and organised crime networks. e. The bill expands the scope of the existing cyber enforcement framework alongside actions taken through the Cyber Crime and Security Unit and local cyber police stations under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023[73] and Information Technology Act, 2000.[74] 3. **Legal Alignment -** The amendment complements the Bihar Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024[75], which already criminalises question-paper leaks, organised examination malpractice and collusion by service providers. It also reflects the broader approach of the Central Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024[76], while adding the possibility of preventive action under Bihar's public-order framework. 4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Odisha have enacted dedicated laws to prevent question paper leaks and examination malpractices through stricter penalties, broader offence definitions, and strengthened enforcement mechanisms.[77]

[72] The Bihar Control Of Crimes Act, 2024.
[73] The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.
[74] The Information Technology Act, 2000.
[75] Bihar Public Examinations (Prevention Of Unfair Means) Act, 2024.
[76] Public Examinations (Prevention Of Unfair Means) Act, 2024.
[77] The Indian Express, July, 2026.

B. Bihar Control Of Crimes (Amendment) Bill, 2026
Source: The New Indian Express | **Impact**: Medium

5. **Relevance -**
   a. This bill adds a more stringent enforcement layer to the existing Bihar Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024.[78] By classifying examination paper leaks as a **form of organised crime** under the Bihar Control of Crimes Act, 2024,[79] it enables the use of preventive measures such as externment and detention under the crime control framework, in addition to the criminal penalties already prescribed under the erstwhile act.
   b. The cyber and social-media provisions of the bill seek to address a gap in the Bihar Control of Crimes Act, 2024, which was designed to tackle organised crimes such as illegal mining, illicit liquor trade, and arms trafficking but did not contain specific provisions for internet- or social-media-based offences.[80] The bill has been introduced to bring such digital offences within the Act's ambit.
   c. Repeated paper leaks undermine public confidence in the fairness of recruitment examinations by creating a perception that outcomes are influenced by organised cheating rather than merit. This was evident during the BPSC 70th CCE Prelims 2024, where allegations of a leak at one Patna centre, despite the commission's assertion that examinations at other centres were conducted fairly, triggered prolonged protests and demands for cancellation of the entire exam.[81]
   d. The incident highlighted how even a localised malpractice case can affect the credibility of examinations involving lakhs of candidates. The bill seeks to address this concern by strengthening deterrence against organised cheating networks, including by treating paper leaks as organised crime.

[78] Public Examinations (Prevention Of Unfair Means) Act, 2024.
[79] The Bihar Control Of Crimes Act, 2024.
[80] EtvBharat, July, 2026.
[81] The Indian Express, December, 2024.

VI. Andhra Pradesh

A. Amaravati Economic Region Implementation Committee And Common Zoning Regulations, 2026

Source: The Government Of Andhra Pradesh, Deccan Chronicle | **Impact**: Medium

1. On July 17, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Government rolled out a synchronised urban governance package and regulation to accelerate state-wide economic growth.
2. This regulation pairs regional project execution under the newly constituted Amaravati Economic Region Implementation Committee with the Common Zoning Regulations, 2026, establishing a uniform statewide land-use framework to eliminate regulatory ambiguity and expedite approvals.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The Amaravati Economic Region covers nine districts, NTR, Krishna, Eluru, West Godavari, Guntur, Palnadu, Bapatla, Prakasam and Markapuram, transitioning from planning to execution following the Regional Planning Board formed in February, 2026.
   b. The Implementation Committee is chaired by the CEO of the Amaravati Economic Region, with the APCRDA Commissioner as Member-Convener, district collectors and municipal commissioners as members.
   c. The committee will prepare an implementation roadmap, resolve land and regulatory bottlenecks, coordinate with Central ministries and financial institutions and track projects via a digital monitoring system reviewed monthly.
   d. The regulations supersede Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department's erstwhile rules under Government Order Manuscript Number 216 (dated October 22, 2025),[82] governing statewide Master, Zonal Development, and Town Planning schemes outside the Capital City area.
   e. Land under the regulations is a zone-wise negative-list approach across nine standardised categories (i.e., Residential, Commercial, Public/Semi-Public, Recreational, Industrial, Transportation, Mixed-Use, Agricultural, and Development-Restricted).
   f. The committee will also regulate development in agricultural zones by permitting low-polluting (White and Green category) industries with required environmental buffers, alongside farmhouses on minimum 0.50-acre plots (capped at 10% ground coverage, G+1 floors, and an 11-metre height limit).
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The Central Government's Model Building Bye-Laws (MBBL), 2016[83] serve as an advisory model document, which recommends that states

[82] Andhra Pradesh Gazette, October, 2025.
[83] Model Building Bye-Laws (MBBL).

A. Amaravati Economic Region Implementation Committee And Common Zoning Regulations, 2026
Source: The Government Of Andhra Pradesh, Deccan Chronicle | **Impact**: Medium

unify fragmented municipal codes into an online single-window clearance system.

5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Telangana (via TG-bPASS),[84] Odisha (Planning and Building Standards) Rules, 2020,[85] and Tamil Nadu (Combined Development and Building Rules)[86] have legally consolidated fragmented municipal frameworks into unified, state-wide regulatory codes.
6. **Relevance -**
    a. Historical spatial disconnects between capital planning, urban centers, and industrial clusters hinder agglomeration economies and factor productivity across Andhra Pradesh. Hence, transitioning to unified regional spatial governance directly operationalises the structural agenda to achieve Andhra Pradesh's Swarna Andhra @2047 target of a ₹ 308 lakh crore GSDP.[87] Establishing a synchronised economic continuum drives higher factor productivity and agglomeration economies across secondary markets.
    b. Prescriptive land-use approvals create friction and higher costs, hindering private land assembly and commercial expansion across key urban corridors. Shifting from prescriptive land-use approvals to a zone-wise permissive framework systematically eliminates administrative delays and lowers transaction costs for commercial developments.[88] Further, allowing compatible non-residential activities on standard road widths encourages private land assembly and accelerates fixed capital formation in urban local bodies while maintaining explicit environmental safeguards.[89]
    c. Siloed leadership between District Collectors, Urban Local Bodies, and line departments historically caused delays in cross-district infrastructure projects. Strengthening coordination among local body administrative heads helps address systemic inter-agency bottlenecks in Andhra Pradesh. Institutionalising mandatory monthly digital dashboard reviews reinforces milestone accountability, with the potential to reduce project gestation timelines for major logistics corridors and public investments across the economic corridor.[90]

[84] TG-bPASS.
[85] Building Planning And Building Standards, Rules, 2020.
[86] Combined Development And Building Rules.
[87] Swarna Andhra @2047.
[88] The News Minute, July, 2026.
[89] The News Minute, July, 2026.
[90] The News Minute, July, 2026.

VII. Tamil Nadu

A. E-Zero FIR System For Cyber Financial Fraud Cases
Source: The New Indian Express | **Impact**: Medium

1. On 19th July, 2026, the Government of Tamil Nadu implemented the e-Zero FIR system to automate the registration and investigation of cyber financial fraud cases reported through the National Cyber Crime Helpline 1930.
2. The system seeks to **eliminate registration delays** in the critical first hours of cyber fraud, enabling faster fund freezing, digital evidence preservation, and improved recovery of defrauded money.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. Complaints involving a financial loss of over ₹ 1 lakh reported through the 1930-Helpline are automatically integrated with the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS)[91] and registered as e-Zero FIRs.
   b. The e-Zero FIR is electronically transferred to the jurisdictional Cyber Crime Police Station, where it is converted into a regular FIR after necessary verification, ensuring seamless jurisdictional transfer without duplicate data entry.
   c. The complainant under the system receives an SMS confirming registration and is required to visit the police station within three days to complete the legal formalities mandated under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.[92]
   d. The e-Zero FIR system sets an eligibility threshold of over ₹1 lakh, which is one-tenth of the central pilot's ₹10 lakh benchmark and extends automated legal protection and rapid investigation safeguards to a broader spectrum of cyber financial fraud victims across the state.
   e. The CCTNS integration supports timely investigation, freezing of fraudulent transactions, preservation of digital evidence, and improved coordination across cybercrime units.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The system operationalises, at the state level, the e-Zero FIR initiative of the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C)[93] under the Ministry of Home Affairs and aligns with the Citizen Financial Cyber Fraud Reporting and Management System (CFCFRMS).[94]

[91] The Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) is the Ministry of Home Affairs' nationwide integrated platform connecting police stations for the electronic registration, tracking, and sharing of crime and criminal records.
[92] Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.
[93] Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C)
[94] Vikaspedia, Government Of India.

A. E-Zero FIR System For Cyber Financial Fraud Cases
Source: The New Indian Express | **Impact**: Medium

5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Assam,[95] Odisha[96], and Delhi[97] have already rolled out and adopted the e-Zero FIR system.
6. **Relevance -**
    a. Tamil Nadu experiences an exceptionally high volume of digital financial crimes, recording over 1.09 lakh complaints and financial losses exceeding ₹ 1,100 crore in 2025 alone.[98] Automating case registration through e-Zero FIRs directly addresses this heavy caseload, mitigating manual processing delays at the police station level and ensuring law enforcement speed keeps pace with the state's high digital transaction volume.
    b. Tamil Nadu possesses one of India's largest dedicated cyber law enforcement networks, with 54 specialised Cyber Crime Police Stations spanning every district and commissionerate.[99] Seamlessly funneling automated CCTNS e-Zero FIRs into these dedicated units potentially removes inter-district transfer friction, allowing specialised forensic officers to immediately trace volatile digital footprints and freeze compromised accounts before funds exit the domestic banking grid.
    c. Additionally, cyber financial fraud in Tamil Nadu has escalated rapidly in regional manufacturing and commercial centers, with industrial hubs like Coimbatore alone recording losses of ₹ 87.16 crore across 9,960 complaints in 2025.[100] Lowering the automatic FIR registration threshold to ₹ 1 lakh provides immediate statutory protection to middle-income depositors, MSME entrepreneurs, and industrial workers, preventing widespread erosion of trust in the state's expanding fintech infrastructure.

95 ANI, June, 2026.
96 The New Indian Express, July, 2026.
97 PIB, May, 2026.
98 The Hindu, September, 2025.
99 PIB, March, 2026.
100 The Hindu, January, 2026.

VIII. Gujarat

A. Cyber Financial Fraud E-Zero FIR Service, 2026
Source: The Hindu Business Line | **Impact**: Medium

1. On 27th July, 2026, the Government of Gujarat launched the Cyber Financial Fraud e-Zero FIR Service to enable automatic generation of e-Zero FIRs for cyber financial fraud complaints through the national cybercrime helpline.
2. The service aims to **expedite cyber fraud investigations**, improve recovery of defrauded funds, and strengthen technology-enabled policing through seamless digital complaint registration and processing.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The service provides for the automatic generation of e-Zero FIRs for cyber financial fraud complaints registered through the National Cybercrime Helpline 1930, without requiring victims to visit a police station.
   b. It enables automatic forwarding of e-Zero FIRs to the jurisdictional police station, allowing legal proceedings and investigations to commence immediately.
   c. The service introduces an integrated workflow under which police officers contact complainants, collect necessary information, formally register the FIR, and initiate investigations as per the prescribed procedure.
   d. The service provides for implementation in coordination with the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
   e. The service seeks to improve the recovery of fraudulently transferred funds through early police intervention, with the first e-Zero FIR facilitating the recovery of more than ₹ 15.76 lakh in a cyber fraud case.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The service aligns with the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)[101] and the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal,[102] which promote technology-enabled reporting, investigation, and coordination for cybercrime enforcement.
5. **Relevance -**
   a. Cyber fraud in Gujarat has witnessed a sharp rise, with citizens filing 1.42 lakh complaints involving losses of ₹ 1,011 crore in the first nine months of 2025 alone. The growing volume of cases since 2020 highlights the widening gap between the scale of cyber-enabled financial losses and the effectiveness of existing response mechanisms.[103] The e-Zero FIR service seeks to address this gap by eliminating the need for an initial in-person visit to a police station before an FIR can be

[101] Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C).
[102] National Cybercrime Reporting Portal.
[103] Times Of India, November, 2025.

A. Cyber Financial Fraud E-Zero FIR Service, 2026
Source: The Hindu Business Line | **Impact**: Medium
registered, thereby enabling faster reporting and investigation of cyber fraud cases. b. Speed of reporting has a direct impact on the likelihood of financial recovery in cyber fraud cases. Haryana's cyber police have noted that when fraud is reported within six hours, 70–75% of the stolen amount can be blocked, compared to recovery rates of only 8–10% when action is delayed. With the introduction of real-time bank-police coordination, these recovery rates have reportedly improved to 35–38%.[104] c. Gujarat's e-Zero FIR system is designed around this same "golden hour" principle by ensuring automatic and immediate forwarding of complaints to the jurisdictional police station, reducing delays between reporting and enforcement action. d. Under the earlier process, victims calling 1930 were only issued a complaint ticket number and separately told to visit their nearest police station to have an FIR registered, a step that consumed time during which fraudulently transferred funds could be moved across mule accounts and become unrecoverable. By making FIR registration automatic and immediate, the service is designed to shrink this specific procedural delay. e. Lastly, standardising e-Zero FIR creation across all district stations provides central law enforcement with a unified database of cybercrime patterns, suspect account numbers, and recurring scam methods, improving cross-border police coordination.

[104] The Tribune, May, 2025.

IX. Kerala

A. Cabinet Approval To Administrative And Digital Governance Reforms

Source: The Hindu, Telangana Today | **Impact**: High

1. On 29th July, 2026, the Kerala Cabinet approved a comprehensive five-point administrative reform programme to strengthen public administration, enhance transparency, digitise administrative workflows, and eliminate revenue leakages caused by capital project delays.
2. The strategic framework seeks to establish a **unified digital governance infrastructure**, rationalise state-funded public bodies, remove legal ambiguities, and re-engineer departmental processes to accelerate public service delivery across the state.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. **Digital Governance Infrastructure:**
      i. **Asset Management Platform (SAMPATH):** The platform creates the Special Asset Management Platform for Administration, Tracking and Harmonisation (SAMPATH), establishing a centralised digital inventory of all state-owned assets, including land, Government buildings, heritage structures, roads, bridges, dams, vehicles and machinery.
      ii. **GIS Project Registry (PlanSpace 2.0):** The upgraded portal integrates Geographic Information System (GIS)[105] geotagging to track all departmentally approved capital works digitally, monitoring spatial coordinates, implementing agencies, funding sources, and real-time execution stages.
   b. **Institutional And Legal Framework Reforms:**
      i. **State Institutional Registry And Audit:** The framework mandates a comprehensive registry of 591 state-funded public institutions accounting for ~₹ 19,000 crore in annual salary expenditure to merge bodies with overlapping functions and wind up entities that have outlived their operational utility.
      ii. **Legal Provision Rationalisation:** The framework undertakes a systematic review to amend or repeal outdated, contradictory, and redundant statutory provisions that create administrative bottlenecks and impede execution speed.
   c. **Process Re-engineering And Inter-Departmental Coordination:**
      i. **Statewide Process Re-engineering:** The framework simplifies procedures and modernises rules across key departments, including Finance, Law, Tax, Revenue, Local Self-Government, and Industries, to reduce paperwork and

[105] A Geographic Information System (GIS) is a computer system that captures, stores, checks, analyses, and displays data tied to specific positions on Earth's surface. It links location data with descriptive information to help people understand spatial patterns and relationships.

A. Cabinet Approval To Administrative And Digital Governance Reforms
Source: The Hindu, Telangana Today | **Impact**: High

enable digital-first public service delivery.

ii. **Empowered Committee of Secretaries:** The framework institutes an Empowered Committee of Government Secretaries to enforce inter-departmental coordination, clear procedural hurdles, and prioritise high-value infrastructure projects.

4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Assam,[106] Gujarat,[107] Karnataka[108] and Telangana[109] deploy unified digital asset management platforms, GIS project tracking and institutional rationalisation frameworks.
5. **Relevance -**
   a. Although Kerala's PlanSpace portal currently monitors nearly 1,900 Plan schemes across 235 state agencies, traditional tabular reporting created spatial tracking gaps, inter-departmental friction, and project overruns.[110] To bridge these gaps, the Kerala State Planning Board, in technical collaboration with Digital University Kerala, launched PlanSpace 2.0 to mandate GIS geotagging and coordinate tracking across all active capital works.[111] Establishing location-based, real-time spatial oversight enables the Empowered Committee of Secretaries, Department Heads, and District Collectors to identify execution bottlenecks early, resolve inter-agency delays, and safeguard public outlays against cost inflation.
   b. Committed expenditure on salaries, pensions, and interest debt servicing has consumed 77.6% of Kerala's total revenue receipts, compressing capital outlay down to approximately 1.3% of GSDP and leaving minimal fiscal room for new infrastructure creation.[112]
   c. The state approved a systemic administrative restructuring plan to resolve payroll strains while keeping gross public debt neutral. By auditing institutional performance, dissolving redundant administrative layers, and merging entities with overlapping mandates, the state systematically curtails unproductive payroll liabilities, freeing up critical budgetary headroom to fund high-multiplier capital projects and physical infrastructure.

[106] Assam Industrial Asset Management System.
[107] PIB, March, 2026.
[108] Money Control, October, 2025.
[109] Telangana Remote Sensing Application Centre.
[110] Plan Space 2.0, Government Of Kerala.
[111] Plan Space 2.0, Government Of Kerala.
[112] The Hindu, July, 2026.

X. Karnataka

A. Draft Karnataka Apartment (Ownership And Management) Bill, 2026
Source: The Hindu, Deccan Herald | **Impact**: Medium

1. On 15th July, 2026, the Karnataka Government released the Draft Karnataka Apartment (Ownership and Management) Bill, 2026 to overhaul residential housing governance and protect flat owners' rights across the state.
2. The bill seeks to replace five-decade-old housing laws with a single legal framework governing apartment ownership, maintenance, and redevelopment across the state.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The bill seeks to repeal the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act, 1972[113] and the Karnataka Ownership Flats Act, 1972[114] to unify urban housing regulations under a single statutory framework.
   b. It applies to apartment projects containing more than eight residential units and places enforcement under the Urban Development Department through a designated Competent Authority.
   c. It mandates real estate developers to transfer undivided land ownership and common infrastructure to unit owners while restricting apartment welfare associations strictly to management and administrative operations.
   d. The bill introduces a deemed conveyance mechanism for older projects to ensure automatic transfer of common areas where developers failed to complete title handovers.
   e. It requires the statutory consent of at least 75% of unit owners for the redevelopment of apartment complexes while guaranteeing dissenting owners compensation of no less than twice the prevailing market value.
   f. It mandates structural safety audits by certified engineers every 5 years for buildings older than 30 years and requires immediate reporting of unsafe structures to municipal authorities.
   g. It classifies parking spaces across stilt, open, basement, or podium areas permanently as shared common areas that cannot be sold or transferred as private property.
   h. It requires apartment associations to be formally constituted within three months of more than 50% of units being booked and mandates maintenance fees to be levied in proportion to super built-up area.
4. **Legal Alignment -** The bill aligns directly with Section 11 and Section 17 of the Real

[113] Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act, 1972.
[114] Karnataka Ownership Flats Act, 1972.

A. Draft Karnataka Apartment (Ownership And Management) Bill, 2026
Source: The Hindu, Deccan Herald | **Impact**: Medium

Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016,[115] which mandates the timely transfer of property title, common areas, and undivided land shares to homebuyer associations.

5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Maharashtra operationalised similar redevelopment provisions under Section 79A of the Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act, 1960,[116] which lowered consent thresholds to enable structured redevelopment of ageing housing societies.
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Across Bengaluru's mature residential hubs, thousands of high-rise apartment complexes over 30 years old suffer from severe structural fatigue,[117] where critical urban renewal was historically paralysed by the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act (KAOA), 1972[118] due to its rigid 100% unanimous consent requirement. The bill eliminates this statutory deadlock and safeguards minority interests without stalling urban safety projects, and guarantees non-consenting owners cash exit compensation of at least double the prevailing market value of their property and undivided land share.
   b. Over 25-30 lakh flat owners across Karnataka face severe legal vulnerability due to developers failing to execute formal conveyance deeds, retaining land ownership rights and illegally exploiting unutilised FAR on completed projects.[119] Establishing an automatic deemed conveyance mechanism and mandating the complete statutory transfer of undivided land title to unit owners directly eliminates developer monopolies over project land.
   c. Homebuyers across Karnataka routinely suffer from developer malpractices, where promoters withhold original building layout plans, delay Occupancy Certificate (OC) filings, or mortgage project land to financial institutions after collecting full buyer payments.[120] The bill addresses this financial encumbrance by enforcing a strict 60-day post-OC handover protocol, mandating the compulsory transfer of original title records, service layouts, and unspent maintenance reserves directly to recognised allottee associations.

[115] The Real Estate (Regulation And Development) Act, 2016.
[116] The Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act, 1960.
[117] Economic Times, July, 2026.
[118] Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act (KAOA), 1972.
[119] The Indian Express, July, 2026.
[120] Times Of India, June, 2026.

XI. Assam

A. Assam State Higher Education Council Bill, 2026
Source: NDTV, The Assam Tribune | **Impact**: Medium

1. On 29th July, 2026, the Assam Legislative Assembly passed the Assam State Higher Education Council Bill, 2026, establishing an apex state-level coordinating body to modernise higher education governance.
2. The bill seeks to bridge structural gaps between the state Government, degree colleges, autonomous institutions, state universities and the University Grants Commission (UGC) while aligning academic operations with the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The bill creates the Assam State Higher Education Council as an apex intermediary body to coordinate academic and administrative standards across state universities, autonomous institutions, and general degree colleges.
   b. It establishes a two-tier governance framework comprising a representative General Council and an executive-led Executive Council with nominees from universities, colleges and the UGC.
   c. It addresses the institutional gap in academic oversight where the Directorate of Higher Education previously handled administrative functions without dedicated mechanisms for curriculum alignment and quality assurance.
   d. It streamlines the statewide implementation of National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 guidelines, promoting multidisciplinary degree structures, institutional autonomy, and standardised assessment systems.
   e. It facilitates joint academic policy recommendations, resource-sharing across institutions, and structured quality monitoring to enhance research output and academic standards across state universities.
4. **Legal Alignment -** The bill aligns directly with the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020[121] and regulatory frameworks under the UGC[122] to promote institutional autonomy, quality assurance and streamlined governance in higher education.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Kerala,[123] Andhra Pradesh,[124] Telangana[125] and Tamil Nadu[126] operate statutory State Councils for Higher Education to coordinate university policies and align state frameworks with national norms.

[121] National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.
[122] University Grants Commission.
[123] Government Of Kerala.
[124] Andhra Pradesh State Council Of Higher Education.
[125] Telangana Council Of Higher Education (TGCHE).
[126] Tamil Nadu State Council For Higher Education.

A. Assam State Higher Education Council Bill, 2026
Source: NDTV, The Assam Tribune | **Impact**: Medium

6. **Relevance -**
    a. Assam's higher education Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) stands at 19.8%,[127] continuing to lag behind the national average of 30.0%.[128] This structural deficit stems from fragmented regional academic planning and unequal seat distribution across rural and hill districts. Codifying the mandatory State Higher Education Plan (SHEP) under the newly enacted statutory council resolves this developmental bottleneck by establishing a centralised, data-driven roadmap for all state universities and colleges.
    b. Strategically mapping higher education capacity aligns institutional expansion with regional demographic needs, driving equitable enrolment growth to elevate Assam's GER toward national benchmarks.
    c. Out of approximately 345 degree colleges in Assam, the state has made a major quality breakthrough, nearly doubling its count of NAAC-accredited institutions from 104 in 2021 to 202 by 2025 (with a single-year peak of 135 colleges accredited in 2023).[129] While legacy infrastructure deficits previously left a majority of colleges unaccredited or restricted to lower tiers. Therefore, codifying the statutory Assam Higher Education Council framework directly resolves these quality bottlenecks by bridging state universities, the state Government, and the UGC.
    d. By mandating standardised assessment, facilitating shared research facilities, and driving inter-institutional faculty exchanges, this unified governance model systematically upgrades institutional quality, preparing Assam's higher education network for top-tier NAAC ratings and autonomous status.
    e. Further, operating alongside the centralised Samarth Assam Admission Portal,[130] the Council facilitates credit transfers under the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC).[131] This enables students from regional colleges (e.g., in Dibrugarh, Silchar, or Kokrajhar) to transfer credits seamlessly across institutions.

[127] All India Survey On Higher Education 2023-24, Ministry Of Education, Page T-19.
[128] PIB, July, 2026.
[129] Economic Times, August, 2025.
[130] Assam State Higher Education Admission Portal.
[131] The Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) is a digital storehouse created by the government. It lets students store, transfer, and use school points, called credits. It works like a money bank, but for classes and learning.

Policy Level Announcements

I. Delhi

A. Start-Up And Incubation Policy, 2026
Source: The Indian Express | **Impact**: High

1. The Delhi Government has approved the Start-Up and Incubation policy to establish a **robust innovation ecosystem** across educational institutions and help transition youth from job seekers into job creators.
2. **Key Features -**
   a. It provides seed funding of up to ₹ 10 lakh in multiple stages to students in Government schools, universities, and Government-funded colleges for launching entrepreneurial ventures.
   b. The policy mandates an investment of ₹ 400 crore over five years to support startup growth and infrastructure development within the state's educational framework.
   c. It enables one-time financial assistance for setting up and strengthening incubation centers across 11 state universities, 13 Government-funded colleges, and various polytechnic institutes.
   d. The policy introduces a State Incubation Policy Monitoring Committee (SIPMC), comprising Government, industry and educational representatives, to oversee implementation and quality control.
   e. It provides specialised infrastructure and services including expert mentoring, business advisory, and intellectual property support to nurture high-tech projects such as Artificial Intelligence and drones.
3. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the Startup India Initiative[132] and the Atal Innovation Mission,[133] which promotes entrepreneurship, innovation, and incubation within educational institutions.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Similar student entrepreneurship and incubation initiatives have been undertaken by Kerala,[134] Karnataka[135] and Gujarat[136] through university incubation networks and innovation support programmes.
5. **Relevance** -
   a. Startup survival, not just startup creation, is a concern in Delhi's existing ecosystem. Government data tabled in the Lok Sabha showed that as of October,

[132] PIB, January, 2026.
[133] Atal Innovation Mission.
[134] Kerala Startup Mission.
[135] Department Of Electronics, Information Technology And Biotechnology, Government Of Karnataka.
[136] Student Startup And Innovation Policy.

A. Start-Up And Incubation Policy, 2026
Source: The Indian Express | **Impact**: High
2025, Delhi recorded 737 DPIIT-recognised startup closures, the third highest number among all states and Union Territories.[137] Against this backdrop, the policy's milestone-based, stage-wise funding approach is designed not only to encourage startup formation but also to improve long-term sustainability and scale-up potential. b. The policy is approved at a time when India's overall recognised startup base has been expanding rapidly. DPIIT had recognised over 1.97 lakh startups nationally as of 31st October, 2025, up from 1.17 lakh at the end of 2023,[138] indicating that Delhi's education linked incubation push is entering an increasingly competitive landscape where multiple states are simultaneously building their own startup infrastructure. c. Notably, structuring the policy around state universities, polytechnics and ITIs provides students, researchers, and alumni with early institutional backing. Offering seed grants of up to ₹ 10 lakh paired with lab access lowers the initial capital barrier, enabling young innovators to turn academic prototypes into commercial products.

[137] INC42, December, 2025.
[138] PIB, December, 2025.

II. Haryana

A. Haryana Industrial Regularisation Policy, 2026
Source: The Government Of Haryana, The Tribune | **Impact**: High

1. On 17th July, 2026, the Haryana Town and Country Planning Department (TCPD) issued the policy framework for the regularisation of industrial colonies.
2. The policy aims to **regularise unauthorised industrial colonies** outside municipal areas by establishing an application and scrutiny framework, enabling the provision of civic amenities, infrastructure and statutory recognition to eligible industrial clusters.
3. **Key Features –**
   a. The policy provides eligibility for regularisation to industrial colonies spread over a minimum contiguous area of 10 acres, comprising at least 50 industrial units, with units constructed before 3rd October, 2025.
   b. It introduces the concept of an "Authorised Person," empowered to submit applications on behalf of entrepreneurs and industrial establishments within an industrial colony.
   c. It mandates online submission of applications along with layout plans, survey maps, ownership records, proof of production, lease documents, and statutory clearances, including Pollution Control Board consent, fire No Objection Certificate (NOC) and factory licence, wherever applicable.
   d. A structured approval mechanism has been established, under which applications undergo preliminary scrutiny by the Director of Industries, followed by examination by the District Level Scrutiny Committee, with deficient applications requiring rectification and resubmission through the online portal.
   e. Further, the policy extends the benefits of the Haryana Management of Civic Amenities and Infrastructure Deficient Areas Outside Municipal Area (Special Provisions) Amendment Act, 2025[139] to unauthorised industrial colonies for the provision of civic amenities and infrastructure.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment –** The policy aligns with the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA) Scheme, which seeks to strengthen India's manufacturing ecosystem through the development of integrated industrial infrastructure.[140]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States –** The Punjab Government has also approved the regularisation of unauthorised colonies with at least 25% construction to facilitate their integration into the formal urban planning framework.[141] Similarly, Gujarat

[139] Haryana Management Of Civic Amenities And Infrastructure Deficient Areas Outside Municipal Area (Special Provisions) Amendment Act, 2025.
[140] PIB, March, 2026.
[141] The Indian Express, July, 2026.

A. Haryana Industrial Regularisation Policy, 2026
Source: The Government Of Haryana, The Tribune | **Impact**: High

enacted the Gujarat Regularisation of Unauthorised Development Act, 2022[142], providing a statutory mechanism for the regularisation of eligible unauthorised developments and their incorporation into planned urban development.

6. **Relevance -**
   a. In Faridabad alone, a majority of over 28,000 industrial and commercial units functioning in non conforming zones, around 72%, operate without a fire safety NOC.[143] By making the submission of statutory clearances, including a fire NOC, a mandatory precondition for regularisation, the policy creates a direct financial and legal incentive for these long-unregulated units to come into compliance.
   b. On 16th February, 2026, a fire and chemical explosion at the Kalkaji Lubricant and Shiv Steel Company in Faridabad's Mujesar industrial area killed 6 people and injured 37, with reports noting the site had no functioning safety equipment and stored flammable chemical drums in the open.[144] By requiring Pollution Control Board consent and fire safety clearance as gatekeeping conditions before an unauthorised colony can access legal status and civic infrastructure, the policy is designed to bring exactly this category of hazardous unit under regulatory scrutiny.
   c. Haryana's unauthorised industrial pockets are concentrated in its major manufacturing hubs where thousands of units have mushroomed outside municipal limits without roads, drainage, sewerage, water supply or power infrastructure despite functioning as significant employment centres.[145] The policy seeks to address this infrastructure deficit by explicitly extending civic amenities coverage, to these named industrial hubs once colonies meet the eligibility threshold.
   d. Haryana had over 13.18 lakh registered MSME enterprises as of November, 2025, collectively employing more than 58 lakh people.[146] Against this base, the policy's collective application route, via a single authorised person acting for an entire 50 unit colony, is designed to formalise unauthorised units at colony scale rather than requiring each individual enterprise to navigate the process alone, which would be a far slower route given the sheer number of MSMEs the state already has to account for.

[142] Gujarat Regularisation Of Unauthorised Development Act, 2022.
[143] Tribune, June, 2024.
[144] Indian Express, February, 2026.
[145] Tribune, October, 2025.
[146] Make In Haryana Industrial Policy 2025.

B. Haryana Progressive MSME And Export Promotion Policy, 2026
Source: Business Standard, Hindustan Times | **Impact**: High

1. On 28th July, 2026, the Government of Haryana unveiled the Haryana Progressive MSME and Export Promotion Policy, 2026 to attract over ₹ 55,000 crore in manufacturing investment and generate more than five lakh employment opportunities over the next five years.
2. The policy aims to double the state's exports and strengthen MSME competitiveness through financial assistance, technology adoption, export promotion, green manufacturing, and skill development.
3. **Key Features –**
   a. **Policy Framework:**
      i. The policy introduces 60 initiatives for MSMEs under six pillars comprising financial assistance, infrastructure and ease of doing business, quality and technology upgradation, access to global markets, sustainable industrial development, and skill development and employment.
   b. **Financial Assistance And Startup Support:**
      i. It provides capital subsidies ranging from 15% to 30% for small industries, establishes a ₹ 200 crore Venture Capital Fund for innovation-driven start-ups and MSMEs.
      ii. It extends financial assistance of up to 33% of the insurance premium under the proposed Haryana MSME Insurance Scheme.
   c. **Export Promotion And Global Market Access:**
      i. It enables export promotion by providing 3% interest assistance on export credit up to ₹ 10 lakh annually, increasing export freight assistance to ₹ 30 lakh per industrial unit annually.
      ii. It establishes a ₹ 10 crore Export Booster Grant, and provides financial assistance of up to ₹ 20 lakh annually for three consecutive years under the Chief Minister First Exporter Promotion Scheme.
   d. **Technology Upgradation And Advanced Manufacturing:**
      i. Under the policy, incentives for advanced manufacturing include 25% financial assistance for automation and smart manufacturing projects ranging from ₹ 50 lakh to ₹ 1 crore, grants covering 50% of project costs up to ₹ 5 crore for research and development centres.
      ii. It also grants 33% financial assistance for establishing in-house artificial intelligence laboratories, and quality certification assistance of up to ₹ 20 lakh annually.

B. Haryana Progressive MSME And Export Promotion Policy, 2026
Source: Business Standard, Hindustan Times | **Impact**: High

e. **Sustainable Industrial Development And Green Manufacturing:**
   i. The policy provides green manufacturing incentives by establishing a ₹ 100 crore Haryana Green Investments Fund, offering a 30% subsidy for rooftop solar systems, and extending 25% financial assistance up to ₹ 1 crore for effluent treatment plants.
   ii. It also provides 25% assistance up to ₹ 5 crore for zero liquid discharge systems, and grants employment incentives of ₹ 1 lakh to ₹ 1.2 lakh per local employee annually.

4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Programme[147] and the Make in India initiative,[148] which promotes MSME competitiveness, technology adoption, market access, and manufacturing-led economic growth.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Odisha has implemented the Odisha MSME Development Policy, 2022 to promote MSME infrastructure and technology upgradation,[149] while Uttar Pradesh has implemented the MSME Promotion Policy, 2022 to strengthen investment, technology adoption, and employment generation.[150]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Haryana's MSME sector already employs a substantial workforce that the policy seeks to expand. As of May, 2025, the state had 11.33 lakh MSMEs, comprising 11.09 lakh micro units, 22,376 small units, and 1,701 medium enterprises, collectively employing over 58 lakh people.[151] The policy's target of generating an additional 5 lakh jobs over five years would increase this existing employment base by nearly 9%, absorbing technical graduates from state ITIs and polytechnics.
   b. The policy's target of doubling Haryana's exports over five years builds on a strong export performance over the past decade, with merchandise exports increasing from ₹ 32,000 crore in 2014–15 to ₹ 1.61 lakh crore in 2024–25, representing a cumulative rise of nearly 395%.[152] Achieving this objective would require Haryana to sustain robust export growth over the medium term, building on the momentum generated in recent years.
   c. Landlocked states face higher logistics costs to reach sea ports compared to

[147] PIB, August, 2024.
[148] Make In India.
[149] Odisha MSME Development Policy, 2022.
[150] Uttar Pradesh Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises Promotion Policy, 2022.
[151] Make In Haryana Industrial Policy, 2025.
[152] Tribune, March, 2026.

B. Haryana Progressive MSME And Export Promotion Policy, 2026
Source: Business Standard, Hindustan Times | **Impact**: High
coastal industrial hubs. Increasing annual export freight assistance to ₹ 30 lakh per unit potentially offset rail and road transport costs to JNPA, Mundra, and Pipavav ports, improving international price competitiveness for Haryana's engineering, automotive, and textile exports.

III. Maharashtra

A. Maharashtra Bioplastics Policy, 2026
Source: The Government Of Maharashtra, Hindustan Times | **Impact**: Medium

1. On 25th July, 2026, the Government of Maharashtra approved the Maharashtra Bioplastics Policy 2026, establishing the state's first dedicated regulatory and fiscal framework for the bioplastics sector.
2. The policy seeks to attract ₹ 25,000 crore in greenfield investments over the next five years, generate 1,00,000 direct and indirect jobs across the value chain, and transition Maharashtra into a global green manufacturing hub.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The policy sets ambitious target benchmarks to reduce state dependence on imported Polylactic Acid (PLA) by 50% by 2030, replace 30% of single-use plastic (SUP) packaging with certified bioplastics in key sectors, and expand state bioplastics exports to ₹ 9,576.27 crore ($ 1 billion).
   b. It earmarks a minimum capital investment target of ₹ 10,000 crore specifically for setting up PLA and advanced biopolymer manufacturing facilities.
   c. It integrates over 1 lakh farmers into the industrial feedstock supply chain through structured procurement of sugarcane derivatives, molasses, bagasse, corn and agricultural starch to diversify rural revenues.
   d. It provides capital subsidies up to 30% of Fixed Capital Investment (FCI) for anchor projects, 100% State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) reimbursement for up to 12 years, 100% stamp duty and electricity duty waivers, and priority land allotment by the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC).
   e. It mandates strict adherence to Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) compostability standards to eliminate greenwashing, covering the entire value chain from feedstock processing to biopolymer conversion and certified finished product manufacturing.
4. **Legal Alignment -** The policy aligns directly with the Plastic Waste Management Rules,[153] National Bio Energy Programme[154] under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Gujarat,[155] Tamil Nadu,[156] Karnataka[157] and Uttar

[153] Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2022.
[154] National Bio Energy Programme.
[155] CMO Gujrat.
[156] Tamil Nadu Circular Economy Investment Policy, 2026.
[157] Karnataka Industrial Policy, 2025-30.

A. Maharashtra Bioplastics Policy, 2026
Source: The Government Of Maharashtra, Hindustan Times | **Impact**: Medium

Pradesh[158] operate bio-manufacturing hubs, green industrial policies, single-use plastic substitution frameworks and sustainable material incentive schemes.

6. **Relevance -**
    a. The state generates approximately 5.5 lakh metric tonnes of plastic waste annually, with nearly 1 lakh metric tonnes remaining uncollected or unaccounted for.[159] This non-recyclable packaging fraction heavily clogs urban drainage networks across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) and Pune during monsoons. Enforcing single-use plastic substitution with certified compostable bioplastics directly targets this escaping waste stream, preventing microplastic leakage into coastal ecosystems, reducing urban stormwater flooding, and alleviating severe landfill congestion.
    b. India contributes 0.46% to global bioplastics production, forcing near-total reliance on foreign PLA imports and exposing manufacturers to severe foreign exchange and supply chain risks.[160] Deploying targeted capital subsidies and SGST reimbursements to establish domestic PLA manufacturing facilities directly resolves this industrial vulnerability. This strategy aims to slash PLA import dependency by 50% by 2030 while leveraging Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) logistics to capture ₹ 9,576.27 crore ($ 1 billion) in global bioplastics exports.[161]
    c. Conventional plastic manufacturers often engage in greenwashing by misrepresenting non-degradable oxo-plastics as biodegradable, driving persistent microplastic contamination and misdirected public capital. To eliminate regulatory loopholes, Maharashtra grants financial subsidies only to brand-new factories or existing plants that fully convert to bioplastics.
    d. Linking financial support to mandatory certification under IS/ISO 17088[162] and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)-approved compostability standards ensures that state incentives are channelled only to genuinely compostable materials, strengthening regulatory credibility and building an auditable, standards-based bioplastics value chain.

[158] Uttar Pradesh Bio-plastic Industry Policy, 2024.
[159] Times Of India, March, 2026.
[160] Bio-Plastics - Biomanufacturing Opportunity For India, November, 2025, Page 2.
[161] Hindustan Times, July, 2026.
[162] ISO 17088 is an international standard that specifies the procedures and requirements for identifying and labeling plastics as compostable or compostable in municipal and industrial composting facilities. It is the scientific benchmark used to prove that a plastic product breaks down harmlessly in a managed composting environment.

IV. Bihar

A. Gram Panchayat Taxes, Rates And Fees Rules, 2026
Source: The Indian Express | **Impact**: Medium

1. On 15th July, 2026, the Bihar Cabinet approved the Gram Panchayat Taxes, Rates and Fees Rules, 2026.
2. The rules aim to operationalise taxation powers available to Gram Panchayats under the Bihar Panchayat Raj Act, 2006,[163] strengthen the own-source revenue of rural local bodies, reduce their dependence on state transfers, and create a framework for financing local infrastructure.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The rules provide for Gram Panchayats to impose and collect holding taxes on rural residential properties, operationalising taxation powers under Section 27 of the Bihar Panchayat Raj Act, 2006.
   b. They introduce annual holding tax rates of ₹ 50 for semi-pucca houses, ₹ 100 for pucca houses, and a concessional rate of ₹ 25 for houses constructed under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, while exempting kuccha houses.
   c. They enable Gram Panchayats to levy annual cleanliness and water supply user charges of ₹ 25 each and collect fees from commercial and industrial establishments operating within rural jurisdictions.
   d. They provide fixed annual operational fees of ₹ 5,000 on petrol pumps, LPG agencies, brick kilns, and cinema halls located in rural areas.
   e. This empowers Gram Panchayats to levy taxes and fees on professions, trades, advertisements, billboards, hoardings, weekly markets, and rural cottage industries, with revenue retained exclusively for local infrastructure and service delivery.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The rules align with the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992[164] and Article 243H of the Constitution,[165] which empower Gram Panchayats to levy, collect, and appropriate taxes, duties, tolls, and fees to strengthen fiscal decentralisation and local self-governance.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Telangana empowers the Gram Panchayats to levy and collect local taxes under Section 64 of the Telangana Panchayat Raj Act, 2018.[166]
6. **Relevance -**

[163] The Bihar Panchayat Raj Act, 2006.
[164] 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.
[165] The Constitution Of India, Article 243H.
[166] Telangana Panchayat Raj Act, 2018, Section 64.

A. Gram Panchayat Taxes, Rates And Fees Rules, 2026

Source: The Indian Express | **Impact**: Medium

a. Section 27 of the Bihar Panchayat Raj Act, 2006[167] already empowered Gram Panchayats to levy taxes, but the provision could not be implemented because the state had never framed rules identifying taxable properties, prescribing rate limits, or laying down assessment procedures.[168] The rules operationalise this long-standing statutory provision for the first time, translating an existing legislative mandate into an implementable framework and enabling Panchayats to exercise powers that had previously remained dormant.

b. Bihar has more than 45,000 revenue villages, and the state Government is targeting ₹ 1,300 crore in revenue through this taxation exercise.[169] Since panchayat finance in India typically relies overwhelmingly on Central and state grant transfers with minimal own-source revenue, the rules are designed to convert a structurally grant-dependent local Government model into one with a measurable, independent revenue base.

c. Bihar's state internal revenue stands at approximately ₹ 56,000 crore[170] against a total annual budget of ~ ₹ 3.5 lakh crore,[171] with public debt hovering near ₹ 4 lakh crore.[172] Rural Panchayats have historically relied almost entirely on central Finance Commission grants and state transfers. Generating ₹ 1,300 crore in local Own-Source Revenue (OSR) provides Panchayats with discretionary funds to address localised infrastructure needs.

d. Rural water supply networks (Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal) and waste collection systems often struggle with maintenance due to a lack of local funds. Capping user charges at ₹ 25/year for water and ₹ 25/year for sanitation creates a dedicated revenue stream to support the upkeep of village infrastructure.

e. Lastly, imposing a ₹ 5,000 annual operational fee on brick kilns, petrol pumps, and LPG agencies brings **informal and semi-formal commercial enterprises** into the local tax network. This creates an official register of commercial operations across rural jurisdictions, improving local business oversight.

[167] Bihar Panchayat Raj Act, 2006.
[168] Outlook, July, 2026.
[169] Print, July, 2026.
[170] Hindustan Times, April, 2026.
[171] The Indian Express, February, 2026.
[172] NDTV, April, 2026.

V. Meghalaya

A. Cabinet Approval To Meghalaya Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy, 2026
Source: News On Air, India Today, Meghalaya Monitor | **Impact**: High

1. On 27th July, 2026, the Meghalaya Cabinet approved the Meghalaya Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy, 2026 to foster clean, affordable, and sustainable mobility across the state.
2. The policy seeks to **accelerate electric vehicle (EV) adoption**, reduce vehicular carbon emissions in eco-sensitive hill regions and build upon the framework established by the preceding Meghalaya Electric Vehicle Policy, 2021.[173]
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The policy provides a direct purchase incentive of ₹ 25,000 for individuals purchasing electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers or four-wheelers across the state.
   b. It grants a complete 100% waiver of vehicle registration fees to lower upfront acquisition costs for EV buyers.
   c. It integrates with the Meghalaya Vehicle Scrappage Policy, 2025[174] to offer additional financial incentives to citizens scrapping vehicles older than 15 years to purchase a new electric vehicle.
   d. It identifies suitable locations across the state for establishing commercial charging stations and encourages private entrepreneurs to set up charging and scrapping facilities.
   e. It seeks to scale up green transport adoption beyond the existing fleet of over 5,000 electric vehicles currently operating on Meghalaya's roads.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns directly with the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme[175] which provides demand incentives and supports public charging infrastructure across states.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Assam,[176] Tripura,[177] Delhi[178] and Gujarat[179] have incentivised clean transport through dedicated EV policies offering purchase subsidies, tax waivers and registration exemptions, while Uttar Pradesh,[180]

[173] Government Of Meghalaya.
[174] Meghalaya Vehicle Scrappage Policy, 2025.
[175] PIB, October, 2024.
[176] Electric Vehicle Policy Of Assam, 2021.
[177] Tripura Electric Vehicle Policy, 2022.
[178] Delhi EV Policy.
[179] Gujarat State Electric Vehicle Policy 2021.
[180] EV Subsidy Portal Uttar Pradesh.

A. Cabinet Approval To Meghalaya Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy, 2026
Source: News On Air, India Today, Meghalaya Monitor | **Impact**: High

Maharashtra,[181] Karnataka[182] and Tamil Nadu[183] have promoted electric mobility through state frameworks, battery swapping incentives, scrappage bonuses, and charging network expansions.

6. **Relevance -**
   a. Meghalaya's mountainous terrain and dispersed settlements make road transport the primary mode of passenger and freight movement, increasing dependence on imported fossil fuels. Despite possessing an estimated 3,000 MW of hydropower potential, only 13% (i.e., 378 MW) has been harnessed,[184] while electric mobility remains nascent with over 5,000 registered EVs as of mid-2026.[185] The policy addresses this structural imbalance through purchase incentives and charging infrastructure expansion, leveraging indigenous renewable energy to reduce transport fuel dependence and improve long-term energy security.
   b. Surging vehicular traffic driven by 18 lakh annual tourists (like 16 lakh domestic, 2 lakh international) across circuits like Shillong, Sohra, and Dawki subjects Meghalaya's fragile hill ecosystems to severe acoustic disruption and carbon accumulation.[186] The policy thereby promotes the transition of commercial taxis and passenger vehicles to electric mobility through fiscal incentives and charging infrastructure, enabling cleaner transport in high-footfall tourism corridors.
   c. Reducing vehicular emissions along these routes supports sustainable tourism, lowers the environmental footprint of visitor mobility and complements the state's broader climate resilience objectives.
   d. Byrnihat, Meghalaya's industrial cluster along the Assam border, frequently exceeds National Ambient Air Quality Standards,[187] prompting the Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board to implement a dedicated City Action Plan and Graded Response Action Plan.[188] It identifies industrial emissions and heavy diesel freight traffic as major contributors to PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ pollution. Complementing these measures, the policy accelerates the transition to cleaner transport, reducing transport-related particulate emissions, and improving ambient air quality.

181 Maharashtra's New Electric Vehicle Policy (2025–2030).
182 Karnataka Clean Mobility Policy, 2025-2030.
183 Tamil Nadu Electric Vehicles Policy, 2023.
184 Meghalaya Power Policy 2024, Government Of Meghalaya, Page 24.
185 Shillong Times, July, 2026.
186 Assam Tribune, September, 2025.
187 Times Of India, July, 2026.
188 City Action Plan For Control Of Air Pollution, January, 2024.

VI. Gujarat

A. Gujarat Shipbuilding And Repair Policy, 2026
Source: The Government Of Gujarat, The Hindu Business Line | **Impact**: Medium
1. On 27th July, 2026, the Government of Gujarat unveiled the Gujarat Shipbuilding and Repair Policy, 2026 which aims to position Gujarat as India's leading shipbuilding and ship repair hub. 2. The policy aims to attract private investment, develop integrated shipbuilding infrastructure, promote ancillary industries, and strengthen the state's maritime manufacturing ecosystem. 3. **Key Features -** a. The policy targets ₹ 27,000 crore in investments through a Mega Greenfield Shipbuilding Cluster at Kuchhadi in Porbandar, including ₹ 23,700 crore in private investment and ₹ 3,300 crore in common infrastructure supported by the Central and the state Government. b. The policy provides waterfront concessions and lease periods of up to 50 years for shipyards with capacities above 30,000 Deadweight Tonnage (DWT),[189] while shipyards below 30,000 DWT receive an initial 15-year concession, extendable up to 30 years based on performance. c. It enables the development of shipbuilding and repair yards through sites identified by Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB), private ports, Integrated Mega Shipbuilding Parks (IMSPs), Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models, and Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) proposals. d. It introduces fiscal incentives, including capital assistance of up to 20% of eligible fixed capital investment, 100% reimbursement of stamp duty and registration fees, interest subvention, dredging assistance, and incentives for MSME procurement, marine equipment manufacturing clusters, and early-bird investors. e. The policy proposes a single-window clearance system, a dedicated grievance redressal mechanism, and support for skill development, research and development, and common maritime infrastructure. 4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the Central Government's Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme (SBFAS), the Maritime Development Fund (MDF), and the Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS), which promote competitive shipbuilding, long-term maritime financing, and expansion of domestic shipbuilding capacity.[190]

[189] Deadweight tonnage (DWT) is the maximum weight a ship can safely carry, calculated as the difference between its fully loaded displacement and its empty weight.
[190] PIB, July, 2026.

A. Gujarat Shipbuilding And Repair Policy, 2026
Source: The Government Of Gujarat, The Hindu Business Line | **Impact**: Medium

5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Andhra Pradesh,[191] Tamil Nadu,[192] and Maharashtra[193] have adopted shipbuilding and ship repair policies to promote maritime manufacturing and attract investments in the shipbuilding sector through the Andhra Pradesh Maritime Policy (2024–29), the Tamil Nadu Shipbuilding Policy, 2026, and the Maharashtra Shipbuilding, Ship Repair and Ship Recycling Policy, 2025, respectively.
6. **Relevance -**
    a. India's shipbuilding market share remains below 1%, and the country ranks around 22nd globally, well behind China, South Korea and Japan, which together account for roughly 90% of the world's shipbuilding output.[194] The policy's target of raising Gujarat's capacity to over 50 lakh Deadweight Tonnage (DWT) through the Kuchhadi cluster directly supports the Centre's stated ambition of moving India into the top 10 shipbuilding nations by 2030 and the top 5 by 2047.[195]
    b. The Centre's financing mechanisms for the sector, including the SbDS (₹ 19,989 crore) and the SBFAS (₹ 24,736 crore extended up to 2036), are aimed at addressing the cost disadvantages faced by domestic shipyards relative to global competitors and supporting the development of new greenfield clusters.[196] The policy, including its ₹ 3,300 crore allocation for common infrastructure at Kuchhadi, is positioned to leverage the Central support mechanisms rather than relying solely on state budgetary resources for infrastructure development.
    c. Gujarat's shipbuilding push builds upon an existing, though relatively concentrated, maritime manufacturing base. The state's 1,600-km coastline already supports a significant share of India's port activity, while its Pipavav shipyard in Amreli district houses one of the country's largest dry docks, capable of handling vessels of up to 400,000 Deadweight Tonnage (DWT).[197] The policy's Integrated Mega Shipbuilding Parks seek to expand this existing industrial capability by creating additional capacity at Porbandar, rather than developing shipbuilding infrastructure in the state from the ground up.

[191] Andhra Pradesh Maritime Policy, (2024-29).
[192] Tamil Nadu Shipbuilding Policy, 2026.
[193] The Indian Express, April, 2025.
[194] Economic Times, March, 2026.
[195] PIB, July, 2024.
[196] PIB, July, 2026.
[197] Economic Times, June, 2026.

Social Sector Schemes

I. Telangana

A. Indiramma Indlu Urban Housing Scheme, 2026
Source: The Hindu, The Times Of India | **Impact**: High

1. On 20th July, 2026, the Telangana Government launched the Indiramma Indlu Urban Housing Scheme for the Core Urban Region (CURE), sanctioning the construction of 1 lakh houses for economically weaker urban families.
2. The scheme seeks to provide affordable multi-storey housing to homeless low-income families within the Outer Ring Road (ORR) limits, extending the state's flagship housing programme into Hyderabad's urban core through Government-built housing towers rather than beneficiary-led construction.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The first phase of the scheme sanctions 480 houses each in 16 of the 24 Assembly constituencies within CURE, totalling 7,680 houses, with the remaining 8 segments to be covered subsequently.
   b. The scheme expands its cumulative sanction pipeline to 8 lakh units with the approval of 1 lakh CURE houses, building directly upon the 4.5 lakh and 2.5 lakh housing units sanctioned during the programme's first and second phases, respectively.
   c. Beneficiaries of allotted houses receive a Government subsidy of ₹ 5 lakh on units costing ₹ 11 lakh each, with a dedicated housing scheme for middle-class families announced to follow.
   d. Eligibility under the scheme requires 10 years of continuous residence in Hyderabad and an annual family income of up to ₹ 6 lakh, with applications open from 21st July to 10th August, 2026.
   e. The Telangana Housing Board will construct the low-income group housing towers on Government lands within the ORR, with 17 locations tentatively identified and each flat carrying a carpet area of 400 sq ft and a built-up area of 528 sq ft.
   f. Under the scheme, land parcels have been identified across constituencies including LB Nagar, Malkajgiri, Medchal, Uppal, Khairatabad, Jubilee Hills, Rajendranagar, Nampally and Patancheru, alongside a brochure detailing the application process, eligibility, and guidelines.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The scheme aligns with the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0,[198] to support one crore urban poor and middle-class

[198] PMAY-U 2.0.

A. Indiramma Indlu Urban Housing Scheme, 2026
Source: The Hindu, The Times Of India | **Impact**: High
families over five years.[199] 5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Karnataka implements the Chief Minister's One Lakh Multi-Storeyed Bengaluru Housing Scheme through the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Housing Corporation Limited, constructing G+3 to G+14 towers[200] for houseless Economically Weaker Section families with a 30.44 sq m carpet area at a unit cost of ₹ 6 lakh.[201] 6. **Relevance** - a. Following the June, 2026 statewide revision of guidance values, the highest notified values are concentrated in prime central Hyderabad localities and average transaction prices exceeding ₹ 8,000 to ₹ 12,000 per sq ft inside the ORR.[202] Hence, low-income urban families are completely priced out of private real estate markets. The CURE framework directly resolves this market exclusion by constructing multi-storey housing towers on free, Government-owned land inside the ORR, enabling Low-Income Group (LIG) households to secure permanent homeownership. b. Historical public housing drives in Hyderabad relocated beneficiaries to distant urban fringes in outer districts, resulting in over 12,000 units remaining unoccupied due to severe commute costs and severance from informal labor markets.[203] The scheme corrects this spatial mismatch by constructing multi-storey housing towers directly within 16 core Assembly constituencies (including Khairatabad, Nampally, Jubilee Hills, and Uppal), ensuring beneficiaries remain within a 5 km radius of their existing workplaces and social networks.[204] c. Following the 2025–2026 expansion of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) past 2,000 sq km across 300 wards, informal housing challenges have scaled significantly.[205] A joint multi-departmental survey by the Telangana Housing Corporation and GHMC identified 166 core slum settlements containing 25,501 temporary (kacha) housing units across the metropolis. In these informal clusters, working-class households face extreme financial stress,

[199] PIB, August, 2024.
[200] The term G+3 to G+14 specifies the height of the towers, meaning a Ground floor plus 3 to 14 additional floors.
[201] Rajiv Gandhi Rural Housing Corporation Limited.
[202] Times Of India, May, 2026.
[203] Economic Times, March, 2026.
[204] Economic Times, March, 2026.
[205] Telangana Today, December, 2025.

A. Indiramma Indlu Urban Housing Scheme, 2026
Source: The Hindu, The Times Of India | **Impact**: High
frequently spending over 70% of their monthly income on single-room rentals.[206] The scheme remedies this working-class vulnerability by transitioning informal tenants into legal owners of 400 sq ft carpet-area apartments, upgrading urban living standards while retaining vital labor supply within the core municipal zone.

[206] The Hindu, July, 2025.

B. New Employees Health Scheme (NEHS), 2026
Source: The Times Of India, The Siasat Daily | **Impact**: Medium

1. On 17th July, 2026, the Telangana Government launched the New Employees Health Scheme.
2. The scheme provides **cashless, transparent and digitally administered** healthcare to approximately eight lakh Government employees and pensioners and approximately 9.9 lakh dependent family members, about 17.88 lakh beneficiaries in all.
3. **Key Features -**
    a. The scheme establishes a dual-tier provider network comprising 886 empanelled private hospitals and 114 public facilities, integrating major tertiary corporate healthcare chains such as Apollo, Yashoda, KIMS, Medicover, Kamineni, Continental, CARE, STAR, and Basavatarakam to guarantee cashless inpatient treatment across both urban centers and peripheral districts.
    b. The scheme defines a comprehensive clinical matrix covering 1,816 medical treatments and surgical procedures, benchmarking institutional reimbursement package tariffs directly to Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) rates to balance hospital operational viability with long-term state fiscal discipline.
    c. The scheme has also constituted an Employees Health Care Trust (EHCT), representing Government officials and employee-union representatives, embedding joint oversight of scheme administration.
    d. It deploys an end-to-end digital architecture consisting of a dedicated web portal and biometric beneficiary health cards, fully automating hospital empanelment, clinical pre-authorisations, tracking, and claim settlement workflows to minimize administrative lead times and paper-based friction.
    e. It also drives concurrent public infrastructure augmentation by upgrading state Employees' State Insurance (ESI) hospitals with dedicated dialysis units, CT scan facilities, specialised burns wards, and cardiac care centers, alongside fast-tracking regional multi-super-specialty hospital developments to decentralise tertiary care capacity.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** By anchoring its benefit packages to CGHS rates and issuing digital health cards, the scheme aligns with the Central Government's employee-healthcare pricing architecture and the digital-records direction of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.[207]

[207] Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.

B. New Employees Health Scheme (NEHS), 2026
Source: The Times Of India, The Siasat Daily | **Impact**: Medium

5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Tamil Nadu[208] and Goa[209] have already systematically upgraded their respective state health insurance frameworks through empanelled-network models.
6. **Relevance** -
   a. State Government employees and retirees in Telangana historically faced severe out-of-pocket expenditure and debt due to delayed reimbursements and private hospital refusals.[210] Establishing a self-sustaining funding mechanism, where a 1.5% basic pay contribution is matched equally by state funds into a dedicated trust,[211] eliminates upfront cash barriers during critical medical emergencies for over 17.88 lakh beneficiaries across the state.[212]
   b. Operational friction in public healthcare schemes often stems from top-down administrative models that exclude beneficiary unions from oversight. Therefore, structuring the EHCT under a 30-member joint board, comprising 17 Government officials, 10 active employee representatives, and 3 pensioner delegates, institutionalises direct stakeholder oversight over claim processing, policy adjustments, and dispute resolution.[213]
   c. Previous state health coverage programmes suffered frequent disruptions when tertiary private hospitals opted out over unviable rates and mounting arrears. Benchmarking 1,816 medical and surgical procedures to standardised CGHS package tariffs balances fiscal discipline with fair provider compensation, successfully re-engaging major corporate hospital chains into the public healthcare delivery architecture.[214]
   d. Secondary and tertiary healthcare access in Telangana has historically been concentrated in urban hubs like Hyderabad, forcing workforce beneficiaries in peripheral districts to travel for routine specialty care.[215] Coupling the cashless inpatient coverage with 24 new district wellness centers and an end-to-end digital portal decentralises outpatient care while eliminating paper-heavy pre-authorisations to drastically reduce claim settlement cycles.[216]

[208] Tamil Nadu New Health Insurance Scheme.
[209] Government Of Goa.
[210] Deccan Chronicle, June, 2026.
[211] Deccan Chronicle, June, 2026.
[212] Times Of India, July, 2026.
[213] The Hindu, July, 2026.
[214] Times Of India, July, 2026.
[215] Times Of India, March, 2026.
[216] Times Of India, July, 2026.

C. ₹ 740 Crore Outlay For Rural Health Sub-Centres Infrastructure, 2026

Source: The Hindu Business Line, The Hindu | **Impact**: Medium

1. On 24th July, 2026, the Telangana Government released ₹ 740 crore to the Health Department for the construction of 1,569 new health sub-centres across rural Telangana.
2. The initiative seeks to strengthen grassroots medical infrastructure, expand village-level diagnostic capabilities, and reduce out-of-pocket healthcare expenses for rural populations.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The initiative earmarks a ₹ 740 crore budget to build 1,569 new health sub-centres throughout rural districts.
   b. It introduces complimentary diagnostic testing directly in villages, removing the need for local residents to travel to urban hubs for fundamental checks.
   c. The initiative also focuses on early disease screening and prompt primary care intervention to reduce healthcare expenses for low and middle-income families.
   d. It incorporates grassroots clinics into the state delivery network to guarantee fair access to essential treatment in far-flung regions.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Andhra Pradesh (YSR Village Health Clinics),[217] Tamil Nadu (Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam Scheme),[218] Karnataka (Namma Clinic Network)[219] and Kerala (Family Health Centre Transformation Project)[220] have also expanded rural primary care sub-centres.
5. **Relevance** -
   a. Rural Telangana faces substantial out-of-pocket medical costs, averaging ₹ 10,788 annually per four-person household, primarily driven by private diagnostic fees, foregone wages, and travel expenses incurred when accessing urban medical hubs.[221]
   b. Empirical findings demonstrate that localising diagnostic sample collection at rural Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and sub-centres slashes average rural patient Out Of Pocket Expense (OOPE) from ₹ 9,451 to ₹ 90.90 (comprising a 99% reduction) by reducing direct medical fees from ₹ 7,017 to ₹ 75.80 and travel/food costs from ₹ 787 to ₹ 12.40.[222] Localising early detection essentially prevents minor

[217] YSR Village Health Clinics.
[218] Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam Scheme.
[219] The Hindu, October, 2025.
[220] Family Health Centre Transformation Project.
[221] Deccan Chronicle, June, 2026.
[222] The South First, July, 2026.

C. ₹ 740 Crore Outlay For Rural Health Sub-Centres Infrastructure, 2026
Source: The Hindu Business Line, The Hindu | **Impact**: Medium
health conditions from escalating into costly secondary emergencies, effectively insulating rural agricultural households from debt traps. c. Telangana's apex public hospitals face sustained outpatient pressure, with Osmania General Hospital handling over 3,000 outpatient visits daily, increasing demand on tertiary facilities.[223] To reduce avoidable tertiary referrals, the state is expanding specialist access through 145 Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs)-linked urban polyclinics, bringing consultations and diagnostics closer to communities.[224] By strengthening primary-level triage and referral pathways, the initiative can shift routine cases away from tertiary hospitals, allowing them to prioritise emergency care, surgeries and complex treatments. d. While Andhra Pradesh (Village Health Clinics) and Tamil Nadu (642 sub-health centres in February, 2026)[225] expand rural sub-tiers, Kerala's Family Health Centres (FHCs) upgrade PHCs,[226] Karnataka's Namma Clinics target urban areas,[227] and Tamil Nadu's Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam[228] offers doorstep screening and are not direct equivalents of rural sub-centre construction. Telangana establishes the foundational brick-and-mortar infrastructure to deliver village-level diagnostics, bridging the gap between home-based care and higher-tier health facilities. e. Historically constrained by rigid population norms, marginalised communities across Telangana's Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) belts, including Bhadradri Kothagudem and Adilabad have faced healthcare access gaps.[229] Supported by a ₹ 4,536.90-crore[230] allocation under the 2025–26 Scheduled Tribes Special Development Fund (STSDF), primary care is being decentralised directly into remote hamlets.

[223] Times Of India, December, 2025.
[224] Times Of India, June, 2026.
[225] Times Of India, February, 2026.
[226] Government Of Kerala.
[227] The Hindu, February, 2023.
[228] National Library Of Medicine, December, 2025.
[229] Journal Of Research In Humanities And Social Science, May, 2025, Page 26.
[230] Government Of Telangana, March, 2025, Page 7.

II. Gujarat

A. Samras Vidya Setu Mega Campaign, 2026
Source: The Economic Times | **Impact**: High

1. On 22nd July, 2026, the Government of Gujarat launched the Samras Vidya Setu Mega Campaign to re-enrol **out-of-school children in age-appropriate classes**.
2. The campaign aims to achieve zero school dropouts by bridging learning gaps through academic support and strengthening community participation in school education.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The campaign targets the re-enrolment of over 80,000 school dropout children in age-appropriate classes from Standards I to XII across Gujarat.
   b. It provides bridge courses and academic support to help re-enrolled students overcome learning gaps and reintegrate into mainstream education.
   c. The implementation framework mandates district-wise identification of dropout children and outreach through teachers, public representatives, community leaders, and parents to facilitate re-enrolment.
   d. The monitoring mechanism requires teachers to conduct home visits when a child remains absent for two consecutive days and maintain regular engagement with parents to prevent dropouts.
   e. The campaign engages School Management Committees (SMCs), Cluster Resource Centre (CRC) and Block Resource Centre (BRC) coordinators, district and taluka administrations, voluntary organisations, and local communities.
4. **Legal Alignment -** The campaign aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 and the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009,[231] which promotes universal school enrolment, retention, and equitable access to quality education.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Odisha has operationalised the Aaso School Jiba initiative to facilitate the reintegration of out-of-school children into the formal education system.[232] Similarly, Bihar has engaged JEEVIKA self-help groups to identify out-of-school girls and support their re-enrolment through coordinated efforts involving schools, local communities, and partner organisations.[233]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. According to UDISE+ 2025–26 data, Gujarat's overall secondary school (Classes 9–10) dropout rate stands at 15.7%, significantly higher than the national average of

[231] The Right Of Children To Free And Compulsory Education Act, 2009.
[232] Deccan Chronicle, July, 2025.
[233] The Times Of India, July, 2026.

A. Samras Vidya Setu Mega Campaign, 2026
Source: The Economic Times | **Impact**: High
9.5%. The gap is even wider among boys, with a dropout rate of 17.6% compared to the national average of 10.9%.[234] This is particularly relevant to the campaign, which seeks to re-enrol out-of-school children in age-appropriate classes from Standards I to XII. The campaign is being launched at a stage where the state's own latest data indicates one of its most persistent educational challenges, retaining students in secondary education. b. Earlier, a three-day enrolment campaign conducted in June, 2026 had already targeted around 6.4 lakh students reported as having dropped out during the previous year, reducing the number of out-of-school children to approximately 50,000, according to the Government's own estimates.[235] c. Against this backdrop, the newly announced figure of more than 80,000 dropout children under the current campaign, significantly higher than the residual figure reported just weeks earlier, suggests that the state has undertaken a fresh and broader identification exercise, potentially using updated criteria or more extensive field-level verification. d. Between 2020 and 2025, Gujarat identified around 1.1 lakh adolescent girls who were out of school, while the state recorded a 341% surge in overall dropouts during this period.[236] Over the same decade, roughly 5,000 Government schools were shut in Gujarat, with the number of Government schools declining by 8% between 2014 and 2024, while private schools expanded by 14.9% during the same period.[237] These trends provide important context for the current campaign. e. As the campaign relies on teacher-led outreach and home visits to re-enrol out-of-school children, the success of these re-enrolment efforts may also be influenced by the availability of accessible schooling facilities. In areas with limited nearby school infrastructure, ensuring continued enrolment and regular attendance would require additional efforts.

234 Indian Express, July, 2026.
235 Indian Express, July, 2026.
236 NDTV, December, 2025.
237 Hindustan Times, February, 2025.

III. Bihar

A. Anganwadi Worker/Helper Selection Guidelines, 2026
Source: The Print | **Impact**: Medium

1. On 29th July, 2026, the Bihar Cabinet approved the Anganwadi Worker/Helper Selection Guidelines, 2026.
2. The guidelines aim to **fill vacant positions** in Anganwadi Centres across Bihar to strengthen the delivery of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and improve access to nutrition, early childhood care, health, and pre-school education services for children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The guidelines provide for the recruitment of 22,891 vacant positions across Anganwadi Centres in the state.
   b. Recruitment will be undertaken for 6,141 Anganwadi Worker posts and 16,750 Anganwadi Helper posts.
   c. A uniform state-level selection framework approved by the Cabinet will govern the recruitment process.
   d. The framework creates greater opportunities for women from the respective feeder areas to be selected as Anganwadi Workers and Helpers.
   e. The initiative seeks to strengthen service delivery under the ICDS programme, covering nutrition, pre-school education, health check-ups, immunisation, referral services, and nutrition and health education.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The guidelines align with the Ministry of Women and Child Development's Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0 Mission, which integrates Anganwadi Services and other nutrition-focused schemes to strengthen maternal and child nutrition outcomes.[238]
5. **Relevance -**
   a. According to the National Family Health Survey-6, more than 35% of children under the age of five in Bihar have stunted growth, making it one of the poorest-performing states on this indicator.[239] As Anganwadi Centres serve as the primary platform for delivering supplementary nutrition, growth monitoring, and early childhood care under the ICDS programme, the recruitment of 22,891 Anganwadi Workers and Helpers is expected to strengthen frontline service delivery and address critical staffing shortages that constrain efforts to improve child nutrition outcomes.
   b. The guidelines prioritise the selection of women from the same feeder area (ward

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238 Mission Saksham Anganwadi And Poshan 2.0.
239 Deccan Herald, May, 2026.

A. Anganwadi Worker/Helper Selection Guidelines, 2026
Source: The Print | **Impact**: Medium
or village) as the Anganwadi Centre.[240] By recruiting local residents as Anganwadi Workers and Helpers, the state seeks to strengthen links between frontline workers and beneficiary households. Since, Anganwadi Workers are often the first point of contact for pregnant women, lactating mothers, and young children. c. In light of the above, local recruitment can enhance accessibility, community trust, and the delivery of nutrition, health, counselling, and referral services under the ICDS programme. d. Lastly, modern ICDS delivery relies on daily mobile reporting for supplementary nutrition, growth metrics, and take-home rations (THR). Unfilled posts have historically created blind spots in digital health data. Completing recruitment potentially ensures real-time health data collection across all 38 districts in the state.

[240] The Pioneer, July, 2026.

IV. Sikkim

A. CM-SAATHI (SATHEE) Initiative
Source: The Government Of Sikkim, India Today | **Impact**: Medium

1. On 17th July, 2026, the Chief Minister launched the CM-SAATHI (SATHEE) Initiative to provide **free competitive entrance examination coaching** to secondary school students across the State.
2. The initiative seeks to deliver technology-enabled academic support for JEE and NEET aspirants to eliminate financial barriers to higher education.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The initiative operationalises digital learning resources in technical collaboration with IIT Kanpur to deliver video lectures, study materials, mock tests and doubt-resolution support.
   b. It targets over 2,000 students enrolled across more than 40 Government and private schools in its initial rollout phase.
   c. The initiative incorporates capacity-building and subject-matter training for Science and Mathematics teachers delivered in collaboration with IIT Kanpur.
   d. It builds upon the institutional framework of the Lakshya Centre of Excellence to extend remote competitive coaching to students across rural and urban regions.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Uttar Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Bihar launched the Mukhyamantri Abhyuday Yojana,[241] the PARVAAZ Scheme under Mission Youth,[242] and the BSEB Free Coaching Scheme[243] respectively, providing free coaching and academic guidance to students preparing for JEE, NEET and civil service examinations.
5. **Relevance -**
   a. Aspirants from Sikkim face significant financial and geographical hurdles, often forced to relocate to distant urban hubs for competitive coaching.[244] The initiative directly bridges this socio-economic divide by integrating digitised study modules, AI-driven practice tests, expert video lectures, and live doubt-clearing tools into local classrooms.
   b. Building upon Sikkim's Lakshya Centre of Excellence,[245] this hyper-local delivery model ensures equitable competitive access while simultaneously upskilling local Science and Mathematics educators through IIT Kanpur's academic mentorship.
   c. Local Sikkimese candidates have historically faced low qualification rates in

[241] Mukhyamantri Abhyuday Yojana.
[242] Mission Youth, Jammu And Kashmir.
[243] BSEB Free Coaching Scheme.
[244] Government Of Sikkim.
[245] Government Of Sikkim.

A. CM-SAATHI (SATHEE) Initiative
Source: The Government Of Sikkim, India Today | **Impact**: Medium
national entrance tests, leading to underutilisation of state-reserved technical and medical seats.[246] With the state-run Sikkim Government Medical College at Sochakgang commencing its inaugural 100-seat MBBS intake in 2026–27,[247] the scheme's structured NEET preparation directly enhances the competitive benchmark of local aspirants. d. Government schools in Sikkim have traditionally focused on board examination curricula, while specialised pedagogical support aligned with national entrance examinations remains limited within the public education system.[248] By integrating structured capacity-building for Science and Mathematics teachers in partnership with IIT Kanpur, the initiative institutionalises competitive examination pedagogy within schools rather than relying exclusively on external coaching providers.

[246] Economic Times, July, 2026.
[247] Economic Times, July, 2026.
[248] Educational Administration: Theory And Practice, April, 2024.

V. Kerala

A. KSRTC Women-Only Pink Bus Pilot Project, 2026
Source: The Economic Times, Kerala Kaumudi | **Impact**: Medium

1. On 23rd July, 2026, the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation launched the women-only Pink Bus pilot service at the Central Depot in Thiruvananthapuram to improve **safe public transit for female commuters** at night time.
2. The pilot project seeks to provide safe, reliable and affordable mobility for women, specifically addressing travel vulnerabilities faced by IT professionals, healthcare workers, late-shift employees, and night-time commuters.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The pilot project operates dedicated fast passenger bus services across the primary transit corridor linking Thiruvananthapuram, Technopark and Attingal, connecting vital hubs including East Fort, Thampanoor, Pattom, Medical College, RCC, Kazhakkoottam, Infosys, Lulu Mall and KIMS Hospital.
   b. It establishes fixed daily operational schedules running from 6:00 PM to 10:45 PM and early morning hours from 4:00 AM to 8:00 AM to sync directly with late-night and early-morning workforce shift changes.
   c. It deploys all-woman crews aboard designated KSRTC fast passenger buses drawn from Thiruvananthapuram and Ernakulam depots to maintain an exclusive and secure environment for women commuters.
   d. The pilot project is introduced as part of the state Government's 100-day action programme in direct response to representations submitted by IT workforce organisation Prathidhwani regarding night-shift transit security.
   e. It plans future operational expansion including panic safety buttons, real-time tracking systems, online reservation capabilities and electric bus deployment across major urban centres in Kerala.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The pilot project aligns directly with the National Urban Transport Policy[249] which prioritises gender-sensitive urban transport infrastructure, panic-response systems, and secure transit options for working women.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Delhi,[250] Karnataka,[251] Tamil Nadu[252] and West Bengal[253] offer dedicated women's bus initiatives through the Pink Ticket, Shakti, Vidiyal Payanam and Safe City schemes, respectively.

[249] National Urban Transport Policy.
[250] Times Of India, July, 2026.
[251] Indian Express, June, 2026.
[252] Social Welfare And Women Empowerment Department.
[253] The Telegraph, June, 2026.

A. KSRTC Women-Only Pink Bus Pilot Project, 2026
Source: The Economic Times, Kerala Kaumudi | **Impact**: Medium

6. **Relevance -**
   a. Women represent 45% of Technopark's direct IT/ITeS workforce (~33,000 to 36,000 female tech professionals out of 75,000+ total employees),[254] alongside thousands more working late shifts across 24/7 healthcare hubs (such as Regional Cancer Centre, KIMS Hospital, and Medical College) and commercial corridors (including Lulu Mall and Infosys). To address commuting safety gaps, KSRTC connects major tech and healthcare hubs directly to central transit stations and encourages women to accept late shifts and overnight employment.
   b. With the average daily wage of an unskilled female worker in Kerala estimated at around ₹ 811 in 2025–26,[255] dependence on private transport during late-night hours can impose a significant financial burden on women employed in healthcare, sanitation, retail and hospitality. By introducing structured, fixed-fare night public transport, the initiative lowers commuting costs, improves affordability of shift-based employment and enhances income retention among low-wage women workers.
   c. Despite sustained financial support from the state, KSRTC continues to require significant fiscal assistance, with the Kerala Government providing ₹ 1,399 crore during FY 2025–26, including ₹ 879 crore towards pension payments and ₹ 520 crore as special financial assistance, while the 2026–27 Budget also earmarks a dedicated revival package, including support for fleet modernisation.[256]
   d. The introduction of dedicated night-transit services connecting major healthcare, IT and commercial employment clusters enables KSRTC to monetise existing fleet capacity beyond conventional peak hours by serving predictable shift-based commuter demand.
   e. This strategy builds on operational gains, under which improved fleet deployment and service rationalisation helped KSRTC achieve a record daily ticket revenue of ₹ 10.77 crore (₹ 11.53 crore including non-ticket revenue) in December, 2025 without any fare revision.[257] Expanding similar demand-responsive services can generate additional fare revenue from existing assets, improve operational sustainability and strengthen urban mobility for night-shift workers.

[254] Technopark.
[255] Government Of Kerala.
[256] Times Of India, February, 2026.
[257] Times Of India, December, 2025.

V. Uttar Pradesh

A. Guidelines For Implementation Of The Rani Lakshmibai Scooty Yojana, 2026
Source: The Hindu | **Impact**: Medium

1. On 21st July, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the guidelines for the implementation of the Rani Lakshmibai Scooty Yojana, 2026 to provide free scooters to meritorious undergraduate girl students in the state.
2. The scheme aims to improve access to higher education by enhancing mobility, reducing dropout rates, increasing student retention, and improving the GER, particularly in rural and remote areas.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The scheme provides free petrol-powered scooters to meritorious undergraduate girl students domiciled in the state during the 2025–26 academic session.
   b. The eligibility criteria restrict benefits to the top 5% of female graduates from state Universities, Private Universities, and Government, Government-Aided, and Self-Financed colleges affiliated with state Universities.
   c. The scheme provides for the procurement of scooters through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) to ensure transparency and quality in procurement.
   d. The benefit package includes the scooter, registration charges, comprehensive vehicle insurance, an ISI-marked helmet, four litres of petrol and necessary accessories without any additional financial burden on beneficiaries.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The scheme aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, particularly its 'Equitable and Inclusive Education' pillar which promotes greater access, participation, and retention of women in education.[258]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Rajasthan provides free scooters to meritorious girls under the Kali Bai Bheel Medhavi Chhatra Scooty Scheme,[259] Madhya Pradesh provides free scooters to meritorious Class 12 students under the Mukhyamantri Scooty Yojana,[260] and Assam distributes scooters to students scoring 80% or above under the Dr. Bani Kanta Kakati Merit Award.[261]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Female participation in higher education in the state remains constrained by access barriers, with nearly 60% of women aged 18–29 being Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) compared with 16% of young men, alongside challenges related to institutional access and mobility constraints.[262] The scheme

[258] PIB, March, 2025.
[259] Higher Education Department, Government Of Rajasthan.
[260] The News Mill, July, 2026.
[261] Directorate Of Higher Education, Government Of Assam.
[262] Hindustan Times, October, 2025.

A. Guidelines For Implementation Of The Rani Lakshmibai Scooty Yojana, 2026
Source: The Hindu | **Impact**: Medium
seeks to address these barriers by providing a comprehensive mobility package that includes a scooter, registration fees, comprehensive insurance, an ISI-certified helmet, and fuel support, thereby facilitating continued participation in higher education. b. The decision to provide petrol-powered two-wheelers rather than electric alternatives reflects prevailing infrastructure realities, particularly in rural areas where petrol pumps and authorised service centres remain far more widespread than EV charging networks. By aligning the benefit with existing transport and maintenance infrastructure, the scheme seeks to ensure reliable and uninterrupted daily mobility for beneficiaries. c. By limiting eligibility to the top 5%[263] of female graduates within each institution, including state Universities, Private Universities, and affiliated Government, Government-Aided, and Self-Financed colleges, the scheme adopts a decentralised merit-based selection framework. This approach avoids a single state-wide cut-off that could disproportionately benefit students from better-resourced urban institutions and instead ensures a more geographically balanced distribution of benefits across all 75 districts. d. Notably, waiving merit thresholds and the ₹ 12-lakh income cap for disabled students, daughters of martyrs, and girls from destitute families establishes an inclusive safety net within a performance-linked welfare program.

[263] The Hindu, July, 2026.

VI. Arunachal Pradesh

A. Cabinet Approval To Healthcare Measures
Source: News On Air, The Times Of India | **Impact**: Medium

1. On 17th July, 2026, the Arunachal Pradesh Cabinet approved a package of healthcare and social welfare measures headlined by flagship initiatives, i.e., CM CARES, Mission SURAKSHA and Ayushman Arogya Shivir.
2. The framework seeks to **widen access to affordable medical treatment**, integrate health with social security systems, strengthen preventive healthcare and establish a unified mission-mode framework to combat drug trafficking and substance harm across the state.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. **Chief Minister's Comprehensive Action For Resilient, Equitable And Healthy State (CM CARES):**
      i. **Health And Social Security Convergence:** It establishes CM CARES as an umbrella scheme to integrate various state health and social security programmes, providing seamless access to affordable medical care and social safety nets.
      ii. **Preventive And Primary Care Strengthening:** It prioritises early disease detection, expands primary healthcare infrastructure, and streamlines medical supply chains to reduce out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure for rural and vulnerable populations.
   b. **Mission State Unified Response Against Drugs, Substance Harm And Addiction (SURAKSHA):**
      i. **Unified Anti-Drug Governance Structure:** It launches Mission SURAKSHA to bring prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, recovery, and law enforcement under a single, integrated governance structure.
      ii. **Holistic Harm Reduction And Community Safety:** It addresses the intersection of substance abuse with youth well-being, mental health, family welfare, and HIV prevention, while strengthening multi-agency enforcement against illicit drug networks.
   c. **Ayushman Arogya Shivir (Intensified 30-Day Integrated Health Camps):**
      i. **Last-Mile Delivery in Remote Terrains:** It deploys a 30-day statewide campaign of integrated health camps designed to overcome terrain challenges and improve last-mile delivery of preventive, promotive and curative care in remote and hilly settlements
      ii. **Targeted Disease Elimination & Converged Community Care:** It prioritises Tuberculosis elimination in alignment with the national TB-Mukt Bharat target

A. Cabinet Approval To Healthcare Measures
Source: News On Air, The Times Of India | **Impact**: Medium

through intensified screening and early diagnosis, while consolidating maternal and child health, NCD screening, mental health, immunization and elderly care onto a single community platform. Additionally, elected representatives and local bodies are urged to adopt TB patients under the Ni-kshay Mitra initiative.

4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The framework aligns directly with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission[264] and National Health Policy, 2017 under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,[265] as well as the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan[266] under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Assam,[267] Mizoram[268] and Punjab[269] implement dedicated state anti-drug missions, integrated de-addiction networks and targeted youth mental health interventions.
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Arunachal Pradesh has experienced an alarming escalation in intravenous drug use among youth, driving a sharp surge in co-occurring blood-borne infections, as evidenced by a state-wide HIV case rise of over 400% alongside mounting Hepatitis B/C rates across high-density hubs.[270]
   b. Launching Mission SURAKSHA establishes an integrated governance umbrella that directly fuses anti-drug law enforcement with public health harm reduction, district task forces, and community surveillance. Fusing addict rehabilitation with compulsory clinical screening and after-care support breaks transmission chains, curbing drug-fueled infectious disease epidemics across vulnerable youth populations.
   c. Extreme geographical isolation across Arunachal Pradesh's interior forces over 62.5%[271] of rural patients to seek secondary and tertiary care in distant hubs in Assam, incurring catastrophic out-of-pocket costs. This financial drain drives nearly half of affected tribal households into medical debt or distress asset liquidation.
   d. Decentralising diagnostic supply chains across 256 sub-centres, 82 PHCs, and 64 Block Public Health Units, coupled with ₹ 5 lakh cashless coverage under CM

264 Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.
265 National Health Policy, 2017.
266 Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan.
267 The Hindu, July, 2026.
268 News On Air, September, 2025.
269 The Hindu, June, 2026.
270 Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare Government Of India, Page 49.
271 Journal Of Emerging Technologies And Innovative Research, Page 2113.

A. Cabinet Approval To Healthcare Measures
Source: News On Air, The Times Of India | **Impact**: Medium
CARES (CMAAY), neutralises these distress referrals by localising early care, curbing transit-driven financial leakage, and securing equitable health protection across isolated mountain habitations.[272] e. Lastly, utilising district task forces, flying squads, and the Sankalp community reporting system potentially allows local panchayats, civil society organisations, and urban bodies to participate directly in substance abuse monitoring. f. Arunachal Pradesh faces severe epidemiological risks, highlighted by Papum Pare district recording India's highest female cancer incidence rate (219.8 per 1 lakh), compounded by an ultra-sparse population density of 17 persons per sq km.[273] Geographic isolation traditionally delays diagnosis until advanced stages, escalating mortality and financial distress. g. Ayushman Arogya Shivir addresses this by deploying 30-day intensified mobile diagnostic camps across remote settlements, shifting healthcare from passive hospital reliance to proactive, early screening for malignancies, NCDs, and Tuberculosis (advancing TB-Mukt Arunachal) to prevent costly tertiary care referrals.

[272] Times Of India, January, 2026.
[273] Indian Council For Medical Research.

VII. Himachal Pradesh

A. Mukhyamantri Machhuara Samman Nidhi Yojana, 2026
Source: The New Indian Express | **Impact**: Medium

1. On 26th July, 2026, the Government of Himachal Pradesh launched the Mukhyamantri Machhuara Samman Nidhi Yojana, 2026.
2. The scheme aims to provide financial assistance and social security to **reservoir fishermen** during the annual fishing ban, safeguard livelihoods affected by seasonal income loss, and strengthen sustainable fisheries in the state.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The scheme provides annual financial assistance of ₹ 3,500 to eligible fishermen engaged in reservoir fisheries during the annual fishing ban.
   b. The eligibility criteria restrict benefits to fishermen associated with registered Fisheries Cooperative Societies, holding valid fishing licences, National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP) registration numbers, Aadhaar, Parivar Register details, and society membership certificates.
   c. The scheme provides for scrutiny of applications by Fisheries Cooperative Societies and Fisheries Department officials, with final approval by the Deputy Director or Assistant Director of Fisheries at the district level.
   d. The scheme enables the transfer of financial assistance through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism, with the Directorate of Fisheries maintaining beneficiary records and conducting random verification.
   e. The scheme provides benefits to around 3,700 fishermen families associated with the Gobind Sagar, Pong Dam, Kol Dam, Chamera, and Ranjit Sagar reservoirs, with an annual state outlay of approximately ₹ 1.20 crore.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The scheme aligns with the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), which promotes sustainable fisheries, strengthens fishers' livelihoods, and enhances income through targeted financial support.[274]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Andhra Pradesh provides financial assistance to fishermen during the annual fishing ban under the Matsyakara Sevalo Scheme,[275] while Odisha extends seasonal livelihood support through the Mukhyamantri Maschyajibi Kalyan Yojana (MMKY).[276]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Under the Himachal Pradesh Fisheries Act, 1976[277] and the Himachal Pradesh

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[274] PIB, March, 2026.
[275] The Hindu, May, 2026.
[276] Fisheries And Animal Resources Development Department, Government Of Odisha.
[277] Himachal Pradesh Fisheries Act, 1976.

A. Mukhyamantri Machhuara Samman Nidhi Yojana, 2026
Source: The New Indian Express | **Impact**: Medium
Fisheries Rules, 2020,[278] fishing in the state's reservoirs and general waters is prohibited from 16th June to 15th August each year (the closure period) to protect the breeding season, temporarily restricting a key source of livelihood. By providing targeted income support during the statutory closure period, the scheme aims to reduce livelihood distress and improve compliance with conservation measures. b. Notably, a total of 610 cases[279] of illegal fishing were recorded across Himachal Pradesh's reservoirs during the 2025 fishing closure period, indicating the economic pressures faced by fishing households when livelihood opportunities are temporarily restricted. The scheme seeks to address this predictable seasonal income loss. c. Reservoir fish production increased from 549.35 metric tonnes in 2022–23 to 818.02 metric tonnes in 2025–26, reflecting the growing contribution of reservoir fisheries to the state's overall fish production, which rose from 19,019 metric tonnes in 2024–25 to 20,005 metric tonnes in 2025–26.[280] The scheme complements this expansion by providing income support to fishermen dependent on reservoir fisheries during the annual fishing ban period. d. Further, requiring valid National Fisheries Digital Platform (NFDP) registration and active society membership encourages informal fishermen to join recognised Fisheries Cooperative Societies. This expands the state's formal registry of inland fishers, making it easier to deliver future insurance, equipment, and credit support. e. Lastly, implementing direct bank transfers based on verified cooperative rosters minimises administrative costs, ensuring the ₹ 1.20 crore budget[281] is delivered efficiently to target beneficiaries.

[278] Himachal Pradesh Fisheries Rules, 2020.
[279] The Week, August, 2025.
[280] The News Himachal, April, 2026.
[281] Indian Express, July, 2026.

VIII. Maharashtra

A. Beneficiary Rollout Of Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Shetkari Karjmukti Yojana, 2026
Source: The Times Of India, The Free Press Journal | **Impact**: Medium

1. On 22nd July, 2026, the Maharashtra Government rolled out the beneficiary implementation for the Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Shetkari Karjmukti Yojana 2026,[282] allocating ₹ 40,980 crore to deliver crop loan waivers of up to ₹ 2 lakh to nearly 56 lakh farming households.
2. The framework seeks to **alleviate agrarian financial distress**, restore institutional credit eligibility for small and marginal farmers, and enhance rural liquidity through targeted direct benefit transfers.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The framework provides a complete waiver on overdue short-term crop loans up to ₹ 2 lakh (principal plus interest) disbursed between 1st April, 2019 and 31st March, 2025.
   b. It incorporates a One-Time Settlement (OTS) mechanism for outstanding balances exceeding ₹ 2 lakh, granting a ₹ 2 lakh waiver upon settlement of the remaining debt by 31st March, 2027.
   c. The framework introduces an incentive grant of up to ₹ 50,000 for regular repayers who maintained timely loan repayments across two of the three preceding financial years.
   d. It automates eligibility matching via the MahaIT portal and Aadhaar verification at Aaple Sarkar Seva Kendras to streamline DBT execution.
   e. It enforces strict exclusion criteria for tax-paying entities, elected representatives, and public sector employees to preserve fiscal resources for agricultural families.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative aligns directly with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare debt mitigation frameworks[283] and financial inclusion guidelines under PM-KISAN[284] to foster credit sustainability.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Telangana,[285] Punjab,[286] Tamil Nadu[287] and Rajasthan[288] operate statutory farm debt relief frameworks to mitigate rural financial distress.

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[282] Times Of India, July, 2026.
[283] PIB, December, 2017.
[284] PM-KISAN Scheme.
[285] The Telangana State Commission For Debt Relief (Small Farmers, Agricultural Labourers And Rural Artisans) Act, 2016.
[286] NDTV, August, 2021.
[287] Agricultural Debt Waiver And Debt Relief Scheme, 2008.
[288] The Hindu, March, 2025.

A. Beneficiary Rollout Of Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Shetkari Karjmukti Yojana, 2026
Source: The Times Of India, The Free Press Journal | **Impact**: Medium
6. **Relevance -** a. Crop loan overdues following repeated climatic shocks constrained the lending capacity of cooperative and commercial banks, restricting timely access to institutional finance for cultivators. The framework addresses this constraint by waiving ₹ 36,585 crore in overdue crop loans benefiting over 56 lakh farmers, thereby restoring borrower eligibility for fresh institutional credit.[289] b. The framework complements the state's 2026–27 crop credit target of ₹ 75,449 crore (₹ 52,822 crore for Kharif and ₹ 22,627 crore for Rabi) covering around 64 lakh farmers, improving liquidity across the rural credit system and supporting uninterrupted seasonal agricultural operations.[290] c. Chronic climate shocks and market volatility across Maharashtra created a systemic credit freeze for nearly 56 lakh defaulting farm households, locking them out of low-interest institutional loans. Driven into the informal shadow market, vulnerable smallholders face predatory unlicensed lenders charging monthly compounding rates of 3% to 5% (36% to 60% per annum), escalating to 60%–120% on short-term "meter interest" loans[291] during acute distress.[292] d. Under the scheme, the state cleared overdues up to ₹ 2 lakh per family, extinguishing non-performing asset (NPA) accounts across District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) and Regional Rural Banks. Restoring institutional creditworthiness ahead of seasonal sowing cycles drastically lowers input financing costs, insulates farm income from predatory extraction, and re-establishes liquidity flow across the rural cooperative ecosystem.[293]

[289] Economic Times, June, 2026.
[290] The Hindu, July, 2026.
[291] Meter interest (often synonymous with illegal loan-sharking or meter byaj) is not a formal legal term defined in Maharashtra legislation, but rather a colloquial reference to informal, exorbitant, and daily/monthly compounding usurious loans.
[292] Science The Wire.
[293] The Hindu, July, 2026.

Investment Announcements

I. Madhya Pradesh

A. Telecom Manufacturing Zone, Gwalior (2026)
Source: Business Standard | **Impact**: High

1. On 30th July, 2026, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and the Government of Madhya Pradesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish India's first Telecom Manufacturing Zone in Gwalior.
2. **Key Features -**
   a. The MoU provides for the development of two industrial parks spanning 170 acres, supported by a Department of Telecommunications (DoT) grant-in-aid of ₹ 493 crore, including ₹ 270 crore for telecom testing facilities and laboratory infrastructure.
   b. It envisages the establishment of an integrated telecom testing and certification ecosystem comprising two laboratory centres covering eight testing domains.
   c. Under the proposed framework, telecom manufacturing and testing units will be offered industrial plots at an annual lease rate of ₹ 1 per square metre for 30 years, along with dedicated land for MSMEs, plug-and-play facilities, and logistics operations.
   d. The agreement outlines incentives such as a 50% capital subsidy on investments of at least ₹ 200 crore, R&D support of up to 25% of project cost or ₹ 25 crore, 100% reimbursement of stamp duty, and concessions on water and power supply.
   e. It also envisages the creation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) jointly chaired by the Telecom Secretary and a representative of the Madhya Pradesh Government, while targeting investments of ₹ 8,000–9,000 crore and the creation of 9,000–10,000 jobs in the first phase.
3. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The initiative aligns directly with the Department of Telecommunications' Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme[294] for Telecom and Networking Products and the Ministry of Electronics and IT's Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters 2.0 scheme[295], furthering the Atmanirbhar Bharat objective of reducing import dependence in telecom equipment manufacturing.
4. **Relevance -**
   a. Industry stakeholders at the Madhya Pradesh Government's roundtable projected that the Gwalior zone could attract investment of over ₹ 12,000 crore and generate significant employment opportunities once fully operational, building on the Centre's initial estimate of ₹ 8,000–9,000 crore in investment and 9,000–10,000

[294] PIB, July, 2024.
[295] Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters 2.0 Scheme.

A. Telecom Manufacturing Zone, Gwalior (2026)
Source: Business Standard | **Impact**: High
jobs during the first phase. Developed through a joint Centre-state Special Purpose Vehicle, with the Department of Telecommunications holding a 49% stake and Madhya Pradesh holding 51%, the project reflects strong institutional commitment towards creating a large-scale telecom manufacturing ecosystem.[296] The projected scale of investment positions Gwalior as a potential hub for telecom production, testing, and innovation, supporting India's ambition to strengthen its role in 5G, 6G, and next-generation communication technologies. b. India's telecom trade deficit has narrowed significantly over the past few years, falling from ₹ 68,000 crore to ₹ 4,000 crore.[297] However, this aggregate improvement masks a continued dependence on China, with the bilateral trade deficit exceeding $ 112 billion.[298] The relevance of the Gwalior Telecom Manufacturing Zone therefore lies not merely in reducing overall imports, but in strengthening domestic manufacturing capabilities in strategic telecom segments that remain heavily reliant on a single external source.

[296] Business Standard, July, 2026.
[297] PIB, July, 2024.
[298] Deccan Herald, April, 2026.

II. Odisha

A. Transaction Advisory Services Agreement, 2026
Source: Business Standard | **Impact**: Medium

1. On 17th July, 2026, the Government of Odisha signed the Transaction Advisory Services Agreement (TASA) with the International Finance Corporation (IFC).
2. The TASA aims to strengthen Odisha's Public-Private Partnership (PPP) ecosystem by developing a pipeline of bankable infrastructure projects, mobilising private capital, and enhancing project structuring across priority sectors.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. TASA provides for the development of a pipeline of around 20 infrastructure projects with a cumulative investment potential of approximately ₹ 20,000 crore over one year.
   b. It introduces project development across renewable energy, power transmission, logistics and transport, urban infrastructure and electric mobility through the PPP model.
   c. Odisha has become the first Indian state to sign a Transaction Advisory Services Agreement with the IFC.
   d. Under the TASA IFC will identify, structure and undertake transaction advisory services for bankable and commercially viable PPP projects across priority sectors.
   e. IFC will serve as the knowledge and transaction advisory partner to undertake technical, financial, and legal project structuring to attract private investment.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The TASA aligns with the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan[299] and the Public Private Partnership (PPP) framework of the Department of Economic Affairs,[300] which promotes integrated infrastructure planning and greater private investment in infrastructure projects.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Similarly Uttar Pradesh[301] and Karnataka[302] have strengthened infrastructure delivery through state level PPP policy.
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Odisha's state debt is estimated at ₹ 1.56 lakh crore (14.1% of GSDP)[303] in FY2026–27, creating fiscal constraints for funding large-scale public infrastructure entirely through budgetary allocations. Developing a pipeline of 20 bankable projects worth ₹ 20,000 crore offloads primary capital expenditure onto private

[299] PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.
[300] Public Private Partnership, Department Of Economic Affairs.
[301] Invest UP.
[302] The Hindu, January, 2025.
[303] Odisha Budget Analysis 2026-27, NFPRC Foundation, May, 2026.

A. Transaction Advisory Services Agreement, 2026
Source: Business Standard | **Impact**: Medium
investors.[304] This enables rapid expansion of urban transit, power, and logistics assets without inflating state debt or exceeding statutory deficit ceilings. b. Notably, PPP projects across states frequently suffer from poor risk allocation, legal ambiguities and project structuring gaps, leading to bid failures and delayed execution. By signing TASA with the IFC, Odisha seeks to strengthen the technical, financial and legal design of projects before market rollout, improving bankability and investor confidence. c. The state's Energy Department has projected that Odisha will require ₹ 30,000 crore in transmission infrastructure investment by 2035, with ₹ 25,000 crore of that needed within the next five years alone, to integrate its planned 11 GW of renewable capacity by 2030.[305] By identifying power transmission as a priority sector, the TASA seeks to attract private capital to bridge near-term grid financing gaps and reduce reliance on state budgetary resources. d. Lastly, rapid urbanisation across tier-1 and tier-2 hubs like Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Sambalpur, and Rourkela creates high demand for modern public transit, waste processing, and e-mobility networks. Applying the PPP model to urban infrastructure allows municipal authorities to upgrade public services while maintaining fiscal stability.

[304] Business Standard, July, 2026.
[305] Bioenergy Times, November, 2025.

B. Approval Of Investment Proposals Worth ₹ 4,573 Crore By The SLSWCA
Source: The Economic Times | **Impact**: Medium

1. On 21st July, 2026, the State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA) approved 23 investment proposals worth ₹ 4,573 crore across Odisha.
2. The proposals aim to **accelerate industrial development** by facilitating investments through a streamlined single-window clearance mechanism, while promoting regional industrialisation and employment generation across multiple districts.
3. **Key Features -**
    a. The SLSWCA approved the establishment of HCL Technologies Ltd.'s Global Development Centre in Khurda with an investment of ₹ 730 crore.
    b. The proposals cleared ACME Cleantech Solutions Pvt. Ltd.'s alkaline electrolyser manufacturing unit in Ganjam with an investment of ₹ 778 crore.
    c. They included a zinc anode battery manufacturing unit in Cuttack with an investment of ₹ 202.5 crore and a 100 MW ground-mounted captive solar photovoltaic power plant in Angul with an investment of ₹ 351 crore.
    d. The approved projects included a chemical manufacturing facility in Ganjam with an investment of ₹ 343 crore and a 300-bed multi-speciality hospital in Cuttack with an investment of ₹ 275.89 crore.
    e. The proposals also covered the development of three five-star hotels in Cuttack, Sambalpur, and Khurda, along with a ready-made garment manufacturing unit in Puri.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Uttar Pradesh's Nivesh Mitra,[306] Tamil Nadu's Single Window Portal,[307] and Gujarat's Investor Facilitation Portal[308] have strengthened single-window clearance mechanisms to expedite industrial investments and improve the ease of doing business.
5. **Relevance -**
    a. Odisha has set ambitious targets for expanding its IT sector, aiming to contribute ₹ 60,000 crore annually to Gross State Value Added through IT services and create over two lakh jobs over the next decade.[309] Achieving these goals requires attracting large-scale investments and generating high-value employment beyond the state's traditional mining- and metals-led growth model.
    b. The approval of HCL Technologies' ₹ 730 crore Global Development Centre in Khurda, expected to create 6,000 jobs, directly addresses this challenge by

[306] Nivesh Mitra, Invest UP.
[307] Tamil Nadu Single Window Portal.
[308] Investor Facilitation Portal, Government Of Gujarat.
[309] Indian Express, November, 2025.

B. Approval Of Investment Proposals Worth ₹ 4,573 Crore By The SLSWCA
Source: The Economic Times | **Impact**: Medium
strengthening Odisha's emerging IT ecosystem. c. India's green hydrogen ambitions face a significant capacity gap. As of February, 2026, only around 8,000 tonnes per annum of green hydrogen production had been commissioned nationally against the National Green Hydrogen Mission's target of 5 million Metric Tonne Per Annum (MMTPA) by 2030.[310] A key constraint is the limited availability of domestic electrolyser manufacturing capacity needed to support large-scale hydrogen production. d. The ₹ 778 crore ACME Cleantech alkaline electrolyser manufacturing unit in Ganjam, with a rated capacity of up to 3 GW per annum, seeks to address this bottleneck by expanding domestic manufacturing capability critical to scaling up green hydrogen production. e. Moreover, the apparel sector is Odisha's most labour-intensive industry, employing about 50.6 workers for every ₹ 1 crore of capital invested.[311] The ready-made garment unit approved in Puri leverages this high employment potential, supporting job creation more efficiently than many capital-intensive industries such as steel or chemicals.

310 PIB, March, 2026.
311 Odisha Economic Survey, 2025-26.

C. Women-Led Industrial Investment Initiative, 2026
Source: The Hindu Business Line | **Impact**: Medium

1. On 31st July, 2026, the Odisha Government facilitated the signing of 13 Memorandum Of Understanding (MoUs) with women entrepreneurs under the Women-Led Industrial Investment Initiative, 2026.
2. **Key Features -**
    a. The initiative secures investment commitments worth ₹ 913.13 crore through 13 MoUs signed with women entrepreneurs across multiple sectors.
    b. The proposed projects are expected to **generate 4,302 direct employment** opportunities across manufacturing, services, agriculture, and technology-driven industries.
    c. The investment pipeline covers sustainable agriculture and agribusiness, food processing, agritech, steel, biotechnology, renewable energy equipment, garment manufacturing, fisheries infrastructure, hospitality, and manufacturing.
    d. The largest proposals include a ₹ 350 crore hospitality investment by Odyssey Leisure Pvt Ltd across Koraput, Kendrapada, and Mayurbhanj and a ₹ 100 crore hospitality project by World Hotels Pvt Ltd in Koraput.
    e. The implementation framework under the initiative provides investor facilitation, mentorship, and institutional support through the Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha Limited (IPICOL) and District Investment Promotion Agencies.
3. **Relevance -**
    a. Registrations of women entrepreneurs increased more than eightfold from 49,454 in 2020–21 to 4.06 lakh in 2025–26, while the state now hosts over 14.4 lakh women-led MSMEs.[312] The ₹ 913.13 crore investment pipeline seeks to translate this entrepreneurial growth into larger-scale industrial investment and employment generation.
    b. Women entrepreneurs remain underrepresented in larger enterprises despite their significant presence in the MSME sector. While women own around 15 million of India's 63 million MSMEs, their share declines sharply as enterprise size increases.[313] Against this backdrop, the initiative's ₹ 913.13 crore investment pipeline, including proposals worth ₹ 350 crore and ₹ 100 crore, seeks to expand women's participation in medium- and large-scale industrial ventures.
    c. Furthermore, limited access to formal finance remains a major constraint for

[312] Business Standard, July, 2026.
[313] Business World, October, 2025.

C. Women-Led Industrial Investment Initiative, 2026
Source: The Hindu Business Line | **Impact**: Medium
women entrepreneurs. Women-owned enterprises accounted for only 7.09% of outstanding MSME credit in India as of March, 2023.[314] By leveraging institutional support through IPICOL and District Investment Promotion Agencies, the initiative seeks to improve investor facilitation, mentorship, and access to financing opportunities for women-led enterprises.

[314] Business World, October, 2025.

III. Maharashtra

A. MahaCare And Tata Memorial Centre Sign MoU For A Statewide Cancer Care Network
Source: Digital Health News, Medical Dialogues | **Impact**: High

1. On 16th July, 2026, the Maharashtra Cancer Care, Research and Education Foundation (MahaCare) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Tata Memorial Hospital for technical collaboration in cancer treatment and research.
2. The MoU seeks to build a world-class and equitable cancer care ecosystem covering diagnosis, treatment and research through a network of state-run Level-2 and Level-3 cancer hospitals[315] with Tata Memorial as the apex centre.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. Under the network, Tata Memorial Hospital functions as the apex or Level-1 centre for cancer research and treatment, anchoring a hub-and-spoke model.
   b. It plans comprehensive district-level cancer centres in Mumbai, Pune, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Nagpur, Nanded, Kolhapur, Chandrapur and Nashik.
   c. The approved structure comprises 8 Level-2 centres and nine Level-3 centres at Government medical colleges, with ₹ 1,529 crore allocated for Level-2 and ₹ 147 crore for Level-3 centres and initial equity capital of ₹ 100 crore.
   d. It also includes a cyclotron project that requires prior approval from the Department of Atomic Energy and MahaCare has been directed to recruit highly skilled manpower.
   e. It further entails that Day-care chemotherapy centres were launched in February, 2026 in Thane, Solapur, Ahilyanagar, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Nanded and Wardha districts as an early component of the network.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The MoU aligns with the Strengthening of Tertiary Care Cancer Facilities Scheme under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD),[316] which provides Government funding and technical support to establish State Cancer Institutes and Tertiary Care Cancer Centres.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States like Assam have already inked partnership with Tata Trust to construct a distributed, three-level cancer grid across 17 district hospitals and state medical colleges.[317]

[315] Level-2 and Level-3 cancer facilities refer to tiers in a distributed, hub-and-spoke care model (pioneered by organizations like Tata Trusts) designed to decentralise treatment. Level-2 units provide comprehensive regional care (often at medical colleges), while Level-3 units offer localized diagnostics and daycare (at district hospitals).
[316] PIB, July, 2026.
[317] Assam Cancer Care Foundation, Government Of Assam.

A. MahaCare And Tata Memorial Centre Sign MoU For A Statewide Cancer Care Network
Source: Digital Health News, Medical Dialogues | **Impact**: High
6. **Relevance -** a. Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP) moderated forecasting models project Maharashtra's annual cancer incidence to reach 1.33 lakh new cases in 2026, rising from 1.16 lakh cases in 2020 due to a consistent multi-year growth trajectory.[318] Institutionalising an integrated statewide network shifts the burden away from standalone metropolitan centers, directly relieving extreme patient congestion at Tata Memorial Hospital, which handles over 70,000 new cases and 8 lakh OPD footfalls annually across its Mumbai campuses, while maintaining standardised clinical protocols statewide.[319] b. Non-medical expenses, particularly long-distance travel, lodging, and income loss incurred while seeking treatment in Mumbai or Pune, constitute a massive share of the average ₹ 2.58 lakh per patient, with direct out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) averaging ₹ 1.86 lakh (72.2% of total cost) despite Government subsidies and insurance coverage.[320] Decentralising specialised diagnostic and day-care capacity into interior districts minimises cross-district medical migration, significantly lowering financial toxicity and curtailing high treatment drop-out rates among rural and lower-income households.[321] c. Further, state-sponsored health insurance mechanisms like Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Jan Arogya Yojana often encounter delivery bottlenecks when cashless coverage is constrained by a shortage of public tertiary oncology beds.[322] Reinvesting state assurance funds into building dedicated public cancer care infrastructure creates a closed-loop financing ecosystem, guaranteeing that financial coverage translates into immediate, high-quality physical treatment access for empaneled beneficiaries.

[318] International Journal Of Community Medicine And Public Health, March, 2026, Page. 1871.
[319] Tata Memorial Hospital.
[320] National Library Of Medicine.
[321] Economic Times, July, 2026.
[322] Economic Times, July, 2026.

Other Decisions

I. Andhra Pradesh

A. ₹ 15,274 Crore Capital Augmentation For State-Wide Urban Health Stack And Municipal Works
Source: The New Indian Express, Deccan Chronicle | **Impact**: High

1. On 18th July, 2026, the Chief Minister laid foundation stones for public health and municipal engineering works worth ₹ 15,274 crore across 120 ULBs at the 18th Swarna Andhra-Swachh Andhra programme at Gudivada, Krishna district.
2. The programme targets a **garbage-free** Andhra Pradesh by 2nd October, 2026 through Swachh Patham and Operation Clean Sweep, with citizens urged to adopt net-zero, carbon-neutral household practices and rainwater harvesting.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. Under this programme, Integrated Solid Waste Management or waste-to-energy plants were inaugurated at 8 locations, Nellore, Kondapalli, Bethamcherla, Kamalapuram, Badvel, Yeleswaram, Narsipatnam, and Peddapuram.
   b. It includes waste management plants worth ₹ 528 crore and 8 waste-to-energy plants are being established across the State to scientifically process municipal solid waste.
   c. The programme also includes 126 electric autos that have been deployed for door-to-door garbage collection, with a further 1,104 e-autos to be added shortly, electrifying primary waste collection.
   d. Furthermore it entails that 140 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste have been cleared and essential commodities worth ₹ 16 crore have been distributed through Swachh Ratham vehicles in exchange for segregated household waste.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The programme's garbage-free-state target, legacy-waste remediation, and waste-to-energy infrastructure directly advance Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0,[323] while the municipal engineering works complement urban water and sewerage objectives under AMRUT 2.0.[324]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Other states such as Telangana,[325] Tamil Nadu[326] and Gujarat[327] have already implemented similar umbrella frameworks for urban sanitation, municipal waste management, and public health infrastructure.
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Rapid urbanisation across Andhra Pradesh's 120 ULBs generates over 6,500 tonnes

[323] Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0.
[324] PIB, March, 2022.
[325] Pattana Pragathi, Government Of Telangana.
[326] Singara Chennai 2.0, Greater Chennai Corporation.
[327] Nirmal Gujarat Mission, Government Of Gujarat.

A. ₹ 15,274 Crore Capital Augmentation For State-Wide Urban Health Stack And Municipal Works
Source: The New Indian Express, Deccan Chronicle | **Impact**: High
of municipal solid waste daily, leading to severe landfill pressure and unmanaged municipal dumpsites.[328] The Swarna Andhra-Swachh Andhra urban infrastructure outlay addresses this challenge by scaling regional waste-to-energy and processing facilities, transforming non-recyclable solid waste into grid-connected energy and refuse-derived fuel to systematically transition the state away from landfill dependency. b. Andhra Pradesh's urban centers suffer from acute freshwater stress and falling groundwater tables, compounded by untreated sewage discharge into sensitive deltaic and coastal aquatic ecosystems.[329] The comprehensive municipal engineering and drainage works under this programme resolve this issue by complementing the state's policy on Reuse of Treated Used Water, 2026[330] enforcing wastewater recycling infrastructure to meet at least 20% of urban non-potable water demand and protecting natural water bodies.[331] c. Notably, unscientific legacy waste accumulation across Andhra Pradesh's municipal dump yards has historically locked up over 231 acres[332] of prime municipal land while leaching toxic effluents into surrounding aquifers and emitting hazardous methane. Accelerating bio-mining and legacy waste clearance targets the complete elimination of 1.15 crore (11.5 million) metric tonnes[333] of legacy waste across 120 ULBs, with over 50.72 lakh metric tonnes (59%)[334] already processed across 32 ULBs. d. Converting recovered fractions into Refuse-Derived Fuel (RDF)[335] for cement kilns and bio-compost resolves subterranean ecological hazards, frees up high-value urban land banks for civic infrastructure, and directly advances the state's net-zero carbon neutrality targets.

[328] The Hindu, April, 2025.
[329] The Hindu, June, 2026.
[330] The Hindu, June, 2026.
[331] The Hindu, June, 2026.
[332] Times Of India, March, 2025.
[333] The Hindu, September, 2025.
[334] Times Of India, March, 2025.
[335] Refuse-Derived Fuel (RDF) is a combustible energy source produced from non-recyclable municipal and commercial waste. By processing this waste through shredding, sorting, and drying, facilities convert discarded materials into a standardised, high-calorific fuel used to replace fossil fuels like coal in cement kilns and industrial boilers.

B. Power Infrastructure Worth ₹ 521 Crore For Godavari Maha Pushkaralu, 2027
Source: The Hindu Business Line | **Impact**: Medium

1. On 20th July, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Government approved power infrastructure works worth ₹ 521 crore to ensure **uninterrupted electricity supply** during the Godavari Maha Pushkaralu, scheduled at Rajamahendravaram from 26th June to 7th July, 2027.
2. The approval seeks to strengthen transmission and distribution networks across the Godavari districts and guarantee reliable power supply at bathing ghats, transit corridors, and pilgrim facilities during the twelve-year pilgrimage.
3. **Key Features -**
    a. The approval earmarks a dedicated capital outlay of ₹ 150 crore specifically to guarantee uninterrupted, high-quality power distribution for visiting pilgrims, mandating full operational commissioning of all works at least two months prior to the event's commencement.
    b. It essentially incorporates specialised electrical infrastructure works valued at ₹ 96.9 crore for immediate Pushkaram requirements, operating as an integrated sub-component of a broader ₹ 485 crore development package across East Godavari district.
    c. As per the approval, critical urban distribution pathways are being modernised through an underground cabling system connecting the River View Substation in Rajamahendravaram to Kotilingala Ghat, alongside the commissioning of new substations at Gautami Pushkar Ghat and Kadiyam.
    d. It designates seventeen key strategic locations for new festival-linked substations, tasking the Andhra Pradesh Transmission Corporation (APTRANSCO) with systematic planning, execution, and strict monitoring.
    e. Notably, the distribution network strengthening works worth ₹ 300 crore are progressing concurrently in East Godavari district, leveraging central funding channels under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).
    f. It embeds localised event-based power planning within a larger ₹ 6,000 crore statewide grid expansion programme designed to construct high-voltage 132 kV, 220 kV, and 400 kV substations across Andhra Pradesh.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The approval aligns with key Central infrastructure and pilgrimage development programmes, specifically the RDSS,[336] the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, and the PRASHAD Scheme. [337]

[336] The Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).
[337] Akhanda Godavari Project.

B. Power Infrastructure Worth ₹ 521 Crore For Godavari Maha Pushkaralu, 2027
Source: The Hindu Business Line | **Impact**: Medium

5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have implemented similar event-focused power infrastructure projects, with Uttar Pradesh investing ₹ 400 crore for the Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj[338] and Madhya Pradesh earmarking ₹ 185 crore for Simhastha 2028 in Ujjain.[339]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Andhra Pradesh's state grid recorded a record peak demand of 15,016 MW during the 2026 summer season.[340] With more than one crore pilgrims visiting daily during the 12-day Godavari Maha Pushkaralu, the event places significant localised stress on the power distribution network in and around Rajamahendravaram.
   b. In response, the state approved a ₹ 521 crore power infrastructure package, including new 33/11-kV substations, augmentation of transformer capacity and strengthening of 33-kV and 11-kV distribution networks across APEPDCL's service area to ensure uninterrupted supply and minimise the risk of localised voltage drops and distribution constraints.[341]
   c. Massive pilgrimage gatherings place exceptional stress on urban utility infrastructure, making uninterrupted and safe electricity supply essential for crowd management and emergency response.[342] Recognising these risks, the state augmented power infrastructure to further strengthen the electricity distribution network and enhance supply reliability in the pilgrimage region, complementing broader safety measures such as AI-enabled crowd surveillance, improved emergency access, and upgraded civic infrastructure.
   d. Large-scale power infrastructure projects often face implementation delays when dependent solely on state budgetary allocations. Leveraging the RDSS alongside state funding enables utilities to access Central financial support for distribution system strengthening, including substation augmentation, Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition- Distribution Management System (SCADA/DMS)[343]- based real-time monitoring.[344]

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[338] Live India, January, 2025.
[339] Free Press Journal, July, 2025.
[340] Deccan Chronicle, May, 2026.
[341] The New Indian Express, July, 2026.
[342] The New Indian Express, February, 2026.
[343] Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition - Distribution Management System (SCADA/DMS) are smart grid technologies used by utility companies to manage power networks. AMI handles two-way communication with customer smart meters, while SCADA/DMS monitors and controls heavy electrical equipment across the distribution grid.
[344] PIB, March, 2026.

II. Arunachal Pradesh

A. Arunachal Pradesh Infrastructure And Governance Transformation Package, 2026–2029

Source: The Economic Times, Financial Express | **Impact**: High

1. On 17th July, 2026, Arunachal Pradesh Cabinet approved a cumulative capital outlay of ₹ 7,834 crore across four flagship schemes for the 2026–2029 period alongside a sweeping package of administrative, economic and security sector reforms.
2. The strategic framework seeks to bridge critical infrastructure deficits, modernise power distribution networks, upgrade school education standards and streamline regulatory compliance to accelerate long-term economic growth across the state.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. **The Four Flagship Infrastructure Schemes (Capital Investment Of ₹ 7,834 Crore):**
      i. **Road Network Modernisation (CMCSRDP Phase-II):** The scheme allocates ₹ 2,334 crore ($ 280 million) to upgrade district headquarters township roads, administrative complex connectivity and capital complex arterial routes while completing remaining projects from Phase-I by March, 2027.
      ii. **Universal Rural Connectivity (CMCSRRDP):** The scheme provides ₹ 2,000 crore ($ 240 million) over three years to construct all-weather roads and bridges connecting remote habitations not eligible for coverage under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY Scheme Guidelines).
      iii. **Power Sector Infrastructure Upgradation (CMCSPDP):** The scheme approves ₹ 2,000 crore ($ 240 million) to modernise transmission and distribution networks to improve household power reliability and reduce Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses[345] to 18% by March, 2029.
      iv. **School Education Transformation (Mission Shikshit Arunachal Phase-II):** It designates ₹ 1,500 crore ($ 180 million) to eliminate school infrastructure gaps, upgrade teacher training and deploy the Arunachal Vidya Nidhi digital platform for real-time educational monitoring.
   b. **Governance, Economic, And Security Sector Reforms:**
      i. **MSME Sector Capacity Support (ARUN MSME Mission):** It operationalises structured revival, technology upgradation, and export assistance for 500 micro, small and medium enterprises per year to boost local youth entrepreneurship.
      ii. **Skilling And Youth Employment Roadmap:** It sets policy benchmarks to skill 1 lakh youth, support 10,000 entrepreneurs, enable 10,000 apprenticeships,

345 Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses measure the total power and money lost in a power grid due to technical inefficiencies, power theft, and poor billing.

A. Arunachal Pradesh Infrastructure And Governance Transformation Package, 2026–2029
Source: The Economic Times, Financial Express | **Impact**: High
facilitate 10,000 overseas placements, and upgrade 10 Industrial Training Institutes into Modern Skill Hubs. iii. **Agniveer Police Quota And Employment Integration:** It mandates a 20% reservation for retired Agniveers in state police forces to integrate disciplined military-trained personnel into local law enforcement. iv. **Regulatory Compliance Reduction:** It enacts the Non-applicability of Trade Licence Notification, 2026 to exempt statutory licence holders from obtaining separate trade licences and exempts 56 notified business items from trade licence issuance. v. **Digital Human Resource Administration:** It rolls out E-HRMS 2.0 (Manav Sampada), an artificial intelligence-enabled Enterprise Human Resources Management System to automate public sector employee workflows from recruitment to retirement. 4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** Aligning with the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), the package provides all-weather road connectivity to unconnected rural habitations across India.[346] Additionally, the state power development programme complements the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)[347] by modernising grid infrastructure to ensure reliable electricity in remote districts. 5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Assam operationalised the Chief Minister's Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana (CMSGUY) to drive rural economic development,[348] while Uttarakhand launched a ₹ 1,344 crore package targeting road connectivity, urban support, and disaster-resilient infrastructure.[349] 6. **Relevance -** a. Arunachal Pradesh's workforce remains concentrated in low-productivity sectors, with 62.4%[350] of workers engaged in agriculture, forestry and fishing and an unemployment rate of 6.1%,[351] underscoring the need for greater workforce diversification. By aligning vocational education with industry demand and international skill standards, the scheme seeks to develop a pipeline of industry-ready technical manpower for the state's expanding hydropower, border

346 PMGSY Portal.
347 Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).
348 CMSGUY Portal.
349 Livemint, June, 2026.
350 NITI Aayog, January, 2026, Page 2.
351 NITI Aayog, January, 2026, Page 2.

A. Arunachal Pradesh Infrastructure And Governance Transformation Package, 2026–2029
Source: The Economic Times, Financial Express | **Impact**: High
infrastructure, construction and services sectors, thereby improving the long-term employability of local youth and supporting structural transformation of the state's economy. b. Arunachal Pradesh's power distribution network continues to face significant financial stress, with the Department of Power estimating AT&C losses at 29.56%[352] in FY 2025–26, nearly double the national average of 15.04% in FY 2024–25.[353] c. Despite recent relaxations under PMGSY-IV,[354] several geographically isolated habitations in Arunachal Pradesh continue to face connectivity gaps because of dispersed settlements and high construction costs. To bridge this last-mile deficit, the scheme aims to provide all-weather road connectivity to 1,129 currently unconnected habitations through approximately 6,567 km of rural roads by 2029, complementing Central schemes by targeting settlements that remain outside conventional implementation priorities.[355] d. Arunachal Pradesh's international border and difficult mountainous terrain require security personnel capable of operating in high-altitude, forested and remote environments, while retiring Agniveers require structured civilian employment pathways after completing their four-year military tenure.[356] e. Therefore, reserving 20% of direct recruitment vacancies for Ex-Agniveers across nine state uniformed services institutionalises the absorption of personnel already trained in weapons handling, counter-insurgency, surveillance, disaster response and field logistics.[357] This reduces induction time, lowers expenditure on foundational military training, and strengthens operational readiness and enables the state to build a professionally trained frontline workforce without proportionately increasing recurrent capacity-building costs. f. Lastly, enacting the Non-applicability of Trade Licence Notification, 2026 and exempting 56 business items potentially eliminates redundant municipal filings for statutory license holders, and reduces administrative friction for local entrepreneurs and small enterprises.[358]

[352] Department Of Power, Government Of Arunachal Pradesh, November, 2025, Page 8.
[353] PIB, March, 2026.
[354] PIB, March, 2026.
[355] Arunachal24.In, July, 2026.
[356] Economic Times, July, 2026.
[357] Economic Times, July, 2026.
[358] Economic Times, July, 2026.

III. Tamil Nadu

A. Nalam TN Portal For Integrated Digital Healthcare Services
Source: The Indian Express, DT Next | **Impact**: Medium

1. The Tamil Nadu Government launched Nalam TN portal which is developed under the Tamil Nadu Health Foundation of the Health and Family Welfare Department.
2. The portal creates a unified digital interface for **Government healthcare services** and a transparent, monitored channel for corporate and individual contributions to Government hospitals.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The portal establishes a structured digital donation mechanism, enabling corporate entities, alumni networks, and philanthropic organisations to contribute securely toward state hospital infrastructure, specialised medical devices, and tertiary care upgrades.
   b. It integrates multi-tier healthcare services into a single unified platform, enhancing administrative transparency and operational efficiency across Government hospitals and public healthcare institutions.
   c. Under this portal, advanced healthcare infrastructure and medical equipment valued at ₹ 139.47 crore were operationalised across Government medical college hospitals, district facilities, and primary health centres including Kilpauk GMCH, the Government Headquarters Hospital, Paramakudi and buildings at Avudaiyarkoil, Nilakottai, Batlagundu, Pattiveeranpatti and Kariapatti.
   d. It reinforces public health capacity by inducting 2,144 newly recruited medical professionals, comprising 751 Assistant Medical Officers and 1,393 Health Inspectors to bolster state preventive and curative care delivery.
   e. Lastly, the portal expands Tamil Nadu's overall digital health architecture, integrating alongside state-wide tools such as the NalamAI WhatsApp-based[359] outpatient appointment booking platform.
4. **Legal Alignment -** The donation architecture channels obligations under Section 135 read with Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013[360] which lists healthcare promotion as an eligible Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity into public hospitals.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States like Telangana[361] and Karnataka[362] have operationalised similar unified digital health frameworks which centralises electronic health records, streamline outpatient registration, and optimise public hospital

[359] The Hindu, July, 2026.
[360] The Companies Act, 2013.
[361] Citizens Digital Health Profile, Government Of Telangana.
[362] Arogya Karnataka, Government Of Karnataka.

A. Nalam TN Portal For Integrated Digital Healthcare Services
Source: The Indian Express, DT Next | **Impact**: Medium

administration.

6. **Relevance -**
   a. Tamil Nadu's public health network handles an immense daily burden of over 8.09 lakh outpatients and 74,000 inpatients across 36 Government medical colleges and secondary facilities, causing severe capital funding constraints for specialised medical machinery in district hospitals.[363] Establishing the portal resolves this fiscal bottleneck by creating a transparent, audited channel for corporate CSR funds and alumni contributions to directly target verified facility needs.
   b. High patient volumes at Tamil Nadu's metropolitan Government hospitals, where facilities like Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH) handle over 12,000 outpatient visits daily,[364] frequently lead to long queues and administrative delays that disproportionately impact daily-wage earners. To resolve these operational bottlenecks, this portal, integrated with the NalamAI WhatsApp interface, enables remote patient registration, Out-Patient (OP) appointment booking, digital OP card issuance, and electronic pre-check-in.[365]
   c. Further, by digitising front-end administrative processes and facilitating scheduled appointments, the initiative reduces registration-related congestion, shortens waiting times, and improves patient flow and administrative efficiency across participating Government hospitals.[366]
   d. Tamil Nadu maintains one of the lowest out-of-pocket medical expenditures for public hospital inpatient care in India at ₹ 1,357.[367] However, out-of-pocket spending in private hospitals averages ₹ 75,149 due to high medical inflation and public service bottlenecks.[368] Systematically upgrading diagnostic equipment and deploying dedicated medical officers across district and primary facilities through the portal directly addresses these tertiary availability constraints.

[363] Times Of India, July, 2026.
[364] Times Of India, May, 2026.
[365] Times Of India, July, 2026.
[366] Times Of India, July, 2026.
[367] Business Standard, April, 2026.
[368] National Statistics Office, Report No. 596, April, 2026, Page S9.

IV. Kerala

A. Constitution Of The State Narcotic Control Bureau
Source: Narcotics Control Bureau, The New Indian Express | **Impact**: Medium

1. On 19th July, 2026, the Kerala Government accorded sanction for the constitution of the State Narcotic Control Bureau (SNCB) under the Excise Department, the first dedicated state-level narcotics control bureau of its kind in the country.
2. The SNCB is intended to serve as the state's nodal agency for narcotics enforcement, intelligence, and inter-agency coordination, strengthening the institutional response to drug trafficking and abuse.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The SNCB is constituted with 389 posts created entirely through redeployment of existing sanctioned posts of the Excise Department, imposing no additional financial burden on the state exchequer.
   b. Housing the SNCB within the Excise Department leverages the department's existing statutory mandate for enforcement of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985[369] and its Excise Intelligence and Investigation Bureau.
   c. It operationalises the Government's March, 2026 announcement[370] to establish a Narcotics Control Bureau under the Excise Department for the prevention of drug-related crimes.
   d. It will function alongside the Kerala Police's Anti-Narcotics Task Force and coordinated enforcement drives, creating a dedicated intelligence-led enforcement vertical for narcotics within the state's excise administration.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The SNCB aligns state-level enforcement with the national anti-drug framework governed by the NDPS Act, 1985,[371] and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Integrated into the four-tier NCORD coordination mechanism, the bureau fulfills the MHA mandate for specialised state enforcement units to advance the vision of a Nasha Mukt Bharat.
5. **Relevance -**
   a. Kerala has experienced a steep escalation in drug-related offences, with case registrations under the NDPS Act, 1985 climbing to 36,314 in 2025 and over 7,100 cases booked under statewide crackdowns by 15th July, 2026 alone.[372] The rapid proliferation of synthetic substances like methamphetamine, often peddled via encrypted digital channels, demands a specialised, permanent body. Transitioning

[369] Narcotic Drugs And Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.
[370] The Hindu, March, 2026.
[371] Narcotic Drugs And Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.
[372] The Hindu, July, 2026.

A. Constitution Of The State Narcotic Control Bureau
Source: Narcotics Control Bureau, The New Indian Express | **Impact**: Medium
to an institutionalised SNCB enables law enforcement to move beyond low-level peddlers and strategically dismantle organised synthetic drug networks. b. Narcotics enforcement in Kerala has historically been fragmented between the Police and the Excise Department, resulting in operational overlaps and intelligence silos despite the state logging over 24,000 narcotics-related arrests.[373] Establishing a dedicated Excise-led SNCB with cyber and research wings unifies state-level enforcement while seamlessly integrating with Central agencies, National Integrated Database on Arrested Narco-offenders (NIDAAN) databases,[374] and NCORD platforms[375] to disrupt cross-border syndicates. c. Ernakulam has experienced high operational enforcement activity, with NDPS case registrations reaching 175 during a single two-day drive in mid-2026 alone.[376] The persistent occurrence of legal bottlenecks, often caused by procedural lapses during drug prosecutions, demands rigorous digital forensic protocols and evidence handling. Establishing specialised Cyber Intelligence and Research and Analysis wings in the SNCB enables law enforcement to ensure strict chain-of-custody adherence and significantly improve conviction prospects in commercial-quantity drug cases. d. Trafficking cartels routinely exploit Kerala's rail, road, and maritime routes to transport bulk contraband from source states like Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, capitalising on price surges where illicit ganja purchased for ₹ 2,000/kg sells for up to ₹ 30,000/kg locally.[377] Establishing specialised district-level operations units creates a hyper-localised surveillance grid along border checkposts and transit hubs.

[373] The Hindu, March, 2025.
[374] Developed by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), NIDAAN is a centralised portal that serves as a one-stop solution for drug law enforcement and prosecution agencies in India to track offenders involved in drug-related crimes. It sources its data from the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) and the e-Prisons repository.
[375] The NCORD mechanism in India operates a suite of integrated digital platforms designed by the NCB to eliminate operational silos between central and state law enforcement agencies.
[376] The Hindu, June, 2026.
[377] The Hindu, October, 2025.

B. ANNAM.AI Smart Weather Stations For Climate-Smart Farming
Source: The Hindu Business Line | **Impact**: Medium
1. On 28th July, 2026, the Kerala Government initiated the deployment and integration of ANNAM.AI smart weather stations as part of its 100-day action plan for climate-smart agriculture. 2. The initiative leverages artificial intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) technologies to provide **hyper-local, field-level weather and micro-climate data**, helping farmers make informed decisions, optimise crop yields, reduce input losses, and adapt to climate variability. 3. **Key Features -** a. The initiative deploys solar-powered, AI-driven smart weather stations that deliver hyper-local weather intelligence at a 3-kilometre resolution. b. It monitors real-time micro-climate indicators, including soil moisture, solar radiation, wind patterns, atmospheric humidity, and rainfall. c. It utilises Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)[378] for agriculture developed by ANNAM.AI, a Centre of Excellence for AI in Agriculture at IIT Ropar, supported by the Ministry of Education. d. It directly addresses Kerala's fragmented agrarian landscape, where over 92% of farm holdings are less than one hectare, by translating micro-climate data into field-level advisories for pest tracking, crop health monitoring, and heat-stress management. e. It forms part of a phased state-wide rollout and incorporates training modules for students, rural youth, and agricultural professionals in precision farming applications. 4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative aligns directly with the Digital Agriculture Mission[379] under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and the Weather Information Network and Data System (WINDS) framework,[380] alongside Ministry of Education initiatives for AI integration in agriculture. 5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States like Punjab (AI-enabled automated weather stations),[381] Andhra Pradesh (field-level agromet advisory portals)[382]

[378] Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) is a set of foundational, reusable digital systems, specifically digital identity, instant payments, and secure data-sharing that enable safe and easy interactions between people, businesses, and Governments.
[379] PIB, September, 2024.
[380] Weather Information Network And Data System (WINDS) Framework.
[381] AI-Enabled Automated Weather Stations.
[382] Field-Level Agromet Advisory Portals.

B. ANNAM.AI Smart Weather Stations For Climate-Smart Farming
Source: The Hindu Business Line | **Impact**: Medium

Maharashtra (micro-climate monitoring sensors)[383] have taken similar initiatives.

6. **Relevance -**
   a. Kerala's agricultural landscape is characterised by extreme land fragmentation, with about 97% of the state's 75.83 lakh operational holdings measuring less than one hectare and the average operational holding shrinking to just 0.18 hectares.[384]
   b. This fragmentation makes conventional, field-based agricultural extension both resource-intensive and difficult to scale. By operationalising DPI for agriculture, including AI-enabled farm advisories and weather-based decision support, the state could deliver plot-specific recommendations directly to farmers' mobile devices.
   c. Providing timely, location-specific guidance on crop management, irrigation and pest control enables smallholders to adopt precision farming practices, improve input-use efficiency and enhance productivity despite limited landholdings.
   d. Extreme micro-climatic shifts and heatwaves across Kerala caused over ₹ 10.54 crore in acute crop damage across 344 hectares in early 2026 alone, following historic drought cycles in Idukki where rising soil temperatures caused a 60% collapse in cardamom production across 30,000 hectares.[385]
   e. Deploying solar-powered ANNAM.AI weather stations delivering 3 km resolution data directly resolves these tracking gaps by continually monitoring soil moisture, solar radiation, and atmospheric humidity.
   f. Providing hyper-local micro-climate intelligence further enables spice and plantation growers across Idukki and Wayanad to execute timely micro-irrigation and shade management, preventing thermal stress damage and cutting climate-induced farm losses by approximately 33%.[386]
   g. Kerala's agricultural landscape features mixed, multi-layered farming systems (e.g., coconut intercropped with pepper, cocoa, and banana).[387] Data collected from this rollout will help train AI algorithms to model micro-climate interactions in complex tropical farming environments, creating a national template for climate-smart agriculture.

383 Environment And Climate Change Department.
384 Kerala Development Report, March, 2026, Page 124.
385 The Hindu, April, 2026.
386 Kerala Karshakan E-Journal, Government Of Kerala, October, 2025, Page 6.
387 Review Of Agrarian Studies.

V. Chhattisgarh

A. Chhattisgarh Civil Services Reservation Rules For Agniveer Soldiers, 2026
Source: The New Indian Express | **Impact**: Medium

1. On 22nd July, 2026, the Chhattisgarh Cabinet approved the Chhattisgarh Civil Services Reservation Rules for Agniveer Soldiers, 2026.
2. The rules aim to provide **employment opportunities and rehabilitation** for former Agniveers by reserving vacancies in state civil services following completion of their military service.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The rules provide 10% reservation for Agniveer soldiers in direct recruitment to Class-III (Group C) posts in the State civil services.
   b. The rules extend reservation to the posts of Police Constable, Forest Guard, and Jail Guard (Praheri) under the respective State departments.
   c. The eligibility criteria require candidates to have completed four years of service in the Indian Armed Forces and possess a valid discharge certificate.
   d. The rules provide for reservation exclusively through direct recruitment under the Chhattisgarh Civil Services Reservation Rules for Agniveer Soldiers, 2026.
   e. The rules seek to facilitate the rehabilitation of former Agniveers by providing employment opportunities in State Government services.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The rules align with the Agnipath Scheme,[388] which provides post-service employment opportunities for Agniveers after four years of service in the Indian Armed Forces. They complement the Central Government's provision of reservation and age-relaxation benefits for former Agniveers in recruitment to the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and other security organisations.[389]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Rajasthan have also announced reservations for Agniveers in state Government services and police recruitment.[390]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. The rules take effect in the same year that the first Agnipath cohort completes its four-year tenure. Approximately 46,000 Agniveers[391] are recruited annually into the Army, Navy, and Air Force, and the cohort inducted in 2022 is scheduled to exit service in October 2026, with only around 25% retained for regular military

[388] Indian Navy.
[389] PIB, July, 2026.
[390] Hindustan Times, July, 2024.
[391] PIB, June, 2022.

A. Chhattisgarh Civil Services Reservation Rules For Agniveer Soldiers, 2026
Source: The New Indian Express | **Impact**: Medium
service.[392] b. As a result, roughly three-quarters of the cohort will enter the civilian job market at the same time that Chhattisgarh's reservation rules become operational, making the measure a timely mechanism to support their employment transition. c. The relevance of the measure extends beyond the first cohort. Under the Agnipath Scheme, only around 25% of Agniveers are retained for regular military service after completing their four-year tenure, while the remaining 75% are discharged and return to civilian life.[393] This built-in exit mechanism creates a recurring pool of young, trained personnel re-entering the job market each year. d. In this context, Chhattisgarh's rule providing 10% reservation in Class-III posts for Agniveers establishes a structured pathway for their transition to civilian employment, helping absorb a segment of ex-servicemen who would otherwise have to compete in the open labour market immediately after service. e. By extending reservation specifically to uniformed and disciplined-force roles such as Police Constable, Forest Guard, and Jail Guard, the rules also allow the state to draw on the physical training, discipline, and operational exposure Agniveers gain during their military service, which aligns closely with the skill requirements of these posts.

[392] Outlook, July, 2026.
[393] PIB, June, 2022.

Notes

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