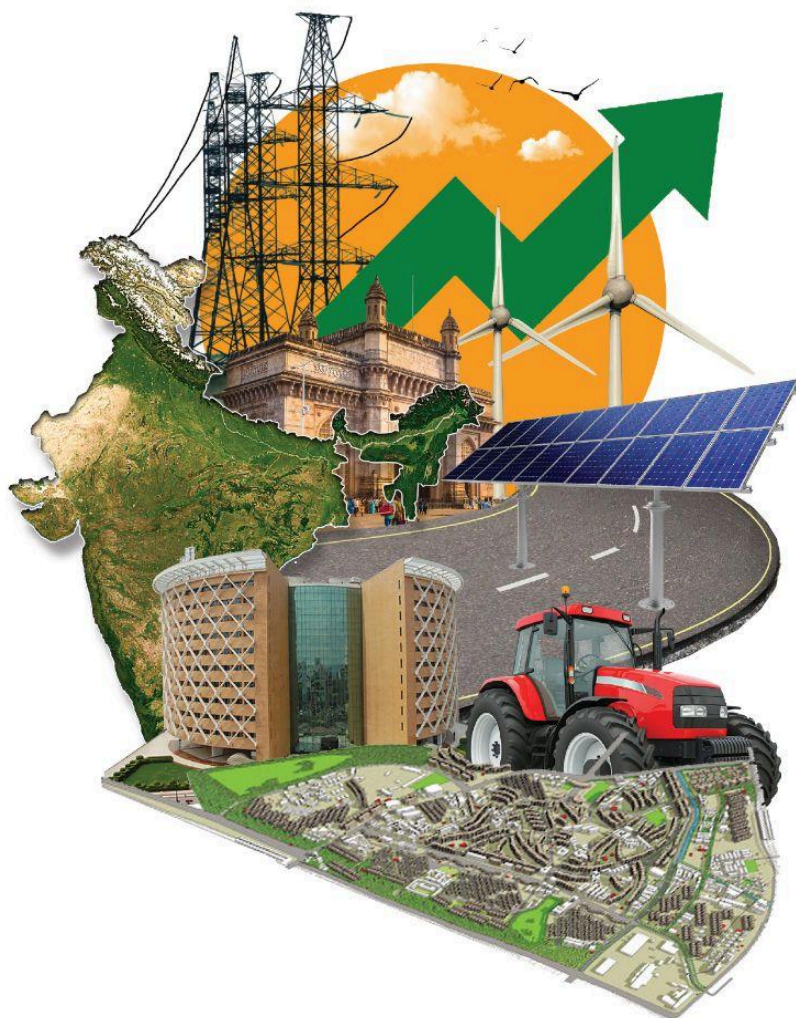


STATES IN MOTION

What's Happening In Indian States



16th September - 30th September

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Key Announcements

This document tracks the various key policy and reform decisions taken by state Governments and UTs from **16th September, 2026 to 30th September, 2026**.

Reform Decisions

I. Haryana

- A. **Right To Business Act, 2026:** The Government of Haryana enacted the Haryana Right To Business Act, 2026, providing manufacturing MSMEs with time-bound in-principle approval through self-declaration, with district-level decisions within 15 days and state-level escalation within 10 days. The Act introduces a 36-month moratorium on inspections and coercive action, while routing statutory approvals across six authorities through the Invest Haryana Single Window Portal.

II. Odisha

- A. **Indian Stamp (Odisha Amendment) Bill, 2026:** The Odisha Legislative Assembly passed the Indian Stamp (Odisha Amendment) Bill, 2026, simplifying apartment registration and reducing the cost of transferring common areas and facilities to apartment owners' associations. The Bill introduces a ₹ 50,000 fixed stamp duty for such transfers, retains the ₹ 20,000 registration fee cap, and replaces slab-based apartment stamp duty with a uniform 5% rate.

III. Kerala

- A. **Simplified And Accelerated Regulatory Approvals And Licenses (SARAL):** The Kerala Cabinet approved SARAL Kerala, establishing a single statutory mechanism for investment approvals under the One-State-One-Approval-One-Document principle. The reform covers projects above ₹ 25 crore, with district- and state-level committees, and introduces a 75-day approval timeline, coordinated departmental scrutiny, and an Integrated Enterprise Clearance Certificate.

IV. Andhra Pradesh

- A. **Capital Region Land Pooling Scheme (Formulation And Implementation) (Amendment) Rules, 2026:** The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approved amendments extending a minimum annuity to small landowners contributing less than one acre under the Capital Region Land Pooling Scheme. Eligible farmers will receive ₹ 40,000 annually for dry land and ₹ 60,000 for Jareebu land for 10 years, with ₹ 5.04 crore approved for 1,304 farmers.

V. Nagaland

- A. **Simplification Of Healthcare Practitioners Registration Notification, 2026:** The Nagaland Government notified the Simplification of Healthcare Practitioners Registration Notification, 2026, removing the NOC requirement for healthcare practitioners registered with another State or Union Territory Council. The reform

Key Announcements

introduces a self-declaration-based process, with registration numbers issued within seven working days and independent verification completed within 30 days.

VI. Assam

- A. **Assam Muslim Marriage Registration (Compulsory) Rules, 2026:** The Assam Cabinet approved the Assam Muslim Marriage Registration (Compulsory) Rules, 2026, establishing Government-appointed registrars in place of the earlier Kazi-led system. The rules require identity, age and residence verification, provide a 30-day objection period, and prohibit registration of marriages involving minors.

Policy Level Announcements

I. Karnataka

- A. **Sustainable Data Centre Policy 2026–2031:** The Karnataka Cabinet approved the Karnataka Sustainable Data Centre Policy 2026–2031, targeting 1 GW of data centre IT load by 2031 and 10–12% of India's AI-ready capacity. Backed by a ₹ 1,300.45 crore incentive framework, the policy supports data centre parks, edge facilities, renewable energy, water-efficient operations, R&D, skilling and allied infrastructure.
- B. **Marine Biotechnology Policy 2026–2031:** The Karnataka Cabinet approved the Karnataka Marine Biotechnology Policy 2026–2031, targeting growth of the state's Blue Bioeconomy from \$ 2 billion (₹ 19,000 crore) to \$ 6–8 billion (₹ 57,000–76,000 crore) by 2031. Backed by a ₹ 120 crore outlay, the policy establishes the Karnataka Institute of Marine Biotechnology and Blue Economy, Marine Biotechnology Zones, and dedicated support for seaweed, marine biomaterials, biomanufacturing and blue-carbon initiatives.

II. Uttarakhand

- A. **Science, Technology And Innovation Policy, 2026:** The Uttarakhand Government released the Uttarakhand Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STI), 2026, establishing a framework for research and technology interventions tailored to the state's geographical and environmental conditions. The policy identifies glaciology, disaster management, energy, water resources, agriculture and healthcare as priority areas and proposes a centralised Science, Technology and Innovation Observatory for schemes, grants, incentives and innovation programmes.

III. Haryana

- A. **Patent Support, Commercialisation And Innovation Facilitation Policy, 2026–27:** The Haryana Government issued guidelines for the Haryana Patent Support, Commercialisation and Innovation Facilitation Policy 2026–27, providing 100% reimbursement of patent expenses up to ₹ 50,000 per application for students, faculty, researchers, startups and MSMEs. The policy also introduces consultancy

Key Announcements

support of up to ₹ 20,000 per case and mandates IPR Cells, Patent Facilitation Centres and Technology Transfer Offices in higher educational institutions.

Social Sector Schemes

I. Assam

- A. **Assam Incubation Project 2.0:** The Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission launched Assam Incubation Project 2.0 to formalise and scale existing women-led enterprises operated by registered Self-Help Group members. The project provides grant support of up to ₹ 1.05 lakh and combined grant and interest-free loan support of up to ₹ 26.33 lakh, alongside enterprise development, consultancy, skills and market-linkage support.

II. Chhattisgarh

- A. **Shramik Jan Suvidha Kendras, E-Bike Assistance Scheme And Enhanced E-Rickshaw Subsidy For Workers, 2026:** The Chhattisgarh Government announced modern labour facilitation centres, e-bike assistance and enhanced e-rickshaw support for registered and unorganised workers. The measures provide ₹ 1 lakh assistance for e-rickshaw purchases, up from ₹ 50,000, alongside proposed e-bike assistance and worker service centres offering basic amenities, employment services and access to welfare schemes.

Investment Announcements

I. Andhra Pradesh

- A. **Dugarajapatnam Greenfield Shipyard Project:** Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) signed an MoU with NSHIP-AP to develop a greenfield shipyard at Dugarajapatnam, backed by an investment of around ₹ 15,000 crore. The facility will have an annual capacity of 1.2 million gross tonnes and anchor a wider shipbuilding, marine engineering and logistics cluster.

II. Odisha

- A. **High-Level Clearance Of 27 Industrial Projects:** The Odisha High-Level Clearance Authority approved 27 industrial projects worth ₹ 2,47,115.70 crore across 15 districts, with an employment potential of 50,162. The approvals include four data centre projects worth ₹ 1,42,941 crore, alongside investments in semiconductors, green energy, batteries, green hydrogen, steel, lab-grown diamonds and shipbuilding.
- B. **Odisha Semiconductor And Electronics Cluster:** The Odisha Government announced an 870-acre semiconductor, electronics and IT hub at Naraj, Cuttack, with investment proposals worth ₹ 23,600 crore and potential for 6,100 jobs. The cluster will cover semiconductor fabrication, chip design, R&D and component manufacturing, supported by expanded incentives under the amended Odisha Semiconductor Manufacturing and Fabless Policy.

Key Announcements

Other Decisions

I. Gujarat

A. Graphics Processing Unit-as-a-Service (GPUaaS) Framework, 2026: The Gujarat Government implemented the GPUaaS Framework, 2026, establishing a centrally managed shared GPU infrastructure for Government departments, educational institutions and eligible AI startups. The Government and educational institutions receive fully subsidised access, while GPU allocation is based on technical feasibility, resource availability, approved use cases and policy priorities.

II. Mizoram

A. State Action Plan To Combat Drug Menace 2026–2029: The Mizoram Government launched the State Action Plan to Combat Drug Menace 2026–2029, establishing a three-year framework integrating enforcement, prevention, awareness and rehabilitation. The plan brings Government agencies, police, civil society, churches and local communities into a coordinated approach, with Tlangmawi's drug-free village model providing a basis for wider community-led action.

III. Assam

A. Sustainable Wetland And Integrated Fisheries Transformation (SWIFT): The Assam Cabinet approved the SWIFT Project with an investment of ₹ 796.88 crore to restore and rehabilitate at least 102 floodplain wetlands and improve fisheries productivity. The project targets 8,000 beel-dependent beneficiaries through wetland restoration, fish stocking, fisheries infrastructure and community-based management.

IV. Tamil Nadu

A. Revocation Of RTI Exemption For Law And Order Department: The Tamil Nadu Government revoked its order exempting the Public (Law and Order) Department from the Right to Information Act, 2005, restoring the department to the ordinary RTI framework. The revocation follows withdrawal of its classification as an Intelligence and Security Organisation under Section 24(4) of the Act.

मुख्य घोषणाएं

यह लेख 16 सितंबर 2026 से 30 सितंबर 2026 तक राज्य सरकारों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों द्वारा लिए गए विभिन्न प्रमुख नीति और सुधार संबंधी निर्णयों को प्रस्तुत करता है।

सुधार संबंधी निर्णय

I. हरियाणा

- A. **हरियाणा व्यापार अधिकार अधिनियम, 2026:** हरियाणा सरकार ने 'हरियाणा व्यापार अधिकार अधिनियम, 2026' लागू किया है। इसके अंतर्गत विनिर्माण क्षेत्र के छोटे और मध्यम उद्योगों (MSMEs) को स्वयं घोषणा (self-declaration) के आधार पर तय समय में शुरुआती स्वीकृति दी जाएगी। इसमें जिला स्तर पर 15 दिन के भीतर और राज्य स्तर पर 10 दिन के भीतर फैसला लिया जाएगा। इस कानून के अंतर्गत 36 महीने तक किसी भी तरह की जांच और सख्त कार्रवाई पर रोक रहेगी। साथ ही, छह अलग-अलग विभागों की कानूनी स्वीकृतियों को 'इन्वेस्ट हरियाणा सिंगल विंडो पोर्टल' के माध्यम से एक ही जगह पर उपलब्ध कराया जाएगा।

II. ओडिशा

- A. **भारतीय स्टंप (ओडिशा संशोधन) विधेयक, 2026:** ओडिशा विधानसभा ने 'भारतीय स्टंप (ओडिशा संशोधन) विधेयक, 2026' पास किया है, जिससे फ्लैट (अपार्टमेंट) का पंजीकरण सरल हो गया है और फ्लैट मालिकों की समिति को साझा जगहों व सुविधाओं को सौंपने का खर्च कम हो गया है। इस विधेयक के अनुसार, ऐसे हस्तांतरण पर ₹ 50,000 का निश्चित स्टंप शुल्क लगेगा, पंजीकरण शुल्क की सीमा ₹ 20,000 पर बरकरार रखी गई है, और अलग-अलग स्लैब वाले स्टंप शुल्क की जगह एक समान 5% की दर लागू की गई है।

III. केरल

- A. **सरलीकृत एवं त्वरित विनियामक स्वीकृतियां और लाइसेंस (सरल - SARAL):** केरल मंत्रिमंडल ने 'सरल केरल' को स्वीकृति दे दी है, जिसके अंतर्गत 'एक राज्य, एक स्वीकृति, एक दस्तावेज' के सिद्धांत के आधार पर निवेश स्वीकृतियों के लिए एक एकल कानूनी व्यवस्था बनाई गई है। इस सुधार के अंतर्गत ₹ 25 करोड़ से अधिक की परियोजनाओं को शामिल किया गया है, जिसके लिए जिला और राज्य स्तर पर समितियां बनाई गई हैं। इसमें 75 दिन के भीतर स्वीकृति देने की समय-सीमा, विभागों की संयुक्त जांच और एक एकीकृत उद्यम प्रमाण पत्र का प्रावधान किया गया है।

IV. आंध्र प्रदेश

- A. **राजधानी क्षेत्र भूमि समूहीकरण योजना (निर्माण और कार्यान्वयन) (संशोधन) नियम, 2026:** आंध्र प्रदेश मंत्रिमंडल ने राजधानी क्षेत्र भूमि समूहीकरण योजना के अंतर्गत एक एकड़ से कम भूमि देने वाले छोटे भूस्वामियों को

मुख्य घोषणाएं

न्यूनतम वार्षिक राशि देने के संशोधनों को स्वीकृति दे दी है। इसके अंतर्गत पात्र किसानों को 10 साल तक सूखी भूमि के लिए ₹ 40,000 और जरीबू भूमि के लिए ₹ 60,000 प्रति वर्ष दिए जाएंगे, तथा 1,304 किसानों के लिए ₹ 5.04 करोड़ की राशि स्वीकृत की गई है।

V. नागालैंड

A. **स्वास्थ्यकर्मों पंजीकरण सरलीकरण अधिसूचना, 2026:** नागालैंड सरकार ने स्वास्थ्यकर्मों पंजीकरण सरलीकरण अधिसूचना, 2026 जारी की है। इसके अंतर्गत किसी अन्य राज्य या केंद्र शासित प्रदेश की परिषद में पंजीकृत स्वास्थ्यकर्मियों के लिए अनापत्ति प्रमाण पत्र (NOC) की अनिवार्यता को समाप्त कर दिया गया है। इस सुधार के अंतर्गत स्व-घोषणा (self-declaration) पर आधारित प्रक्रिया शुरू की गई है, जिसके अंतर्गत सात कार्य दिवसों के भीतर पंजीकरण नंबर जारी कर दिए जाएंगे और 30 दिनों के भीतर स्वतंत्र सत्यापन पूरा कर लिया जाएगा।

VI. असम

A. **असम मुस्लिम विवाह पंजीकरण (अनिवार्य) नियम, 2026:** असम मंत्रिमंडल ने 'असम मुस्लिम विवाह पंजीकरण (अनिवार्य) नियम, 2026' को स्वीकृति दे दी है। इसके अंतर्गत पहले से चली आ रही काजी-आधारित व्यवस्था की जगह सरकार द्वारा नियुक्त रजिस्ट्रारों की व्यवस्था शुरू की गई है। इन नियमों के अंतर्गत पहचान, उम्र और पते की जांच करना अनिवार्य है, आपत्ति दर्ज कराने के लिए 30 दिन का समय दिया गया है, और कम उम्र (नाबालिग) के लोगों के विवाह के पंजीकरण पर रोक लगाई गई है।

नीतिगत घोषणाएं

I. कर्नाटक

A. **सतत डेटा सेंटर नीति 2026-2031:** कर्नाटक मंत्रिमंडल ने 'कर्नाटक सतत डेटा सेंटर नीति 2026-2031' को स्वीकृति दे दी है, जिसका लक्ष्य 2031 तक 1 गीगावाट (GW) डेटा सेंटर आई.टी लोड हासिल करना और भारत की ए.आई (AI)-तैयार क्षमता का 10-12% हिस्सा प्राप्त करना है। ₹ 1,300.45 करोड़ के प्रोत्साहन ढांचे के समर्थन से यह नीति डेटा सेंटर पार्क, एज सुविधाओं, अक्षय ऊर्जा, पानी की बचत करने वाले कार्यों, अनुसंधान एवं विकास (R&D), कौशल विकास और से जुड़ी बुनियादी संरचना का समर्थन करती है।

B. **समुद्री जैव प्रौद्योगिकी नीति 2026-2031:** कर्नाटक मंत्रिमंडल ने 'कर्नाटक समुद्री जैव प्रौद्योगिकी नीति 2026-2031' को स्वीकृति दे दी है, जिसका लक्ष्य 2031 तक राज्य की ब्लू बायोइकोनॉमी (समुद्री जैव अर्थव्यवस्था) को \$ 2 अरब (₹ 19,000 करोड़) से बढ़ाकर \$ 6-8 अरब (₹ 57,000-76,000 करोड़) करना है। ₹ 120 करोड़ के बजट के साथ, यह नीति 'कर्नाटक इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ मरीन बायोटेक्नोलॉजी एंड ब्लू इकोनॉमी', समुद्री जैव प्रौद्योगिकी

मुख्य घोषणाएं

क्षेत्रों (Zones) की स्थापना करती है तथा समुद्री खरपतवार (seaweed), समुद्री जैव सामग्री, बायोमैनुफैक्चरिंग और ब्लू-कार्बन पहलों के लिए विशेष सहायता प्रदान करती है।

II. उत्तराखंड

A. **विज्ञान, प्रौद्योगिकी और नवाचार नीति, 2026:** उत्तराखंड सरकार ने 'उत्तराखंड विज्ञान, प्रौद्योगिकी और नवाचार नीति (STI), 2026' जारी की है, जो राज्य की भौगोलिक और पर्यावरणीय स्थिति के अनुसार अनुसंधान और तकनीकी हस्तक्षेप के लिए एक रूपरेखा तैयार करती है। इस नीति में हिमनद विज्ञान (glaciology), आपदा प्रबंधन, ऊर्जा, जल संसाधन, कृषि और स्वास्थ्य सेवा को प्राथमिकता वाले क्षेत्रों के रूप में पहचाना गया है तथा योजनाओं, अनुदानों, प्रोत्साहनों और नवाचार कार्यक्रमों के लिए एक केंद्रीय विज्ञान, प्रौद्योगिकी और नवाचार वेधशाला (Observatory) का प्रस्ताव किया गया है।

III. हरियाणा

A. **पेटेंट सहायता, व्यावसायीकरण और नवाचार सुविधा नीति, 2026-27:** हरियाणा सरकार ने 'हरियाणा पेटेंट सहायता, व्यावसायीकरण और नवाचार सुविधा नीति, 2026-27' के दिशानिर्देश जारी किए हैं। इसके अंतर्गत छात्रों, शिक्षकों, शोधकर्ताओं, स्टार्टअप्स और एम.एस.एम.ई (MSMEs) के लिए प्रति आवेदन ₹ 50,000 तक के पेटेंट खर्च का 100% रिफंड (प्रतिपूर्ति) दिया जाएगा। इस नीति में प्रति मामला ₹ 20,000 तक की परामर्श सहायता भी शामिल है और उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों में आई.पी.आर (IPR) सेल, पेटेंट सुविधा केंद्र और प्रौद्योगिकी हस्तांतरण कार्यालय बनाना अनिवार्य किया गया है।

सामाजिक क्षेत्र की योजनाएँ

I. असम

A. **असम इनक्यूबेशन प्रोजेक्ट 2.0:** असम राज्य ग्रामीण आजीविका मिशन ने पंजीकृत स्व-सहायता समूह (Self-Help Group) के सदस्यों द्वारा चलाई जा रही महिलाओं के नेतृत्व वाली मौजूदा कंपनियों को औपचारिक रूप देने और उनका दायरा बढ़ाने के लिए 'असम इनक्यूबेशन प्रोजेक्ट 2.0' शुरू किया है। इस परियोजना के अंतर्गत ₹ 1.05 लाख तक की अनुदान सहायता और ₹ 26.33 लाख तक की संयुक्त अनुदान व ब्याज मुक्त ऋण सहायता प्रदान की जाती है, साथ ही उद्यम विकास, परामर्श, कौशल और बाजार से जोड़ने में सहायता दी जाती है।

II. छत्तीसगढ़

A. **श्रमिक जन सुविधा केंद्र, ई-बाइक सहायता योजना और श्रमिकों के लिए बढ़ी हुई ई-रिक्षा सब्सिडी, 2026:** छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार ने पंजीकृत और असंगठित श्रमिकों के लिए आधुनिक श्रम सुविधा केंद्रों, ई-बाइक

मुख्य घोषणाएं

सहायता और उन्नत ई-रिक्शा सहायता की घोषणा की है। इन उपायों के अंतर्गत ई-रिक्शा खरीदने के लिए ₹ 50,000 से बढ़ाकर ₹ 1 लाख की सहायता दी जाती है, साथ ही प्रस्तावित ई-बाइक सहायता और श्रमिक सेवा केंद्र भी शामिल हैं जो बुनियादी सुविधाएं, रोजगार सेवाएं और कल्याणकारी योजनाओं तक पहुंच प्रदान करते हैं।

निवेश घोषणाएं

I. आंध्र प्रदेश

- A. **दुगाराजपटनम ग्रीनफील्ड शिपयार्ड प्रोजेक्ट:** मझगांव डॉक शिपबिल्डर्स लिमिटेड (MDL) ने दुगाराजपटनम में एक ग्रीनफील्ड शिपयार्ड विकसित करने के लिए NSHIP-AP के साथ एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं, जिसमें लगभग ₹ 15,000 करोड़ का निवेश किया जाएगा। इस सुविधा की वार्षिक क्षमता 12 लाख सकल टन (gross tonnes) होगी और यह जहाज निर्माण, समुद्री इंजीनियरिंग व लॉजिस्टिक्स क्लस्टर का मुख्य केंद्र बनेगा।

II. ओडिशा

- A. **27 औद्योगिक परियोजनाओं की उच्च-स्तरीय स्वीकृति:** ओडिशा उच्च-स्तरीय स्वीकृति प्राधिकरण ने 15 जिलों में ₹ 2,47,115.70 करोड़ की 27 औद्योगिक परियोजनाओं को स्वीकृति दी है, जिससे 50,162 लोगों को रोजगार मिलने की संभावना है। इन स्वीकृतियों में ₹ 1,42,941 करोड़ की चार डेटा सेंटर परियोजनाएं शामिल हैं, इसके अलावा सेमीकंडक्टर, हरित ऊर्जा (green energy), बैटरी, हरित हाइड्रोजन (green hydrogen), इस्पात (steel), लेब-में-विकसित हीरे (lab-grown diamonds) और जहाज निर्माण में निवेश शामिल हैं।
- B. **ओडिशा सेमीकंडक्टर और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स क्लस्टर:** ओडिशा सरकार ने कटक के नाराज में 870 एकड़ में फैले एक सेमीकंडक्टर, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और आईटी हब की घोषणा की है, जिसमें ₹ 23,600 करोड़ के निवेश प्रस्ताव और 6,100 नौकरियां मिलने की संभावना है। यह क्लस्टर सेमीकंडक्टर निर्माण, चिप डिजाइन, अनुसंधान एवं विकास (R&D) और पुर्जे बनाने का काम करेगा, जिसे संशोधित ओडिशा सेमीकंडक्टर मैनुफैक्चरिंग एंड फैबलैस पॉलिसी के अंतर्गत अतिरिक्त प्रोत्साहनों का समर्थन प्राप्त है।

अन्य निर्णय

I. गुजरात

- A. **ग्राफिक्स प्रोसेसिंग यूनिट-एज-ए-सर्विस (GPUaaS) फ्रेमवर्क, 2026:** गुजरात सरकार ने 'GPUaaS फ्रेमवर्क, 2026' लागू किया है, जिसके अंतर्गत सरकारी विभागों, शैक्षणिक संस्थानों और पात्र ए.आई. (AI) स्टार्टअप्स के लिए केंद्रीय रूप से प्रबंधित साझा जी.पी.यू. (GPU) बुनियादी ढांचा तैयार किया गया है। सरकार और शैक्षणिक

मुख्य घोषणाएं

संस्थानों को इस सुविधा का पूरा लाभ मुफ्त या रियायत पर मिलेगा, जबकि जी.पी.यू का आवंटन तकनीकी रूप से संभव होने, संसाधनों की उपलब्धता, स्वीकृत उपयोग और नीतिगत प्राथमिकताओं के आधार पर किया जाएगा।

II. मिजोरम

- A. **नशाखोरी की समस्या से निपटने के लिए राज्य कार्ययोजना 2026-2029:** मिजोरम सरकार ने 'नशाखोरी की समस्या से निपटने के लिए राज्य कार्ययोजना 2026-2029' की शुरुआत की है, जो कानून का पालन, रोकथाम, जागरूकता और सुधार (rehabilitation) को आपस में जोड़कर तीन साल की एक रूपरेखा तैयार करती है। इस योजना में सरकारी एजेंसियों, पुलिस, समाज के लोगों, चर्चों और स्थानीय समुदायों को एक साथ मिलकर काम करने के लिए जोड़ा गया है, जिसमें त्लांगमावी (Tlangmawi) के नशा मुक्त गांव के मॉडल को समाज के नेतृत्व में आगे बढ़ाने का आधार बनाया गया है।

III. असम

- A. **टिकाऊ आर्द्रभूमि और एकीकृत मत्स्य पालन परिवर्तन (SWIFT):** असम मंत्रिमंडल ने कम से कम 102 बाढ़ के मैदानों की आर्द्रभूमि को बहाल करने और सुधारने तथा मत्स्य पालन की उत्पादकता बढ़ाने के लिए ₹ 796.88 करोड़ के निवेश के साथ SWIFT परियोजना को स्वीकृति दी है। इस परियोजना का लक्ष्य आर्द्रभूमि की बहाली, मछली का स्टॉक बढ़ाने, मत्स्य पालन के बुनियादी ढांचे और समुदाय-आधारित प्रबंधन के माध्यम से 8,000 बील (आर्द्रभूमि) पर निर्भर लाभार्थियों को लाभ पहुंचाना है।

IV. तमिलनाडु

- A. **कानून और व्यवस्था विभाग के लिए आरटीआई (RTI) छूट को वापस लेना:** तमिलनाडु सरकार ने सार्वजनिक (कानून और व्यवस्था) विभाग को सूचना का अधिकार अधिनियम, 2005 (RTI Act) से छूट देने वाले अपने आदेश को रद्द कर दिया है, जिससे इस विभाग को वापस सामान्य आर.टी.आई दायरे में शामिल कर लिया गया है। यह फैसला इस विभाग को अधिनियम की धारा 24(4) के अंतर्गत 'खुफिया और सुरक्षा संगठन' (Intelligence and Security Organisation) के रूप में वर्गीकृत किए जाने को वापस लेने के बाद लिया गया है।

Reform Decisions

I. Haryana

A. Haryana Right To Business Act, 2026

Source: The Government Of Haryana, 18th September, 2026, The Tribune, 21st September, 2026

1. On 18th September, 2026, the Government of Haryana enacted the Haryana Right to Business Act, 2026.
2. The Act aims to provide time-bound, in-principle pre-establishment approvals to new and expanding manufacturing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Haryana through self-declaration.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Act provides a Certificate of In-Principle Approval to manufacturing MSMEs through self-declaration, with district-level decisions within 15 days and state-level escalation within 10 days.
 - b. The Act provides eligible manufacturing MSMEs with time-bound in-principle approval and a 36-month moratorium, subject to inspection exceptions and statutory-clearance requirements.
 - c. The Schedule, read with Sections 15 and 16, presently covers specified approvals administered by six authorities: the Town and Country Planning Department, Urban Local Bodies Department, Fire Department, Haryana State Pollution Control Board, HSIIDC and Labour Department.
 - d. The Act mandates routing of all statutory approvals through the Invest Haryana Single Window Portal during the moratorium, the certificate does not replace these approvals.
 - e. A grievance mechanism provides redressal against coercive action within 30 days at district level and 15 days at state level.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The Act's time-bound, single-window approval framework aligns with National Single Window System's objective of integrating Central and state approvals through a single digital platform.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Rajasthan has implemented the Rajasthan Enterprises Single Window Enabling and Clearance Act, 2011 and Punjab's Right to Business Act, 2020 (amended 2025) which provides eligible enterprises with in-principle approval within 5 working days
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Haryana's Industry, including manufacturing, remains a significant part of Haryana's economy, with the manufacturing sector's Gross State Value Addition having grown by 8% in 2025-26. The state has established clusters across

A. Haryana Right To Business Act, 2026

Source: The Government Of Haryana, 18th September, 2026, The Tribune, 21st September, 2026

automobiles and auto-components, food processing, textiles, engineering, electronics and IT, defence and aerospace, and pharmaceuticals and chemicals.

- b. Against this industrial base, the Right to Business Act, 2026 provides new and expanding manufacturing MSMEs with in-principle approval while regular statutory approvals are processed through the Invest Haryana Single Window Portal. By bringing multiple regulatory interactions within a time-bound framework, the Act provides a more predictable approval pathway for enterprises establishing or expanding manufacturing capacity.
- c. Further, with 26.15 lakh Haryana-based MSMEs registered on Udyam portal, the Act addresses a specific regulatory bottleneck by separating permission to begin the establishment process from completion of all regular approvals. Eligible manufacturing MSMEs can receive in-principle approval within 15 working days while continuing to obtain the required clearances over the 36-month period. This creates a defined timeline for both the enterprise and Government departments, rather than requiring all approvals to be completed sequentially before establishment.
- d. Lastly, the reform also creates a measurable administrative framework for monitoring ease of doing business. District Nodal Agencies are required to maintain records of declarations of intent, in-principle approvals and deemed approvals, while the grievance mechanism provides a separate channel for disputes during the moratorium. This gives the state identifiable indicators to track approval timelines, pending applications and departmental performance.

II. Odisha

A. Indian Stamp (Odisha Amendment) Bill, 2026

Source: The New Indian Express, 29th September, 2026

1. On 28th September, 2026, the Odisha Legislative Assembly passed the Indian Stamp (Odisha Amendment) Bill, 2026.
2. The Bill aims to simplify apartment registration and reduce the additional financial burden arising from the transfer of common areas and facilities to apartment owners' associations.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Bill proposes a nominal stamp duty of ₹ 50,000 on the transfer of common areas and facilities from a promoter to the Association of Allottees.
 - b. It retains the ₹ 20,000 cap on registration fees for such transfers.
 - c. It introduces a uniform 5% stamp duty on transfers of apartment units, replacing the existing slab-based rates of 3%, 4% and 5%.
 - d. It includes the undivided proportionate share in common areas within the individual apartment transfer document for stamp-duty purposes.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Bill aligns with the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016, particularly its framework for transfer and management of common areas in real estate projects through associations of allottees.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Maharashtra's deemed-conveyance mechanism lets housing societies obtain title through the District Deputy Registrar when developers fail to convey it, formalising ownership without court action.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Odisha collected ₹ 3,111.87 crore through stamp duty and registration fees in 2025-26, exceeding the budget estimate of ₹ 2,610 crore by 19.21%. Against this growing revenue base, the Bill's fixed ₹ 50,000 duty on common-area transfers represents a targeted concession intended to reduce a documented registration barrier, while retaining the 5% duty on individual apartment transfers. The reform therefore reduces the cost of completing common-area registration without materially altering the state's principal apartment transaction revenue stream.
 - b. The reform targets a registration bottleneck within Odisha's sizeable real-estate dispute ecosystem. The Odisha Real Estate Regulatory Authority (ORERA) records 6,244 cases, of which 1,362 remain pending, alongside 1,595 registered projects covering 42,109 residential units. By reducing the cost of the mandatory common-area transfer deed, the Bill addresses a specific registration barrier within a sector already handling a substantial volume of project and buyer disputes.
 - c. Odisha has had to issue repeated relaxations to unblock apartment registrations

A. Indian Stamp (Odisha Amendment) Bill, 2026**Source:** The New Indian Express, 29th September, 2026

in pre-RERA projects. In June 2026, the Government reported that many buyers in projects completed before 5th October, 2016 were still unable to register their deeds because of documentation and compliance hurdles, leading it to create a special exemption for eligible projects where at least 50% of units had already been transferred. The ₹ 50,000 common-area stamp duty therefore removes one of the remaining transaction-level barriers in a registration system that has required repeated Government intervention to clear legacy cases.

- d. Lastly, the uniform 5% rate simplifies the stamp-duty structure while retaining targeted relief for affordable housing. By replacing multiple slabs with a single rate and retaining the 90% exemption for EWS housing, the reform creates a more predictable framework for apartment transactions while protecting the affordability support already available to eligible households.

III. Kerala

A. Simplified And Accelerated Regulatory Approvals And Licenses (SARAL) Kerala

Source: The Times Of India, 17th September, 2026

1. On 16th September, 2026, the Kerala Cabinet approved SARAL Kerala, a regulatory reform to fast-track investment approvals.
2. The reform aims to simplify investment approvals through a single statutory mechanism and time-bound departmental scrutiny, creating a coordinated approval mechanism based on the One-State-One-Approval-One-Document principle.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The framework covers investment projects above ₹ 25 crore, with projects from:
 - i. ₹ 25 crore to ₹ 50 crore handled at the district level, and
 - ii. Projects above ₹ 50 crore considered by a state-level committee.
 - b. The reform requires relevant departments to complete technical scrutiny and submit their findings within prescribed timelines. A maximum 75-day approval timeline provides:
 - i. 10 days for preliminary scrutiny,
 - ii. 30 days for technical scrutiny,
 - iii. 15 days for appraisal and consolidation, and
 - iv. 20 days for final approval.
 - c. The system provides an Integrated Enterprise Clearance Certificate upon approval and an appeal mechanism against rejection decisions.
 - d. Further, 19 existing laws will be amended to transfer final approval authority to the designated state and district-level committees, with Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) coordinating the approval process.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The reform aligns with the National Single Window System (NSWS) by consolidating investment-related approvals and reducing procedural fragmentation through a single interface and coordinated clearance mechanism.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Telangana has adopted single-window investment approval systems through the Telangana State Industrial Project Approval and Self-Certification System (TS-iPASS) Act, 2014, which provides time-bound clearances through a single point based on self-certification.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The time taken to clear the investment proposal is a bigger problem in Kerala than a shortage of investment proposals. Of 73 major projects monitored by KSIDC, 47 are stalled over statutory approvals, involving more than ₹ 25,700 crore and around 88,000 potential jobs, with some proposals pending for five to seven years. SARAL Kerala seeks to address this execution bottleneck by replacing fragmented

A. Simplified And Accelerated Regulatory Approvals And Licenses (SARAL) Kerala

Source: The Times Of India, 17th September, 2026

- departmental approvals with a single statutory approval, a 75-day decision timeline and an Integrated Enterprise Clearance Certificate.
- b. The gap between investment commitments and execution remains significant. The Invest Kerala Global Summit generated 449 proposals worth ₹ 1,81,209 crore, but only 115 projects worth ₹ 54,908.22 crore had reached construction or operations by February 2026. SARAL Kerala therefore targets the approval and coordination delays that can prevent committed investments from translating into projects on the ground.
 - c. Moreover, Kerala's foreign investment remains both limited and geographically concentrated. The state attracted ₹ 14,132.03 crore in FDI equity from October 2019 to December 2025, accounting for only 0.53% of India's total inflow. SARAL Kerala's single-approval framework and 75-day timeline therefore seek to improve the predictability of the investment environment, which will be crucial for attracting a significant share of the FDI equity inflow while potentially widening the state's investment base.
 - d. Lastly, the reform's impact will depend on whether faster approvals translate into faster execution. SARAL Kerala retains departmental scrutiny and removes deemed approval, while shifting final decisions to state- and district-level committees. This preserves regulatory checks but makes administrative capacity and accountability for delays critical to delivering the promised 75-day clearance window.

IV. Gujarat

A. Tender Approval Timeline Rationalisation

Source: The Government Of Gujarat, 19th September, 2026

1. On 20th September, 2026, the Gujarat Government directed the Roads and Buildings Department to complete tender approval processes within 51 to 66 days.
2. The tender approval process reform aims to reduce administrative delays in tender approvals and accelerate the commencement of roads, bridges, Government buildings and other infrastructure projects.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The reform prescribes a maximum 51-day period for tenders without contractor pre-qualification where only financial bids are evaluated, covering processing from the field or regional office through the Secretariat and Finance Department.
 - b. The reform prescribes a maximum 66-day period for tenders requiring contractor pre-qualification and separate technical and financial bids, including scrutiny at successive administrative levels.
 - c. The tender validity period has been reduced from 120 days to 90 days, aligning the validity window with the shortened approval cycle.
 - d. The reform restricts negotiations where more than one tender is received following prescribed publicity, allowing negotiations only in unavoidable circumstances and at a single competent-authority level.
 - e. It mandates recording of reasons where proposals exceed prescribed timelines and fixes responsibility on the concerned level, including the originating level where incomplete proposals cause delay.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The reform is consistent with the Department of Expenditure's Manual for Procurement of Works, Second Edition, 2025, which provides for timely tender processing, with a 60-day target for most cases and a 75-day maximum except in exceptional two-packet or two-stage bidding.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Delhi and Rajasthan have prescribed time limits for tender decisions, with Delhi's Public Works Department allowing 60 days for tender acceptance and Rajasthan setting approval timelines based on the level of the approving authority.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The scale of Gujarat's incomplete capital works indicates that delays in project execution can leave substantial public expenditure tied up. As of March 2025, 200 capital works costing ₹ 22,816.48 crore remained incomplete, despite ₹ 18,144.66 crore already being spent. Of these, 166 projects were under the Roads and Buildings Department. The tender reform seeks to address one administrative

A. Tender Approval Timeline Rationalisation

Source: The Government Of Gujarat, 19th September, 2026

bottleneck before execution by capping approval at 51 days for financial-bid tenders and 66 days where technical and financial scrutiny is required.

- b. The existing approval cycle provided around 120 days for tender processing, creating scope for proposals to remain under scrutiny across field offices, the Secretariat and Finance Department before work could commence. The revised framework replaces this open-ended process with defined maximum timelines and reduces tender validity from 120 to 90 days. This could shorten the period between procurement initiation and contract award, improving the predictability of project commencement.
- c. The reform introduces a specific responsibility structure that, if a tender is not approved within the prescribed timeline, the concerned authority must record the reason for delay and identify the level at which the file was held up. This creates an audit trail for procurement delays, allowing departments to distinguish between delays caused by incomplete proposals and those occurring during departmental scrutiny or approval. It therefore adds process-level accountability to Gujarat's existing e-procurement system, rather than only reducing the overall processing time.

B. Unified Emergency Response System Under Dial 112 ERSS

Source: The Times Of India, 24th September, 2026

1. On 23rd September, 2026, the Gujarat Government integrated the fire emergency service (101) into the state's Dial 112 Emergency Response Support System (ERSS).
2. The initiative aims to provide a single digital emergency-response platform through which citizens can access major emergency services using 112.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Government integrates the 101 fire emergency service with Dial 112 ERSS, bringing fire and rescue services onto the same platform as police, medical, and women and child emergency services.
 - b. The system routes fire emergency calls received through 112 to the state Main Control Room, where incident details and the digital location are recorded.
 - c. The system identifies the nearest available fire-response vehicle and transmits the assignment directly through Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) installed in response vehicles.
 - d. The first phase covers six municipal corporations, these are Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara, Jamnagar, Gandhinagar and Bhavnagar, with 237 fire and rescue vehicles equipped with Global Positioning System and Mobile Data Terminal technology.
 - e. The system records key stages of the response, including vehicle dispatch, arrival at the incident site, completion of the response and return of the vehicle, creating a digital record of the emergency-response cycle.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative operationalises the Ministry of Home Affairs' Emergency Response Support System (ERSS-112), which provides for a unified emergency number and computer-aided dispatch of police, health, fire, disaster and other emergency services.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Maharashtra and Karnataka have implemented ERSS-112 systems integrating multiple emergency services through the national 112 framework.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Gujarat's 112 'Janrakshak' network handled over 11.04 lakh integrated emergency service requests including 6.74 lakh police-related incidents in its first 11 months, and expanded its response fleet to 1,000 vehicles on 25th August, 2026, under a unified platform that had consolidated police, ambulance, and other emergency services from launch. Moving away from separate fire-control processes into a common call-taking architecture optimises resource allocation, eliminates redundant operations, and creates a consolidated performance record as emergency volumes grow.

B. Unified Emergency Response System Under Dial 112 ERSS

Source: The Times Of India, 24th September, 2026

- b. Although Gujarat integrated most emergency services into Dial-112 by January 2026, the fire number 101 continued to route through manual, city-level control rooms. Fully integrating 101 into 112 addresses this parallel channel by moving fire dispatches to the unified platform with digital event tracking from dispatch to return. This single access point eliminates caller uncertainty and establishes a common operating layer that streamlines multi-agency coordination during complex incidents.
- c. As of January 2026, Gujarat's Dial-112 service logged an average response time of 11 minutes 56 seconds statewide, operating with a fleet of 500 PCR vehicles which later doubled to 1,000 in August 2026, with the DGP targeting sub-10-minute response times going forward. Expanding this digitally monitored architecture, Phase 1 incorporates 237 fire and rescue vehicles across six major cities, including Ahmedabad, Surat, and Vadodara. Therefore, standardising dispatch data across both services enables the state to pinpoint localised delays, track vehicle availability, and optimise deployment decisions as integration expands beyond the initial municipal corporations.
- d. Lastly, Gujarat recorded 15,751 road accidents and 7,618 fatalities in 2022, with overspeeding alone responsible for 82% of recent cases, while fire incidents continue to add to the state's emergency caseload. The unified Dial-112 architecture meets this demand by connecting police, fire, and medical services through a single, digitally tracked dispatch system. By eliminating inter-agency handover friction and establishing a common incident trail, this coordinated framework enables faster mobilisation and more systematic performance monitoring across complex emergencies.

V. Andhra Pradesh

A. Capital Region Land Pooling Scheme (Formulation And Implementation) (Amendment) Rules, 2026

Source: The Hindu, 23rd September, 2026

1. On 23rd September, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approved amendments to the Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Land Pooling Scheme (Formulation and Implementation) Rules, 2026.
2. The amendment aims to extend the minimum annuity benefit to small landowners who were previously below the one-acre threshold under the land pooling framework.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Farmers contributing less than one acre of dry land will receive an annual annuity of ₹ 40,000 for 10 years.
 - b. Farmers contributing less than one acre of Jareebu land¹ will receive an annual annuity of ₹ 60,000 for 10 years.
 - c. The benefit initially applies to eligible landowners in seven villages notified under the Land Pooling Scheme, whose land extent and ownership were confirmed by 2nd December, 2025.
 - d. The Cabinet ratified ₹ 5.04 crore in annuity payments for 1,304 eligible farmers whose ownership was established by the prescribed cut-off date.
 - e. The Rules restrict the annual annuity payment strictly to original landowners who continue to hold their returnable developed plots (proportionately reduced if partially alienated), while explicitly excluding subsequent purchasers and transferees of plots or Land Pooling Ownership Certificates.
 - f. The amendment allows the benefit to be extended to upcoming villages brought under the Land Pooling Scheme, with the respective village notification date serving as the eligibility cut-off.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The Land Pooling Scheme is aligned with Sections 107 and 108 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, which permit states to provide more beneficial compensation and rehabilitation arrangements to affected landowners.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Delhi, Haryana and Telangana have adopted land pooling frameworks that allow landowners to pool land for planned urban development in return for a share of the developed land.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Farmers contributing less than one acre will now receive a minimum annuity

¹ Jareebu land is a local revenue term in Andhra Pradesh used to describe fertile, wet, or irrigated agricultural land, usually situated along riverfronts and canal networks.

A. Capital Region Land Pooling Scheme (Formulation And Implementation) (Amendment) Rules, 2026

Source: The Hindu, 23rd September, 2026

rather than a payment strictly proportional to the land pooled. This builds on the original Amaravati Land Pooling Scheme, under which farmers contributing less than one acre were entitled to the annuity applicable to one acre. The 2026 amendment extends a comparable minimum protection to eligible farmers under the 2025 Capital Region Rules, providing ₹ 40,000 annually for dry land and ₹ 60,000 for Jareebu land for 10 years.

- b. The amendment addresses the disproportionate impact of a purely land-linked annuity on farmers contributing less than one acre. Under the Phase I pooling exercise, 34,281 acres were assembled from nearly 30,000 farmers, equivalent to an average of about 1.14 acres per farmer. This relatively low average indicates that the pooling exercise involved a large number of individual land contributors, making the treatment of smaller holdings relevant to the overall compensation framework. The new minimum annuity prevents eligible farmers contributing less than one acre from seeing their annual entitlement fall solely in proportion to the smaller area contributed.
- c. Moreover, the amendment differentiates the minimum annuity by land type and fixes the entitlement period at 10 years. Eligible farmers contributing less than one acre will receive ₹ 40,000 annually for dry land and ₹ 60,000 for Jareebu land, subject to the prescribed cut-off date and eligibility conditions. This establishes a standardised entitlement framework rather than leaving the minimum payment to vary solely with the extent of land contributed.
- d. Further, the amendment revises the financial terms of an ongoing Phase II pooling process rather than setting conditions before the process began. The Government had already authorised 16,666.57 acres across seven villages for Phase II, while the minimum annuity for farmers contributing less than one acre was introduced only subsequently. The amendment therefore changes the compensation terms during an active pooling exercise.

VI. Nagaland

A. Simplification Of Healthcare Practitioners Registration Notification, 2026

Source: The Government Of Nagaland, 21st September, 2026, Morung Express, 21st September, 2026

1. On 21st September, 2026, the Nagaland Government notified the Nagaland Simplification of Healthcare Practitioners Registration Notification, 2026.
2. The notification aims to simplify registration and facilitate the mobility of qualified healthcare professionals into Nagaland.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The notification covers medical, dental, AYUSH, pharmacy, nursing and allied healthcare practitioners holding recognised qualifications and valid registration with a State or Union Territory Council in India.
 - b. It removes the requirement for a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the practitioner's existing state or Union Territory Council before registration in Nagaland.
 - c. Applicants can register through a self-declaration-based process by submitting their recognised qualification, existing registration proof and prescribed declaration through the relevant Council's online portal or offline where the portal is unavailable.
 - d. The concerned state Council must issue a registration number within seven working days, allowing the practitioner to commence practice subject to applicable regulatory requirements.
 - e. The registration remains provisional for 30 days, during which the concerned Council independently verifies the practitioner's qualifications and existing registration with the parent Council.
 - f. The Council can cancel registration if verification finds the credentials invalid. False or fabricated declarations may attract disciplinary action and prosecution under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, while existing professional and legal obligations continue to apply
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The notification complements the National Medical Commission's National Medical Register framework, which links State Medical Register enrolment to a central national register of licensed medical practitioners, while retaining State Medical Councils as the registration authorities.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Delhi, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar have also removed or reduced NOC and local registration requirements for healthcare practitioners registered in other states.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Nagaland's decision to remove the NOC requirement comes against a substantial

A. Simplification Of Healthcare Practitioners Registration Notification, 2026

Source: The Government Of Nagaland, 21st September, 2026, Morung Express, 21st September, 2026

shortage of healthcare personnel, with the state reporting gaps of 205 doctors, 321 medical officers, 1,955 nurses and 1,352 allied health providers against prescribed norms. Allowing practitioners already registered with another state or Union territory Council to register in Nagaland without first obtaining an NOC could therefore widen the pool of healthcare professionals available to the state.

- b. The reform is particularly relevant to district-level specialist shortages, where the gap is most pronounced. The recent audit findings show specialist shortfalls of 8%–56% in district hospitals and 67%–95% in community health centres, while only five of 23 Community Health Centres (CHCs) provided obstetrics and gynaecology specialist services. Since the new registration route covers doctors, nurses, pharmacists and allied healthcare professionals, faster registration could help expand the pool available to these underserved facilities.
- c. Additionally, interstate registration remains fragmented across India's healthcare system. A 2026 NITI Aayog assessment noted that a unified national system for professional licence portability has not yet been established and cited state-level NOC and fresh-registration requirements as barriers to healthcare-professional mobility.
- d. In response, the reform shifts inter-state healthcare registration from an applicant-led verification model to a regulator-led system. The practitioners previously had to obtain an NOC from their parent Council before registering in Nagaland. The new mechanism allows them to submit their existing registration credentials and self-declaration, receive a registration number within seven working days, and begin practice while Nagaland's Council independently verifies their credentials with the parent Council within 30 days. This reduces the procedural burden on practitioners while retaining a post-registration verification safeguard.

VII. Assam

A. Assam Muslim Marriage Registration (Compulsory) Rules, 2026

Source: The Hindu, 24th September, 2026

1. On 24th September, 2026, the Assam Cabinet approved the Assam Muslim Marriage Registration (Compulsory) Rules, 2026.
2. The rules aim to establish a uniform administrative framework for the compulsory registration of Muslim marriages and divorces through government-appointed registrars across Assam.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The rules require Muslim marriages to be registered by Government-appointed registrars instead of the earlier Kazi-led mechanism.
 - b. It operationalises the Assam Compulsory Registration of Muslim Marriages and Divorces Act, 2024, which replaced the Assam Muslim Marriage and Divorce Registration Act, 1935.
 - c. The registration process requires proof of identity, age and residence, along with declarations by the parties to the marriage.
 - d. The Act requires applications for marriage registration to be made within 30 days and divorce registration within one month, while prohibiting registration of marriages involving minors.
 - e. The Act provides penalties including imprisonment of up to two years or a fine of up to ₹ 10,000 for forged certificates, and imprisonment of up to one year with a fine of up to ₹ 50,000 for registration in violation of its provisions.
4. **Legal Alignment -** The framework advances the Supreme Court's direction in *Smt. Seema v. Ashwani Kumar* (2006) for compulsory registration of marriages across religious communities, which recognised marriage registration as a measure to help prevent child marriage.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Kerala has a state-wide framework requiring compulsory registration of marriages irrespective of religion.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The new registration framework comes against a persistently higher child-marriage prevalence in Assam than the national level. NFHS-6 records that 25.3% of women aged 20–24 in Assam were married before age 18, down from 31.8% in NFHS-5 but still 5.2 percentage points above the national rate of 20.1%. By requiring age verification and prohibiting registration of underage marriages, the rules introduce a documentary screening point before marriages enter the formal registration system, complementing the state's existing enforcement measures.
 - b. The 2024 Act had already shifted the statutory registration function from licensed Kazis to Government registration officers, but implementation required a uniform

A. Assam Muslim Marriage Registration (Compulsory) Rules, 2026**Source:** The Hindu, 24th September, 2026

procedure and accessible registration points across the state. The 2026 Rules operationalise this framework through common registrar offices, with the Government also indicating that panchayat-level arrangements may be authorised where application volumes warrant them. The significance of the Rules therefore lies in converting the statutory model created in 2024 into an administratively usable registration system.

- c. Further, the earlier Assam Muslim Marriages and Divorces Registration Act, 1935 operated through only 95 licensed Muslim registrars across the state, creating a relatively small and specialised registration network. The Assam Compulsory Registration of Muslim Marriages and Divorces Act, 2024 shifted this function to the state's mainstream registration system, and the 2026 rules now allow panchayat-level officials to be authorised where application volumes are high. This expands the potential administrative footprint of Muslim marriage registration beyond the earlier 95-registrar network.

VIII. Madhya Pradesh

A. Bhopal Master Plan 2047

Source: Hindustan Times, 27th September, 2026

1. On 26th September, 2026, the Madhya Pradesh Government released the draft Bhopal Master Plan 2047 for public consultation.
2. The Master Plan aims to guide the city's long-term spatial expansion through an integrated land-use framework covering a proposed planning area of 1,016.90 sq. km and 254 villages, while balancing urban development with protection of Bhojtal, forests, hills, water bodies and tiger movement corridors.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Plan introduces Green Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) to compensate landowners whose properties fall within designated green areas while enabling development rights to be transferred to other locations.
 - b. The draft proposes a 51-km Growth Corridor connecting the Education, Knowledge and Artificial Intelligence (EKAI) City, airport, proposed Commercial Mixed Use (CMU), logistics and wholesale areas.
 - c. It proposes 61,017 hectares of developable area, with approximately 43.85% residential use, 27% green area, 9.53% transport and 8% public spaces.
 - d. It has provided for a Bus Rapid Transit System corridor with the possibility of future conversion into a Mass Rapid Transit System, along with radial connectivity to Vidisha, Raisen, Narmadapuram and Indore.
 - e. The draft proposes increasing green areas from about 16% under the Bhopal Development Plan 2005 to around 27%, while protecting Bhojtal and its catchment, forests, hills, ponds and other environmentally sensitive areas.
 - f. The draft introduces a Digital Twin City system for real-time monitoring of development and construction activities, including land-use, traffic and unauthorised construction.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The Plan aligns with the Sub-Scheme on Formulation of Geographic Information System (GIS)-based Master Plans under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh have adopted master plans with Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) zones and Transferable Development Rights (TDR) instruments.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The plan combines urban expansion with environmental land-use protection. The proposed green area rises from about 16% under the 2005 plan to around 27%. This is significant as the city's population increased by nearly 80% between 1991 and 2011, while the 2005 plan had projected 25 lakh people but the actual

A. Bhopal Master Plan 2047**Source:** Hindustan Times, 27th September, 2026

population was about 17 lakh. The higher green-area allocation therefore provides a defined environmental component within a plan designed to accommodate substantial demographic and spatial expansion.

- b. Further, Bhojtal is a critical urban water-security asset for Bhopal. The Upper Lake, or Bhojtal, currently supplies around 115 Million Litres per Day (MLD), meeting approximately 40% of the city's potable-water requirement. Its catchment therefore has direct implications for the city's drinking-water security, making the draft plan's proposed protection of Bhojtal and its catchment relevant not only from an environmental perspective but also for maintaining a major source of municipal water supply.
- c. The proposed Digital Twin City adds a technology-based monitoring layer to the master plan. Real-time monitoring of construction, traffic and development activity can provide the administration with a common digital view of how the approved land-use framework is being implemented. This links the master plan not only to land allocation but also to ongoing monitoring of urban development.

IX. Telangana

A. MeeSeva Door Delivery Services

Source: The Hindu Businessline, 23rd September, 2026

1. On 23rd September, 2026, the Telangana Government launched MeeSeva Door Delivery Services.
2. The initiative aims to reduce physical visits to MeeSeva centres by enabling citizens to book selected Government services at their homes.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Citizens can book doorstep services through the 1100 toll-free number or MeeSeva portal and select a convenient delivery slot.
 - b. The service covers birth, death, income, caste and residence certificates, Encumbrance Certificate copies, select police services and Inspector General of Registration and Stamps services.
 - c. More than 70 MeeSeva agents and Village Level Entrepreneurs have been specially trained to deliver services at citizens' homes.
 - d. The service is initially being piloted in the Core Urban Region before being expanded across Telangana.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative builds on the Centre's Common Service Centre (CSC) model, which brings Government services closer to citizens through local service points.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Delhi's Doorstep Delivery of Public Services uses a central helpline and trained "Mobile Sahayaks" who visit citizens' homes to facilitate applications for specified Government services. Initially launched with 40 services in 2018, the programme was subsequently expanded to 100 services. Telangana's model adopts a similar scheduled home-visit approach through its existing MeeSeva network.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Telangana's existing MeeSeva network processed 32.52 lakh transactions worth ₹ 650.54 crore in August 2026 across 391 services and 5,265 active centres. The doorstep model therefore targets the last-mile access constraint within an already scaled service-delivery network, extending physical assistance to transactions that still require document submission or verification rather than adding another layer of services.
 - b. Telangana has already added a WhatsApp layer to MeeSeva, giving citizens access to 580+ services across 38 departments since November 2025. The new doorstep service therefore fills a more specific gap for transactions that cannot be completed entirely through the state's digital channels, particularly where physical documents, signatures or verification are still required. This makes the

A. MeeSeva Door Delivery Services

Source: The Hindu Businessline, 23rd September, 2026

- pilot a shift from digital access to assisted physical delivery, rather than another expansion of MeeSeva's service portfolio.
- c. MeeSeva processed 5.56 crore service requests and ₹ 15,558.48 crore in collections between August 2024 and August 2026. The doorstep model therefore extends a platform already handling a substantial volume of financial and administrative transactions, making secure document collection, payment handling and transaction accountability important design considerations as the service moves beyond the pilot.
 - d. Lastly, the doorstep model is consistent with Telangana's stated objective of removing the need for citizens to physically visit Government offices. The 2021 Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Policy targeted 1,000+ Government-to-Citizen (G2C) services online by 2026 and explicitly envisaged "contactless, paperless and presence-less governance." The doorstep MeeSeva extends this approach to citizens who require assisted access, bringing the service to the citizen rather than requiring the citizen to travel to a service centre.

Policy Level Announcements

I. Karnataka

A. Sustainable Data Centre Policy 2026–2031

Source: The Hindu Businessline, 18th September, 2026

1. On 18th September, 2026, the Karnataka Cabinet approved the Karnataka Sustainable Data Centre Policy 2026–2031.
2. The policy aims to expand Karnataka's data centre capacity by attracting investment, enabling AI-ready infrastructure, and promoting energy- and water-efficient operations.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy targets 1 GW of cumulative data centre IT load by 2031 and a 10–12% share of India's AI-ready data centre capacity.
 - b. It proposes a ₹ 1,300.45 crore incentive framework for 2026–2031 covering data centre units, parks, edge data centres, cable landing stations and allied infrastructure.
 - c. It provides incentives for capital investment, land, electricity, connectivity, renewable energy, demand centres, R&D, skilling, MSME participation and local manufacturing, with sustainability-linked parameters including Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE) and Water Usage Effectiveness (WUE).
 - d. It enables Sustainable Data Centre Zones and Parks, edge data centres, a Centre of Excellence for Data Centres and resource heat mapping based on land, electricity, water, connectivity and other infrastructure availability.
 - e. It designates the Department of Electronics, IT, Biotechnology and Science and Technology as the nodal department, Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS) as the registration interface, and Karnataka Udyoga Mitra as the single-window agency.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the IndiaAI Mission by promoting AI-ready digital infrastructure, cloud computing and renewable-powered data centres to strengthen India's digital ecosystem.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha have introduced dedicated data centre policies to promote sustainable and large-scale data centre development.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. India's data centre capacity has increased from 375 MW in 2020 to around 1,575 MW in 2026. Karnataka's 1 GW target by 2031 would therefore add capacity equivalent to 63% of India's current national base. With Bengaluru already accounting for about 11.57% of India's data centre capacity, the policy seeks to

A. Sustainable Data Centre Policy 2026–2031

Source: The Hindu Businessline, 18th September, 2026

- deepen an existing national concentration while positioning Karnataka to capture a significant share of the next wave of AI infrastructure investment.
- b. Further, the policy seeks to decentralise data centre investment, but its current sites remain concentrated in Karnataka's stronger economic regions. Bengaluru Urban accounts for 40.4% of state GDP and 49.4% of services output, compared with just 8.8% for Kalyana-Karnataka. With proposed parks in Bengaluru, Mysuru and Mangaluru, the policy may diversify beyond Bengaluru without necessarily reaching Karnataka's weaker regions.
 - c. Moreover, Karnataka had around 26.4 GW of renewable capacity as of February 2026, its ESCOMs recorded losses of approximately ₹ 8,869 crore in 2024–25, alongside periods of supply shortages. Data centres require continuous, high-quality power, making firm capacity, storage and transmission as important as renewable generation. The policy's renewable incentives will therefore need to be matched by investments that maintain grid reliability and ESCOM viability.
 - d. Lastly, Karnataka's new policy shifts the focus from attracting data centre investment to building sustainable, AI-ready capacity. While the 2022–27 policy targeted ₹ 10,000 crore in investment, the new policy targets 1 GW of capacity by 2031, with dedicated measures for renewable energy, water efficiency, advanced cooling and wastewater recycling, alongside regional data centre hubs beyond Bengaluru.

B. Marine Biotechnology Policy 2026–2031

Source: The Hindu Businessline, 18th September, 2026

1. On 18th September, 2026, the Karnataka Cabinet approved the Karnataka Marine Biotechnology Policy 2026–2031.
2. The policy aims to expand Karnataka's Blue Bioeconomy from \$ 2 billion (₹ 19,000 crore) to \$ 6–8 billion (₹ 57,000 crore – 76,000 crore) by 2031 by developing marine biotechnology, biomanufacturing, seaweed-based products, marine biomaterials and sustainable marine enterprises.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy provides a proposed five-year outlay of ₹ 120 crore to support marine biotechnology infrastructure, research, innovation, commercialisation and industry incentives.
 - b. The Government will establish the Karnataka Institute of Marine Biotechnology and Blue Economy (KIMBE) as an institutional anchor for marine research, innovation and commercialisation, supported by advanced laboratories, a biobank and incubation facilities.
 - c. The policy proposes dedicated Marine Biotechnology Zones with common research and production infrastructure, testing facilities, logistics and plug-and-play facilities for marine biotechnology enterprises.
 - d. Further, the policy introduces a Seaweed Value Addition–Production Linked Incentive (SVA-PLI), pilot Blue Carbon certification programme and marine Bioinnovation and Startup Incubation Centre to support commercialisation and technology translation of marine-based products.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment (BioE3) Policy, 2024 by advancing marine research, high-performance biomanufacturing and commercialisation of bio-based products.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Kerala's Draft Biotechnology Policy 2026 identifies marine biotechnology and the blue economy as strategic priorities, covering marine genomics, seaweed biotechnology, sustainable aquaculture and marine bio-based products.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Karnataka's Marine Biotechnology Policy targets 25–32% annual growth in its Blue Bioeconomy through 2031. The policy seeks to expand the sector from \$ 2 billion (₹ 19,000 crore) to \$ 6–8 billion (₹ 57,000 crore – 76,000 crore). The gap between these growth rates indicates that the target depends on creating new high-value marine industries, particularly in seaweed derivatives, marine biomaterials, biomanufacturing and blue-carbon markets, rather than expanding conventional

B. Marine Biotechnology Policy 2026–2031

Source: The Hindu Businessline, 18th September, 2026

fisheries alone.

- b. Further, Karnataka's 2025 marine landings rose 44% to 5.78 lakh tonnes after a 34% decline in 2024, with threadfin breams reaching a decadal high. The multi-day trawl nets accounted for 71% of landings, while Mangaluru and Malpe contributed 89% of the state's catch. The new policy's focus on seaweed, marine biomaterials and biomanufacturing can therefore broaden the state's blue economy beyond a geographically and activity-concentrated fishing base.
- c. Moreover, Karnataka's seafood export value rose 56.1% to ₹ 5,371.85 crore in 2025–26, while volumes increased 39.3% to 3.37 lakh tonnes, taking Karnataka from sixth to fifth among exporting states. The scale-up in seafood trade strengthens the commercial base for the policy to develop higher-value segments of the marine economy, including seaweed-based products, marine bio-products and biotechnology applications in aquaculture and seafood processing, enabling Karnataka to capture more value beyond primary seafood exports.
- d. Lastly, the Centre has identified 1,579 hectares across 14 locations in Karnataka as suitable for seaweed cultivation, while the Karnataka Government has stated that no area in Dakshina Kannada is suitable. This creates a specific mismatch for a policy that seeks to build a marine biotechnology ecosystem along Karnataka's coast, as one of its key feedstocks cannot be cultivated in a major southern coastal district. The policy will therefore have to reconcile its seaweed ambitions with the fact that cultivation and downstream marine biotechnology activity may need to be located in different parts of the coastline.

II. Tamil Nadu

A. Tamil Nadu Rooftop Solar Subsidy Scheme

Source: The Indian Express, 22nd September, 2026

1. On 21st September, 2026, the Tamil Nadu Government launched the Tamil Nadu Rooftop Solar Subsidy Scheme and a dedicated rooftop solar portal, targeting installations in one lakh households by March 2027.
2. The scheme aims to accelerate household adoption of rooftop solar by providing an additional state subsidy over the Centre's assistance under the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme provides an additional state subsidy of ₹ 5,000 for systems up to 1 kW, ₹ 10,000 for up to 2 kW and ₹ 22,000 for up to 3 kW.
 - b. Combined with the central subsidy, eligible households can receive total assistance of ₹ 35,000, ₹ 70,000 and up to ₹ 1 lakh respectively.
 - c. The state has allocated ₹ 50 crore for the scheme in 2026-27, with additional funds to be sought if demand exceeds the initial target.
 - d. The new portal integrates information on Central and state subsidies, applications, installation procedures, application status and empanelled solar agencies.
 - e. Once the Central subsidy is credited, the state subsidy will be processed automatically, eliminating the need for a separate application by the consumer.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The scheme directly aligns with the Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana by providing a supplementary state-level financial top-up to the central assistance structure.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Uttar Pradesh through the Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA) has implemented similar state-level subsidy top-ups to complement central residential solar schemes and boost rapid deployment.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. By 20th July, 2026, 83,906 Tamil Nadu households had benefited under PM Surya Ghar, showing an established base for rooftop-solar adoption. The new state subsidy adds up to ₹ 22,000 per household, taking combined support to ₹ 1 lakh for systems of 3 kW or more. The top-up therefore targets the remaining adoption gap without creating a separate delivery mechanism, allowing the state to use the existing national portal and DISCOM verification system to accelerate uptake.
 - b. Further, the scheme also addresses an existing implementation bottleneck. As of June 2026, 3,531 PM Surya Ghar applications were pending in Tamil Nadu, with 2,211 pending for more than 15 days. The new portal integrates application,

A. Tamil Nadu Rooftop Solar Subsidy Scheme

Source: The Indian Express, 22nd September, 2026

installation and meter-connection tracking, allowing consumers to monitor their applications while enabling the Government to identify delays. This is particularly relevant as the state seeks to scale rooftop-solar adoption to 1 lakh homes by March 2027.

- c. Moreover, rooftop-solar adoption remains concentrated in a small number of districts. As of 20th July, 2026, Coimbatore, Chennai and Chengalpattu together accounted for 26,563 of Tamil Nadu's 83,906 installations, or 31.65% of the state total. The uniform state subsidy can therefore accelerate adoption where demand already exists, but achieving the 1 lakh-household target will require stronger mobilisation in lower-uptake districts rather than relying only on existing high-adoption markets.
- d. Tamil Nadu's electricity demand reached a record 21,724 MW in July 2026, while monthly consumption rose 11.5% year-on-year to 13,807 million units. Rooftop solar can add distributed generation close to consumption centres and reduce pressure on the grid during daytime demand. With 337.49 MW already installed under the scheme, the 1 lakh households target can further expand distributed solar capacity as the state's electricity demand continues to rise.
- e. Lastly, the initial ₹ 50 crore allocation will also need to be calibrated against the capacity mix of participating households. While it would cover one lakh beneficiaries at the ₹ 5,000 State-subsidy level, higher uptake of 2 kW and 3 kW systems would require a larger outlay. The actual subsidy disbursement relative to the one-lakh-home target, together with any supplementary allocation, will therefore be a key indicator of the scheme's fiscal execution.

III. Uttarakhand

A. Uttarakhand Science, Technology And Innovation Policy, 2026

Source: Mint, 28th September, 2026

1. On 27th September, 2026, the Uttarakhand Government released the Uttarakhand Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STI), 2026, which was announced in June 2026.
2. The policy aims to strengthen research, innovation and technology adoption by developing solutions tailored to Uttarakhand's geographical, environmental and socio-economic conditions.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. It identifies glaciology, disaster management, energy, water resources, agriculture, healthcare, education, migration, skills and entrepreneurship as priority areas for science and technology interventions.
 - b. It proposes establishing a Science, Technology and Innovation Observatory as a centralised digital repository for schemes, grants, incentives and innovation-related programmes.
 - c. The Government proposes to integrate carbon-credit mechanisms into the state's science, technology and innovation framework.
 - d. It supports innovation, entrepreneurship and technology-based livelihood opportunities through institutions such as the Uttarakhand State Council for Science and Technology.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Policy complements the Anusandhan National Research Foundation's mandate to strengthen India's research and innovation ecosystem through collaboration among academia, industry, research institutions and Government.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** A number of states, including Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have notified dedicated Science, Technology and Innovation policies, while Kerala has maintained a state-level science policy framework for several decades.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Uttarakhand's development is closely tied to its natural-resource base. The latest India State of Forest Report records 24,303.83 sq. km of forest cover, covering 45.44% of the state's calculated geographical area. The state has now released GEP reports for 2023-24 and 2024-25 to assess the economic value of forests, water, biodiversity, soil conservation and carbon absorption, providing a basis for incorporating these assets into development and budgetary planning rather than treating them only as environmental resources.
 - b. Additionally, the need for such a planning approach is also reflected in the state's

A. Uttarakhand Science, Technology And Innovation Policy, 2026

Source: Mint, 28th September, 2026

recent disaster losses. Uttarakhand's 2025 Post Disaster Needs Assessment estimated ₹ 15,103.5 crore in total economic impact, including ₹ 6,225.7 crore in infrastructure damage and ₹ 744.9 crore in losses to tourism, it also identified ₹ 3,017 crore in requirements for disaster-risk reduction. The STI Policy's focus on science-based solutions for Himalayan challenges therefore provides an institutional framework for applying research, environmental data and technology to sectors where natural-resource and disaster risks directly affect public infrastructure and economic activity.

- c. Further, the policy addresses a longer-standing gap between scientific capacity and state-level application. The new framework seeks to strengthen research institutions and innovation centres and promote locally relevant R&D, while the GEP reports establish a state-specific evidence base on environmental assets. This creates a clearer mechanism for linking research institutions, Government departments and industry to Uttarakhand-specific priorities, including water management, disaster resilience, agriculture, energy and mountain livelihoods, rather than relying on environmental data only for assessment after a project or disaster.
- d. Lastly, the policy links environmental measurement with emerging economic mechanisms. It has been directed that carbon credits be incorporated into the STI Policy, while the GEP framework already considers carbon absorption as an environmental service. This creates a policy link between scientific measurement of natural assets and the development of mechanisms for recognising carbon-related environmental contributions.

IV. Haryana

A. Haryana Patent Support, Commercialisation And Innovation Facilitation Policy, 2026-27

Source: PIB, 27th September, 2026, The Tribune, 29th September, 2026

1. On 27th September, 2026, the Haryana Government issued the guidelines for the Haryana Patent Support, Commercialisation and Innovation Facilitation Policy 2026-27.
2. The policy aims to strengthen the state's intellectual property (IP) and innovation ecosystem by subsidising patent registration for students, researchers, and state institutions, while supporting commercialisation, startups, and industry-academic ties.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Policy provides 100% reimbursement of patent expenses up to ₹ 50,000 per application, covering filing, examination, grant, First Examination Report (FER) and commercialisation, normally limited to one application per applicant per FY.
 - b. It extends to students, faculty, researchers, startups and MSMEs, with priority for women and rural innovators and for AI, healthcare, agriculture and green technologies.
 - c. It introduces consultancy support of up to ₹ 20,000 per case.
 - d. It enables Universities to empanel patent agents, IPR professionals and technology-transfer experts.
 - e. It mandates Intellectual Property Right (IPR) Cells, Patent Facilitation Centres and Technology Transfer Offices in higher educational institutions, with the Haryana State Higher Education Council as nodal agency.
4. **Central Initiatives Alignment -** The Policy aligns with the National IPR Policy, 2016, and complements the Patents (Amendment) Rules, 2021, which reduced patent fees for educational institutions by 80%.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Karnataka and Kerala provide patent-reimbursement support under their respective policies, with reimbursement up to ₹ 2 lakh per Indian patent and ₹ 10 lakh per foreign patent.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Haryana already has a sizable institutional base for research, but the State is now creating a stronger link between this research base and its emerging industrial sectors. In 2025-26, Haryana's Research Fund received more than 350 applications from higher-education institutions, of which 90 projects were approved, with research areas including industrial innovation, science and technology, entrepreneurship and skills. The new patent policy adds an IP-protection layer to this existing research-support system, addressing the stage between developing a

A. Haryana Patent Support, Commercialisation And Innovation Facilitation Policy, 2026-27

Source: PIB, 27th September, 2026, The Tribune, 29th September, 2026

- research output and formally securing it as intellectual property.
- b. Haryana-origin applicants filed 1,521 patent applications in 2024-25, compared with 1,014 in 2023-24, indicating a growing pipeline of locally generated intellectual property. The policy addresses the cost barrier in taking this pipeline through filing, examination and grant by providing reimbursement of eligible expenses up to ₹ 50,000 per application. This could increase conversion of research outputs into formally protected IP by lowering the upfront financial burden on innovators.
 - c. Existing IPR facilitation in Haryana remains distributed across individual institutions and the state's science and technology ecosystem. In 2025, the Haryana State Council of Science and Technology's Patent Information Centre facilitated 15 patents, 12 trademarks and 15 industrial designs and conducted 25 IPR awareness sessions. The new policy creates Institutional IPR Cells, Patent Facilitation Centres and Technology Transfer Offices across higher educational institutions, with defined functions extending from filing to licensing and industry matchmaking. This could create a more systematic institutional pipeline for managing IP rather than relying primarily on individual researchers to navigate protection and commercialisation processes.
 - d. The state's Electronic System Design and Manufacturing Policy specifically seeks to build capabilities in knowledge transfer, technology transfer and innovation, while the new patent policy covers Government and Government-aided colleges, technical institutions and state universities. Together, these provisions connect the research and IP side of the ecosystem with the sectors Haryana is targeting for industrial investment.

V. Maharashtra

A. Draft Global Circular Workforce Mobility Policy 2026

Source: The Economic Times, 21st September, 2026

1. On 21st September, 2026, the Maharashtra Government released the draft Global Circular Workforce Mobility Policy 2026.
2. The policy aims to facilitate safe and demand-linked overseas employment for workers over five years by aligning state-level skilling, certification and recruitment systems with country-specific labour demand.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The draft policy targets the overseas deployment of 1 lakh workers over five years, with women expected to account for more than 25% of deployments by the fifth year.
 - b. It introduces country-specific Skill Passports that will map overseas labour demand and guide ITIs and training institutions in aligning courses with destination-country requirements.
 - c. It will expand market-specific skilling and language training, including free foreign-language training for ITI and polytechnic students through an MoU between MITRA, MAHIMA and Digital India Bhashini.
 - d. It establishes a structured overseas employment pathway covering certification, documentation assistance, pre-departure orientation and safer recruitment mechanisms.
 - e. It will align training with specific overseas markets, including Germany, Italy, Israel and Japan, based on identified demand for sectors such as automotive, manufacturing, textiles, construction, nursing and caregiving.
 - f. It incorporates a circular mobility approach by connecting skilled workers returning from abroad with industries in Maharashtra to support domestic reintegration of skills and experience.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The draft policy complements the Centre's India International Skill Centres, which provide internationally aligned skilling, language training and pre-departure orientation to prepare Indian workers for overseas employment.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Kerala, Telangana and Tamil Nadu have established state-run agencies for overseas recruitment and workforce mobility.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Maharashtra's five-year target of 1 lakh overseas workers translates to around 20,000 workers annually, while 23,397 ITI seats remained vacant in 2026. The state had 1,49,543 ITI seats, of which 1,26,146 were filled, indicating that the annual overseas employment target is broadly comparable with the pool of unused

A. Draft Global Circular Workforce Mobility Policy 2026

Source: The Economic Times, 21st September, 2026

vocational training capacity. Aligning ITI curricula with overseas demand could therefore help convert existing training capacity into internationally marketable skills.

- b. Maharashtra's youth unemployment rate for persons aged 15–29 years was 7.7% in 2025, including 8.8% in urban areas and 6.6% in rural areas. Concurrently, the state is aligning its vocational training capacity with international labour demand across the healthcare, engineering, construction, and technical sectors. The draft directly adapts ITI and training curricula to match specific foreign workforce requirements, integrating technical instruction with language training, certification, and placement preparation.
- c. The draft sets a specific gender target for overseas employment, with women expected to account for more than 25% of the 1 lakh workers by the fifth year, translating to at least 25,000 women. Maharashtra's female labour force participation rate stood at 39.9% among persons aged 15 years and above in 2025. The availability of women-specific training, language support and safe recruitment mechanisms will therefore be important to expanding women's participation in the state's overseas employment pathways.
- d. Further, Maharashtra already has a substantial international workforce ecosystem, accounting for 20.5% of India's inward remittances in 2023–24. The draft policy's proposed circular-mobility mechanism could extend this existing overseas employment base by connecting returning workers with industries in Maharashtra, potentially allowing the state to capture skills and industry experience alongside remittance income.

VI. Bihar

A. Bihar Green Hydrogen Policy, 2026

Source: The Times Of India, 30th September, 2026

1. On 30th September, 2026, the Bihar Government approved the Bihar Green Hydrogen Policy, 2026.
2. The policy aims to build a green hydrogen ecosystem in Bihar covering production, consumption, market creation and electrolyser manufacturing.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy targets annual production of 1 lakh tonnes of green hydrogen, and seeks to attract ₹ 16,000 crore investment and create approximately 12,000 jobs.
 - b. It seeks to achieve 0.10 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) of green hydrogen or green ammonia production by 2031, backed by around 1 Gigawatt (GW) of electrolyser capacity and 2.5 GW of renewable energy capacity.
 - c. The Bihar Renewable Energy Development Agency (BREDA) would serve as the nodal agency for implementation, including project facilitation and coordination.
 - d. The policy provides for green hydrogen projects to receive “White Category” status and supports hydrogen refuelling infrastructure, hydrogen-powered vehicles, biomass-based hydrogen and domestic electrolyser manufacturing.
 - e. It provides reimbursement of 10% of capital expenditure on electrolyser stacks and associated equipment, capped at ₹ 1 crore per Megawatt (MW).
 - f. It provides incentives for green hydrogen projects, including exemptions on electricity duty, stamp duty, land conversion charges, and transmission and wheeling charges.
 - g. It proposes green hydrogen hubs co-locating production and consumption facilities, with initial adoption in fertilisers and oil refineries.
4. **Central Initiatives Alignment -** The Policy aligns with the National Green Hydrogen Mission, 2023, which targets 5 MMT of annual green hydrogen production by 2030.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Uttar Pradesh's Green Hydrogen Policy 2024 targets 1 million tonnes per year by 2028, while Maharashtra's Green Hydrogen Policy 2023 supports anchor projects and has MoUs covering 1,010 Kilo Tonnes Per Annum (KTPA) capacity by 2025.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Bihar's renewable energy generation base remains limited relative to its conventional capacity. As of 31st August, 2026, the state had 788.16 MW of installed renewable energy capacity. This creates a relatively small existing renewable base for developing a large green-hydrogen production ecosystem.
 - b. The State Transformation Cell identifies industrialisation as central to structural economic transformation and specifically identifies food processing, textiles,

A. Bihar Green Hydrogen Policy, 2026

Source: The Times Of India, 30th September, 2026

ethanol, MSMEs and renewable energy as areas for expansion. Further, Bihar's power system remains dependent on electricity procured from outside the state as its own generation capacity was around 550 MW against average daily demand of 7,300–7,400 MW, with demand projected to exceed 11,700 MW by 2030.

- c. Additionally, Bihar's renewable procurement requirements are also rising, while it faces a projected gap in meeting them. The Bihar Electricity Regulatory Commission's trajectory reaches 43.33% total Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) by FY2029-30, with a projected 6,924 MU shortfall against the requirement in that year.
- d. The Green Hydrogen Policy therefore fits into Bihar's broader attempt to build an industrial and clean-energy base. The state has identified potential demand centres such as Barauni Refinery and Hindustan Fertilizer and Chemicals Ltd., and the Chief Minister's Office has directed officials to examine hydrogen plants in these and other parts of the State. This gives Bihar a mechanism to connect its planned renewable expansion with identifiable industrial uses such as refining and fertiliser production.
- e. Bihar has a high concentration of employment in agriculture, with 48.6% of its workforce engaged in agriculture, while limited non-farm employment contributes to migration and livelihood diversification. The Green Hydrogen Policy creates a pathway for developing skilled non-farm employment in renewable power, electrolyser installation, hydrogen production, storage, pipeline operations, equipment maintenance and safety. The state Government estimates that the policy could generate around 12,000 employment opportunities alongside ₹ 16,000 crore of investment. The Government's aim to create employment through the scheme can also be fulfilled.

VII. Andhra Pradesh

A. Empanelment Of Social Media Influencers Policy, 2026

Source: The Government Of Andhra Pradesh, 28th September, 2026, The New Indian Express, 28th September, 2026

1. On 23rd September, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approved the formulation of the Empanelment of Social Media Influencers (SMIs) Policy.
2. The policy aims to expand Government communication through verified social media creators by disseminating information on welfare schemes, infrastructure projects and development programmes across major digital platforms.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy will cover content creators operating on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and X.
 - b. The creators will be identified, verified and empanelled before being engaged for Government communication.
 - c. The initial empanelment will be valid for one year, with the possibility of extension for up to two additional years, one year at a time, based on performance.
 - d. The empanelled creators will disseminate information on welfare programmes, infrastructure initiatives and development activities.
 - e. The policy establishes a formal mechanism for the Government to use independent digital content creators as an additional public communication channel.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Policy aligns with the MyGov Content Creators Program, which uses an influencer engagement framework to partner with social media creators and marketing agencies for wider public outreach on Government initiatives.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh have also developed frameworks for engaging social media influencers for Government communication, with eligibility and remuneration linked to factors such as follower base, verified reach and platform-specific engagement.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The policy responds to an already substantial digital audience in the Andhra Pradesh service area. As of March 2026, it had 39.48 million (3.94 crore) internet subscribers, including 31.94 million (3.19 crore) in rural areas, with 83.52 internet subscribers per 100 population overall. This gives creator-led Government communication a large existing digital distribution base across urban and rural audiences.
 - b. Social media can strengthen governance by reducing the information gap between

A. Empanelment Of Social Media Influencers Policy, 2026

Source: The Government Of Andhra Pradesh, 28th September, 2026, The New Indian Express, 28th September, 2026

Government and citizens. Beyond promoting schemes, creator-led communication can explain eligibility, direct citizens to relevant services and capture feedback on implementation, making digital platforms an additional interface between citizens and Government. Andhra Pradesh's policy can therefore deliver greater value if creator engagement is tied not only to content output and reach, but also to service awareness, citizen response and feedback.

- c. Further, Andhra Pradesh already has a large digital outreach channel through Mana Mitra, which provides 1,126 Government services through WhatsApp. The Policy can build on this existing digital infrastructure by using creators across platforms to expand awareness and uptake of Government schemes, services and development initiatives beyond citizens directly accessing Mana Mitra.
- d. Lastly, the policy formalises a communication channel that Andhra Pradesh is already using to take Government schemes and development programmes to citizens. In September 2026, the Government directed ministers to strengthen social-media outreach to younger audiences, while the Information and Public Relations Department already uses Facebook, X and YouTube to disseminate Government schemes and development activities. The new policy can therefore shift this outreach from department-managed communication to a wider creator network, increasing the number of channels through which Government information reaches citizens.

VIII. Goa

A. Goa Policy For Life-course Immunisation 2026–2036

Source: The Government Of Goa, 23rd September, 2026

1. On 23rd September, 2026, Goa Government launched the Goa Policy for Life-course Immunisation 2026–2036.
2. The policy aims to establish a risk-based, evidence-led framework for adult preventive-immunisation and integrate vaccination into routine healthcare across different stages of life.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy prioritises influenza, pneumococcal and hepatitis vaccines in its initial phase for clinically high-risk adults.
 - b. It covers high-risk groups including people with diabetes, cardiovascular, respiratory, kidney and liver diseases, cancer, immunocompromised individuals, healthcare workers and other frontline workers, subject to eligibility criteria.
 - c. It integrates adult vaccination with existing non-communicable diseases (NCD) clinics, specialist services and cold-chain systems, with Goa Medical College and district hospitals facilitating identification and vaccination of eligible beneficiaries.
 - d. It assigns overall governance to the Directorate of Health Services and implementation responsibilities to District Immunization Officers.
 - e. The implementation framework provides for centralised vaccine procurement, cold-chain capacity, digital tracking of vaccination coverage and monitoring of adverse events following immunisation.
 - f. The policy establishes a 10-year framework for periodic review and updating of vaccine priorities based on emerging evidence, technologies, disease burden, safety, feasibility and cost-effectiveness.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy extends the Centre's Universal Immunisation Programme, which is primarily focused on routine immunisation, by creating a state-level framework for vaccination across the adult life course.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Goa's life-course immunisation policy responds to a more rapidly ageing population than the national average. NFHS-6 places the share of Goa's population aged 60 years and above at 17.2%, up from 14.2% in NFHS-5, compared with 12.9% nationally. With senior citizens identified as a priority group under the policy, the demographic shift provides a clear basis for moving vaccination beyond childhood and towards age-specific preventive care.
 - b. Goa's risk-based adult vaccination model is targeted at a substantially higher NCD burden than the national profile. NFHS-6 records high or very high blood sugar, or medication use, among 32.1% of Goa men and 27.5% of women aged over 15,

A. Goa Policy For Life-course Immunisation 2026–2036

Source: The Government Of Goa, 23rd September, 2026

compared with 20.9% and 17.8% nationally. The elevated blood pressure affects another 27.5% of Goa men and 26.2% of women, versus 22.1% and 19.4% nationally. With diabetes and cardiovascular disease among the policy's priority groups, the approach directly targets the state's higher-risk adult population.

- c. Goa's policy also extends an existing childhood-focused immunisation system into adult care. The state's universal immunisation programme has operated since 1985–86, with hepatitis B already included in the routine schedule. The new policy adds influenza, pneumococcal and hepatitis B vaccination for identified adult risk groups, allowing Goa to use its established immunisation infrastructure while expanding coverage across the life course.
- d. The policy's influenza component is timely given Goa's recent rise in transmission. Influenza-positive cases increased from 6 in June to 44 in July and 73 by 20th August, 2026, with the Directorate of Health Services issuing a public health advisory as activity increased during the monsoon. This strengthens the case for prioritising influenza vaccination among older adults and people with chronic conditions, who are specifically covered under the new policy.

Social Sector Schemes

I. Assam

A. Assam Incubation Project 2.0

Source: India Today North East, 18th September, 2026

1. On 18th September, 2026, the Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission (ASRLM) under the Department of Panchayat and Rural Development launched the Assam Incubation Project 2.0.
2. The project aims to formalise and scale existing women-led enterprises by combining financial assistance, enterprise development, skills, consultancy and market-linkage support.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The project targets women-led enterprises owned by registered Self-Help Group (SHG) members who are permanent residents of Assam, with annual turnover above ₹ 12 lakh and a mandatory LokOS code.
 - b. The project provides eligible enterprises with grant support of up to ₹ 1.05 lakh and combined grant and interest-free loan support of up to ₹ 26.33 lakh.
 - c. The sector-specific training, expert consultancy and business planning support help enterprises strengthen operations and scale.
 - d. The project facilitates enterprise formalisation, bank finance, Government scheme convergence and skill development to improve access to institutional support.
 - e. Further, online and offline marketing support expands market access, with the project targeting 'Maha Lakhpati Baideos' and additional non-institutional employment.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The project aligns with Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–National Rural Livelihoods Mission's (DAY-NRLM) Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP), which supports women-led enterprises emerging from the SHG ecosystem through enterprise development, incubation, finance and market linkages.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala and West Bengal have implemented women-focused enterprise incubation and SHG enterprise development programmes combining finance, capacity building and market support.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Assam is building its women's enterprise pipeline on a large existing women-led Self-Help Group network. As of 31st July 2026, the Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission had 3.62 lakh active Self-Help Groups, covering 39.76 lakh households. These groups have collectively borrowed nearly ₹ 21,000 crore from banks. Assam Incubation Project 2.0 targets the more established enterprises within this base,

A. Assam Incubation Project 2.0

Source: India Today North East, 18th September, 2026

- requiring applicants to have annual turnover above ₹ 12 lakh and providing grants of up to ₹ 1.05 lakh and grants or interest-free loans of up to ₹ 26.33 lakh.
- b. Further, the project builds on rapid growth in women's household incomes while targeting the next stage of enterprise development. Assam had 9,19,762 Lakhpati Didis as of March 2026, up 77% from 5.18 lakh in October 2024. Since the Lakhpati Didi benchmark is an annual household income of at least ₹ 1 lakh, while the project requires enterprise turnover above ₹ 12 lakh, the intervention is positioned towards helping established women-led businesses scale beyond basic income generation.
 - c. Moreover, Assam already has a sizeable entrepreneurship training base that can feed into the incubation pipeline. By July 2026, 3.12 lakh SHG members in the state had been trained under the National Campaign on Entrepreneurship, around 7.5% of the national total and the fifth-highest among states. The state has also trained 1,857 enterprise promoters and business development providers, creating an existing support network for enterprise formation and expansion.
 - d. In addition, the project builds on Assam's expanding formal credit network for SHGs. As of July 2026, 6.78 lakh SHGs had received bank linkage in Assam, with ₹ 13,981 crore in credit provided through the programme. The project's financing support of up to ₹ 26.33 lakh therefore creates a pathway for eligible women-led enterprises to move beyond conventional SHG-level credit towards larger-scale business expansion and investment.

II. Tamil Nadu

A. Expansion Of Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme

Source: Deccan Herald, 18th September, 2026

1. On 22nd September, 2026, the Tamil Nadu Government launched the expansion of the Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme.
2. The scheme aims to extend daily breakfast provision to middle-school students to improve nutrition, attendance and classroom engagement.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The expansion covers approximately 15.30 lakh additional students across 15,454 Government and Government-aided schools for Classes 6–8.
 - b. An additional ₹ 217.63 crore allocation takes the scheme's total allocation to ₹ 724 crore for the current financial year.
 - c. The implementation in Chennai covers 447 schools through integrated kitchens managed by the Greater Chennai Corporation, while 2,150 schools in other urban areas are served through municipal integrated kitchens.
 - d. The rural implementation covers 12,857 schools through the Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihoods Mission, with Self-Help Group members preparing and serving breakfast at schools.
 - e. The existing menu and operating guidelines continue, with schools required to provide hot, nutritious meals while maintaining hygiene and continuous monitoring of kitchens and serving areas.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The expansion aligns with PM POSHAN, which covers students in Classes I–VIII in Government and Government-aided schools and targets improved nutrition, attendance and retention.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Telangana have introduced a similar school breakfast programme, providing morning meals to students in Government and local body schools, with the 2026–27 relaunch also adding milk and ragi porridge to the nutrition package. Puducherry also has a similar initiative, Shri Rajiv Gandhi Breakfast Scheme which targets students in Government and Government-aided schools, providing morning nutrition to over 1.5 lakh students.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Tamil Nadu is extending the breakfast scheme to Classes 6–8 amid a recent deterioration in upper-primary retention. The dropout rate for Classes 6–8 rose from 0% in each of the previous three years to 2.8% in 2024–25, while the Class 8–9 transition rate declined from 100% to 96.6%. The expansion therefore extends nutritional support to the stage where retention indicators have begun to weaken.
 - b. Further, the scheme can improve learning by first addressing the immediate barriers that affect children's participation in school. The second-phase evaluation

A. Expansion Of Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Breakfast Scheme**Source:** Deccan Herald, 18th September, 2026

found that the breakfast programme was associated with improved attendance and classroom engagement, with the State Planning Commission reporting increased attendance in 90% of schools after its introduction. By reducing hunger at the start of the school day, the scheme can improve children's ability to attend regularly, concentrate and participate in classroom activities.

- c. Moreover, this pathway is particularly relevant given the gap between school participation and foundational learning in Tamil Nadu. While the state continues to record relatively high retention, only 62.2% of Class 8 students in Government schools could read a Class 2-level text in 2024, down from 75% in 2018. The evaluation also found improvements in memory, classroom attention and interest in learning among more than 90% of beneficiaries, suggesting that nutrition can strengthen the conditions for learning, although gains in foundational skills will still require complementary pedagogical interventions.
- d. Lastly, the expansion leaves the sharpest retention challenge outside its coverage. Tamil Nadu's secondary-school dropout rate stands at 8.5%, nearly three times the 2.8% recorded at the upper-primary level. With the breakfast scheme now extending only up to Class 8, the larger retention challenge in Classes 9–10 remains unaddressed.

III. Kerala

A. Vehicle Tax Exemption For Persons With Disabilities

Source: The Hindu, 23rd September, 2026

1. On 18th September, 2026, the Kerala Government raised the vehicle purchase value limit for motor vehicle tax exemption available to eligible persons with disabilities.
2. The measure aims to extend the existing motor vehicle tax exemption to a wider range of vehicles available to eligible persons with disabilities.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The exemption ceiling has been increased from ₹ 7 lakh to ₹ 15 lakh in vehicle purchase value.
 - b. The exemption applies to vehicles owned by persons with autism, cerebral palsy, multiple disabilities and intellectual disabilities, subject to prescribed conditions.
 - c. The earlier ₹ 7 lakh ceiling was established through a 2022 Government notification under the Kerala Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1976.
 - d. The revised ceiling implements the 2026-27 revised Budget decision to enhance the concession.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative aligns with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, particularly Section 41(2) on access to transport, and complements the Accessible India Campaign 2015, reducing financial barriers to accessible mobility for persons with disabilities.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Rajasthan provides motor vehicle tax exemptions for vehicles owned by or used by persons with disabilities, reducing the cost of accessible personal mobility.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Kerala had 4.50 lakh Unique Disability ID (UDID) cards generated through the UDID portal as of 30th September, 2026, providing a substantial verified base of persons with disabilities. Raising the vehicle-tax exemption ceiling from ₹ 7 lakh to ₹ 15 lakh therefore expands the existing benefit to a wider range of vehicles for certified beneficiaries, particularly those requiring higher-value vehicles.
 - b. Kerala's regular motor vehicle tax on private cars rises from 10% for vehicles up to ₹ 5 lakh to 13% for vehicles between ₹ 5 lakh and ₹ 10 lakh and 15% between ₹ 10 lakh and ₹ 15 lakh. By extending the exemption ceiling to ₹ 15 lakh, the Government therefore brings vehicles in these higher tax brackets within the relief framework, substantially reducing the upfront tax burden for eligible beneficiaries.
 - c. The revision also builds on Kerala's gradual expansion of vehicle-tax concessions across disability categories. The state's older exemption framework primarily covered visual, hearing and orthopaedic disabilities, while the 2022 notification

A. Vehicle Tax Exemption For Persons With Disabilities**Source:** The Hindu, 23rd September, 2026

extended a separate concession to autism, cerebral palsy, multiple disabilities and intellectual disability. The 2026 amendment does not broaden these categories further, but substantially increases the vehicle-value range within which the latter group can access the exemption.

IV. Jammu And Kashmir

A. Free Public Transport Facility For Persons With Disabilities, 2026

Source: News On Air, 17th September, 2026

1. On 16th September, 2026, the Jammu and Kashmir Government sanctioned the Free Public Transport for Persons with Disabilities.
2. The facility aims to extend free public transport to persons with disabilities across Jammu and Kashmir by removing fare-related barriers and expanding access to Government-operated mobility services.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The facility provides free ridership to persons with disabilities on Government-owned public transport across Jammu and Kashmir.
 - b. It covers services operated by the Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC).
 - c. The facility includes e-buses operated by Jammu Smart City Limited and Srinagar Smart City Limited.
 - d. The Government implements the measure as part of the transport-related commitments announced in the Jammu and Kashmir Budget Speech 2026–27.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative aligns with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, particularly Section 41 on access to transport, and complements the Accessible India Campaign, 2015 by strengthening accessible mobility for persons with disabilities.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Tamil Nadu provides specified free and concessional bus travel to persons with disabilities, while Haryana provides free Haryana Roadways travel to eligible persons with 100% disability along with one attendant.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The new measure extends free travel to eligible persons with disabilities irrespective of gender, building on the existing women's scheme. Jammu & Kashmir has 3.61 lakh persons with disabilities, including 66,448 persons with visual disabilities, 74,096 with hearing disabilities and 58,137 with locomotor disabilities. The new measure therefore extends an existing zero-fare mobility framework to a population with distinct transport-access requirements, covering persons with disabilities on JKRTC services and Jammu and Srinagar Smart City e-buses.
 - b. Jammu and Kashmir already has an established public transport network that can be used for the benefit without creating a separate service. JKRTC currently lists 570 buses in its fleet, with 477 available for operations, while Srinagar Smart City Limited has deployed 100 e-buses in 16 city routes.

A. Free Public Transport Facility For Persons With Disabilities, 2026

Source: News On Air, 17th September, 2026

- c. During its first 10 months, the women's free public transport facility recorded 1.66 crore beneficiary rides at a cost of ₹ 47.42 crore. The 2011 disabled population is a small share of the state's population, so the fiscal cost of this scheme is likely to be far lower than the women's scheme. The women's scheme's reimbursement design, under which operators are compensated for foregone revenue, provides a working model for this one.
- d. The facility extends the same fare exemption to differently-abled persons on both the JKRTC network and the Jammu and Srinagar smart city e-buses. The reports describe it as fulfilling the March 2026 Budget announcement, so it closes the gap between the announcement and implementation. Covering JKRTC and both e-bus operators keeps access across intercity and city routes under one entitlement.
- e. Lastly, the facility improves mobility and independence for differently-abled persons across the Union Territory, and it supports their access to education, jobs and health services. It advances the goals of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 by making transport more affordable. Together with free travel for women, it positions Jammu and Kashmir's public transport, including its e-bus fleet, as an inclusive network that serves groups facing the highest cost barriers to travel.

B. Jammu And Kashmir Chief Minister's Free LPG Scheme, 2026

Source: Kashmir Observer, 25th September, 2026

1. On 24th September, 2026, the Jammu and Kashmir Government sanctioned the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister's Free LPG Scheme.
2. The Scheme aims to reduce the household energy burden on the poorest households by providing six free LPG refills per year to eligible Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Scheme provides six free domestic LPG refills per year to each eligible household, over and above benefits admissible under any other Government of India scheme.
 - b. The Government Order restricts the benefit exclusively to AAY households in Jammu and Kashmir, excluding Priority Household (PHH) and Non-Priority Household (NPHH) ration card categories.
 - c. The Scheme mandates beneficiary verification through the Aadhaar Enabled Public Distribution System (AePDS) database maintained by the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, with safeguards against duplicate and ineligible claims.
 - d. The Order provides that detailed implementation modalities will be issued separately after vetting and approval by the competent authority, while the Government has indicated in the Legislative Assembly that refill costs are envisaged to be reimbursed through Aadhaar-enabled Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The scheme complements the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, which supports LPG access for eligible low-income households, by providing additional state-funded refill support to the AAY category.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States including Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have provided LPG-related assistance or subsidy support to economically vulnerable households through state-level schemes.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The scheme has a defined potential beneficiary base of 2,28,292 AAY ration-card households in Jammu and Kashmir, as reported by the Government in its Legislative Assembly reply, based on the beneficiary position as of 1st January, 2025. At the proposed six LPG refills per year, this represents a potential coverage of 13.70 lakh refills annually if the entire eligible base receives the full benefit.
 - b. The scheme also targets the same households that are already identified through the public distribution system. Beneficiary verification through the AePDS

B. Jammu And Kashmir Chief Minister's Free LPG Scheme, 2026

Source: Kashmir Observer, 25th September, 2026

database creates a direct administrative link between food-security records and LPG support, while safeguards against duplication and ineligible claims provide a defined mechanism for beneficiary validation.

- c. The policy was first announced in the Jammu and Kashmir Budget Speech 2026–27, which explicitly linked the six-refill provision to reducing household energy burden, discouraging solid-fuel use and providing cost-of-living relief. The subsequent Government order converts this budget announcement into a four-year approved scheme, providing a defined period for implementation and expenditure planning.
- d. The social benefit also extends to household health and women's welfare. A study of 820 households in Kulgam and Rajouri found that 84.63% of surveyed households continued to use both LPG and solid fuels, with affordability, access to cheaper firewood and infrastructure-related constraints identified as factors behind continued solid-fuel use. The six-refill provision directly addresses the recurring cost of LPG use, making the policy relevant to sustained adoption of cleaner cooking practices.

V. Chattisgarh

A. Shramik Jan Suvidha Kendras, E-Bike Assistance Scheme And Enhanced E-Rickshaw Subsidy For Workers, 2026

Source: Press Trust Of India, 17th September, 2026

1. On 17th September, 2026, the Chhattisgarh Government announced the Shramik Jan Suvidha Kendras, E-Bike Assistance Scheme and Enhanced E-Rickshaw Subsidy for Workers.
2. The initiatives aim to improve urban workplace facilities, daily mobility and self-employment support for registered and unorganised workers through dedicated labour centres and electric-vehicle assistance.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The measures propose modern labour facilitation centres in cities where workers gather for employment, providing seating, clean drinking water, mobile-charging facilities and other basic amenities.
 - b. The measures introduce an e-bike assistance scheme for registered workers to support daily travel to workplaces. The assistance amount and detailed eligibility conditions have not yet been specified.
 - c. The measures provide for increasing assistance to unorganised-sector rickshaw drivers for purchasing e-rickshaws from ₹ 50,000 to ₹ 1 lakh.
 - d. The broader labour-welfare rollout enables digital worker identification through QR-code-based labour cards and a digital cess portal to support registration, identification and delivery of welfare benefits.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The measures align with the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme, 2024, which provides demand incentives for electric two-wheelers and commercial electric three-wheelers, and the e-Shram Portal, which facilitates registration and welfare delivery for unorganised workers.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Delhi provides incentives and financing support for electric three-wheelers, and Haryana provides motor-vehicle tax exemptions for eligible electric two- and three-wheelers.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Chhattisgarh had 86.82 lakh workers registered on the e-Shram portal as of 14th July, 2026, the state launched the e-Shram Saathi app to provide workers with access to employment opportunities and Government services. Nationally, NITI Aayog projects the gig workforce to increase from 77 lakh in 2020-21 to 2.35 crore by 2029-30, with motor vehicle drivers among the occupations included in its gig-work estimates.
 - b. The 2026-27 Outcome Budget provides ₹ 128 crore for the Chhattisgarh

A. Shramik Jan Suvidha Kendras, E-Bike Assistance Scheme And Enhanced E-Rickshaw Subsidy For Workers, 2026

Source: Press Trust Of India, 17th September, 2026

Unorganised Workers Security and Welfare Board, with the stated objective of registering unorganised workers and delivering benefits through various schemes. The new measures add worker mobility assistance and urban amenity infrastructure to this existing welfare architecture, while more than ₹ 51.32 crore was transferred through DBT to over 1.43 lakh workers under 26 Labour Department schemes at the September 2026 workers' conference.

- c. The new modern labour centres add a physical service layer to the state's existing digital registration and welfare systems. The centres are intended to provide workers with access to skill development, employment services and welfare schemes, complementing the e-Shram Saathi app launched earlier in 2026.
- d. The e-bike assistance extends the welfare support beyond cash-linked schemes to an asset that can be used for work-related mobility. The measure is specifically targeted at registered workers, linking eligibility to the state's existing labour-welfare registration system rather than creating a separate beneficiary database.

VI. Bihar

A. Mukhyamantri Hemophilia Yojana, 2026

Source: The Times Of India, 30th September, 2026

1. On 30th September, 2026, the Bihar Cabinet approved the Mukhyamantri Hemophilia Yojana under the Mukhyamantri Chikitsa Sahayta Kosh.
2. The scheme aims to provide free access to high-cost Emicizumab treatment for identified hemophilia patients in Bihar, with the state Government financing procurement of the non-factor therapy through the public health system.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme provides treatment support to 255 identified hemophilia patients in the state through the Mukhyamantri Chikitsa Sahayta Kosh.
 - b. The Cabinet grants an administrative sanction of ₹ 26.33 crore for the first year for procurement of Emicizumab.
 - c. It introduces Emicizumab, a non-factor medicine, for prevention of bleeding and associated complications.
 - d. The cost estimate provides for ₹ 39,000 per injection, with 70 injections required for a patient weighing 30 kg.
4. **Central Initiatives Alignment -** The scheme aligns with the National Health Mission's Free Drugs Service Initiative, operational since 2015, which supports states in providing free medicines through public health facilities and strengthening procurement and supply-chain systems.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Kerala's Ashadhara Scheme, which extended Emicizumab prophylaxis to all patients under 18 years in 2025, Karnataka's Kusuma Sanjeevini Programme and Gujarat provides free Haemophilia treatment over 11,000 injections worth ₹ 30,000 each for free.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Bihar already has a substantial identified treatment requirement for haemophilia. Under the state's 2025–26 National Health Mission plan, 1,850 patients were covered for Factor VIII procurement, alongside Factor IX for patients requiring replacement therapy and Factor VII for 15 patients, with ₹ 10 crore approved for these medicines. This establishes an existing public-financing requirement for regular haemophilia treatment, while the state also operates an Integrated Centre for Hemoglobinopathies and Haemophilia. Thus, the scheme adds access to a newer treatment option alongside the state's existing factor-replacement programme rather than creating haemophilia care from scratch.
 - b. Under the scheme, Emicizumab treatment can be incorporated into this existing patient-management infrastructure rather than being delivered as an isolated drug programme. A dedicated state scheme can provide a defined financing

A. Mukhyamantri Hemophilia Yojana, 2026

Source: The Times Of India, 30th September, 2026

channel for eligible patients while the existing registry and Integrated Centre for Hemoglobinopathies & Haemophilia system can support registration, clinical assessment, treatment follow-up and monitoring. This creates a more structured continuum of care for patients requiring long-term haemophilia management.

- c. The initiative addresses the affordability barrier associated with advanced haemophilia treatment. Emicizumab is an expensive long-term therapy, with Bihar reporting a cost of around ₹ 39,723 per injection and 78 injections a year for a 30-kg patient, implying an annual drug cost of about ₹ 31 lakh per patient before other medical costs. The state cabinet has therefore sanctioned ₹ 26.33 crore for the first year to procure the medicine for 255 patients.
- d. Out-of-pocket expenditure accounted for 41.3% of Bihar's total health expenditure in 2021-22, above the national average of 39.4%, while households spent ₹ 984 per person directly on healthcare. The burden can be particularly significant for patients requiring specialised medicines, where treatment costs can run into several lakh rupees annually. The scheme addresses this by allocating ₹ 26.33 crore for Emicizumab procurement for 255 identified patients, shifting the cost of this high-value treatment from eligible households to the public health system.

Investment Announcements

I. Andhra Pradesh

A. Dugarajapatnam Greenfield Shipyard Project

Source: News On Air, 19th September, 2026

1. On 18th September, 2026, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) signed an MoU with National Shipbuilding and Heavy Industries Park-Andhra Pradesh (NSHIP-AP) to develop a greenfield shipyard at Dugarajapatnam.
2. The project aims to establish a large-scale commercial shipbuilding facility and anchor a wider shipbuilding, ship repair and maritime industrial ecosystem in Andhra Pradesh.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The MDL plans to invest around ₹ 15,000 crore over the next five to seven years in the state.
 - b. The shipyard will have a design capacity of 12 lakh gross tonnes (GT) annually, with scope for future expansion.
 - c. It is expected to create around 45,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities.
 - d. The facility will build commercial vessels including tankers, bulk carriers, container ships, LNG carriers and other specialised vessels.
 - e. MDL will serve as the anchor shipyard for the proposed Dugarajapatnam Shipbuilding-cum-Port Cluster, alongside ancillary industries, marine engineering, logistics and manufacturing.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The project is being developed under the Centre's Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS), which provides support for greenfield shipbuilding clusters, including shared infrastructure and capacity development.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Odisha are developing greenfield shipbuilding clusters under the Shipbuilding Development Scheme, with dedicated state-level SPVs and identified cluster locations.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. India's shipbuilding output increased 41% from 40,923 GT in 2024 to 57,637 GT in 2025, but remains small relative to the scale of leading shipbuilding nations. The proposed Dugarajapatnam yard, with 12 lakh GT of annual design capacity, would therefore add capacity equivalent to more than 20 times India's entire 2025 output, if fully utilised. The project directly supports the Government's objective of expanding domestic shipbuilding capacity and moving India towards the 45 lakh GT output target under Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.

A. Dugarajapatnam Greenfield Shipyard Project

Source: News On Air, 19th September, 2026

- b. The Dugarajapatnam project operationalises the greenfield cluster model under the Shipbuilding Development Scheme, with MDL identified as the anchor shipyard by NSHIP-AP. Under the scheme, anchor shipyards are expected to establish and operate shipyards within clusters supported by shared maritime infrastructure. MDL's ₹ 15,000 crore investment therefore provides the core industrial capacity around which the wider Dugarajapatnam shipbuilding and marine ecosystem can be developed.
- c. MDL's entry into Dugarajapatnam also expands its role beyond naval shipbuilding. The company signed its first commercial shipbuilding contract in 2026 with Shipping Corporation of India for a 3,000 Deadweight Tonnage (DWT)² methanol dual-fuel platform supply vessel, marking its return to commercial shipbuilding after a long focus on defence vessels. The Dugarajapatnam yard's planned portfolio of tankers, bulk carriers, container ships and LNG carriers would therefore test MDL's ability to scale this commercial shipbuilding transition beyond a single vessel.
- d. Lastly, the project creates a potential ancillary manufacturing ecosystem beyond the shipyard itself. The Dugarajapatnam cluster is expected to support activity across marine engineering, manufacturing and logistics, while MDL's 12 lakh GT facility will build multiple classes of commercial vessels. This could allow Andhra Pradesh to capture a wider share of the shipbuilding value chain rather than limiting the investment impact to shipyard employment and construction.

² Deadweight Tonnage is the total weight of cargo, fuel, fresh water, ballast water, provisions, passengers, and crew that a ship can carry.

B. Machilipatnam Shipbuilding And Ship Repair Facility

Source: Deccan Chronicle, 23rd September, 2026

1. On 23rd September, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approved the allotment of 400 acres to Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) for establishing a brownfield shipbuilding and ship-repair facility at Machilipatnam Port.
2. The facility aims to expand Andhra Pradesh's shipbuilding and ship repair capacity while supporting defence manufacturing, commercial vessel production and a wider maritime industrial ecosystem around Machilipatnam Port.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Goa Shipyard Limited will invest around ₹ 8,000 crore in the facility.
 - b. The project will cover 400 acres along approximately 1.7 km of waterfront at Machilipatnam Port.
 - c. The facility will undertake construction of defence and Coast Guard vessels, alongside commercial and export shipbuilding and ship repairs.
 - d. It is expected to generate around 8,000 direct and indirect jobs, including 3,000 direct and 5,000 indirect employment opportunities, over five to eight years.
 - e. The project forms part of Andhra Pradesh's broader cluster-based approach to developing shipbuilding and ship-repair industries, including ancillary facilities around ports under Andhra Pradesh Maritime Policy, 2024-2029.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The project is being developed under the Centre's Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS), which provides support for greenfield shipbuilding clusters, including shared infrastructure and capacity development.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Odisha are developing greenfield shipbuilding clusters under the Shipbuilding Development Scheme, with dedicated state-level SPVs and identified cluster locations.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The shipyard is being developed alongside an emerging port-linked MSME ecosystem in Machilipatnam. In May 2026, Andhra Pradesh began developing a 20-21 acre MSME Park with around 82 industrial plots near Machilipatnam Port, specifically to support port-based industries. The Government has also reported interest from shipbuilding firms in establishing units around the port. This creates scope for the proposed GSL facility to anchor a local supplier base for fabrication, marine equipment, maintenance and other ancillary activities, allowing the ₹ 8,000 crore investment to generate industrial activity beyond the shipyard itself.
 - b. The Machilipatnam shipbuilding and ship-repair facility directly operationalises Andhra Pradesh's Maritime Policy 2024, which calls for developing modern

B. Machilipatnam Shipbuilding And Ship Repair Facility

Source: Deccan Chronicle, 23rd September, 2026

shipyards and repair facilities, supporting ancillary industries and creating employment opportunities, with a target of raising the state's share of national shipbuilding to 25% by 2047. The ₹ 8,000 crore Goa Shipyard facility, spread across 400 acres at Machilipatnam Port, is expected to create 3,000 direct and 5,000 indirect jobs over five to eight years, while undertaking defence, Coast Guard, commercial and export shipbuilding and ship repairs. The project therefore provides a concrete investment anchor for the policy's proposed shipyard-and-ancillary-industry cluster model.

- c. Goa Shipyard Limited's order book had crossed ₹ 13,000 crore by March 2026, while its revenue from operations rose 32% to ₹ 3,764 crore in FY 2025-26. The company has also secured major naval and Coast Guard programmes, alongside commercial and export work. The proposed ₹ 8,000 crore Machilipatnam facility therefore comes as GSL expands beyond its existing yard capacity, providing additional space for shipbuilding and repair as its workload and vessel portfolio grow.
- d. The Machilipatnam facility could materially expand the vessel size that GSL can service. Its existing Goa yard lists 5.5-metre water depth at its fitting-out berths and construction and repair facilities with a maximum listed capacity of 6,000 tonnes, while Machilipatnam Port is being developed to handle vessels of up to about 80,000 tonnes, with Phase I providing 35.12 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) of cargo capacity. The proposed 10-metre approach channel at Machilipatnam would therefore provide GSL with access to a substantially deeper and larger-vessel maritime interface than its existing facilities.

II. Odisha

A. High-Level Clearance Of 27 Industrial Projects

Source: The New Indian Express, 24th September, 2026

1. On 23rd September, 2026, the Odisha High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA) approved 27 industrial projects.
2. The Investment Package aims to fast-track single-window clearance of large-scale industrial projects under the Odisha Industries (Facilitation) Act, 2004. It seeks to shift the state's mineral-led base toward data centres, AI, semiconductors and green energy.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The package approves 27 projects worth ₹ 2,47,115.70 crore across 15 districts, with an employment potential of 50,162.
 - b. It provides for four data centre projects worth ₹ 1,42,941 crore, over half the total, led by High Density Datacentre's ₹ 1,04,550 crore facility in Khordha and Sentaforge AI's ₹ 22,634 crore sovereign AI data centre in Puri.
 - c. The HLCA enables 5,630 MW of power capacity, including NLC India's 3,200 MW and 1,080 MW thermal plants and two pumped-storage hydro plants.
 - d. The approval introduces a ₹ 2,078 crore Silicon Carbide and Gallium Nitride wafer unit, ₹ 6,050 crore in green energy equipment including a 10 GWh Lithium Iron Phosphate battery plant, and a ₹ 3,000 crore green hydrogen and Electro-Sustainable Aviation Fuel facility.
 - e. The clearance extends to lab-grown diamonds (five units, ₹ 10,680 crore), steel (₹ 14,000 crore, 17,000 jobs), L&T's shipbuilding complex in Ganjam and a 1,000-bed hospital in Khordha.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Odisha initiative aligns with the IndiaAI Mission's focus on expanding access to high-end infrastructure for AI development.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Karnataka, through its State High Level Clearance Committee and Andhra Pradesh, through its State Investment Promotion Board clear large projects via similar CM-chaired bodies.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The approvals indicate a diversification of Odisha's investment pipeline towards digital and technology-intensive infrastructure. Of the ₹ 2.47 lakh crore approved, around ₹ 1.43 lakh crore is concentrated in four IT, IT-enabled services and data-centre projects, accounting for more than half of the total proposed investment. This gives data infrastructure and AI a significant role within the state's current industrial expansion.
 - b. The individual projects also show the different layers of the emerging digital ecosystem. The pipeline includes large-scale data centres, AI-optimised

A. High-Level Clearance Of 27 Industrial Projects

Source: The New Indian Express, 24th September, 2026

computing infrastructure, a global capability centre, semiconductor wafer manufacturing, battery storage and advanced manufacturing. Bringing these activities into the same investment pipeline links computing capacity with the hardware and energy infrastructure required to support technology-intensive industries.

- c. The geographical spread across 15 districts gives the investment programme a regional-development dimension rather than concentrating all projects in a single industrial location. At the same time, major technology projects are clustered in Khordha, Puri and Cuttack, including the proposed data centres, while semiconductor and advanced manufacturing projects are being distributed across other industrial districts. This creates a combination of specialised technology clusters and wider industrial investment across the state.
- d. The approvals also provide a direct link between Odisha's AI capacity-building targets and actual infrastructure proposals. The state's Economic Survey targets an increase in AI processing capacity from 5 MW to 45 MW by 2036, while the latest HLCA approvals include large data-centre projects that provide physical computing infrastructure for this broader strategy.

B. Odisha Semiconductor And Electronics Cluster

Source: The Government Of Odisha, 19th September, 2026

1. On 18th September, 2026, the Odisha Government announced the development of Odisha Silicon Valley, a semiconductor, electronics and IT hub at Naraj, Cuttack.
2. The initiative aims to create an integrated technology hub for semiconductor, electronics and IT projects at Naraj, supported by investment facilitation and ecosystem development to attract advanced technology manufacturing and related industries.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The initiative proposes an 870-acre hub at Naraj, Cuttack, for semiconductor fabrication, chip design, R&D, component manufacturing and IT projects.
 - b. The state has secured investment proposals worth ₹ 23,600 crore with 6,100 jobs, including a Letter of Intent with QuadQuantum for a Silicon Carbide (SiC) substrate wafer facility.
 - c. The site provides connectivity to the Cuttack-Bhubaneswar corridor, national highways and Paradip and Dhamra ports, with Mahanadi River access for industrial water needs.
 - d. The Third Amendment to the Odisha Semiconductor Manufacturing and Fabless Policy, 2023 introduces 25% additional capex support for India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)-approved projects, disbursed with central assistance, and customised packages for mega projects.
 - e. It extends coverage to semiconductor equipment, specialty chemicals and gases, advanced materials and supply-chain components, with support for skilling, internships, engineer relocation and international patents.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative aligns with India Semiconductor Mission 2.0, supporting priority segments such as semiconductor equipment, chemicals, gases and materials.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Gujarat has Gujarat Semiconductor Policy (2022-27) and develops Dholera Semicon City, Uttar Pradesh has Uttar Pradesh Semiconductor Policy and Tamil Nadu develops semiconductor parks at Suler and Palladam.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The Odisha Silicon Valley is relevant to the state's ongoing effort to diversify an industrial economy that remains heavily concentrated in traditional manufacturing and minerals. In 2025-26, Odisha's industrial sector was estimated at ₹ 3.6 lakh crore, and employed nearly 59 lakh workers. At the same time, the state's Economic Survey notes that Odisha is diversifying its growth drivers

B. Odisha Semiconductor And Electronics Cluster

Source: The Government Of Odisha, 19th September, 2026

beyond mineral-focused sectors. The Naraj cluster therefore adds a high-technology manufacturing segment to an already large industrial base, rather than creating an entirely new industrial direction.

- b. The Odisha Semiconductor and Fabless Policy 2023 already set a target of attracting 100–120 chip-design companies and startups within seven years and creating 5,000–6,000 high-end chip-design jobs. It also provides for semiconductor design infrastructure, EDA-tool access, university VLSI programmes, internships and incentives for ISM-approved manufacturing projects. The Naraj development provides a physical cluster through which these earlier policy provisions can be connected to manufacturing, packaging, component suppliers and logistics.
- c. The location also addresses a specific ecosystem requirement of semiconductor manufacturing, proximity between industrial production, ports, technical institutions and suppliers. The Naraj site is connected to the Cuttack–Bhubaneswar urban corridor, national highways and the ports of Paradip and Dhamra. The state's current semiconductor pipeline already spans SiC semiconductors, advanced packaging, glass-substrate packaging, power electronics and chip design, indicating that the proposed cluster is being developed around multiple stages of the value chain rather than around a single fabrication project.
- d. Lastly, Odisha already has a Semicon Fabless Policy covering semiconductor parks, trained manpower, R&D grants and regulatory facilitation. The Silicon Valley converts these existing policy incentives into a concentrated physical ecosystem for semiconductor, electronics and IT projects.

Other Decisions

I. Gujarat

A. Gujarat Graphics Processing Unit-as-a-Service (GPUaaS) Framework, 2026

Source: The News Mill, 23rd September, 2026

1. On 23rd September, 2026, the Gujarat Government implemented the Gujarat GPU-as-a-Service (GPUaaS) Framework, 2026.
2. The framework provides shared high-performance GPU computing resources to Government entities, educational institutions, and eligible AI startups, reducing the need for separate infrastructure.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Gujarat Informatics Limited (GIL) oversees the central GPU infrastructure, covering operations, monitoring, administration, and financial management.
 - b. Eligible Government departments and educational institutions receive fully subsidised GPU access, while selected AI startups obtain subsidised compute for approved deployments.
 - c. The resource allocation process evaluates technical feasibility, availability, use cases, and policy priorities before assigning GPU capacity.
 - d. The other qualifying startups may access available GPU resources by paying direct service costs along with GIL consultancy fees.
 - e. The framework applies a 7% GIL consultancy fee on Cloud Service Provider costs and mandates user compliance with security, privacy, and responsible AI standards.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The framework aligns with the IndiaAI Mission, 2024, particularly its Compute pillar, which provides affordable cloud-based AI compute and GPU access to researchers.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Telangana provides a GPU-backed sandbox for AI development, while Kerala initiated a state GPU cluster under its 2025–26 Budget to support AI, AVGC and related computing applications.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. At the national level, IndiaAI had expanded shared compute capacity to more than 45,000 GPUs by June 2026, with 237 projects using 93.18 lakh GPU hours by August 2026. Gujarat's GPUaaS framework can therefore be positioned as a state-level extension of India's shared-computer model, particularly because its infrastructure is centrally managed by Gujarat Informatics Limited and can serve Government departments, educational institutions and selected startups. The 100% subsidy for eligible Government and educational institutions also lowers the entry barrier for AI workloads outside the major technology hubs.

A. Gujarat Graphics Processing Unit-as-a-Service (GPUaaS) Framework, 2026

Source: The News Mill, 23rd September, 2026

- b. Gujarat already has a mature Government digital-infrastructure base through the Gujarat State Data Centre (GSDC), established in 2010 as a shared platform for Government applications and data. The GSDC provides common compute, storage, network and security infrastructure and has been upgraded to a cloud-enabled environment providing Infrastructure-as-a-Service to Government departments. The new GPUaaS framework extends this existing shared-infrastructure model from conventional e-governance workloads to high-performance AI workloads, avoiding a department-wise approach to building separate GPU infrastructure.
- c. The framework addresses a key implementation constraint in AI adoption such as access to high-performance computing capacity. Instead of requiring each department to establish separate GPU infrastructure, Gujarat is creating a common pool managed by GIL, with allocation based on approved use cases and resource availability. This creates a shared infrastructure layer for AI projects across departments and institutions.

B. Seven New Crop Protection Products Initiative, 2026

Source: The Government Of Gujarat, 23rd September, 2026

1. On 23rd September, 2026, the Government of Gujarat launched seven new crop protection products developed by Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (GSFC) in Gandhinagar under its Sardar brand.
2. The initiative aims to increase agricultural productivity in Gujarat by expanding Gujarat farmers' access to crop-protection inputs through seven new insecticide and herbicide products for controlling pests and weeds, with distribution through Kisan Suvidha Kendras and GSFC's authorised network.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The initiative introduces seven new crop protection products under GSFC's Sardar brand, namely, Sardar Sathi, Sardar Raftaar, Sardar Tufani Fipro, Sardar Jandaar, Sardar Aadhar, Sardar G-Gold and Sardar Senapati.
 - b. GSFC distributes the products through its existing Kisan Suvidha Kendras and authorised distribution network, using its established agricultural-input supply chain.
 - c. The products seek to protect crops from pests and weeds through research-based pesticide and herbicide formulations.
 - d. The initiative supports GSFC's expansion from its traditional fertiliser portfolio into crop-protection products under its own Sardar brand.
 - e. The initiative provides for pesticide formulations that protect crops for a few days and then break down in soil, alongside prescribed-quantity use of chemical pesticides.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Andhra Pradesh offers quality-tested crop inputs and agronomic guidance at the village level.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Gujarat has eight agro-climatic zones, with agriculture contributing ₹ 3.07 lakh crore to state GSVA in 2022-23. The state is also a major producer of cotton, groundnut, castor, spices and fruits. This improved access to insecticides and herbicides enables farmers to effectively manage pest and weed pressures across diverse cropping systems, safeguarding the state's high-value agricultural output.
 - b. Additionally, by tapping into Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation's 18 district-level centers and over 1,400 Agro Service Centres alongside Kisan Suvidha Kendras, new GSFC crop-protection products can bypass fragmented distribution channels. Utilising this established rural infrastructure improves last-mile availability for farmers while enabling a state-linked producer to efficiently scale access to locally marketed agricultural inputs.

B. Seven New Crop Protection Products Initiative, 2026**Source:** The Government Of Gujarat, 23rd September, 2026

- c. Further, in line with the Union Government's focus on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and judicious pesticide use, Gujarat's crop-protection launch pairs new chemical inputs with research-backed guidance through 'Krushijivan.' Reinforced by official calls for measured application, linking product distribution directly to expert agronomic advice curbs indiscriminate spraying and advances the broader transition toward sustainable, integrated crop management.
- d. Lastly, while the AI-powered National Pest Surveillance System provides digital crop advisories and Gujarat's Digital Crop Survey establishes a verified database of farmer and crop data, GSFC's seven new products expand the physical crop-protection layer. If digital pest alerts, verified crop data, extension advice and inputs like GSFC's products work together, farm-level interventions can be better targeted and input use can be made more efficient.

II. Assam

A. Revision Of Assam Tea Industries Special Incentives Scheme

Source: India Today North East, 20th September, 2026

1. On 18th September, 2026, the Assam Government revised the Assam Tea Industries Special Incentives Scheme (ATISIS), 2020.
2. The revised scheme aims to strengthen the competitiveness of Assam's tea industry by reducing export-related logistics costs, increasing support for higher-value teas and strengthening the role of the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre in Assam's export ecosystem.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The revised scheme provides ₹ 3 per kg for exports of Single Origin Assam Quality Crush, Tear, and Curl (CTC) Tea to offset inland transportation, container repositioning and terminal handling costs.
 - b. The scheme recognises CTC tea sold through the Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC) as "Quality CTC Tea" for claiming the export incentive.
 - c. The revised scheme increases the production subsidy for Orthodox and Speciality Tea from ₹ 10 to ₹ 15 per kg, with the annual ceiling raised to ₹ 1 crore per unit or tea garden.
 - d. Matcha Tea³ has been added to the scheme for the first time, expanding incentives beyond conventional CTC, Orthodox and Speciality tea segments.
 - e. The working capital interest subvention has been increased from ₹ 15 lakh to ₹ 20 lakh to strengthen liquidity support for tea producers and units.
 - f. The revised scheme will remain operational until 31st March, 2031, extending the policy framework for tea-sector investment and production support.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The revision carries forward the objectives of the Centre's Tea Development and Promotion Scheme 2021-2026, which supported tea productivity, quality upgradation, market promotion, value addition and exports, including dedicated interventions for Assam, before concluding in March, 2026.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Assam is using its dominant position in India's tea industry to push higher export value. The state produced 687.76 million kg of tea in 2025, accounting for 50.2% of India's output, while national tea exports reached 280 million kg. Against this scale, the revised ₹ 3 per kg incentive for quality CTC tea provides targeted support for inland transport, container repositioning and terminal handling costs, while the scheme also raises support for higher-value orthodox and speciality tea to ₹ 15 per kg.

³ Matcha is a fine green powder made by grinding whole green tea leaves that have been grown in the shade.

A. Revision Of Assam Tea Industries Special Incentives Scheme

Source: India Today North East, 20th September, 2026

- b. Further, the revised incentives provide support as exporters face rising freight and market risks. West Asia accounted for around 41% of India's tea exports in 2025, with the UAE, Iran and Iraq together taking 114.55 million kg. The exports then fell to 54.69 million kg in January–March 2026 from 69.24 million kg a year earlier, making the extension of the incentive scheme until 31st March, 2031 relevant for providing a more predictable cost-support framework as exporters navigate higher freight and shipping costs amid persistent geopolitical risk.
- c. Moreover, the revised scheme gives the GTAC a direct role in Assam's export strategy. GTAC sold 169.13 million kg of tea in 2024–25 at an average ₹ 227.70 per kg, generating around ₹ 3,850 crore, with its volume equivalent to roughly a quarter of Assam's annual tea output. Including GTAC-sold CTC tea within the export incentive framework links organised auction-based price discovery with export support and could encourage greater use of the formal auction channel.
- d. In addition, the higher incentive for orthodox and speciality tea is designed to shift Assam towards higher-value exports. At GTAC, orthodox tea averaged ₹ 279.08 per kg between April and August 2025, compared with ₹ 223.30 per kg for CTC and dust, a premium of around 25%. The orthodox tea also accounted for only 5.5% of GTAC's volume during this period, leaving scope to expand a segment that already commands a higher price.
- e. Lastly, the inclusion of Matcha allows Assam to enter a rapidly expanding premium tea segment. Japan's green tea exports rose 42% to 13,125 tonnes in FY 2025–26, while export value nearly doubled to ¥ 84.7 billion (₹ 4,600 crore), with powdered tea accounting for around 70% of export volume. Extending the ₹ 15 per kg incentive to Matcha could encourage Assam producers to build capacity in a segment where global demand is rising and supply remains constrained.

B. Assam Cooling Action Plan

Source: Assam Tribune, 17th September, 2026

1. On 16th September, 2026, the Assam Government launched the Assam Cooling Action Plan (ACAP).
2. The plan aims to meet Assam's growing cooling requirements through energy-efficient technologies, responsible refrigerant management and climate-friendly cooling solutions.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The project covers four priority sectors comprising buildings, cold chain, industry and transport.
 - b. The cooling-related electricity demand is projected to more than double from 3,576 gigawatt hour (GWh) in 2025 to 8,445 GWh by 2040.
 - c. The plan promotes energy-efficient cooling systems and climate-friendly technologies to contain future electricity demand.
 - d. It proposes responsible refrigerant management to reduce the environmental impact of cooling systems.
 - e. It promotes nature-based cooling measures, including increasing green cover and protecting existing natural ecosystems alongside technological interventions.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The ACAP translates the objectives of the Centre's India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) into a state-specific framework, covering energy efficiency, refrigerant management and sustainable cooling.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Assam's cooling-related electricity demand is projected to increase from 3,576 GWh in 2025 to 8,445 GWh by 2040, representing more than a doubling over the period. The peak power demand has crossed 3,000 MW as electricity consumption continues to grow. The state recorded a record peak demand of 3,026.4 MW in August 2026, with power demand growing at around 9% annually. The Cooling Action Plan's focus on energy-efficient appliances, passive cooling and climate-responsive buildings can help contain the additional electricity demand from rising cooling needs.
 - b. Moreover, rising temperatures across East and Northeast India are likely to increase cooling demand in Assam. During the 2025 southwest monsoon, the region recorded its third-highest maximum temperature since 1901, at 32.12°C, 0.95°C above normal. The plan's focus on passive cooling, climate-responsive buildings and efficient cooling systems can help limit the electricity required to maintain indoor comfort as heat exposure increases.
 - c. Further, Assam's residential sector is likely to account for a large share of future

B. Assam Cooling Action Plan**Source:** Assam Tribune, 17th September, 2026

cooling demand as appliance ownership expands. Refrigerator penetration is estimated to rise from 20% in 2025 to 49% by 2040, while air-conditioner penetration is projected to increase from 2% to 8%, reaching 38% in urban areas. The plan's focus on efficient appliances and climate-responsive buildings can therefore reduce the electricity intensity of this expanding residential cooling base.

- d. Additionally, Assam's high transmission and distribution losses increase the system cost of rising electricity demand. The losses are projected at 20.35% of energy requirement in 2025-26, meaning reducing consumption at the user end can also reduce the electricity that needs to be supplied into the system. The Cooling Action Plan's focus on efficient cooling systems can therefore complement ongoing efforts to reduce power-sector losses.

C. State Capital Investment Subsidy For UNNATI-Eligible Manufacturing Units

Source: India Today North East, 24th September, 2026

1. On 24th September, 2026, the Assam Cabinet approved a State Capital Investment Subsidy for eligible manufacturing units that qualify under the substantive provisions of the Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme (UNNATI), 2024.
2. The initiative aims to extend state-level capital support to eligible manufacturing units that meet UNNATI's substantive requirements but could not complete registration within the prescribed period.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The subsidy covers eligible manufacturing units that satisfy the substantive provisions of UNNATI, 2024.
 - b. It supports units that could not obtain registration within the extended UNNATI registration period ending 30th September, 2026.
 - c. The measure provides an additional state-level incentive to facilitate investment and manufacturing activity in Assam.
 - d. Eligibility will be determined based on compliance with the substantive requirements prescribed under UNNATI, 2024.
 - e. The initiative extends Assam's industrial policy support beyond the central incentive framework by addressing units excluded due to the registration deadline.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative directly builds on UNNATI, 2024, the Centre's 10-year industrialisation scheme for the North-Eastern Region, which provides incentives to promote investment, employment and industrial development in the region.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Assam's industrial investment pipeline has expanded significantly, creating a larger base for capital investment support. The state attracted ₹ 4.91 lakh crore of investment proposals under Advantage Assam 2.0 in 2025, spanning manufacturing and other industrial sectors. The State Capital Investment Subsidy can complement this pipeline by providing an additional incentive specifically to eligible manufacturing units that were unable to access UNNATI.
 - b. Further, Assam has substantial developed industrial land that remains unallocated. The Industries and Commerce Department reports 80 lakh sq. m. of developed industrial land, of which 32 lakh sq. m. has been allotted, leaving 48 lakh sq. m. available for industrial projects. The subsidy can support eligible manufacturing units in converting this existing industrial capacity into productive investment.
 - c. Lastly, Assam's large MSME base creates a substantial pool of existing enterprises

C. State Capital Investment Subsidy For UNNATI-Eligible Manufacturing Units

Source: India Today North East, 24th September, 2026

that could potentially scale through fresh capital investment. As of September 2026, the state had over 13.3 lakh Udyam-registered enterprises, including 7,203 small and 557 medium enterprises. The state capital investment subsidy can help eligible manufacturing enterprises within this base reduce the upfront cost of new investment and expansion, supporting the transition of existing businesses towards larger-scale industrial activity.

D. Financial Assistance Towards Promoter's Contribution Under AIF

Source: India Today North East, 24th September, 2026

1. On 24th September, 2026, the Assam Cabinet approved state guidelines for financial assistance towards the promoter's contribution under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF).
2. The guidelines aim to reduce the upfront capital requirement for farmers, agricultural enterprises and collective organisations seeking finance under AIF.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Government will cover the entire 10% mandatory promoter's contribution for Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs), Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) and cooperatives.
 - b. The individual beneficiaries, including farmers, agri-entrepreneurs, startups, Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Joint Liability Groups (JLGs), will receive 10% state support towards the promoter's contribution.
 - c. For the other eligible category, the state and beneficiary each contribute 5% of project cost.
 - d. The assistance applies to projects seeking finance under the Central Agriculture Infrastructure Fund.
 - e. The guidelines reduce the upfront equity barrier for agricultural infrastructure projects while retaining AIF as the underlying financing framework.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The initiative complements the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund that provides medium to long term debt financing for investment in post-harvest infrastructure and community farming assets.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Assam's AIF projects are substantially larger than the national average, increasing the upfront capital required from beneficiaries. The average AIF sanction in Assam is ₹ 1.32 crore per beneficiary, compared with ₹ 53 lakh nationally as of January 2026. Since AIF requires beneficiaries to contribute at least 10% of the project cost, the larger project size translates into a significantly higher upfront equity requirement. The state's decision to fund 10% of the promoter's contribution for FPOs, FPCs, PACS and cooperatives, and 5% for individual beneficiaries therefore directly reduces the initial capital burden for projects seeking AIF financing.
 - b. Assam's fragmented farm holdings make collective institutions particularly important for mobilising agricultural infrastructure investment. Over 85% of farmers in the state are small or marginal, with an average operational holding of just 0.36 hectares. Against this structure, the AIF's collective borrower channels such as FPOs, FPCs, PACS and cooperatives can aggregate demand and investment

D. Financial Assistance Towards Promoter's Contribution Under AIF

Source: India Today North East, 24th September, 2026

that individual farmers may struggle to undertake independently. The new assistance, which covers the full 10% promoter contribution for these collective entities, directly lowers the capital they need to mobilise for eligible infrastructure projects.

- c. Assam has 2.33 lakh MT of cold storage capacity against annual fruit production of 3.2 million tonnes and vegetable production of 5.9 million tonnes, highlighting the need for greater post-harvest infrastructure. AIF finances cold stores, warehouses and processing facilities, while the new promoter contribution support can reduce the upfront capital required for eligible projects.
- d. Assam has significant scope to expand agricultural infrastructure through collective institutions such as Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) and cooperatives. The state has 850 PACS approved for computerisation, of which 581 have been onboarded on the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) platform and 540 have reached the e-PACS stage, indicating that a substantial share of these institutions is yet to be integrated into the digital cooperative infrastructure. Since AIF provides preference to digitised PACS, the new assistance can reduce the promoter contribution required from PACS and cooperatives and potentially improve their ability to access financing for eligible agricultural infrastructure.

E. Sustainable Wetland And Integrated Fisheries Transformation (SWIFT)

Source: India Today North East, 24th September, 2026

1. On 24th September, 2026, the Assam Cabinet approved the implementation of the Assam Sustainable Wetland and Integrated Fisheries Transformation (SWIFT) Project.
2. The project aims to restore degraded community wetlands, improve fisheries productivity and strengthen livelihoods through integrated wetland management.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The project will invest ₹ 796.88 crore, comprising an Asian Development Bank (ADB) loan of ₹ 637.504 crore and a Government of Assam contribution of ₹ 159.376 crore.
 - b. It will restore and rehabilitate at least 102 floodplain wetlands and seeks to improve fisheries productivity and livelihoods for at least 8,000 beel-dependent beneficiaries.
 - c. The interventions will cover wetland restoration, fish input and stocking support, infrastructure and equipment for fisheries development.
 - d. The project will support livelihood generation and entrepreneurship for communities dependent on wetland fisheries.
 - e. The community-based management will be strengthened through technical support, capacity building and improved fisheries practices.
 - f. It provides for nature-based restoration measures including beel demarcation, de-weeding, desilting and improvements to water inflow and outflow systems.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The project aligns with the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), which seeks to enhance fisheries production, productivity, infrastructure and fisher livelihoods through sustainable fisheries development.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Bihar and West Bengal have combined wetland or waterbody management with fisheries-based livelihoods, while Odisha integrates aquatic resource conservation with inland fisheries development and fisher livelihoods.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Assam's fish production remains below the state's estimated requirement, creating scope for additional production from underutilised wetlands. Fish production increased from 4.99 lakh MT in 2023-24 to about 5.54 lakh MT in 2025-26, but remains below the Fisheries Department's estimated requirement of 6.62 lakh MT. SWIFT addresses this gap by restoring derelict community beels, improving fish stocking and strengthening fisheries management to expand domestic fish production.
 - b. Assam's beels have significant untapped fish production potential due to low

E. Sustainable Wetland And Integrated Fisheries Transformation (SWIFT)

Source: India Today North East, 24th September, 2026

yields. The average yield is 450 kg per hectare per year in stocked beels and 221 kg per hectare per year in unstocked beels, compared with a potential yield of 1,000–1,500 kg per hectare per year. SWIFT's restoration, stocking and input support can therefore target the productivity gap in these wetlands and improve the output generated from existing aquatic resources.

- c. Assam's wetland ecosystem is also facing pressures that reduce the productive capacity of its beels. The Asian Development Bank identifies river disconnection, siltation, agrochemical runoff and the spread of water hyacinth as factors affecting beel connectivity and fish productivity. SWIFT's restoration component, including desilting, de-weeding and improving connectivity with rivers, directly addresses these constraints and can help restore the ecological conditions required for sustainable fisheries.
- d. Assam's fisheries sector is closely tied to rural livelihoods, making the productivity of community wetlands important for household incomes. Around 70% of Assam's rural population works in agriculture, including fisheries, while 32% of the rural population is multidimensionally poor. SWIFT's focus on community-based beel management, fisheries development and alternative livelihoods can therefore strengthen income opportunities for rural households dependent on these resources.

III. Karnataka

A. State Multisectoral Action Plan For Salt Reduction And Promotion Of Healthy Dietary Habits

Source: Deccan Herald, 23rd September, 2026

1. On 22nd September, 2026, the Karnataka Government launched the Karnataka State Multisectoral Action Plan for Salt Reduction and Promotion of Healthy Dietary Habits.
2. The action plan aims to reduce salt consumption across households, food outlets and processed foods through coordinated action by Government departments, health systems and food stakeholders.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The plan targets a 30% reduction in population salt intake by 2030, while promoting progress towards the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendation of less than 5 grams per person per day.
 - b. It addresses salt consumption across three settings, namely households, food consumed outside the home, and processed and packaged foods.
 - c. It promotes salt reduction in processed foods by encouraging manufacturers to lower salt content, alongside measures to reduce discretionary salt use and promote healthier food choices.
 - d. It strengthens dietary counselling through existing health programmes, including Gruha Arogya and the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Disease.
 - e. It establishes a technical and multisectoral implementation framework, with the Technical Advisory Group providing evidence-based guidance and a proposed State Steering Committee coordinating action across departments.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The action plan aligns with the Eat Right India movement of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, which promotes reduction of high fat, sugar and salt consumption through public awareness, dietary counselling and healthier food reformulation.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Tamil Nadu has undertaken salt-reduction initiatives through capacity building for medical professionals on salt reduction and low-sodium substitutes.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Karnataka's salt-reduction target comes against a high and uneven hypertension burden. Under the expanded Gruha Arogya programme in 2025, hypertension was detected among 26.9% of men and 25.0% of women screened, while district prevalence ranged from 43.5% in Haveri to 21% in Dakshina Kannada. This 22.5 percentage-point gap suggests that a uniform statewide intervention may have limited impact unless implementation is calibrated to district-level disease

A. State Multisectoral Action Plan For Salt Reduction And Promotion Of Healthy Dietary Habits

Source: Deccan Herald, 23rd September, 2026

burden, with higher-intensity prevention and dietary interventions in districts with greater hypertension prevalence.

- b. The Action Plan is being followed by additional state proposals on consumer information. Karnataka has separately announced that it is considering warning labels on salt packets to discourage excessive discretionary salt use. At the national level, FSSAI has proposed red front-of-pack warnings for packaged foods high in salt, sugar or fat, although the final regulations and implementation timetable are still under consideration before the Supreme Court. The two interventions therefore address different sources of sodium exposure, with Karnataka targeting salt added by consumers and the national framework targeting salt contained in processed and packaged foods.
- c. The plan's focus on food consumed outside the home could build on Karnataka's existing street-food safety network. The Government plans to train more than 1,000 street-food vendors on hygiene, safe food handling and cooking practices, while the state has already been strengthening inspections of food businesses. Incorporating salt-reduction practices into this training programme would extend the action plan beyond household behaviour and packaged foods to a major everyday food channel.
- d. Lastly, Karnataka's action plan is being added to an existing 31-district non-communicable disease (NCD) screening and treatment network, with 31 district NCD cells, 31 district NCD clinics and 347 community health centre NCD clinics already operational. This provides an established delivery channel for the plan's dietary counselling and salt-reduction interventions through the health system, allowing the new strategy to build on existing NCD infrastructure rather than creating a parallel delivery mechanism.

B. Cabinet Decision To Recognise Tulu As Second Additional Administrative Language

Source: The Indian Express, 23rd September, 2026

1. On 18th September, 2026, the Karnataka Cabinet accorded Tulu the status of a second additional administrative language.
2. The initiative aims to provide formal administrative recognition to Tulu and enable its use in Government communication in the state's principal Tulu-speaking districts.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. It allows Government offices in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi to use Tulu for official communication alongside Kannada.
 - b. It provides for Government notifications and related administrative communication to be issued in Tulu in the two districts.
 - c. The Government has allocated ₹ 82 lakh annually for translation, training and other activities required to implement the language status.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. The decision aligns administrative recognition with the geographic concentration of Tulu speakers in coastal Karnataka. Tulu was the mother tongue of 48.6% of the population in Dakshina Kannada and 31.4% in Udupi according to Census 2011, with Tulu speakers also accounting for 39.2% of Mangaluru city and 52.1% of Udupi city. Extending Tulu as an additional administrative language in these two districts therefore creates a more direct basis for local Government communication and service delivery in the language used by a substantial share of residents.
 - b. The decision addresses a demand for formal recognition that has been pursued for over a decade through community representations, resolutions and repeated demands in the state legislature. The demand has also gone through formal Government examination, including a committee report submitted in February 2023 on Tulu's history, literary heritage and script, followed by a review of how additional official languages are administered in other states. The Government's decision therefore follows an established administrative process around a long-pending language demand rather than introducing recognition without prior institutional consideration.
 - c. Tulu already has an established presence in Karnataka's education system, providing an institutional base for its expanded administrative use. It has been offered as a third language in schools across Dakshina Kannada and Udupi, with around 800–1,000 students appearing for Tulu in the Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) examination each year. Mangalore University has also

B. Cabinet Decision To Recognise Tulu As Second Additional Administrative Language**Source:** The Indian Express, 23rd September, 2026

introduced Tulu at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral levels. The new administrative status can therefore build on an existing pool of students, teachers and academic resources rather than requiring the language to be introduced into formal institutions from scratch.

- d. Tulu's growing use in digital platforms has not been matched by adequate language resources. Google added Tulu to Google Translate in June 2024, but subsequent research found significant translation errors, including substitution of Kannada words, reflecting the limited availability of Tulu training data. With Tulu now recognised for administration in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi, the state has a specific opportunity to build standardised Tulu Government terminology and digital language resources that can support translation of forms, notices and citizen-facing services.

IV. Haryana

A. Satark Haryana Mobile App, 2026

Source: Hindustan Times, 25th September, 2026

1. On 24th September, 2026, the Haryana Government launched the Satark Haryana mobile app.
2. The app aims to make corruption reporting more accessible by providing citizens with a direct digital channel to the State Vigilance & Anti-Corruption Bureau (SV&ACB), Haryana for complaints, information and evidence.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The app enables citizens to connect directly with the SV&ACB helpline and submit corruption-related complaints and information through mobile phones.
 - b. It allows users to upload videos, photographs, audio recordings and other digital evidence, including information shared without seeking immediate action.
 - c. The app covers all 23 districts of Haryana and provides the name, contact details and location of the concerned SV&ACB officer.
 - d. The app also provides access to senior SV&ACB officers and concerned Superintendents of Police (SP) for complaints regarding the conduct of bureau officials.
 - e. It enables citizens to download FIR copies made available through the platform, subject to applicable rules.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative aligns with the Digital India approach to delivering Government services and citizen interaction through digital platforms, while supporting technology-enabled grievance and accountability mechanisms.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Punjab launched a WhatsApp-based Anti-Corruption Action Line through which citizens can report demands for bribes and other corruption-related complaints directly to the Punjab Vigilance Bureau.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. SV&ACB has reported 138 successful traps in 2026 so far alongside mapping corruption hotspots and scrutinising 190 officials facing repeated complaints. An app supports this strategy by storing citizen-submitted media including photos, audio, and videos, in a central digital database. This allows the Bureau to screen leads, corroborate allegations, and spot systemic departmental patterns rather than relying on isolated complaints.
 - b. Haryana's anti-corruption enforcement is expanding, but it still depends on citizens coming forward. The SV&ACB registered 251 cases in 2025, the highest in 10 years, including 147 trap cases. In 2026, it reached 100 traps in 195 days, compared with 240 days in 2025 and 330 days in 2024. Since each trap begins with a complainant approaching the Bureau, the app lowers the cost of reporting by

A. Satark Haryana Mobile App, 2026**Source:** Hindustan Times, 25th September, 2026

- allowing complaints and evidence to be submitted from a mobile phone in all 23 districts. This can widen the complaint pipeline on which trap operations depend.
- c. Corruption cases are concentrated in citizen-facing departments and among frontline staff. Between January and July 2026, the Revenue Department accounted for 25 of the officials caught, followed by Police (21), power utilities (10), Municipal Corporations (6) and Health (4). In 2025, 150 of the 163 Government employees arrested were non-gazetted officials. By listing the nearest SV&ACB officer in each district and allowing on-the-spot evidence uploads, the app lets citizens report bribe demands where they meet officials. It also gives the Bureau district- and department-level complaint data to target inspections.
 - d. Lastly, complainants have carried much of the cost and risk of anti-corruption action. The SV&ACB has had to introduce cash rewards for complainants, spy cameras during operations, and a revolving fund that reimburses trap money within 15 days. The app allows audio, video and photographic evidence to be submitted, including information shared without seeking immediate action. This reduces the Bureau's reliance on complainants taking part in traps themselves.

B. Reconstruction Of 150 Government School Buildings, 2026

Source: The Economic Times, 21st September, 2026

1. On 20th September, 2026, the Haryana Government announced the Reconstruction of 150 Government School Buildings.
2. The initiative aims to reconstruct identified Government school buildings across Haryana to improve physical infrastructure and provide students with safer and better-equipped learning environments.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The state Government provides for the reconstruction of 150 school buildings identified across Haryana.
 - b. The Government has released ₹ 400 crore for undertaking construction of the identified school buildings.
 - c. The initiative follows a state-wide survey of schools undertaken to identify buildings requiring reconstruction.
 - d. The Government directs that new school buildings be constructed as vertical structures, where applicable, to allow remaining land to be used as playgrounds.
 - e. The School Education Department provides for students from unsafe or dilapidated buildings to be shifted temporarily to nearby Government buildings or neighbouring Government schools until reconstruction is completed.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The initiative aligns with the PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) Scheme, 2022, which provides for strengthening existing Government schools through adequate, functional and safe infrastructure.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - The states such as Punjab upgraded existing Government schools with improved infrastructure, while Madhya Pradesh initiated large-scale construction and renovation of Government school campuses. Rajasthan has undertaken a ₹ 12,500-crore school-infrastructure programme.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Haryana has also increased its overall education allocation in Budget 2026–27. The state allocated ₹ 22,736 crore to Education, Sports, Arts and Culture, up from ₹ 20,342 crore in the 2025–26 Revised Estimates which is an increase of about 12%. The proposed reconstruction of 150 school buildings at ₹ 400 crore therefore forms part of a broader increase in public spending on education infrastructure and school-level provision.
 - b. Haryana had 23,479 schools in 2024–25, including 13,395 Government schools. UDISE+ data also recorded 22,472 schools with electricity, 23,479 with drinking-water facilities and 19,540 with internet facilities, showing that school infrastructure increasingly extends beyond the basic building to a wider set of physical and digital facilities.

B. Reconstruction Of 150 Government School Buildings, 2026

Source: The Economic Times, 21st September, 2026

- c. The state-wide survey identified 150 school buildings for reconstruction, with ₹ 400 crore released for the works. The 27th June, 2026 Government direction had already required all unsafe and dilapidated Government-school buildings to be replaced and provided for temporary relocation of students until new buildings are completed. The recent announcement therefore converts the earlier state-wide direction into a defined reconstruction package.
- d. For the state, the vertical-building requirement has a direct land-use benefit: where site conditions permit, rebuilding upwards allows existing school land to continue supporting playgrounds and other student facilities rather than requiring additional land for expansion. This is particularly relevant where school sites are already constrained, as the Government has specifically linked the vertical design to retaining land for playgrounds.
- e. Lastly, the reform is also part of a broader shift towards district-level responsibility for school infrastructure maintenance. On 17th July, 2026, Haryana constituted district-level committees for repairs and disposal of condemned material and delegated powers for minor civil works up to ₹ 1 lakh to District Education Officers and up to ₹ 25 lakh to Additional Deputy Commissioners. The reconstruction programme therefore sits within a wider effort to move smaller infrastructure decisions closer to district administration.

V. Madhya Pradesh

A. Mukhyamantri Sugam Parivahan Seva, 2026

Source: Business Standard, 25th September, 2026

1. On 25th September, 2026, the Madhya Pradesh Government launched the Mukhyamantri Sugam Parivahan Seva, restarting Government-supervised public bus services.
2. The initiative aims to expand organised public bus connectivity between cities, towns and villages through intercity and intracity services, while using a public-private partnership model for bus operations.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. It introduces Madhya Pradesh Yatri Parivahan Evam Infrastructure Limited (MPYPIL) as the nodal company, with the Chief Minister as chairman, to oversee service planning while day-to-day operations are handled by private operators.
 - b. The Government launches the service with 351 buses across seven cities which are Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Rewa, Dewas, Katni and Bhind, covering intercity and intracity routes.
 - c. The Government targets 1,500 buses during the first year and expansion to 15,000 buses by 2031.
 - d. It adopts a public-private partnership model, with private operators responsible for bus operations under Government-regulated arrangements.
 - e. The Government plans to extend bus connectivity to 75% of gram panchayats, linking rural areas with towns and cities.
 - f. The buses incorporate CCTV cameras, panic buttons and live vehicle-location tracking, while command-and-control centres monitor operations and timings through an Intelligent Transport Management System.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Scheme aligns with Section 67(3) of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019, which empowers states to frame passenger transport schemes for rural transport and last-mile connectivity, and with the PM-eBus Sewa, which funds 10,000 e-buses on a PPP model for city bus operations.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Odisha and Chhattisgarh run comparable schemes: Odisha's Mukhyamantri Bus Seva connects over 6,720 gram panchayats, and Chhattisgarh extends bus services to remote villages.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The initiative addresses a structural gap in Madhya Pradesh's rural public-transport market. After the State Road Transport Corporation was shut down in 2005, bus services became predominantly private and were concentrated on commercially viable routes. The state's own Rural Transport Policy 2022 identified that interior rural areas remained underserved because private

A. Mukhyamantri Sugam Parivahan Seva, 2026

Source: Business Standard, 25th September, 2026

operators had limited commercial incentives to operate there. The revival of a state-backed passenger transport framework therefore addresses an already documented gap in route coverage, particularly between smaller settlements and larger service centres.

- b. The need is becoming more significant as Madhya Pradesh urbanises through the growth of new urban and peri-urban settlements. The state's Urban Data Analytics Centre notes that urbanisation is approaching the national average of 28%, with much of the increase coming from habitations transitioning into urban areas rather than expansion of existing cities. This creates a transport requirement that is not limited to city-to-city movement, people increasingly need regular connections between villages, emerging urban settlements and established cities for access to employment and public services. The new state-wide network addresses this spatial pattern by combining intra-city and inter-city connectivity rather than treating urban and rural transport separately.
- c. Lastly, the initiative builds on a policy experiment that had already identified the limitations of purely private provision. The Rural Transport Policy 2022 was piloted in Vidisha specifically because commercially operated buses tended to prioritise routes with higher passenger demand. The new state framework effectively scales the policy problem identified through that earlier intervention. Instead of expecting market demand alone to determine route availability, the state is establishing a mechanism through which less-commercial routes can form part of a wider public transport network.

B. Mukhya Mantri (Chief Minister) Sports Complex Scheme, 2026

Source: The New Indian Express, 22nd September, 2026

1. On 22nd September, 2026, the Madhya Pradesh Cabinet granted in-principle approval to the Mukhya Mantri Sports Complex Scheme.
2. The scheme aims to establish constituency-level sports complexes, and seeks to provide indoor and outdoor infrastructure for grassroots and youth sport while integrating emergency helipad capacity into each site.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Scheme provides in-principle approval for ₹ 962.50 crore to construct and operate Mukhya Mantri Sports Complexes in 140 of the state's 230 assembly constituencies presently without such facilities.
 - b. Each complex mandates a site of approximately 10 acres, accommodating both indoor and outdoor sports facilities.
 - c. The outlay averages about ₹ 6.9 crore per complex, covering capital works and operational expenditure over five years.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The scheme aligns with the Khelo India Scheme (revamped for 2026-31), which co-funds state-led grassroots sports infrastructure through its State Action Plan for Sports Infrastructure Development component.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Odisha's Block Level Stadium Project, Tamil Nadu's Mini stadium scheme and Uttar Pradesh's block-level mini stadiums have pursued comparable decentralised sports infrastructure programmes.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Madhya Pradesh has built a substantial high-performance sports base, with 11 sports academies training around 1,300 athletes across 18 disciplines, while its state Sports Department lists established academies in athletics, hockey, shooting, water sports, archery, badminton and other disciplines. However, much of this specialised infrastructure is concentrated in major centres such as Bhopal, Gwalior, Jabalpur and Shivpuri. The proposed constituency-level sports complexes therefore shift the focus from a primarily academy-based model towards wider geographic access to basic and multipurpose sports infrastructure.
 - b. This expansion is also relevant to the state's existing talent-development pipeline. As of the latest Khelo India infrastructure data, Madhya Pradesh had 18 Khelo India-supported infrastructure projects, involving about ₹ 117.02 crore in approved funding. The state's own Khelo India network also lists accredited academies and Khelo India Centres across districts. The new constituency-level infrastructure can provide a broader physical base through which athletes identified at district and grassroots levels can access regular training before moving into specialised academies.

B. Mukhya Mantri (Chief Minister) Sports Complex Scheme, 2026**Source:** The New Indian Express, 22nd September, 2026

- c. Madhya Pradesh already has demonstrated sporting strengths in disciplines such as water sports, where the state emerged as one of the top three states in the 2025 Khelo India Water Sports Festival. At the same time, the state has 52 Khelo India Centres, with the Centre's 2026–31 framework explicitly calling for identification of regional talent clusters and infrastructure planning based on local sporting strengths. The proposed scheme can therefore serve as the local infrastructure layer between emerging talent and specialised academies.

VI. Telangana

A. Sheep And Goat Insurance Scheme

Source: The Hans India, 27th September, 2026

1. On 26th September, 2026, the Telangana Government launched a sheep and goat insurance scheme.
2. The scheme aims to reduce the financial risk faced by sheep and goat breeders when animals die due to disease, accidents and other unforeseen circumstances.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme requires breeders to pay only ₹ 13 annually to insure one sheep or goat.
 - b. The Government bears the remaining insurance premium, substantially reducing the cost of coverage for breeders.
 - c. It covers livestock exposed to risks during migration in search of grazing grounds.
 - d. It provides insurance protection at the individual animal level, linking coverage directly to the sheep or goat being reared.
 - e. The scheme is intended to reduce financial losses and provide greater security to households dependent on sheep and goat rearing.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The scheme aligns with the National Livestock Mission, which supports livestock development, entrepreneurship and productivity enhancement in the sheep and goat sector.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh have also provided insurance or financial protection for sheep and goat breeders. Rajasthan's Mukhyamantri Mangala Pashu Bima Yojana provides free insurance for sheep and goats, while Andhra Pradesh provides livestock insurance under Pasu Bhima Padhakam.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Telangana is a major sheep-producing state, with 25.49 million sheep slaughtered and 365 thousand tonnes of sheep meat produced in 2024-25, accounting for 30.7% and 30.8% of India's respective totals. The insurance scheme protects this substantial productive asset base by covering sheep and goats against mortality, while the ₹ 13 annual farmer contribution and Government-funded balance of the premium reduce the cost of transferring livestock-loss risk from rearers to the insurance system.
 - b. Telangana's goat sector has weakened, with goat slaughter falling 8.7% to 6.32 million and goat meat production declining 5.4% to 82.99 thousand tonnes in 2024-25. The insurance scheme can reduce the financial impact of animal losses on goat rearers by extending the same subsidised cover to goats, with farmers paying only ₹ 13 per animal annually and the Government bearing the remaining

A. Sheep And Goat Insurance Scheme

Source: The Hans India, 27th September, 2026

premium.

- c. Moreover, disease-control gaps continue to expose Telangana's sheep and goat population to preventable mortality risks. In Sangareddy, only 51,044 of 1,12,400 animals targeted for Bluetongue vaccination had been covered by July 2026, leaving 54.6% of the target uncovered. The insurance scheme complements preventive vaccination by providing financial protection against losses that may occur despite existing disease-control measures, thereby adding a risk-transfer layer to the state's animal-health interventions.
- d. Further, sheep and goat rearing is a significant livelihood activity in Telangana, increasing the financial consequences of individual livestock losses. The Telangana Sheep and Goat Development Cooperative Federation estimates that 7–8 lakh families are engaged in small-ruminant rearing across the state. The insurance scheme directly complements this livelihood base by converting the death of an insured animal into a compensable loss, providing a formal risk-transfer mechanism for households whose productive assets are concentrated in livestock.

VII. Andhra Pradesh

A. Four New Police Commissionerates

Source: The New Indian Express, 24th September, 2026

1. On 23rd September, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approved the creation of four new police commissionerates.
2. The initiative aims to strengthen police command and control, improve coordination among police wings and adapt policing structures to rapidly urbanising centres.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Each commissionerate will be headed by an Inspector General of Police (IGP)/ Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIGP)-rank officer serving as Commissioner of Police.
 - b. The existing sanctioned police cadre will be redistributed and redesignated according to the requirements of the new commissionerates, without creating an entirely new establishment.
 - c. Rajamahendravaram commissionerate will have three territorial zones, while Guntur and Tirupati will have four zones each.
 - d. Kurnool commissionerate will have two territorial zones covering Kurnool Urban, Kurnool Rural, Adoni, Yemmiganur and Pattikonda subdivisions.
 - e. The Commissioners of Police will exercise executive magistrate powers under Section 14(6) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, strengthening the integrated administrative role of the commissionerate system.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative is enabled by Section 14 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, which provides for the appointment and conferral of Executive Magistrate powers within specified areas.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Andhra Pradesh already had the highest police-population ratio among southern states in 2023 at 165.89 personnel per lakh population, up 45.93% from 113.68 in 2020. Yet this remained below the UN benchmark of 222 per lakh, indicating that the state has expanded police strength substantially but still operates below the benchmark for police availability. The creation of four commissionerates therefore represents a shift in how this existing policing capacity is organised, making the deployment of personnel across the new zones and commissionerates particularly important.
 - b. The new commissionerates also respond to recently divergent crime trends across their jurisdictions. Andhra Pradesh recorded a 5.5% decline in overall crime in 2025, but cases increased by 6.5% in both Guntur and Tirupati, 0.7% in Kurnool, and 1.5% in East Godavari, the principal district covered by the new Rajamahendravaram commissionerate. The concentration of four new

A. Four New Police Commissionerates**Source:** The New Indian Express, 24th September, 2026

commissionerates in these areas therefore comes against a measurable pattern of localised crime increases despite an overall decline at the state level, making more integrated command particularly relevant for districts experiencing higher caseloads.

- c. Tirupati recorded a 7.3% increase in FIRs, from 9,411 in 2024 to 10,094 in 2025. The proposed commissionerate will bring four zones and 39 police stations across Tirumala, Tirupati, Srikalahasti and Sri City under a single command, alongside dedicated units for crime, traffic, women's safety, IT and command-and-control. The scale of the existing caseload provides a concrete basis for moving from fragmented district policing to an integrated commissionerate structure in the region.

VIII. Mizoram

A. Pluck And Pay Festival, 2026

Source: The Government Of Mizoram, 23rd September, 2026, India Today North East, 23rd September, 2026

1. On 23rd September, 2026, the Mizoram Tourism Department launched the state's first Pluck and Pay Festival.
2. The festival aims to connect tourism directly with rural livelihoods by bringing visitors to farms, enabling direct purchase of local produce and increasing tourism spending within host communities.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The visitors can enter participating farms, harvest fruits and vegetables themselves and pay farmers directly for the produce they pick.
 - b. The three-day festival combines farm visits with local food, handicrafts, traditional music and dance, recreational games and visits to nearby tourist and historical sites.
 - c. The participating farms showcase produce including kiwi, passion fruit, tomatoes, pumpkins and beans across Tualte and Chawngtlai.
 - d. The model creates direct economic linkages between tourists and farming households while generating opportunities for homestays, guides, transport operators, artisans and local food businesses.
 - e. The Tourism Department and Khawzawl Deputy Commissioner's Office are organising the festival from 23rd-25th September, 2026 as the opening event of Mizoram's 2026 festival season.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Nagaland, Kerala and Maharashtra have promoted farm and community-based tourism models that connect visitors with local agriculture, rural experiences and community enterprises.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Mizoram recorded 5.02 lakh tourist visits between January and June 2026, comprising 4.94 lakh domestic and 7,389 foreign visits. The Pluck and Pay model channels this growing visitor base into rural areas by allowing tourists to harvest and purchase produce directly from participating farm households, creating an additional farm-gate revenue stream.
 - b. Moreover, tourism demand remains highly seasonal, limiting the income opportunity for rural tourism businesses outside peak periods. Mizoram recorded 1,33,520 tourist visits in December 2025, 122.1% higher than December 2024, with December accounting for nearly one-fifth of visits during April-December. The state's festival calendar, beginning with Pluck and Pay and followed by seven other events, can help spread visitor activity across more months and locations, while

A. Pluck And Pay Festival, 2026

Source: The Government Of Mizoram, 23rd September, 2026, India Today North East, 23rd September, 2026

the farm-based format gives rural households a reason to participate in this additional demand.

- c. Further, horticulture producers remain dependent on intermediary and institutional channels to reach markets. The Government procured 3.38 lakh quintals of Mizo ginger from 19,927 farmers for onward sale to private buyers, while NABARD estimates that Farmer Producer Organisations account for only 5% of agricultural trade in the state. Pluck and Pay introduces a direct farm-to-consumer channel, allowing participating farmers to retain the retail value of produce sold directly to visitors rather than relying entirely on procurement or intermediary markets.
- d. Additionally, the model can complement Mizoram's growing horticulture value chain by creating a market for fresh produce alongside processing and wholesale channels. Pineapple growers earned ₹ 67.85 crore in 2025-26, while passion fruit generated ₹ 5.96 crore from cultivation across 550 hectares and is supplying the new Passion Fruit Processing Unit at New Champhai. The festival's pick-and-pay mechanism creates an additional farm-gate outlet for fresh consumption, allowing tourism to complement, rather than compete with, the state's emerging processing infrastructure.

B. State Action Plan To Combat Drug Menace 2026–2029

Source: India Today North East, 28th September, 2026

1. On 28th September, 2026, the Mizoram Government launched the State Action Plan to Combat Drug Menace 2026–2029.
2. The action plan aims to reduce drug trafficking and substance abuse through coordinated enforcement, prevention, rehabilitation and community participation, with a particular focus on protecting young people.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. It establishes a three-year state framework covering drug prevention, enforcement, awareness and rehabilitation.
 - b. It promotes coordinated action among Government agencies, police, civil society organisations, churches and local communities.
 - c. It places particular emphasis on preventing substance abuse among young people through awareness and community participation.
 - d. It builds on existing enforcement and rehabilitation measures, including Operation Jericho and the Hulhliap Short Stay Centre.
 - e. It uses Tlangmawi's declaration as Mizoram's first drug-free village as a community-level model for encouraging other villages and towns to adopt similar approaches.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The action plan aligns directly with the Central Government's Vision Document on Narcotics Control (2026–2029), a three-year national roadmap built around enforcement, prevention, harm reduction, rehabilitation and Centre-state coordination.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Assam has implemented district-level Drug-Free campaigns and a state Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for de-addiction and rehabilitation centres, while Nagaland has recognised community-led drug and alcohol-free village initiatives such as Yakor. Meghalaya operates the Drug Reduction Elimination and Action Mission (DREAM) framework for drug reduction, elimination, treatment and rehabilitation.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Mizoram registered 635 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and arrested 930 people between January and August 2026, while narcotics worth more than ₹ 846 crore were seized. The scale of enforcement activity creates a need to integrate border surveillance, investigation, prevention and rehabilitation under a common state-level framework. The three-year action plan provides this coordination mechanism, bringing Government departments, police, civil society and community institutions into a

B. State Action Plan To Combat Drug Menace 2026–2029

Source: India Today North East, 28th September, 2026

single drug-control framework.

- b. Mizoram already has 48 drug rehabilitation centres and homes providing care to 5,224 people, alongside the Government's Hulhliap Short Stay Centre, which had admitted 2,255 people for detoxification by August 2026. The new action plan can consolidate this existing treatment network with prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration measures rather than treating enforcement and recovery as separate interventions.
- c. The declaration of Tlangmawi as Mizoram's first drug-free village provides a concrete community-level model for implementing the new action plan. The village's recognition follows collective efforts involving its village council and community, while the state plan calls for wider participation from churches, NGOs, educational institutions and local organisations. The model can therefore be extended beyond state-level enforcement by giving villages a defined role in prevention, early identification and rehabilitation support.
- d. The three-year action plan addresses a gap identified in Mizoram's own baseline assessment of drug use, which called for a state-level action plan with clearly defined stakeholder responsibilities and continuous collection of data on drug use and its consequences. The assessment also recommended bringing together information from educational institutions, Government hospitals and law-enforcement agencies for policy evaluation. The 2026–29 framework therefore provides an opportunity to move Mizoram's drug-control approach towards a more integrated monitoring system, with interventions and resource allocation informed by comparable data across departments.

C. Bana Kaih (Handholding) Scheme Phase 3.0

Source: India Today North East, 18th September, 2026

1. On 18th September, 2026, the Mizoram Government launched the Bana Kaih (Handholding) Scheme Phase 3.0.
2. The scheme aims to improve access to institutional credit and livelihood support while introducing new mechanisms to help Mizoram's youth access employment opportunities outside the state.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme provides collateral-free loans of up to ₹ 50 lakh through three partner banks, backed by Government guarantees and 100% interest subvention for eligible beneficiaries.
 - b. It proposes a Foreign Placement Loan to help youth meet expenses associated with securing employment abroad, particularly those unable to access bank credit.
 - c. It includes proposed financial technical, infrastructural and institutional handholding support to Progress Partners whose livelihood or business projects fail due to circumstances beyond their control.
 - d. The agricultural and livelihood support covers procurement at support prices, turmeric and ginger processing units, contract farming, solar dryers, drying sheds and hay-making facilities.
 - e. Further, the scheme has a ₹ 350 crore allocation for 2026–27, including ₹ 150 crore for procurement of five key crops.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The initiative aligns with the Centre's States' Framework for Advancing International Mobility for Skilled Workers (2026) through its overseas placement loans, and with Skill India International Centres through its focus on internationally aligned skilling and preparation for overseas employment.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Kerala implement the NORKA-Roots scheme to facilitate structured overseas employment assistance for its youth, while Odisha and Telangana execute large-scale farm-support and crop procurement interventions.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Bana Kaih's first two phases show a significant gap between beneficiary selection and actual credit delivery. Banks have sanctioned ₹ 46.37 crore to 509 of 823 selected Progress Partners, leaving 314 applications, or 38%, awaiting sanction. The average sanctioned loan is only ₹ 9.1 lakh, around 18% of the ₹ 50 lakh ceiling. With Phase 3.0 retaining interest-free loans backed by Government guarantees, the key implementation challenge is therefore not the availability of a higher credit ceiling but converting selected projects into bankable loans at scale.

C. Bana Kaih (Handholding) Scheme Phase 3.0

Source: India Today North East, 18th September, 2026

- b. The crop-procurement component carries a substantial fiscal commitment, with ₹ 150 crore earmarked in 2026–27 for five crops, while the Government had already released ₹ 192.63 crore for ginger procurement across 2025 and 2026. With earlier ginger procurement generating a reported ₹ 128.38 crore loss in 2024–25, the expanded procurement commitment makes improving post-procurement sales and value realisation an important test for Bana Kaih's sustainability.
- c. Bana Kaih's assured-price component has already reached a sizeable farmer base, with 11,655 farming families receiving ₹ 50.68 crore in ginger support-price payments by 8th September, 2026, compared with 22,155 farmers receiving ₹ 140.84 crore in 2025. The 2026-27 expansion therefore shifts the programme from an initial support mechanism towards a larger recurring procurement commitment, increasing the importance of ensuring that procured produce can be sold or processed after Government purchase.
- d. Lastly, the introduction of a rehabilitation window for failed projects responds to an implementation gap identified by the Government itself, with the Chief Minister attributing some earlier project failures to inadequate follow-up. Phase 3.0 can therefore strengthen the scheme by linking financial support with structured post-disbursement monitoring, early identification of distressed projects and clearly defined conditions for rehabilitation, rather than treating loan disbursement as the end of the support cycle.

IX. Tamil Nadu

A. Revocation Of RTI Exemption For Law And Order Department

Source: The Indian Express, 28th September, 2026

1. On 27th September, 2026, the Tamil Nadu Government revoked its 21st September order exempting the Public (Law and Order) Department from the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 under Section 24(4).
2. The revocation restores the Public (Law and Order) Department to the ordinary RTI framework, following the withdrawal of its notification as an intelligence and security organisation.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The 21st September notification had classified the Public (Law and Order) Department as an Intelligence and Security Organisation under Section 24(4) of the RTI Act.
 - b. The exemption was revoked through the withdrawal of G.O. Ms. No. 57 of the Human Resources Management (R) Department, dated 21st September, 2026.
 - c. The department handles matters including communal and caste clashes, preventive detention, police firing, custodial deaths and alleged police torture.
 - d. Section 24(4) permits a state Government to exempt an intelligence or security organisation established by it from the RTI Act through a notification.
 - e. The statutory exemption under Section 24 does not extend to information relating to allegations of corruption or human rights violations, subject to the conditions prescribed under the Act.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The measure directly relates to the Right to Information Act, 2005, which establishes the statutory framework governing access to information held by public authorities and specifies limited exemptions under Section 24.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. The revocation restores RTI coverage to records directly linked to custodial and police accountability. Tamil Nadu recorded 5 custodial deaths in 2024-25 and a further 7 up to 15th March, 2026, compared with 4 in 2023-24. The Public (Law and Order) Department handles inquiries into custodial deaths, police firing, alleged torture and deaths of remand prisoners, making access to its records particularly relevant where state action itself is under scrutiny.
 - b. Further, the exemption would have covered a department whose mandate extends well beyond intelligence and security functions. Tamil Nadu had 1,117 preventive detainees as of December 2024, accounting for 36.6% of all preventive detainees in India, while the Public (Law and Order) Department handles preventive detention, detainee representations and habeas corpus petitions. The revocation therefore

A. Revocation Of RTI Exemption For Law And Order Department**Source:** The Indian Express, 28th September, 2026

retains RTI access to records concerning a significant volume of state action affecting personal liberty, instead of applying a blanket exemption to the department's wider mandate.

- c. The revocation also preserves RTI access in preventive-detention cases where timely access to records can affect challenges to continued detention. In 2024, 3,788 preventive detainees were released in Tamil Nadu, including 3,521 who were released before completing their detention period. Since the Public (Law and Order) Department handles detainee representations and habeas corpus matters, retaining the 48-hour life-or-liberty provision under Section 7(1) keeps an expedited RTI route available for records relevant to such cases.
- d. However, restoring RTI coverage does not by itself resolve delays in obtaining information through the State Information Commission. By 30th June, 2026, the Commission had disposed of 14,243 appeals, but only 10,422 orders had been uploaded, leaving nearly 3,800 orders unavailable online despite the Commission operating with nine commissioners. The revocation therefore restores the legal route to challenge information denials, but administrative delays in issuing and publishing decisions can still constrain timely access.

X. Kerala

A. Mandatory Police Verification For Aided School Appointments

Source: Mathrubhumi, 29th September, 2026

1. On 25th September, 2026, the Kerala General Education Department mandated police verification for the appointment of teaching and non-teaching staff in aided schools.
2. The measure aims to strengthen background verification of aided school employees and prevent individuals with relevant criminal records from being appointed to positions involving regular contact with children.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The order mandates a police verification proforma to be included in documents submitted for appointment approval.
 - b. The appointing authorities require the concerned police authorities to furnish a verification report on the antecedents of the appointee before approving the appointment.
 - c. The requirement covers both teaching and non-teaching staff in aided schools.
 - d. The Kerala Education Rules will be amended to incorporate police verification into the appointment process.
 - e. The measure follows an earlier Home Department direction requiring police verification for appointments in aided institutions.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The measure directly aligns with Rule 3 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Rules, 2020, which requires institutions that regularly come into contact with children, including schools, to conduct police verification and background checks of their teaching, non-teaching and other staff.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Haryana and Delhi have mandated police or background verification of teaching and non-teaching staff in schools as part of child-safety requirements.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The aided schools account for a significant share of Kerala's teaching workforce, with 1.19 lakh teachers, or 40.9% of the state's total, compared with 82,748 in Government schools. Extending mandatory police verification to aided-school appointments therefore closes a substantial coverage gap in the state's teacher recruitment safeguards, bringing a larger share of the school workforce under formal background verification.
 - b. Kerala recorded 4,765 POCSO cases involving 5,234 accused persons in 2025, with 72% of accused known to the child. Teachers accounted for 2% of accused persons, indicating that recruitment screening addresses only one, relatively narrow risk channel. The measure can strengthen entry-stage safeguards for

A. Mandatory Police Verification For Aided School Appointments

Source: Mathrubhumi, 29th September, 2026

school staff, but its effectiveness will depend on complementary mechanisms for monitoring and reporting misconduct after appointment.

- c. The reform does not address a documented reporting gap within aided schools. In the January 2026 Malampuzha case, school authorities took disciplinary action after parents complained but did not inform the police, with the Special Branch subsequently detecting the matter and police registering six FIRs involving complaints from eight students. This indicates that the risk is not limited to whether an appointee has a prior record, but also whether allegations arising after appointment are promptly escalated to law enforcement.
- d. Lastly, the measure could lengthen the appointment-to-approval cycle if police verification is not completed within the existing approval timelines. Under the Kerala Education Rules, managers have 15 days to forward appointments and Educational Officers have 30 days to process them. Making a favourable police report a precondition for final approval therefore adds a new dependency to a process with a defined 30-day approval window.

XI. Odisha

A. Draft Odisha Pedestrian Safety Rules, 2026

Source: The Hindu, 26th September, 2026, Hindustan Times, 25th September, 2026

1. On 24th September, 2026, the Odisha Government issued the draft Odisha Pedestrian Safety Rules, 2026, proposing mandatory pedestrian infrastructure and stronger accountability.
2. The rules aim to set minimum standards for safe, accessible and continuous pedestrian infrastructure across the state, improve safety in high-footfall areas, and hold agencies accountable for faulty road design, construction and maintenance.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Rules propose speed limits of 25 kmph in school zones within settlements and 40 kmph for schools along highways or major rural roads.
 - b. The draft prohibits debris, advertisements, cables and vehicle parking on footpaths, zebra crossings and cycle tracks, with towing, fines and confiscation for violations.
 - c. It mandates slip-resistant footpaths along major urban roads and residential highway stretches, and a minimum 1.5-metre pedestrian passage during road works.
 - d. The framework gives pedestrians right of way at non-signalised zebra crossings and prohibits overtaking a vehicle stopped for pedestrians.
 - e. The Rules make road-owning agencies, contractors and consultants liable where faulty design, construction or maintenance contributes to a pedestrian's death, disability or serious injury, with action including payment withholding, compensation recovery or contract cancellation.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Rules align with National Urban Transport Policy, 2006 and Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways' pedestrian-safety guidelines.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Karnataka have introduced regulations prohibiting footpath encroachments, while Andhra Pradesh implemented the Pedestrian Safety Policy to mandate a two-metre clear walking zone.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Odisha's road-safety problem has remained significant despite existing enforcement measures. The state recorded 6,483 road deaths in 2025, up from 3,931 in 2014, while its fatality rate was reported at 49 deaths per 100 road accidents, compared with the national average of 35.7. The draft Pedestrian Safety Rules therefore shift part of the road-safety approach towards the design and maintenance of pedestrian infrastructure, rather than relying only on enforcement against road users.
 - b. The proposal also builds on provisions that Odisha had already introduced in its

A. Draft Odisha Pedestrian Safety Rules, 2026

Source: The Hindu, 26th September, 2026, Hindustan Times, 25th September, 2026

Motor Vehicles Amendment Rules, 2025. Those rules required footpaths and cycling paths on new and upgraded roads, incorporation of pedestrian crossings and other walking infrastructure at the design stage, and a penalty equivalent to 1% of the contract value where new roads lacked adequate walking infrastructure. The 2026 draft goes further by prescribing continuous footpaths on both sides of urban arterial roads, crossings at intervals of not more than 150 metres in high-density corridors and timelines for rectifying damaged or obstructed pedestrian infrastructure.

- c. The proposal is also directly relevant to the Supreme Court's May 2025 direction that all states and Union Territories should formulate guidelines ensuring proper, unobstructed and disability-friendly footpaths alongside public roads. The Court directed states to evolve their own policies and file compliance reports, while its June 2026 judgment further recognised walking on demarcated footpaths as a fundamental right. Odisha's draft rules provide a state-level regulatory framework through which these directions can be translated into requirements for road design, pedestrian crossings, maintenance, audits and accountability.

XII. Bihar

A. Magadh Greenfield Satellite Township Development Plan-2047

Source: The Government Of Bihar, 25th September, 2026

1. On 24th September, 2026, the Bihar Government notified the draft Development Plan-2047 for the proposed Magadh Greenfield Satellite Township in Gaya.
2. The Development Plan aims to guide the future urban expansion of Gaya through a planned satellite township with residential, commercial, institutional, healthcare, educational, recreational and service areas.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Government proposes a special township area of approximately 22,200 acres covering 54 revenue villages across Gaya Ji, Bodh Gaya and Paraiya blocks.
 - b. The plan identifies a core area of approximately 1,629 acres covering 13 revenue villages for concentrated urban development.
 - c. The township proposes a Central Business District, markets, institutional areas, hospitals, educational institutions, recreational spaces, service areas and residential zones.
 - d. The plan seeks to integrate existing villages and settlements into the proposed urban framework rather than developing the township as a separate urban settlement.
 - e. The proposed township is connected to NH-22, NH-119D and Gaya Ji International Airport, providing links to regional transport infrastructure.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The Plan aligns with the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SSASCI) - Urban Planning Reforms which incentivises Town Planning Schemes and Land Pooling for greenfield urbanisation.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Bihar, under the same 11-township programme have notified the Pataliputra Greenfield Satellite Township Plan-2047, Andhra Pradesh pursued land-pooling-based greenfield development under the Amaravati Capital City project.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The scale of the proposed township makes it significant for Bihar's long-term urban planning. The special area covers 22,200 acres, 54 revenue villages, around 1.70 lakh existing residents, 27,533 buildings and 54,604 land parcels. The development of a satellite township therefore provides a framework to organise the area's existing population alongside future growth through planned residential, commercial, institutional, healthcare and service infrastructure. This is particularly relevant for the Gaya-Bodh Gaya region, where existing settlements are already spread across the proposed planning area and unplanned expansion would make subsequent infrastructure provision more fragmented.

A. Magadh Greenfield Satellite Township Development Plan-2047

Source: The Government Of Bihar, 25th September, 2026

- b. The proposed development also moves beyond residential expansion by combining housing with a Central Business District, markets, hospitals, educational institutions and service areas. This creates a defined spatial framework for locating employment, public services and residential development within the same planned urban area rather than allowing individual land uses to expand independently.
- c. The plan is also relevant from a land-management perspective. With 54,604 existing land parcels in the special area and 3,533 parcels in the core area, the Development Plan provides a common land-use framework across a large number of individually held parcels. The 60-day public consultation provides an institutional stage for landowners and other stakeholders to raise objections before the draft plan is finalised.
- d. The proposed location also gives the township a regional-connectivity dimension. Its proximity to NH-22, NH-119D and Gaya Ji International Airport connects the planned urban area with existing road and air infrastructure, while the inclusion of Gaya Ji and Bodh Gaya areas places the plan within an important urban and tourism-linked region of Bihar.

B. One-Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme For Brick Kilns, 2026

Source: The Hindu, 19th September, 2026

1. On 18th September, 2026, the Bihar Mines and Geology Department announced the One-Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme for Brick Kilns.
2. The scheme aims to recover unpaid royalty from brick kilns for the 2024-25 season by waiving accumulated interest on payment of the principal.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme provides a three-month settlement window from 21st September to 20th December, 2026 for eligible brick kiln operators to clear their outstanding principal dues.
 - b. It provides for disposal of recovery and litigation proceedings after payment of the settled amount, with the concerned auction petition officer to be informed that no public demand remains pending.
 - c. It specifies that operators failing to settle within the prescribed window will remain liable under the earlier system, including the applicable interest.
 - d. It waives the interest component on eligible dues, with approximately ₹ 85 crore of the ₹ 289.38 crore remaining dues identified as interest; the original total liability was ₹ 316.66 crore.
 - e. It covers outstanding brick-kiln dues up to the 2024-25 season and is applicable to operators associated with approximately 6,000 brick kilns across Bihar.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The scheme operates within the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, under which states levy royalty on minor minerals, including brick earth. It uses the state's powers under this framework to settle outstanding royalty with an interest waiver.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Uttar Pradesh has implemented periodic One-Time Settlement Schemes for brick kilns covering consolidated royalty payments and settlement of outstanding dues.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Bihar's 2019 Mineral Rules already create strong incentives for timely payment of consolidated brick-earth royalty. Payment by 30th November attracts a 5% discount, while the amount rises progressively after the normal 31st December deadline, reaching 150% of consolidated royalty by 30th June and 200% thereafter defaulting kilns may also be stopped from operating. The OTS does not replace this underlying royalty framework. Instead, it provides a temporary opportunity for operators with legacy dues up to 2024-25 to clear the eligible outstanding principal while obtaining waiver of the separately accumulated interest component.

B. One-Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme For Brick Kilns, 2026**Source:** The Hindu, 19th September, 2026

- b. Only ₹ 27.28 crore of the ₹ 316.66 crore identified dues had been recovered through certificate proceedings and FIRs, indicating that enforcement action had not cleared the accumulated liability at scale. The scheme covers around 6,000 brick kilns. Once the settled amount is deposited, the scheme provides for closure of the related public-demand and recovery proceedings.
- c. This can reduce the administrative burden of pursuing legacy dues and allow district mining authorities to redirect capacity towards current royalty assessment, compliance monitoring and timely collection. It also creates a defined mechanism for converting long-pending liabilities into realised revenue within a fixed settlement period.

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Notes

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