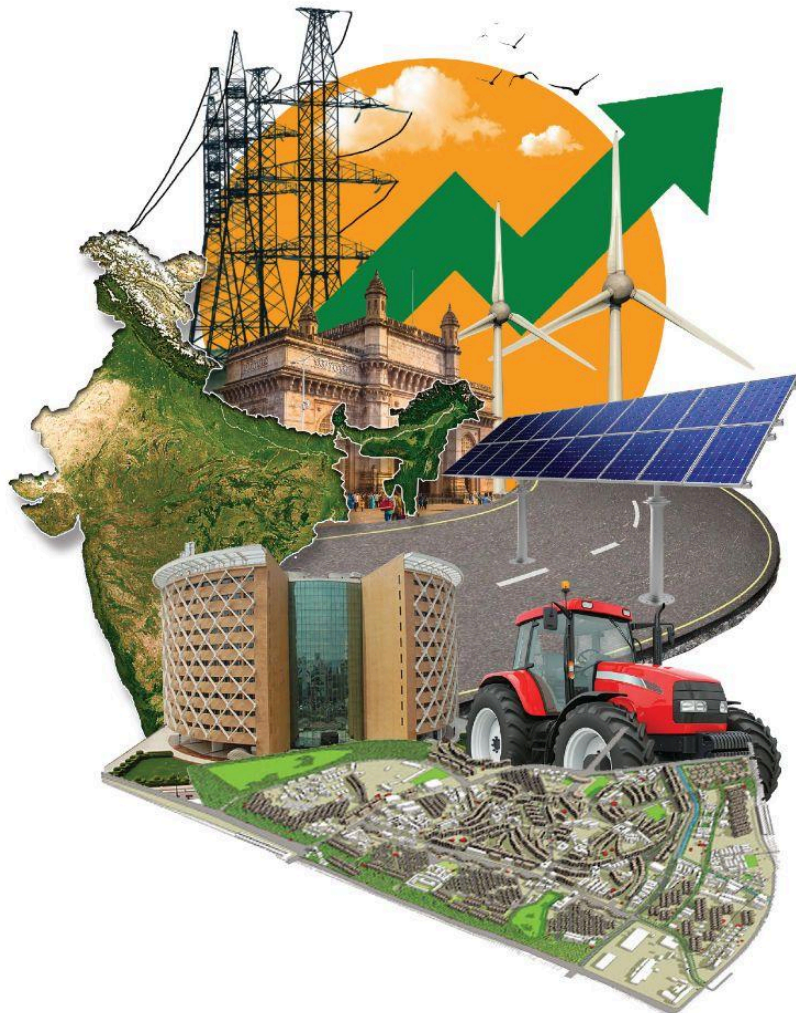


STATES IN MOTION

What's Happening In Indian States



1st October - 15th October

OCTOBER 2026 | VOLUME I

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Key Announcements

This document tracks the various key policy and reform decisions taken by state Governments and UTs from **1st October, 2026 to 15th October, 2026**.

Reform Decisions

I. Maharashtra

- A. **Invest Maharashtra Platform 2026:** The Maharashtra Government launched the Invest Maharashtra Platform 2026 under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013, to serve as the state's investment promotion and facilitation agency. It offers a single Government-investor interface and features a ₹ 3,000 crore outlay, which includes a ₹ 1,000 crore Catalytic Fund for frontier and emerging sectors.

II. Jammu And Kashmir

- A. **Jammu And Kashmir Ease Of Doing Business Act, 2026:** The Lieutenant Governor gave assent to the Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2026 to lower regulatory delays and compliance costs through time-bound approvals, simplified clearances, and a Deputy Commissioner-authorized three-year moratorium on specified inspections and coercive actions for approvals, licences, registrations, and permissions.
- B. **Jammu And Kashmir Jan Vishwas Third (Amendment Of Provisions) Bill, 2026:** The Lieutenant Governor assented to the Jammu and Kashmir Jan Vishwas Third (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026. The legislation amends 23 Acts administered by nine departments, replaces imprisonment with monetary penalties for specified minor contraventions, enables compounding or administrative adjudication of offences, and repeals two obsolete Acts to reduce compliance burdens.

III. Kerala

- A. **Draft Kerala State Private Universities (Establishment And Regulation) Bill, 2026:** The Kerala Government prepared a draft Kerala State Private Universities (Establishment And Regulation) Bill, 2026 to establish and regulate private universities, after the Assembly sought the return of the 2025 Bill from the President. The draft proposes land-ceiling exemptions for up to 100 acres, a 10-year stamp duty and registration fee waiver, and deemed approval within 60 days through a single-window board.

IV. Delhi

- A. **Fiscal Responsibility And Budget Management (FRBM) Bill, 2026:** The Delhi Cabinet approved the Fiscal Responsibility And Budget Management (FRBM) Bill, 2026 to strengthen fiscal discipline and transparency through medium-term fiscal planning and regular budget-performance reviews. It requires the Government to present macroeconomic and medium-term fiscal policy statements alongside the annual Budget and explain significant deviations from fiscal targets.

Policy Level Announcements

Key Announcements

I. Delhi

- A. **Delhi Industrial Policy, 2026:** The Delhi Cabinet approved a ten-year industrial policy focused on clean, knowledge-based growth across 10 priority sectors, including IT, Global Capability Centres, healthcare and precision manufacturing. It earmarks ₹ 1,000 crore for the Mukhyamantri Udyamshree Yojana and provides capital, rental, R&D and employment incentives, alongside a single-window investment facilitation portal.

II. Jammu and Kashmir

- A. **City Gas Distribution (CGD) Policy, 2026:** The Jammu and Kashmir Government notified the City Gas Distribution Policy, 2026, following Cabinet approval. The policy creates a legal and administrative framework to transition homes, vehicles, and industries to natural gas across all 20 districts. It sets a time-bound, phased expansion of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stations across all 20 districts.

III. Uttar Pradesh

- A. **Sustainable Aviation Fuel Manufacturing Promotion Policy, 2026:** The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Manufacturing Promotion Policy, 2026 to position the state as a SAF manufacturing hub using agricultural residues, municipal waste and non-edible oilseeds. The policy classifies units as Bronze (₹ 200–500 crore), Silver (₹ 500–1,500 crore) and Gold (above ₹ 1,500 crore), offering stamp duty and SGST reimbursement, interest subsidies and a 10-year electricity duty exemption.
- B. **UP Artificial Intelligence Mission (UP-AIM):** The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the UP Artificial Intelligence Mission (UP-AIM) to establish an integrated state-level AI ecosystem across infrastructure, research, startups, workforce, and governance. Backed by a ₹ 225 crore budget for 2026–27, UP-AIM targets adding at least 1% to the state's GSDP by 2031.

IV. Odisha

- A. **Dakshyata Vikas Yojana:** The Odisha Cabinet approved the Dakshyata Vikas Yojana with a ₹ 450 crore budget from 2026–27 to 2028–29. The scheme aims to boost the employability of 4.2 lakh youth through industry-aligned vocational training, higher education integration, and overseas employment support. It targets placement-linked short-term training for 1.17 lakh youth and digital skilling in AI, cloud computing, data analytics, and cybersecurity for 3 lakh youth.

V. Bihar

- A. **Bihar MSME Policy, 2026:** The Bihar Government launched the Bihar MSME Policy, 2026 to expand entrepreneurship, access to finance and market access for local

Key Announcements

enterprises. The policy targets connecting 1 crore families with entrepreneurship over five years, reserves 25%–40% of Government procurement for goods manufactured in Bihar, and aims for ₹ 5 lakh crore in investment and 20,000 MW of power availability for industry.

Social Sector Schemes

I. Kerala

- A. **Kerala Senior Citizens' (Care And Protection Of Rights) Bill, 2026:** The Kerala Senior Citizens' (Care and Protection of Rights) Bill, 2026 was introduced in the Kerala Legislative Assembly and referred to a Subject Committee. It seeks to guarantee care, protection, and monitoring for senior citizens, particularly those living alone or requiring specialised care. It would use Kudumbashree-model ward collectives and rural volunteers to oversee welfare and coordinate aid.

II. Assam

- A. **Mukhya Mantrir Nijut Moina Aasoni:** The Government of Assam announced financial assistance under the Mukhya Mantrir Nijut Moina Aasoni, with disbursements scheduled to begin on 12th October, 2026. The scheme supports girls' educational continuity through monthly assistance of ₹ 800–₹ 2,500, covering approximately 4.37 lakh students across secondary and higher education.

III. West Bengal

- A. **Bhagini Nibedita Scheme:** The West Bengal Cabinet approved the Bhagini Nibedita Scheme to support women pursuing higher education. The scheme replaces the Kanyashree 2 project and provides eligible unmarried women with ₹ 50,000 in financial assistance over three years.

IV. Tamil Nadu

- A. **Vetri Payanam Thittam Scheme:** The Tamil Nadu Government launched the Vetri Payanam Thittam scheme to expand free bus travel for women and transgender persons. The scheme extends zero-fare travel to 12,692 government buses across seven State Transport Undertakings, covering additional express, limited-stop, deluxe and longer-distance services, with an estimated annual expenditure of ₹ 6,000 crore.

Investment Announcements

I. Andhra Pradesh

- A. **Rayalaseema Rising 2026:** The Andhra Pradesh Government laid the foundation stone for the ₹ 1 lakh-crore Global Horticulture Hub and Indian School of Agriculture under the Rayalaseema Rising initiative at Madanapalle, Annamayya district, aiming to establish the region as a major global horticulture hub by expanding cultivation, irrigation, processing, logistics, and exports.

Key Announcements

II. Haryana

- A. **Haryana-Singapore Investment Facilitation Initiative:** The Haryana Government secured proposed investments worth approximately ₹ 5,500 crore from Singapore-based companies and institutions across healthcare, water management, education and skill development. The proposals include ₹ 3,000 crore for healthcare, ₹ 1,500 crore for water management and ₹ 1,000 crore for education and skills, with departments tasked with coordinating with investors to facilitate implementation.

Other Decisions

I. Kerala

- A. **Nirmalam Puthuyuga Suchithwa Kerala Campaign (2026-31):** The Kerala Government launched the five-year Nirmalam Puthuyuga Suchithwa Kerala campaign to make the state waste-free by 30th March, 2031. The campaign proposes a centralised 500-tonne-per-day waste-to-energy plant, regional refuse-derived-fuel facilities, and model plants for plastic waste and waste-to-electricity within one to two years, coordinated by the Local Self-Government Department.

II. Odisha

- A. **CM-GROW Wildlife Research Initiative:** The Odisha Government launched CM-GROW (Chief Minister's Grant for Research on Odisha's Wildlife) to fund research that informs conservation and wildlife management. The initiative includes the deployment of 300 additional AI-enabled and conventional surveillance cameras in Similipal Tiger Reserve to monitor wildlife, detect poaching and study animal behaviour.

III. Andhra Pradesh

- A. **Revised Backward Classes (BC) Reservation Framework For Rural And Urban Local Bodies:** The Andhra Pradesh Government issued an order accepting the Rajiv Ranjan Mishra Commission's recommendations on BC reservations in rural and urban local bodies. The revised framework assigns body- and office-specific BC reservation percentages, caps combined SC, ST and BC reservations at 50%, and provides for implementation in accordance with constitutional provisions and judicial directions.

IV. Tripura

- A. **Establishment Of Tripura Staff Selection Commission (TSSC):** The Tripura Government approved the establishment of the TSSC to conduct recruitment examinations for Group-B, Group-C and Group-D state government posts. The commission aims to standardise recruitment procedures and strengthen transparency, impartiality and merit-based selection through a dedicated institutional framework.

Reform Decisions

I. Maharashtra

A. Invest Maharashtra Platform 2026

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: High

1. On 1st October, 2026, the Maharashtra Government launched the Invest Maharashtra Platform as the state's investment promotion and facilitation agency, under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013.¹
2. The platform aims to consolidate investment promotion and provides a single Government-investor interface for investment promotion, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) facilitation, and project monitoring.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. It also provides for coordination with Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC), Maharashtra Industry, Trade And Investment Facilitation (MAITRI) and other state departments.
 - b. The initiative provides a ₹ 3,000 crore budgetary outlay, including a ₹ 1,000 crore Catalytic Fund for frontier and emerging manufacturing and services sectors.
 - c. The platform establishes Country Desks in Mumbai, New Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad and international locations including the US, EU, Dubai, Taiwan, Australia and Japan for market intelligence, policy guidance and investment matchmaking.
 - d. The platform targets emerging sectors including global capability centres, gems and jewellery, animation, visual effects, comics and gaming, bamboo, bioplastics, electronics and semiconductors, alongside balanced regional development.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The platform aligns with the National Single Window System (NSWS),² an implemented Government of India initiative for Central and state-level approvals, by strengthening integrated investment facilitation and reducing multi-department interfaces.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Karnataka's Invest Karnataka³ and Gujarat's iNDEXTb⁴ similarly combine investment promotion, investor facilitation and Government-industry coordination through dedicated state-level institutions.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The establishment of Invest Maharashtra addresses an expanding institutional coordination gap driven by the sheer scale of the state's investment pipeline.

¹ [Companies Act, 2013.](#)

² [National Single Window System.](#)

³ [Single Window System - Invest Karnataka.](#)

⁴ [Investor Facilitation Portal \(IFP\).](#)

A. Invest Maharashtra Platform 2026

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: High

Maharashtra received ₹ 1.65 lakh crore in FDI during 2024–25, 39% of India's total inflow, and secured MoUs worth approximately ₹ 30 lakh crore at Davos in January 2026.⁵ Managing investments of this scale goes beyond what individual departments can handle on their own, requiring dedicated inter-agency orchestration across land allocation, infrastructure, utilities, and statutory clearances through a unified institutional anchor coordinating with bodies like Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) and Maharashtra Industry, Trade and Investment Facilitation Cell (MAITRI).

- b. Further, the initiative complements the state's existing digital single-window infrastructure by extending support beyond statutory clearances into long-term project facilitation. Maharashtra's MAITRI portal has processed 3.52 lakh out of 3.68 lakh applications across 14 departments, a disposal rate of 95.68%.⁶ However, investor needs extend beyond regulatory permissions to include project identification, site selection, market intelligence, and after-care. Invest Maharashtra creates a broader institutional investment-promotion and handholding layer.
- c. The platform's mandate responds to a geographic diversification of industrial commitments across emerging regional hubs. Data from the 2025 District Investment Summit highlight ₹ 1.27 lakh crore in proposed investments from 3,741 companies spanning all six administrative divisions.⁷ Managing an investment pipeline that extends well beyond traditional industrial centers like Mumbai and Pune necessitates district-level promotion, targeted international outreach, and localised inter-agency coordination to map and realise regional opportunities.
- d. Lastly, the framework targets the critical transition gap between initial MoU commitments and ground-level project execution. Evidence from the state's 2024 Investment Summit indicates that out of ₹ 96,582 crore in proposed investments, ₹ 51,034 crore progressed to active investment or production, ₹ 20,433 crore reached the construction or land-possession stage, ₹ 18,849 crore remained at the approval stage, and ₹ 2,433 crore was cancelled.⁸ By institutionalising continuous MoU tracking, bottleneck resolution, and post-investment care, the platform aims to establish a structured mechanism to improve conversion rates and accelerate the timeline from proposal to project commencement.

⁵ [Governor's Address, Joint Session, Maharashtra Legislature, February, 2026.](#)

⁶ [Maharashtra Industry, Trade And Investment Facilitation Cell \(MAITRI\).](#)

⁷ [Investment Summit 2025, Government Of Maharashtra, Page 5.](#)

⁸ [Investment Summit 2025, Government Of Maharashtra, Page 50.](#)

II. Jammu And Kashmir

A. Jammu And Kashmir Ease Of Doing Business Act, 2026

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | Impact: High

1. On 6th October, 2026, the Lieutenant Governor gave assent to the Jammu and Kashmir Ease of Doing Business Bill, 2026.
2. The act aims to reduce regulatory delays and compliance costs through time-bound approvals, simplified clearances and a three-year moratorium on specified inspections and coercive action, facilitating business establishment, investment and employment.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The act introduces a three-year moratorium on inspections and coercive measures relating to specified approvals, licences, registrations and permissions, subject to authorisation by the Deputy Commissioner.
 - b. It provides for District Empowered Committees to issue certificates of in-principle approval within three working days for new enterprises established in approved industrial parks.
 - c. It enables enterprises to commence operations under a simplified regulatory framework, replacing permission-based controls with rule-based governance.
 - d. It seeks to reduce multiple departmental formalities and streamline No Objection Certificates (NoCs), licences and other approvals required to establish and operate enterprises.
 - e. Further, it covers businesses across sectors, including industrial establishments, educational institutions and healthcare facilities, with the concerned departments tasked with issuing implementation guidelines.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Act operates within the Centre's Reducing Compliance Burden (RCB) program and Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP),⁹ under which states are reviewing and simplifying their own regulatory frameworks.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Several states have pursued similar ease-of-doing-business and deregulation reforms, including Uttar Pradesh,¹⁰ Madhya Pradesh,¹¹ Haryana,¹² Rajasthan,¹³ Maharashtra,¹⁴ Bihar,¹⁵ and Telangana,¹⁶ through compliance reduction, decriminalisation, simplified approvals and

⁹ [DPIIT: Ease Of Doing Business Initiative.](#)

¹⁰ [Times Of India, August, 2026.](#)

¹¹ [Invest MP, Ease Of Doing Business.](#)

¹² [The Indian Express, July, 2026.](#)

¹³ [Times Of India, June, 2026.](#)

¹⁴ [Maharashtra Legislative Council, Bill No. 96 Of 2025.](#)

¹⁵ [Times Of India, September, 2026.](#)

¹⁶ [Times Of India, September, 2026.](#)

A. Jammu And Kashmir Ease Of Doing Business Act, 2026

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | Impact: High

digital/technology-driven processes

6. Relevance -

- a. Jammu and Kashmir's industrial investment pipeline remains substantial, with 8,306 applications proposing ₹ 1.63 lakh crore in investment and approximately 5.90 lakh potential jobs as of December 2024. By December 2025, 386 units under the NCSS, involving ₹ 9,074 crore in investment, had commenced production, while 440 additional applications proposed ₹ 14,292 crore in investment.¹⁷ This continuing gap between proposed and operational projects highlights the importance of reducing administrative delays, which the Act seeks to address through a more predictable approval process.
- b. Moreover, Jammu and Kashmir's realised industrial investment has accelerated significantly since 2019, with 2,227 industrial units involving ₹ 15,940 crore in investment becoming operational over the past seven years. The realised investment reached ₹ 4,146 crore in 2024-25, over ten times the pre-2019 annual average, and a further ₹ 5,260 crore was recorded by December 2025 in 2025-26.¹⁸ The Act can complement this momentum by making approvals more predictable and reducing regulatory friction as industrial activity expands.
- c. Further, Jammu and Kashmir's existing single-window reforms have digitised approval processes, but digital access alone does not guarantee timely decisions or eliminate repeated documentation. By 2023, 167 services across 18 departments had been integrated into the Single Window System, alongside 3,188 compliance burdens eliminated under the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP).¹⁹ The Act builds on this foundation by addressing duplication across Government authorities and making approval timelines more predictable, strengthening the shift from digitising procedures to improving their actual delivery.

¹⁷ [Government Of Jammu And Kashmir, Economic Survey 2025-26, Page 11.](#)

¹⁸ [Government Of Jammu And Kashmir, Economic Survey 2025-26, Page 10.](#)

¹⁹ [PIB, March, 2023.](#)

B. Jammu And Kashmir Jan Vishwas Third (Amendment Of Provisions) Bill, 2026

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: High

1. On 6th October, 2026, the Lieutenant Governor gave assent to the Jammu and Kashmir Jan Vishwas Third (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026.
2. The Act aims to reduce the criminalisation of minor regulatory and procedural violations by replacing imprisonment with monetary penalties wherever appropriate, enabling compounding or administrative adjudication of offences, and removing obsolete legal provisions.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The act amends 23 existing Acts administered by nine departments, including Finance, Revenue, Transport, Agriculture, Industries and Commerce, Tourism, Forest, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, and Housing and Urban Development.
 - b. It replaces imprisonment for specified minor contraventions with monetary penalties wherever considered appropriate.
 - c. It provides for compounding or administrative adjudication of specified offences, with designated Adjudicating Officers and Appellate Authorities where required.
 - d. Further, it repeals two Acts identified as obsolete or no longer applicable.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** It aligns with the Central Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023,²⁰ and Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026²¹, which decriminalise minor regulatory offences, replace imprisonment with monetary penalties, and simplify regulatory compliance.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States/UTs such as Delhi,²² Puducherry,²³ Maharashtra,²⁴ Haryana,²⁵ Madhya Pradesh,²⁶ Tripura,²⁷ Gujarat,²⁸ Chhattisgarh,²⁹ and Uttarakhand³⁰ have undertaken similar reforms, strengthening India's broader compliance-reduction agenda.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Jammu and Kashmir had approximately 10.19 lakh registered MSMEs,³¹ including

²⁰ [Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2023.](#)

²¹ [Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Bill, 2026.](#)

²² [The Delhi Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2026](#)

²³ [The Puducherry Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Bill, 2025.](#)

²⁴ [Maharashtra Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2025.](#)

²⁵ [The Haryana Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Bill, 2025.](#)

²⁶ [Madhya Pradesh Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2024.](#)

²⁷ [The Tripura Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2025.](#)

²⁸ [The Gujarat Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2025.](#)

²⁹ [The Chhattisgarh Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2025.](#)

³⁰ [Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Ordinance, 2025.](#)

³¹ [Ministry Of Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises.](#)

B. Jammu And Kashmir Jan Vishwas Third (Amendment Of Provisions) Bill, 2026

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: High

informal micro enterprises registered on the Udyam Assist Platform. For this predominantly small-business base, replacing imprisonment with proportionate monetary penalties for specified minor contraventions can reduce the risk of criminal prosecution and make regulatory non-compliance less disruptive to routine business operations, without removing the obligation to comply with the law.

- b. In March 2026, Jammu and Kashmir's Chief Secretary identified schools, nursing homes and health clinics as establishments required to obtain multiple departmental clearances.³² For small operators, navigating these requirements alongside the risk of criminal liability for minor contraventions can increase the cost and uncertainty of formal operation. The Jan Vishwas amendment can reduce this burden by replacing imprisonment with proportionate monetary penalties for specified violations, while eliminating redundant clearances would require separate procedural reforms.
- c. Jammu and Kashmir's handicraft and cottage-industry sector provides direct employment to around 3.4 lakh artisans.³³ For small producers operating with limited administrative capacity, criminal liability for minor statutory violations can impose disproportionate compliance risks. Replacing imprisonment with proportionate monetary penalties can reduce this exposure while retaining accountability for serious violations.

³² [JK News Today, March, 2026.](#)

³³ [Ministry Of Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises.](#)

C. Jammu And Kashmir Municipal (Amendment) Act, 2026

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 1st October, 2026, the Lieutenant Governor gave assent to the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2026.
2. The Act aims to remove inconsistencies in the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Act, 2000,³⁴ concerning the minimum elected strength of municipal bodies and the authority responsible for determining municipal wards.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The act removes the reference to five elected members for municipal areas with populations below 5,000, aligning the provision with the Act's requirement of a minimum of seven elected members.
 - b. It clarifies responsibility for dividing municipal areas and determining the territorial boundaries of municipal wards.
 - c. It removes the reference to the State Election Officer from the relevant provision governing ward delimitation, clarifying the role of the Deputy Commissioner or another officer authorised by the Government.
 - d. It addresses inconsistencies in the existing statutory framework without introducing a new municipal governance structure.
 - e. Further, it seeks to improve administrative clarity and facilitate the conduct of municipal elections.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Act aligns with Articles 243R,³⁵ 243T³⁶ and 243ZA³⁷ of the Constitution (Seventy-Fourth Amendment) Act, 1992,³⁸ which provide for ward-based direct municipal elections, population-linked reservation and State Election Commission supervision of municipal elections.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Maharashtra³⁹ empower the State Election Commissioner to determine municipal wards and reservations, and Kerala⁴⁰ provides for delimitation into broadly equal-population wards through a Delimitation Commission chaired by the State Election Commissioner.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The terms of the Jammu and Srinagar Municipal Corporations expired on 5th and 14th November, 2023, respectively, with other municipal bodies also completing

³⁴ [Jammu And Kashmir Municipal Act, 2000.](#)

³⁵ [Article 243R, Constitution \(Seventy-Fourth Amendment\) Act, 1992.](#)

³⁶ [Article 243T, Constitution \(Seventy-Fourth Amendment\) Act, 1992.](#)

³⁷ [Article 243ZA, Constitution \(Seventy-Fourth Amendment\) Act, 1992.](#)

³⁸ [Constitution \(Seventy-Fourth Amendment\) Act, 1992.](#)

³⁹ [Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats And Industrial Townships Act, 1965.](#)

⁴⁰ [Kerala Municipality Act, 1994.](#)

C. Jammu And Kashmir Municipal (Amendment) Act, 2026

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | **Impact:** Medium

their terms that year.⁴¹ With urban local bodies operating without elected representatives since 2023, resolving statutory ambiguities around municipal composition and ward delimitation is important for establishing a clear legal basis for fresh elections and restoring elected-level accountability in urban governance.

- b. As of March 2026, delimitation remained incomplete in 5 of Jammu and Kashmir's 77 Urban Local Bodies.⁴² Where electoral preparation depends on multiple administrative authorities, ambiguity over responsibility can delay completion and complicate election planning. Clarifying the delimitation authority can help close these outstanding gaps and establish a clearer administrative pathway towards municipal elections.
- c. Section 10(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Act, 2000 prescribed a minimum of seven elected members, while the accompanying table permitted five-member bodies in areas with populations of up to 5,000.⁴³ This conflict created uncertainty over the legally permissible composition of smaller municipalities. Resolving it establishes a consistent statutory basis for constituting municipal bodies and reduces the risk of disputes over their legal validity.

⁴¹ [Greater Kashmir, March, 2026.](#)

⁴² [Greater Kashmir, March, 2026.](#)

⁴³ [Kashmir News Service, September, 2026.](#)

III. Kerala

A. Draft Kerala State Private Universities (Establishment And Regulation) Bill, 2026

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: High

1. On 12th October, 2026, the Keralam Legislative Assembly sought the return of the 2025 Bill from the President to enable revised legislation. The proposed relaxation of land and corpus requirements remains subject to the revised legislative process.
2. The draft Bill aims to simplify the establishment of private universities, provide greater operational and academic autonomy, attract investment in higher education, and expand opportunities for higher education within the state.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The draft Bill would replace the Kerala State Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Bill, 2025,⁴⁴ whose return the Assembly sought from the President on 12th October, 2026.⁴⁵
 - b. It proposes exemptions from land-ceiling restrictions for university landholdings of up to 100 acres and waivers of stamp duty and registration fees for 10 years.
 - c. It would ease land-conversion restrictions under the Kerala Conservation of Paddy Land and Wetland Act, 2008⁴⁶ to facilitate the establishment of private universities.
 - d. It introduces a proposed single-window clearance board with deemed approval within 60 days for specified clearances relating to local bodies, pollution control, electricity and fire safety.
 - e. It provides for the Kerala Knowledge Valley, overseen by a proposed development authority headed by the Chief Minister, focusing on deep technology, life sciences, aerospace and renewable energy.
 - f. It provides for self-financing private universities without maintenance grants-in-aid from the Government, alongside student grievance mechanisms, fee safeguards and permanent endowment funds.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The proposed legislation aligns with NEP 2020,⁴⁷ particularly its emphasis on expanding higher-education capacity, institutional autonomy, multidisciplinary education and greater participation of non- Government institutions.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Gujarat,⁴⁸ Maharashtra⁴⁹ and Telangana⁵⁰ have

⁴⁴ [Kerala State Private Universities \(Establishment And Regulation\) Bill, 2025.](#)

⁴⁵ [Deccan Chronicle, October, 2026.](#)

⁴⁶ [Kerala Conservation Of Paddy And Wetland Act, 2008.](#)

⁴⁷ [National Education Policy, 2020.](#)

⁴⁸ [Gujarat Private Universities Act, 2009.](#)

⁴⁹ [The Maharashtra Private Universities \(Establishment And Regulation\) Act, 2023.](#)

⁵⁰ [The Telangana State Private Universities \(Establishment And Regulation\) Act, 2018.](#)

A. Draft Kerala State Private Universities (Establishment And Regulation) Bill, 2026

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: High

enacted state-level private-university legislation permitting private institutions to establish universities subject to prescribed regulatory, academic and accreditation requirements.

6. Relevance -

- a. Keralam sends a large and growing number of students abroad while hosting no private university. Student emigrants from the state roughly doubled from 1.3 lakh in 2018 to about 2.5 lakh in 2023 and now make up 11.3% of all emigrants from Kerala,⁵¹ and Kerala is the only state without a private university.⁵² The Bill seeks to retain part of this demand by adding private capacity at home. However, over 80% of student emigrants left after completing graduation in Keralam,⁵³ so the effect will depend on postgraduate and professional programmes rather than undergraduate seats alone.
- b. Further, the draft is the state's second attempt in under two years. The 2025 Bill, passed on 24th March, 2025, required a sponsoring body to hold an endowment fund of at least ₹ 25 crore and at least 10 acres of land, and the Centre sought clarifications on these conditions after the Governor referred it to the President.⁵⁴ The new draft moves from entry conditions to incentives, with a land-ceiling exemption for up to 100 acres and a 10-year stamp duty waiver.⁵⁵ The Assembly's resolution of 12th October, 2026 seeks the return of the earlier Bill so that revised legislation can be introduced.
- c. Lastly, the draft relies on land and approval concessions that interact with existing state law. Besides the ceiling exemption, it would allow land conversion under the Kerala Conservation of Paddy Land and Wetland Act and grant deemed approval within 60 days through a single-window board. Nationally, 546 of the 1,289 universities in AISHE 2023-24 are private unaided,⁵⁶ so Keralam would compete with an established private sector mainly on land and approval terms, and the paddy-land provision will need to be reconciled with the conservation purpose of that Act.

⁵¹ [Gulati Institute Of Finance And Taxation And International Institute Of Migration And Development, Kerala Migration Survey 2023, Page 3.](#)

⁵² [Kerala Kaumudi, September, 2026.](#)

⁵³ [Gulati Institute Of Finance And Taxation And International Institute Of Migration And Development, Kerala Migration Survey 2023, Page 40.](#)

⁵⁴ [Onmanorama, October, 2026.](#)

⁵⁵ [Urban Acres, October, 2026.](#)

⁵⁶ [Ministry Of Education, AISHE Report 2023-24, Page 1.](#)

B. The Kerala Maritime Board (Amendment) Bill, 2026

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | Impact: High

1. On 14th October, 2026, the Keralam Government introduced the Kerala Maritime Board (Amendment) Bill, 2026 in the state Legislative Assembly.
2. The Bill aims to expand the statutory powers and institutional capacity of the Kerala Maritime Board to develop non-major ports, coordinate maritime infrastructure projects, facilitate private investment and integrate port development with logistics and allied industries.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Bill would reconstitute the Maritime Board with the Chief Minister as Chairperson and the Ports Minister as Vice-Chairperson, alongside senior officials from relevant departments and maritime institutions.
 - b. It would expand the Board's statutory functions to include port development, connectivity infrastructure, maritime tourism, coastal shipping, inland vessel regulation and port-based industries.
 - c. It would establish a framework for a State Maritime Land Bank, enabling the Government to place eligible Government-controlled land at the Board's disposal for port and maritime development.
 - d. It would enable public-private partnerships (PPP) for port operations and infrastructure, including concession extensions subject to investment assessment and Government approval.
 - e. It would create an Enforcement Wing for inspections relating to inland vessels and provide for a dedicated Inland Vessel Fund to finance related regulatory and operational expenditure.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The Bill aligns with the Indian Ports Act, 2025⁵⁷ and Inland Vessels Act, 2021,⁵⁸ focusing on port infrastructure, connectivity and private investment.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Gujarat's⁵⁹ and Maharashtra's⁶⁰ Maritime Boards oversee and manage non-major ports and facilitate maritime-sector investments.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The Keralam Government dissolved the Maritime Board in July 2026 after identifying serious financial and administrative lapses. Audit findings included uncollected port revenues, underutilised budget allocations, expenditure without

⁵⁷ [Indian Ports Act, 2025.](#)

⁵⁸ [Inland Vessels Act, 2021.](#)

⁵⁹ [Gujarat Maritime Board.](#)

⁶⁰ [Maharashtra Maritime Board.](#)

B. The Kerala Maritime Board (Amendment) Bill, 2026

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | **Impact:** High

proper authorisation and non-utilisation of sanctioned funds. The Board had also failed to submit its annual administration reports for 2022–23, 2023–24 and 2024–25.⁶¹ The amendment's effectiveness will depend on whether the reconstituted Board improves revenue collection, expenditure control and statutory reporting.

- b. Additionally, the state Government has reported that more than 20 port-based projects were stalled because the existing framework did not permit Government-owned land to be transferred for PPP projects, despite planning work being completed.⁶² The proposed maritime land bank and expanded PPP powers address this specific constraint. Project-level data on financial closure, investment mobilised and construction progress would establish whether the amendment unlocks these stalled investments.
- c. Keralam has a coastline of approximately 590 km and 17 notified non-major ports, in addition to Cochin Major Port. A Kerala Maritime Board order from October 2024 stated that commercial operations at its four functional ports, Vizhinjam, Kollam, Beypore and Azhikkal, were negligible, except for Beypore's service to Lakshadweep.⁶³ It also noted that maintenance costs were significant relative to returns. The Bill's longer PPP concessions and land-development provisions aim to facilitate investment and improve the commercial utilisation of existing port infrastructure.
- d. Lastly, the Government has stated that port-related decisions previously required coordination across multiple departments, while the Board and Ports Department lacked sufficient authority to decide independently.⁶⁴ The Bill proposes a governing structure headed by the Chief Minister, with representation from departments including finance, revenue, industries, fisheries and law. Its impact can be assessed by tracking approval times, projects reaching implementation and investment secured, rather than relying on the creation of a new governance structure alone.

⁶¹ [Economic Times, July, 2026.](#)

⁶² [Onmanorama, October, 2026.](#)

⁶³ [Kerala Maritime Board Order, October, 2024.](#)

⁶⁴ [Times Of India, October, 2026.](#)

IV. Delhi

A. Fiscal Responsibility And Budget Management (FRBM) Bill, 2026

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: High

1. On 13th October, 2026, the Delhi Cabinet approved a draft Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Bill.
2. The bill aims to strengthen fiscal discipline, improve transparency in public spending and ensure sustainable management of the Government's finances. It also seeks to reduce fiscal and revenue deficits and promote long-term financial stability.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. If enacted, the bill sets a framework for managing Government expenditure, borrowing and debt, with greater accountability in budgetary decisions.
 - b. The Government must present a Macroeconomic Framework Statement and a Medium-Term Fiscal Policy Statement alongside the annual Budget in the Delhi Assembly.
 - c. The bill provides for periodic reviews of budget performance.
 - d. If fiscal targets are significantly missed, the Government must explain the reasons and detail corrective measures before the Assembly.
 - e. The bill allows independent assessments of compliance with its provisions.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative aligns with the objectives of the Central Government's Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003,⁶⁵ which promotes fiscal discipline, limits excessive borrowing and deficits, and supports transparent and sustainable public financial management.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Karnataka,⁶⁶ under the Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2002 and Maharashtra,⁶⁷ under the Maharashtra Fiscal Responsibility and Budgetary Management Act, 2005 have enacted legislation to promote fiscal discipline, control fiscal deficits and borrowing, and improve transparency in Government finances.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Delhi's revised fiscal deficit for 2025-26 rose to ₹ 22,289 crore, 63% above the original estimate of ₹ 13,703 crore,⁶⁸ as receipts were projected to be 11% below budget. The proposed FRBM Bill can strengthen fiscal oversight by requiring regular reviews of budget assumptions and explanations for substantial deviations, helping the Government identify revenue shortfalls and adjust expenditure plans in time.

⁶⁵ [Government Of India, Fiscal Responsibility And Budget Management Act, 2003.](#)

⁶⁶ [Government Of Karnataka, Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2002.](#)

⁶⁷ [Government Of Maharashtra, The Maharashtra Fiscal Responsibility And Budgetary Management Act, 2005.](#)

⁶⁸ [The Hindu, March 2026.](#)

A. Fiscal Responsibility And Budget Management (FRBM) Bill, 2026**Source:** [Link](#) | **Impact:** High

- b. Delhi's revenue receipts fell by 9.42% in 2023–24, while receipts as a share of GSDP declined from 6.18% to 5.13%.⁶⁹ Medium-term fiscal planning under the proposed Bill can help assess revenue trends against expenditure commitments and borrowing requirements, improving the basis for budget projections and fiscal decisions.
- c. The proposed independent compliance assessments can strengthen legislative scrutiny by providing a structured review of fiscal targets, budget execution and deviations from approved plans. Their value will depend on transparent reporting, independent assessment and clear follow-up measures when fiscal targets are missed.

⁶⁹ [Economic Times, August 2025](#).

B. Delhi Transport Corporation (Free And Concessional Passes) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2026

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 3rd October, 2026, the Delhi Government notified the Delhi Transport Corporation (Free and Concessional Passes) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2026.
2. The move is aimed at curbing misuse of the free-travel facility and moving the scheme onto a verifiable, National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) based digital system, while retaining free bus travel as a standing benefit for eligible women.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The amendment requires eligible women and transgender persons aged 12 years and above to use the Pink Saheli Smart Card to avail of free travel on Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and Cluster buses, subject to Delhi residency and identification requirements.
 - b. The card is issued as an NCMC-based smart card, replacing the earlier paper-based pink ticket system for free bus travel.
 - c. It allows the Pink Saheli card to be used on other public transport systems through prepaid top-up, while free travel remains limited to DTC and Cluster buses.
 - d. It provides for both zero-KYC and full-KYC card issuance, with cards available through participating banks, DTC and authorised issuance centres.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative aligns with the Centre's National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) under the "One Nation, One Card" initiative,⁷⁰ which promotes interoperable digital payments across public transport systems. It also shares broader objectives with the PM-eBus Sewa Scheme,⁷¹ which supports urban bus services and associated digital fare-collection infrastructure.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Karnataka,⁷² Tamil Nadu,⁷³ Punjab,⁷⁴ Telangana,⁷⁵ Andhra Pradesh⁷⁶ and Kerala⁷⁷ have introduced similar initiatives providing free or subsidised bus travel for women to improve affordability, mobility and access to employment and essential services.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Delhi's free bus travel scheme recorded 56.21 crore women's journeys and ₹ 562.17

⁷⁰ [PIB, March 2019](#)

⁷¹ [Ministry Of Housing And Urban Affairs \(MoHUA\), PM-eBus Sewa Scheme.](#)

⁷² [The Indian Express, June, 2026.](#)

⁷³ [State Planning Commission, Government Of Tamil Nadu.](#)

⁷⁴ [The Tribune, September, 2026.](#)

⁷⁵ [Telangana Today, October, 2026.](#)

⁷⁶ [The New Indian Express, August, 2026.](#)

⁷⁷ [The Hindu, September, 2026.](#)

B. Delhi Transport Corporation (Free And Concessional Passes) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2026

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | **Impact:** Medium

crore in subsidies up to February 2026.⁷⁸ Under the paper-ticket system, operators received ₹ 10 per ticket⁷⁹, but journeys were not linked to registered beneficiaries. Mandatory Pink Saheli cards introduce beneficiary-level verification and digital journey records, strengthening subsidy monitoring and detection of irregularities.

- b. Delhi's free bus travel scheme recorded 8.25 crore journeys by women between April and July 2026, highlighting the scale of the benefit.⁸⁰ By early May, 5.56 lakh Pink Saheli cards had been issued, with 5-6% of female passengers reportedly using them at that stage.⁸¹ The transition to mandatory smart cards formalises beneficiary registration and electronic journey validation, creating a more traceable system for measuring uptake, monitoring subsidised travel and assessing the scheme's reach across eligible women.
- c. Delhi's DTC buses carried an average of 24.29 lakh passengers daily in 2025-26, while the city's electric bus fleet reached 4,338 by March 2026.⁸² The Pink Saheli card's National Common Mobility Card functionality builds on this expanding bus network by combining free DTC and Cluster bus travel with prepaid payments on compatible transport systems, supporting a common payment mechanism across daily journeys.

⁷⁸ [Economic Survey Of Delhi 2025-26.](#)

⁷⁹ [Delhi Planning - Public Works Department 2021-2022.](#)

⁸⁰ [India Today, September, 2026.](#)

⁸¹ [Indian Express, May, 2026.](#)

⁸² [Economic Times, March, 2026.](#)

V. Uttarakhand

A. Amendments To The Policy And Norms For Establishment Of Private Universities

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 4th October 2026, the Uttarakhand Cabinet approved amendments to the policy and norms governing the establishment of private universities.⁸³
2. The amendments aim to make private university establishment more feasible in Uttarakhand's geographically constrained hill regions by replacing minimum land-area requirements with built-up-area thresholds and reducing specified financial requirements.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The amendment replaces the earlier land requirement of 2.5 acres, spread across a maximum of three locations within a 5-kilometre radius in hill areas, and 10 acres in the plains, with minimum built-up-area requirements.
 - b. It requires a minimum built-up area of 2,500 sq. m. in hill areas and 20,000 sq. m. in the plains.
 - c. It removes the earlier permanent endowment fund requirements of ₹ 3 crore for hill-area universities and ₹ 5 crore for universities in the plains.
 - d. It removes the minimum bank-balance requirements of ₹ 2 crore for hill-area universities and ₹ 20 crore for universities in the plains, while reducing the processing fee.
 - e. Further, it provides for defined quality-assessment criteria to evaluate proposals for establishing private universities.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The amendments follow the Centre's Compliance Reduction and Deregulation Phase II initiative,⁸⁴ which calls for eliminating minimum land requirements for private universities and reducing minimum endowment requirements for higher educational institutions.
5. **Similar Initiatives in Other States -** States such as Haryana⁸⁵ and Rajasthan⁸⁶ have rationalised private university land norms, with Haryana adopting location-based thresholds and Rajasthan replacing minimum land requirements with a carpet-area norm. Maharashtra⁸⁷ mandates a permanent endowment fund for private skills universities.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. UDISE+ 2024-25 records Uttarakhand's higher secondary Gross Enrolment Ratio

⁸³ [The New Indian Express, October 2026.](#)

⁸⁴ [The Economic Times, February, 2026.](#)

⁸⁵ [Haryana Private Universities Act, 2006.](#)

⁸⁶ [Education Department, The Government Of Rajasthan.](#)

⁸⁷ [Maharashtra Private Universities \(Establishment And Regulation\) Act, 2023.](#)

A. Amendments To The Policy And Norms For Establishment Of Private Universities

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

(GER) at 80.9%, compared with 58.4% nationally,⁸⁸ while the state's higher education GER stood at 48.5% in AISHE 2023-24.⁸⁹ Strengthening the transition from school to higher education is therefore an important policy priority. By relaxing land and financial requirements for private universities in hill regions, the revised norms could encourage institutions to establish campuses closer to underserved communities, expand the geographical availability of higher education and create more opportunities for students to pursue further education within the state.

- b. Further, the UDISE+ 2024-25 data show higher secondary GER at 65.1% in Pauri Garhwal and 66.0% in Almora, compared with 85.0% in Dehradun and 95.6% in Haridwar,⁹⁰ highlighting geographical disparities in educational participation. By lowering land and financial requirements for private universities in hill regions, the amendments could encourage higher education investment beyond established centres, provided new institutions offer affordable courses and locate closer to underserved populations.
- c. Lastly, the introduction of separate evaluation criteria for private-university proposals provides an opportunity to pair easier establishment norms with robust quality assurance. With Uttarakhand recording 33.7 teachers per college against 29.3 nationally in 2024,⁹¹ assessing faculty strength, course offerings, infrastructure and financial sustainability can help attract credible institutions and sustain academic quality as the state expands higher education access.

⁸⁸ [UDISE+ Report, 2024-25.](#)

⁸⁹ [AISHE Report, 2023-24.](#)

⁹⁰ [UDISE+ Report, 2024-25.](#)

⁹¹ [AISHE Report, 2023-24.](#)

VI. Odisha

A. Amendment To The Industrial Policy Resolution (IPR) 2022

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 13th October, 2026, the Odisha Cabinet approved an amendment to the Industrial Policy Resolution, 2022.⁹²
2. The amendment aims to reduce the transaction costs and regulatory uncertainty associated with corporate reconstruction, amalgamation, demerger and other arrangements.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The amendment covers instruments executed pursuant to the reconstruction, amalgamation, demerger or arrangement of companies.
 - b. It applies to eligible schemes sanctioned by competent authorities under the relevant provisions of the Companies Act, 2013.
 - c. It introduces a stamp-duty cap intended to reduce the cost and uncertainty associated with corporate restructuring. The precise cap amount was not specified in the available announcement.
 - d. It seeks to facilitate mergers, consolidation and transfers of industrial assets, including assets associated with stressed, defunct and underutilised industrial units.
 - e. Further, it aims to support the revival of sick industrial units, continuity of operations and preservation of employment.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The initiative aligns with the implemented Companies Act, 2013⁹³ and the Make in India initiative⁹⁴ by reducing transaction-cost barriers to industrial restructuring and supporting the revival or transfer of productive assets.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Gujarat⁹⁵ amended its stamp-duty framework in 2025 to address corporate restructuring transactions, including mergers, demergers and reconstructions, with a maximum cap of ₹ 50 crore. Rajasthan⁹⁶ also applies capped stamp duty to specified amalgamation, demerger and reconstruction transactions, with a reported ceiling of ₹ 25 crore.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Odisha's industrial sector reached ₹ 3.6 lakh crore in 2025-26, contributing 41.3% of GSVA and supporting nearly 59 lakh workers.⁹⁷ By capping stamp duty on eligible corporate restructuring, the amendment can reduce transaction costs

⁹² [Odisha Cabinet Approves 16 Proposals from 11 Departments at Its 48th Meeting.](#)

⁹³ [Government of India, The Companies Act, 2013.](#)

⁹⁴ [Government of India, Make in India.](#)

⁹⁵ [Gujarat Stamp Amendment Act 2025.](#)

⁹⁶ [Rajasthan Stamp Duty and Registration Fee Detail.](#)

⁹⁷ [Odisha Economic Survey, 2025-26.](#)

A. Amendment To The Industrial Policy Resolution (IPR) 2022

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

associated with amalgamations, demergers and transfers of industrial assets, making the revival of underutilised or distressed units more viable and helping preserve productive capacity and employment.

- b. Odisha approved 244 new industrial projects with proposed investment of ₹ 5.66 lakh crore in 2025, while 80 projects were implemented during the year, attracting ₹ 1.75 lakh crore in investment and generating 1.4 lakh jobs.⁹⁸ The amendment complements the state's investment-promotion efforts by reducing the transaction costs and uncertainty involved when companies reorganise ownership or consolidate industrial assets.
- c. Odisha's merchandise exports rose to ₹ 95,568 crore in FY 2025–26, from ₹ 85,540 crore in FY 2024–25. However, the state's export basket remained concentrated in metals and minerals, which accounted for 84.8% of merchandise exports in FY 2024–25.⁹⁹ By facilitating corporate restructuring and industrial-asset transfers, the amendment could support investment in downstream manufacturing and higher-value production, helping diversify the state's industrial base.

⁹⁸ [Annual Activity Report, 2025-26.](#)

⁹⁹ [Odisha State Presentation Report - IBEF](#)

VII. Telangana

A. Revised Fire And Life Safety Requirements For Provisional Fire NOCs

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 3rd October, 2026, the Telangana Fire, Disaster Response, Emergency and Civil Defence Department revised fire safety requirements, raising the height threshold for provisional Fire No Objection Certificates (NOCs).
2. The revised requirements aim to simplify fire-safety approvals for residential construction, reduce regulatory compliance burdens and streamline the building approval process while maintaining fire and life-safety standards.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The revised requirements raise the mandatory provisional Fire NOC threshold for residential buildings from 18 metres to 24 metres, generally covering buildings up to Ground plus seven floors.
 - b. It mandates fire towers in buildings measuring 24 metres or above, irrespective of occupancy type.
 - c. It requires Fire Command Centre rooms in buildings measuring 24 metres or above across all occupancy categories.
 - d. It permits ventilation louvers for basement diesel generator rooms above a fire-rated wall at least one metre high, with a two-hour fire-resistance rating.
 - e. Further, it applies the revised requirements to fresh provisional Fire NOC applications submitted on or after 7th October, 2026, without changing existing requirements for other occupancy types.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The measure aligns with the implemented National Building Code of India (NBC)¹⁰⁰ fire and life-safety framework by retaining fire-safety scrutiny according to building type, height and occupancy.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Karnataka,¹⁰¹ Maharashtra¹⁰² and Tamil Nadu¹⁰³ apply height and occupancy-based Fire NOC requirements for residential and other buildings through their respective state fire-service and building-development regulations.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Telangana recorded 8,861 fire incidents in 2025, with 163 deaths and property losses of ₹ 879 crore.¹⁰⁴ Incidents rose further in 2026, with 8,914 recorded between 1st January and 12th July against 6,273 in the same period of 2025. Of the

¹⁰⁰ [National Building Code - Bureau Of Indian Standards.](#)

¹⁰¹ [Karnataka Fire Force \(Amendment\) Act, 2023.](#)

¹⁰² [Maharashtra Fire Prevention And Life Safety Measures Act, 2006.](#)

¹⁰³ [Combined Development And Building Rules, 2019.](#)

¹⁰⁴ [The Siasat Daily, January, 2026.](#)

A. Revised Fire And Life Safety Requirements For Provisional Fire NOCs

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

8,444 fire incidents in 2026, 609 (about 7.2%) were in residential houses.¹⁰⁵ The revision removes residential buildings of 18–24 metres from the Provisional Fire NOC requirement while adding fire tower and fire command centre requirements at 24 metres and above. With incidents rising, the instructions would need to specify how compliance in the 18–24 metre band will be checked, which the available reports do not.

- b. Further, the revision is the third step this year in relaxing the state's height-based approvals. G.O. Ms. No. 95 of 21st March, 2026 raised the high-rise threshold under the Telangana Building Rules, 2012 from 18 to 21 metres and exempted 18–21 metre buildings built through TDR from fire-department clearances,¹⁰⁶ and in August 2026 the department proposed cutting the 18-page Provisional NOC form to six pages with NOCs issued within 48 hours.¹⁰⁷ The 24-metre threshold goes beyond the March change, so residential buildings of 21–24 metres now count as high-rises under the Building Rules but fall outside the Provisional NOC requirement.
- c. Moreover, the change applies only to fresh applications received on or after 7th October, 2026,¹⁰⁸ so buildings already approved in the 18–24 metre band remain under the earlier process. The department's stated targets for later stages are a maximum of 15 days for a Final NOC and seven days for renewals.¹⁰⁹ For the new 18–24 metre band, the key implementation question is whether a Final NOC or occupancy-stage inspection still applies, which the reports do not settle.

¹⁰⁵ [The Siasat Daily, July, 2026.](#)

¹⁰⁶ [The South First, March, 2026.](#)

¹⁰⁷ [Deccan Chronicle, August, 2026.](#)

¹⁰⁸ [The Siasat Daily, October, 2026.](#)

¹⁰⁹ [Deccan Chronicle, August, 2026.](#)

B. Registration Of Patta Lands Pending NALA Clearance (2026)

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 3rd October, 2026, the Telangana Revenue Department, through a memo, eased registration of residential patta lands converted from agricultural use, even where Non-Agricultural Land Assessment (NALA) conversion proceedings remain pending.
2. The reform aims to let eligible registrations proceed while NALA conversion proceedings are pending, with the applicable NALA charges collected before registration is completed, subject to the Indian Registration Act, 1908,¹¹⁰ and the Indian Stamp Act, 1899,¹¹¹ while preserving tax recovery under the Telangana Agricultural Land (Conversion for Non-Agricultural Purposes) Act, 2006.¹¹²
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The memo permits registration of houses and residential properties built on patta lands converted for residential use where mandatory NALA conversion remains incomplete.
 - b. The Revenue Department requires district collectors to verify revenue records, ownership rights and the ground-level status of eligible properties before registration.
 - c. The authorities would collect applicable NALA charges and prescribed Government fees before completing registration.
 - d. The district collectors would need to process eligible applications through a transparent, time-bound mechanism and submit periodic compliance reports on implementation.
 - e. The measure addresses properties affected by Section 22-A restrictions where residential use exists but revenue records continue to reflect the land as agricultural because NALA conversion was not completed.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The measure aligns with the implemented Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)¹¹³ by facilitating updated land records, registration and integration of land-related services through Telangana's digital Bhu Bharati system.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Andhra Pradesh repealed its Agricultural Land (Conversion for Non-Agricultural Purposes) Act, 2006, in 2025¹¹⁴ to simplify land-use regulation, while Maharashtra abolished separate NA permission in specified cases in 2026¹¹⁵ where development or building-plan approval by the competent authority

¹¹⁰ [Indian Registration Act, 1908.](#)

¹¹¹ [Indian Stamp Act, 1899.](#)

¹¹² [The Telangana Agricultural Land \(Conversion For Non Agricultural Purposes\) Act, 2006.](#)

¹¹³ [DILRMP | Home - Department Of Land Resources | India.](#)

¹¹⁴ [The Andhra Pradesh Agricultural Land \(Conversion For Non Agricultural Purposes\) \(Repeal\) Act, 2025.](#)

¹¹⁵ [Indian Express, February, 2026.](#)

B. Registration Of Patta Lands Pending NALA Clearance (2026)

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

serves as deemed NA permission.

6. Relevance -

- a. Telangana's Section 22-A backlog spans several categories of land, and the state has chosen to clear it one category at a time. On 16th September, 2026, the Chief Minister identified 12 recurring problems behind the backlog, including private patta land on which NALA charges were unpaid, for which registration was to be allowed once the NALA fee, stamp duty and registration charges were paid.¹¹⁶ The scale is visible in one other category alone, under G.O. 59, where about 1.22 lakh cases with conveyance deeds already issued await finalisation and 18,590 applications are pending. The 3rd October memo puts the Assembly commitment for patta land into effect.
- b. Further, in August 2026, the Revenue Minister said the issue would be resolved by the end of that month,¹¹⁷ yet by 9th October seven orders had been issued against the 10-12 categories being fast-tracked, and pending G.O. 59 applications were given a one-month deadline.¹¹⁸ The patta-land memo, by contrast, asks collectors to act within a "stipulated time frame" without fixing one, so district-level processing times will need to be monitored to see whether the delays and repeat visits the memo seeks to avoid actually fall.
- c. Moreover, the memo regularises registration without amending the underlying law. It neither changes the NALA conversion requirement nor removes properties from the 22-A list by default, as each case goes through collector verification and payment of NALA charges and fees. It also stops short of the more contested categories, as houses on assigned land remain subject to legal vetting under the Telangana Assigned Lands (Prohibition of Transfer) Act, 1977.^{119,120} The relief therefore covers private patta holdings where ownership is not disputed, not land where the state's own title or transfer restrictions apply.

¹¹⁶ [The South First, September, 2026.](#)

¹¹⁷ [The Pioneer, August, 2026.](#)

¹¹⁸ [The Hans India, October, 2026.](#)

¹¹⁹ [The Telangana Assigned Lands \(Prohibition Of Transfers\) Act, 1977.](#)

¹²⁰ [The South First, September, 2026.](#)

VIII. Meghalaya

A. Meghalaya Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises (Facilitation Of Establishment And Operation) Ordinance, 2026

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 13th October, 2026, the Meghalaya Cabinet approved a proposal to promulgate the Meghalaya Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Facilitation of Establishment and Operation) Ordinance, 2026.
2. The proposed Ordinance aims to simplify the establishment and operation of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by enabling businesses to apply for multiple regulatory approvals simultaneously, reducing procedural delays while retaining existing regulatory requirements.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The proposed Ordinance would introduce a facilitation mechanism for MSMEs seeking licences, clearances, registrations and no-objection certificates.
 - b. It would initially cover industries classified under the white category, which do not require Consent to Establish (CTE) or Consent to Operate (CTO) from the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB).
 - c. It would allow entrepreneurs to apply for multiple approvals simultaneously rather than sequentially.
 - d. The facilitation process would cover approvals from the Meghalaya Urban Development Authority (MUDA) and municipal bodies, along with other applicable registrations.
 - e. Further, it would retain existing regulatory requirements and would not exempt covered enterprises from applicable approvals or compliance obligations.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The proposed Ordinance aligns with the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP)¹²¹ and the Union Government's Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) and regulatory-compliance-reduction agenda led by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).¹²²
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Andhra Pradesh has pursued industrial approval simplification and compliance reduction,¹²³ while Gujarat¹²⁴ and Maharashtra¹²⁵ have implemented single-window and business-clearance reforms to reduce administrative friction for enterprises.
6. **Relevance -**

¹²¹ [Business Reforms Action Plan.](#)

¹²² [Ease Of Doing Business \(Eodb\), Department For Promotion Of Industry And Internal Trade.](#)

¹²³ [The Times of India, October, 2026.](#)

¹²⁴ [The Indian Express, September, 2026.](#)

¹²⁵ [Maharashtra Industry, Trade And Investment Facilitation Cell \(Maitri\), IELMD.](#)

A. Meghalaya Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises (Facilitation Of Establishment And Operation) Ordinance, 2026

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

- a. The Ordinance targets administrative friction across Meghalaya's micro-enterprise base, which encompasses 1.05 lakh registered units, comprising 73,699 formal Udyam-registered enterprises and 31,685 informal micro-units onboarded via the Udyam Assist Platform.¹²⁶ By enabling simultaneous applications across multiple departments rather than sequential submissions, the measure is intended to shorten waiting time without removing underlying statutory compliance requirements, and approval times after promulgation will show whether it does.
- b. Further, restricting the initial rollout to “white-category” industries focuses facilitation on lower-risk enterprises where regulatory friction is lowest.¹²⁷ Since these units are already exempt from SPCB CTE and CTO mandates, initiating the mechanism here allows the state to streamline municipal, power, and building clearances before scaling to higher-compliance sectors.
- c. Moreover, the initiative targets administrative pendency and uneven clearance velocity across regulatory services. The Single Window Portal data show 233 approvals out of 301 factory-plan applications and 94 approvals out of 120 provisional fire-safety certificates, alongside district-level disparities where East Garo Hills cleared one of three factory-plan requests while other districts recorded no approvals.¹²⁸ Concurrent filing could ease cross-agency workflows, although it will not by itself clear the localised bottlenecks that leave statutory clearances pending across districts.
- d. Lastly, the reform functions strictly as a procedural accelerator rather than a statutory exemption from licensing requirements. Because parallel submission does not inherently guarantee expedited clearance, enforcing department-wise turnaround limits, clear escalation paths, and transparent tracking of end-to-end processing times will be necessary to convert simultaneous filing into measurable reductions in final approval cycles.

¹²⁶ [State-wise Udyam Registration.](#)

¹²⁷ [India Today NE, October, 2026.](#)

¹²⁸ [Meghalaya Investment Promotion Authority, SDP Dashboard](#) and [Meghalaya Investment Promotion Authority, Single Window Portal Dashboard.](#)

IX. Karnataka

A. Karnataka Judicial Digitisation And Digital Transformation Project

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 6th October, 2026, the Karnataka Cabinet approved a ₹ 704-crore project for the digitisation and digital transformation of the state's judicial system.
2. The project aims to strengthen digital infrastructure for courts, improve the efficiency and reliability of judicial services, and enable secure digital management and continuity of judicial records and systems.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The project establishes a dedicated Data Centre and Disaster Recovery Centre for the judiciary through the Karnataka State Data Centre (KSDC).
 - b. The digital infrastructure enables secure storage, management and restoration of judicial data and records, strengthening continuity of court services during disruptions.
 - c. The Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms' e-Governance Division functions as the nodal department for implementation of the project.
 - d. The project strengthens the state's digital court infrastructure to support smoother delivery of judicial services and reduce dependence on physical judicial records.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The project directly aligns with the implemented e-Courts Mission Mode Project Phase III (2023–2027),¹²⁹ which provides for digitisation of court records, e-filing, e-payments, virtual and hybrid hearings, Case Information Systems and digital access to judicial information.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Kerala,¹³⁰ Telangana¹³¹ and Maharashtra¹³² have undertaken court digitisation and e-governance initiatives covering e-filing, digital case records, virtual hearings and technology-enabled judicial administration under the national e-Courts framework.¹³³
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The state is now the largest financier of court digital infrastructure in Karnataka. As of 20th July, 2026, the Centre had released ₹ 190.54 crore to the High Court of Karnataka under eCourts Phase III, of which ₹ 134.35 crore (70.5%) had been spent.¹³⁴ The approved ₹ 704 crore state outlay is about 3.7 times the Central release, although an approved allocation is not yet realised spending. As Phase III

¹²⁹ [Vision Document For Phase III Of Ecourts Project.](#)

¹³⁰ [On-courts 24x7 in Kerala.](#)

¹³¹ [Telangana High Court Digitization Of Records Rules, 2023, India-legitquest.](#)

¹³² [e-Service, Maharashtra.](#)

¹³³ [e-Committee, Supreme Court Of India, Biennial Report, 2026.](#)

¹³⁴ [PIB, July, 2026.](#)

A. Karnataka Judicial Digitisation And Digital Transformation Project

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

was approved for four years from 2023,¹³⁵ the state outlay also secures hosting and continuity once the Central scheme period ends.

- b. Further, the project must fit within the Central eCourts architecture rather than run alongside it. Phase III provides ₹ 1,205.23 crore for cloud infrastructure and ₹ 2,038.40 crore for scanning and digital preservation of case records, its largest component.¹³⁶ Karnataka already has 1,031 computerised courts across 207 court complexes on the national Case Information System.¹³⁷ A state-hosted data centre adds value only if it stores digitised records and Phase III applications to eCommittee standards, without creating a second, parallel system.
- c. Lastly, hosting both the Data Centre and the Disaster Recovery Centre through the Karnataka State Data Centre places judicial continuity under a single state agency, although the reports do not say whether the two facilities are physically separate. In June 2026, the state announced a two-day shutdown of the State Data Centre, which serves the digital services of several departments, for cyber-security and service-stability reforms.¹³⁸ For court records, the location and independence of the disaster-recovery site will matter more than headline capacity.

¹³⁵ [Ministry Of Law And Justice, Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 856, July, 2024.](#)

¹³⁶ [Ministry Of Law And Justice, Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 856, July, 2024.](#)

¹³⁷ [Ministry Of Law And Justice, Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 267, Annexure-I, February, 2023.](#)

¹³⁸ [Deccan Herald, June, 2026.](#)

Policy Level Announcements

I. Delhi

A. Delhi Industrial Policy, 2026

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: High

1. On 13th October, 2026, the Delhi Cabinet approved the Delhi Industrial Policy 2026. The policy aims to develop a clean, knowledge-based industrial economy over ten years, focused on high-value, non-polluting sectors.
2. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy earmarks ₹ 1,000 crore for the Mukhyamantri Udyamshree Yojana from 2026–27 to 2030–31 to support industrial development and employment generation.
 - b. It offers sector-specific incentives for capital investment, workspace rentals, recruitment, research and development, certification, energy efficiency, technological upgrades and skill development.
 - c. It provides eligible IT and digital-services businesses with investment incentives of up to ₹ 10 crore, rising to ₹ 12 crore for women-led enterprises.
 - d. It sets investment-incentive ceilings of up to ₹ 50 crore for global capability centres, rising to ₹ 60 crore for women-led enterprises, and provides MSMEs with technology-modernisation incentives of up to ₹ 5 crore, or ₹ 7 crore for women-led enterprises.
 - e. It establishes Invest Delhi as a single point of contact for investors, supported by the Delhi Udyog Mitra Portal, to facilitate site selection, approvals, incentive disbursement and grievance redressal.
3. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The initiative aligns with the Central Government's Make in India¹³⁹ initiative by encouraging domestic industrial growth, investment, innovation and employment generation, while supporting the broader objectives of sustainable and resource-efficient economic development.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Maharashtra,¹⁴⁰ Gujarat¹⁴¹ and Tamil Nadu¹⁴² have introduced industrial policies promoting investment-led manufacturing, industrial development and environmental sustainability.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Delhi has 10.15 lakh Udyam-registered MSMEs, including 9.84 lakh micro-enterprises, making technological modernisation and access to growth capital central to industrial policy. The Delhi Industrial Policy 2026 provides

¹³⁹ [Government Of India, Make In India.](#)

¹⁴⁰ [Government Of Maharashtra, Industries Department, Policies.](#)

¹⁴¹ [Government Of Gujarat, Gujarat Industrial Policy 2020.](#)

¹⁴² [Government Of Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu Industrial Policy.](#)

A. Delhi Industrial Policy, 2026

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: High

incentives of up to ₹ 5 crore for MSME modernisation, rising to ₹ 7 crore for women-led enterprises, alongside support for energy efficiency and rooftop solar. These provisions can help smaller firms upgrade equipment, improve productivity and reduce operating costs.

- b. Delhi's Economic Survey 2025-26 identifies 29 planned industrial areas and four flatted-factory complexes, alongside three greenfield industrial areas under development.¹⁴³ The policy's focus on industrial-area redevelopment and modernisation can help improve the utilisation of existing industrial land and infrastructure while supporting the transition towards cleaner, higher-value manufacturing and services.
- c. Further, it reports that 1,890 of 2,049 industrial units had shifted to piped natural gas, while 67 continued to use approved LPG.¹⁴⁴ The policy's emphasis on clean and non-polluting industries complements this transition by encouraging energy-efficient production, technological upgrades and circular-economy activities, helping industrial growth align with the capital's air-quality and environmental priorities.
- d. Lastly, the proposed Invest Delhi single-window agency¹⁴⁵ is intended to coordinate investor support from site selection and approvals to incentive disbursal and grievance redressal. This institutional mechanism is important because financial incentives alone may not overcome procedural delays or difficulties accessing industrial space. The policy's longer-term impact will therefore depend on whether streamlined clearances and targeted support translate into realised investment, modernisation of existing industrial units and sustained job creation.

¹⁴³ [India Brand Equity Foundation.](#)

¹⁴⁴ [Delhi Economic Survey, 2025-26.](#)

¹⁴⁵ [Government Of NCT of Delhi, Delhi Udyog Mitra Portal: Single Window System.](#)

II. Jammu And Kashmir

A. City Gas Distribution (CGD) Policy, 2026

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: High

1. On 8th October, 2026, the Jammu and Kashmir Government notified the Jammu and Kashmir City Gas Distribution (CGD) Policy, 2026.
2. The policy aims to establish an investor-friendly and time-bound framework for expanding natural gas distribution to households, commercial establishments, industries and the transport sector.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy outlines a time-bound, phased expansion of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for households, commercial establishments, and industrial units, alongside Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stations across all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir.
 - b. It establishes a single-window clearance mechanism and standardised Right of Way (RoW) norms to remove procedural bottlenecks for gas pipeline operators.
 - c. It prioritises direct, high-capacity PNG connections to key industrial estates, including those in Kathua, Samba, and Pulwama, to reduce fuel costs and enhance manufacturing competitiveness.
 - d. It encourages local employment, technical apprenticeships, and skill development in gas network construction, operation, and maintenance.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the Central Government's Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Distribution Order, 2026,¹⁴⁶ notified by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, which establishes a streamlined, time-bound framework for expanding pipeline infrastructure.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Maharashtra¹⁴⁷ and Uttar Pradesh¹⁴⁸ have expanded City Gas Distribution (CGD) networks to increase access to Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for households and industries and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for transport.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. As of April 2026, the city gas distribution network covering Jammu, Udhampur, Reasi, Samba and Kathua had recorded no domestic PNG connections against a target of 14.52 lakh, while only 3 of 121 targeted CNG stations were operational.¹⁴⁹ The policy provides a framework to accelerate infrastructure development and extend PNG and CNG access across all 20 districts, establishing a basis for

¹⁴⁶ [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

¹⁴⁷ [Hindustan Times, April, 2026.](#)

¹⁴⁸ [Times Of India, June, 2026.](#)

¹⁴⁹ [Petroleum And Natural Gas Regulatory Board, April, 2026.](#)

A. City Gas Distribution (CGD) Policy, 2026

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: High

- tracking expansion against measurable connection and station targets.
- b. Further, the policy prioritises gas connectivity to industrial estates in Kathua, Samba and Pulwama, linking energy infrastructure development with industrial competitiveness. Reliable access to natural gas can help eligible businesses diversify their fuel sources, improve operational efficiency and manage energy costs. This may strengthen the attractiveness of these industrial locations for investment, particularly for energy-intensive enterprises, although the gains will depend on sector-specific gas requirements, tariffs and supply reliability.
 - c. Moreover, the policy introduces single-window, time-bound clearances, streamlined procedures for establishing CNG stations and standardised Right of Way norms to address administrative bottlenecks in gas infrastructure development. Pipeline installation typically requires coordination across multiple departments and permissions for land access, making procedural delays a potential constraint on network expansion. Simplifying these processes can facilitate project execution, although their effectiveness will depend on departmental compliance with timelines and the resolution of land-acquisition and construction-related challenges.
 - d. Lastly, the policy creates opportunities for employment across pipeline construction, network maintenance, CNG station operations and associated technical services. Its emphasis on expanding gas infrastructure can also generate demand for skilled workers in installation, safety management and network operations. However, these employment gains will depend on the pace of project implementation, the extent of infrastructure commissioned and the participation of the local workforce.

B. Electric Vehicle Policy 2026

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 1st October, 2026, the Jammu and Kashmir Government notified the Jammu and Kashmir Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy 2026.
2. The policy aims to accelerate EV adoption and build an enabling ecosystem for electric mobility, with particular emphasis on adapting infrastructure to the region's difficult terrain and cold-weather conditions.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy targets 1.40 lakh electric vehicles by 2032, to be supported through demand incentives, climate-specific infrastructure, power-grid integration, public-private partnerships, skill development and employment generation.
 - b. Under the strategic infrastructure roadmap, it envisages the establishment of 900 public charging sites, including 140 fast-charging hubs across urban grids and highway corridors.
 - c. It provides early-adopter top-up incentives for the first 15,800 eligible adopters, including:
 - i. ₹ 15 lakh for the first 300 e-buses,
 - ii. ₹ 1 lakh for the first 1,500 personal cars and
 - iii. ₹ 5,000 for the first 10,000 two-wheelers.
 - d. The policy provides for phase-wise electrification of Government and other public fleets, alongside the development of 24×7 cold-climate charging infrastructure.
 - e. It also provides for EV-ready parking, with building bye-laws mandating EV-readiness for 20% of parking capacity.
 - f. It introduces a Specialised Winter Validation Protocol requiring EVs to undergo performance validation for snow and sub-zero operating conditions.
 - g. It provides 3-5% interest subvention on EV loans for up to 36 months and allocates ₹ 50 crore annually for scrappage-linked incentives to encourage replacement of older vehicles with EVs.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The policy aligns with the Union Government's PM E-DRIVE (PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement) Scheme,¹⁵⁰ which provides demand incentives and supports charging infrastructure, electric buses and vehicle testing upgradation.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States including Delhi,¹⁵¹ Maharashtra,¹⁵² Tamil

¹⁵⁰ [PM E-DRIVE, Ministry Of Heavy Industries, GoI.](#)

¹⁵¹ [ET Auto, July, 2026.](#)

¹⁵² [MAHAPREIT, Government Of Maharashtra.](#)

B. Electric Vehicle Policy 2026

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | **Impact:** Medium

Nadu,¹⁵³ Karnataka,¹⁵⁴ Gujarat¹⁵⁵, Uttar Pradesh¹⁵⁶ and Telangana¹⁵⁷ have introduced EV policies combining purchase incentives, tax/fee exemptions, charging-infrastructure support and measures to promote EV manufacturing and adoption.

6. Relevance -

- a. Jammu and Kashmir is seeking to accelerate electric mobility through its new EV policy, which targets 1.40 lakh EVs by 2032. The electric car registrations increased from 166 in 2023 to 458 in 2025, with 486 cars registered in 2026 so far.¹⁵⁸ The policy supports adoption through purchase incentives, 3–5% interest subvention on eligible EV loans for up to 36 months, and scrappage-linked incentives backed by an annual allocation of ₹ 50 crore.
- b. Moreover, limited charging infrastructure remains a barrier to EV adoption beyond major urban centres in Jammu and Kashmir, which had approximately 180 public charging sites as of September 2026.¹⁵⁹ The new policy targets 900 public charging sites, including 140 fast-charging hubs, by 2032, with coverage across urban centres and highway corridors. This expansion can improve charging accessibility for intercity travel and extend the practical usability of EVs across the Union Territory.
- c. Lastly, Jammu and Kashmir's harsh winters, sub-zero temperatures and mountainous terrain create specific challenges for EV performance and reliability. The policy introduces a specialised Winter Validation Protocol to assess vehicle performance under these conditions, helping ensure that EV adoption is supported by testing suited to the Union Territory's climatic and geographical constraints.¹⁶⁰

¹⁵³ [Tamil Nadu Electric Vehicle Policy 2023, State Planning Commission, Tamil Nadu.](#)

¹⁵⁴ [Karnataka Clean Mobility Policy 2025–30, Government Of Karnataka.](#)

¹⁵⁵ [BioEnergy Times, June, 2026.](#)

¹⁵⁶ [India Today, July, 2026.](#)

¹⁵⁷ [Telangana Electric Vehicle And Energy Storage Policy 2020–2030, Government Of Telangana.](#)

¹⁵⁸ [Jagran, October, 2026.](#)

¹⁵⁹ [Kashmir Life, September, 2026.](#)

¹⁶⁰ [Hindustan Times, October 2026.](#)

III. Uttar Pradesh

A. Sustainable Aviation Fuel Manufacturing Promotion Policy, 2026

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: High

1. On 9th October, 2026, the state cabinet approved the Uttar Pradesh Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Manufacturing Promotion Policy, 2026.
2. The policy aims to make Uttar Pradesh a major SAF manufacturing hub by attracting private investment, reducing aviation emissions, strengthening energy security and creating green jobs, while building demand for agricultural residues.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy offers tiered incentives to SAF manufacturing units, classified by capital investment, with the New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA) as the nodal body for approving and disbursing them.
 - b. Units are placed in three categories by capital investment: Bronze (₹ 200 crore to ₹ 500 crore), Silver (₹ 500 crore to ₹ 1,500 crore) and Gold (above ₹ 1,500 crore).
 - c. The eligible units can claim exemption or reimbursement of stamp duty, land-use conversion charges, development charges and net SGST, along with interest subsidies, 100% electricity duty exemption for 10 years, skill development subsidies and reimbursement of patent registration fees.
 - d. The policy promotes SAF production from locally available feedstock, including agricultural residues (rice husk, wheat straw, paddy straw, sugarcane bagasse), municipal waste and non-edible oilseeds, through technologies such as pyrolysis and gasification.
 - e. The state's lead in sugarcane and ethanol production is cited as a basis for second-generation biofuels and Alcohol-to-Jet SAF.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the Union Government's indicative SAF blending targets for jet fuel of 1% by 2027, 2% by 2028 and 5% by 2030, and a national SAF policy has been announced as forthcoming.¹⁶¹
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Uttar Pradesh had attracted investment proposals exceeding ₹ 3,000 crore from more than 18 companies for sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) manufacturing by June 2025. The 2026 policy builds on this investment interest through capital-linked incentives, electricity-duty exemptions and other financial support intended to make commercial-scale production more viable. These proposals indicate investor interest, rather than realised investment.¹⁶²
 - b. Uttar Pradesh's 2025-26 third advance estimates indicate production of approximately 230 million tonnes of sugarcane, 35.9 million tonnes of wheat and

¹⁶¹ [The Tribune, November, 2025.](#)

¹⁶² [Ministry Of Civil Aviation, PIB, September 2025.](#)

A. Sustainable Aviation Fuel Manufacturing Promotion Policy, 2026

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: High

19.8 million tonnes of rice. These state-level figures establish a substantial agricultural base for potential SAF feedstocks, including sugarcane bagasse, wheat straw and rice husk. However, actual feedstock availability will depend on residue collection, competing uses and the viability of converting these materials into aviation fuel.¹⁶³

- c. The Centre has set indicative SAF blending targets for international flights of 1% by 2027, 2% by 2028 and 5% by 2030. Meeting these targets will require expanded production capacity and reliable feedstock supply. Uttar Pradesh's policy could contribute by attracting investment in SAF manufacturing and supporting the conversion of agricultural residues and other eligible materials into fuel. Its contribution will depend on projects reaching commercial operation and meeting applicable fuel-quality and sustainability requirements.¹⁶⁴

¹⁶³ [BioEnergy Times, June, 2025.](#)

¹⁶⁴ [ChiniMandi, May, 2026.](#)

B. UP Artificial Intelligence Mission (UP-AIM)

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: High

1. On 9th October 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the Uttar Pradesh Artificial Intelligence Mission (UP-AIM).
2. The mission aims to build an integrated state-level AI ecosystem by combining computing infrastructure, research, startup support, workforce development and departmental applications.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The mission has a budget provision of ₹ 225 crore for 2026-27 and aims to contribute at least 1% to the state's gross state domestic product by 2031.
 - b. It proposes an integrated UP AI Stack, combining AI-ready data systems, departmental applications, secure data exchange and GPU-based computing facilities.
 - c. It targets training 5 lakh youth, supporting at least 100 AI startups and developing or implementing more than 100 AI use cases, with 25-30 to be scaled across departments.
 - d. It envisages an Advanced Computing Innovation Centre in partnership with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), using the indigenous RUDRA computing platform.
 - e. It plans to establish AI Kendras across all 75 districts, more than 200 AI Kaushal Labs and a cadre of 75 Chief Minister AI Fellows, one for each district, to support local problem-solving and administrative capacity.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** UP-AIM aligns with the IndiaAI Mission, which supports AI computing infrastructure, datasets, indigenous AI capabilities, skills development and responsible AI.¹⁶⁵
5. **Similar Initiatives in Other States -** Telangana¹⁶⁶ runs the Telangana AI Mission (T-AIM) with Nasscom as its executive arm and a 200-acre AI City near Hyderabad. Karnataka¹⁶⁷ embeds an AI Mission in its IT Policy 2025-30,¹⁶⁸ which has an outlay of ₹ 445.50 crore. Odisha's AI Mission¹⁶⁹ focuses on compute capacity, dataset access and use cases.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. As of January 2026, 49 of the 65 Data and AI Labs planned under the IndiaAI

¹⁶⁵ [IndiaAI](#).

¹⁶⁶ [NASSCOM, July 2020](#).

¹⁶⁷ [Karnataka IT Policy 2025-2030](#).

¹⁶⁸ [Government Of Karnataka, Department Of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology And Science And Technology](#).

¹⁶⁹ [Odisha AI Policy-2025](#).

B. UP Artificial Intelligence Mission (UP-AIM)

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: High

Mission in Uttar Pradesh had received approval, with two operational. UP-AIM's target of establishing over 200 AI Kaushal Labs and training 5 lakh youth can complement this national infrastructure by expanding access to AI training, computing resources and practical learning opportunities across the state.¹⁷⁰

- b. Uttar Pradesh has 24,840 DPIIT-recognised startups, 88 recognised incubators and seven Centres of Excellence. UP-AIM's target of supporting at least 100 AI startups can build on this innovation ecosystem by connecting entrepreneurs with computing infrastructure, research support and Government use cases, creating opportunities to develop and deploy AI solutions across sectors.¹⁷¹
- c. UP-AIM envisages over 100 AI use cases across Government departments, with 25–30 to be scaled up through a common UP AI Stack for AI-ready data and secure data exchange.¹⁷² This shared infrastructure can enable departments to reuse AI solutions across districts, supporting wider applications in healthcare, agriculture and public-service delivery while improving the consistency and scalability of digital governance.

¹⁷⁰ [Uttar Pradesh AI Mission 2026: 5 Lakh Youth, 100 AI Startups And UP AI Stack, October 2026.](#)

¹⁷¹ [Uttar Pradesh AI Mission 2026: 5 Lakh Youth, 100 AI Startups And UP AI Stack, October 2026.](#)

¹⁷² [Uttar Pradesh AI Mission 2026: 5 Lakh Youth, 100 AI Startups And UP AI Stack, October 2026.](#)

C. Startup Procurement Scheme

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 9th October 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the Uttar Pradesh Startup Procurement Scheme, 2026.
2. The scheme aims to provide eligible startups with access to Government buyers by enabling departments and other agencies to procure their innovative products, services and solutions.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme establishes a dedicated UP Startup E-Marketplace to list products, services and solutions developed by eligible startups and facilitate Government procurement.
 - b. It permits eligible startups to receive direct procurement orders of up to ₹ 50 lakh, with the limit rising to ₹ 1 crore for specified sunrise sectors, including artificial intelligence, deep technology, drones, green energy, climate technology and advanced manufacturing.
 - c. It exempts eligible startups from prior-turnover requirements for participation in Government procurement.
 - d. It removes the requirement for eligible startups to demonstrate prior experience in Government procurement.
 - e. Further, it exempts eligible startups from submitting an Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)¹⁷³ to participate in public procurement.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The Scheme extends Startup India's procurement relaxations to state buying. These include relaxations of prior-experience and prior-turnover requirements under Rule 173(i) of the General Financial Rules (GFR) 2017, EMD exemptions on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP), and the GeM Startup Runway.¹⁷⁴
5. **Similar Initiatives in Other States** - Kerala¹⁷⁵ allows direct purchase from Kerala Startup Mission-registered startups up to ₹ 50 lakh without tender (GO of 5 July 2022). Rajasthan's e-Bazaar,¹⁷⁶ backed by a ₹ 25 crore corpus, permits direct procurement up to ₹ 75 lakh, and Rajasthan amended its RTPP Act¹⁷⁷ to remove minimum turnover and prior experience conditions.

¹⁷³ Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) is an upfront sum of money a buyer gives to a seller to prove they are serious about purchasing a property or high-value asset.

¹⁷⁴ [General Financial Rules \(GFR\) 2017](#).

¹⁷⁵ [The Hindu Businessline, June 2023](#).

¹⁷⁶ [eBazaar Rajasthan](#).

¹⁷⁷ [Rajasthan Transparency In Public Procurement Rules, 2013](#).

C. Startup Procurement Scheme

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

6. Relevance -

- a. Uttar Pradesh has 24,840 DPIIT-recognised startups, of which 3,940 are registered with the state's Startup Mission, alongside 88 recognised incubators.¹⁷⁸ The scheme addresses a critical market-access constraint by creating a dedicated UP Startup E-Marketplace on GeM, allowing eligible startups to offer innovative products and services directly to Government departments. This creates a potential route from incubation and product development to public-sector customers, particularly for startups that lack established commercial distribution networks.
- b. During the 2023-24 startup-ranking evaluation period, Uttar Pradesh floated over 130 tenders with startup-specific relaxations, but only 15-plus startups secured purchase or work orders exceeding ₹ 1 lakh each.¹⁷⁹ The Startup Procurement Scheme-2026 addresses this gap by permitting single-tender purchases up to ₹ 50 lakh, rising to ₹ 1 crore for sunrise-sector solutions, easing startups' access to Government contracts.
- c. The scheme also creates a demand-side funding mechanism by allowing departments to earmark up to 0.5% of their annual budget for departmental innovation funds supporting startup products, pilots and proof-of-concept projects. This is particularly relevant for emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, deep tech, drones, green energy and advanced manufacturing, where public-sector deployment can provide an initial testing environment. Tracking departmental expenditure, pilot-to-procurement conversion, repeat orders and adoption across departments will help establish whether the scheme generates sustained demand rather than one-off procurement opportunities.

¹⁷⁸ [UP Startup Mission, Government Of Uttar Pradesh.](#)

¹⁷⁹ [5th Edition Of The States' Startup Ecosystem Ranking, Uttar Pradesh.](#)

IV. Odisha

A. Dakshyata Vikas Yojana

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: High

1. On 13th October, 2026, the Odisha Cabinet approved the Dakshyata Vikas Yojana. The policy aims to enhance the employability of 4.2 lakh youth between 2026–27 and 2028–29 through industry-aligned skill training, integration of vocational skills with higher education, digital skilling, and support for overseas employment.
2. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme allocates ₹ 450 crore for implementation over three financial years, from 2026–27 to 2028–29, targeting 4.2 lakh youth.
 - b. The programme establishes Skill Hubs in higher education institutions to provide placement-linked courses aligned with the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) alongside academic programmes.
 - c. The scheme provides placement-linked short-term training to 1.17 lakh youth and digital skilling to 3 lakh youth in Artificial Intelligence, cloud computing, data analytics and cybersecurity.
 - d. The overseas employment component provides German and Japanese language training, cultural orientation, certification support, visa assistance, travel support and post-placement services.
 - e. The programme targets persons with disabilities, jail inmates, transgender persons and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), continues the deployment of 40 Chief Minister Skill Development Fellows across districts, and establishes a Skilled-in-Odisha Digital Hub for candidate tracking and monitoring of skilling outcomes.
3. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The initiative aligns with the implemented Skill India Mission¹⁸⁰ and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 4.0¹⁸¹ through NSQF-aligned training, new-age skills, specialised projects for vulnerable groups and international workforce mobility.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Telangana's Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK)¹⁸² provides industry-oriented training and links academic institutions with employers, while Kerala's Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP)¹⁸³ delivers industry-relevant courses through Community Skill Parks and Skill Development Centres.
5. **Relevance -**

¹⁸⁰ [Skill India Mission](#).

¹⁸¹ [PMKVY \(Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana\)](#).

¹⁸² [TASK, Government Of Telangana](#).

¹⁸³ [Additional Skill Acquisition Programme \(ASAP\)](#).

A. Dakshyata Vikas Yojana

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: High

- a. Odisha's youth unemployment rate reached 17.2% in April–June 2026, against 15.9% nationally.¹⁸⁴ The policy's placement-linked training for 1.17 lakh youth directly connects skill development with employment, with outcomes depending on the extent to which training matches employers' requirements and leads to actual placements.
- b. The urban female youth unemployment in Odisha stood at 34.1% in April–June 2026, compared with 14.4% in rural areas.¹⁸⁵ The scheme's placement-linked training and skill hubs in higher education institutions can widen access to structured employment pathways, while targeted projects for vulnerable groups can extend support to young people facing additional barriers to work.
- c. In 2025, 56.1% of youth aged 15–29 in Anugul and 51.4% in Kendrapara were not in employment, education or training.¹⁸⁶ The policy's target of covering 4.2 lakh youth can help address this gap by directing skill development and placement support towards districts with high youth disengagement, with training aligned to local employment opportunities.

¹⁸⁴ [Argus, August, 2026.](#)

¹⁸⁵ [Argus, August, 2026.](#)

¹⁸⁶ [Indian Express, September, 2026.](#)

B. Commercial Layer Poultry Farming Scheme

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 9th October, 2026, the state Government launched the Commercial Layer Poultry Farming Scheme (CLPFY).
2. The scheme aims to expand Odisha's commercial egg production capacity through subsidies for automated poultry farms, reduce dependence on external egg supplies and promote investment in poultry entrepreneurship.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme provides financial assistance of up to ₹ 10 crore for establishing eligible modern, automated commercial layer and pullet farms.
 - b. It targets farms with a capacity of more than 25,000 birds to expand commercial-scale poultry production.
 - c. It introduces an advance subsidy mechanism through a Mirror Account¹⁸⁷ to reduce the interest burden on bank loans.
 - d. It targets annual egg production of 1,000 crore by 2036 under Odisha Vision 2036.
 - e. Further, it seeks to increase annual per capita egg availability from 87 eggs to the national average of 106 by 2029.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The initiative aligns with the Centre's National Livestock Mission (NLM),¹⁸⁸ which promotes livestock and poultry entrepreneurship through capital subsidies.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Assam¹⁸⁹ and Uttar Pradesh¹⁹⁰ have introduced comparable commercial poultry-farming incentives. Assam's Policy for Commercialisation of Poultry Sector, 2024 provides a 33% capital subsidy for commercial layer farms, capped at ₹ 5 crore, alongside interest and electricity subsidies. Uttar Pradesh's Poultry Development Policy, 2022 offers interest reimbursement and other incentives for commercial layer farms.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Odisha's annual egg production increased from 242.4 crore in 2020-21 to 406.1 crore in 2024-25, yet per capita availability remained below the national average of 106 eggs. As of October 2026, availability stood at 87 eggs per person, with the state targeting the national average by 2029.¹⁹¹ The new poultry scheme addresses this supply gap by incentivising large-scale commercial production to expand egg availability.

¹⁸⁷ Mirror Account refers to a designated account mechanism through which advance subsidy assistance is routed or accounted for to reduce the effective interest burden on bank loans.

¹⁸⁸ [Department Of Animal Husbandry And Dairying, Government Of India.](#)

¹⁸⁹ [Government Of Assam, Policy For Commercialisation Of Poultry Sector In Assam 2024.](#)

¹⁹⁰ [Government Of Uttar Pradesh, Invest Up.](#)

¹⁹¹ [Odisha Economic Survey 2025-26.](#)

B. Commercial Layer Poultry Farming Scheme

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

- b. Moreover, Odisha already supports poultry farming across backyard, semi-commercial and commercial categories, but large-scale production requires a separate investment pathway. In 2026–27, 43,000 beneficiaries are receiving 100% financial assistance for backyard poultry, while semi-commercial layer farms can receive subsidies of 50–60% of project cost, capped at ₹ 19.74 lakh.¹⁹² The new scheme complements this support by offering assistance of up to ₹ 10 crore for automated commercial layer and pullet farms with more than 25,000 birds, targeting expansion beyond small-scale production.
- c. Further, Odisha continues to rely on inter-state supplies to meet its domestic egg demand. In July 2026, the state produced approximately 460 crore eggs annually against an estimated requirement of 800–900 crore, leaving a shortfall of 340–440 crore eggs.¹⁹³ The Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Minister acknowledged this dependence on other states. The new poultry scheme can help narrow this supply gap by expanding commercial layer-farm capacity and increasing local production.
- d. Lastly, Odisha aims to increase annual egg production to 1,000 crore by 2036, against current output of approximately 409 crore eggs a year.¹⁹⁴ The scheme targets this gap by supporting automated layer farms with capacities exceeding 25,000 birds, offering capital subsidies of up to ₹ 10 crore and routing advance subsidy payments through mirror accounts to reduce borrowers' upfront financing burden. By expanding commercial production capacity, the scheme seeks to reduce Odisha's dependence on eggs supplied from other states and improve local availability.

¹⁹² [The New Indian Express, October 2026.](#)

¹⁹³ [Kalinga TV, July, 2026.](#)

¹⁹⁴ [The New Indian Express, October 2026.](#)

C. Urban Storm Water Drainage Management And Improvement Programme (USWDMIP)

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 13th October, 2026, the Odisha Cabinet approved the Urban Storm Water Drainage Management and Improvement Programme (USWDMIP).
2. The programme aims to improve storm-water drainage capacity in urban local bodies and selected block headquarters through drain maintenance, new infrastructure and restoration of natural drainage channels.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The programme allocates ₹ 500 crore from the state's own resources over five years, from 2026-27 to 2030-31.
 - b. It covers urban local bodies and selected block headquarters across Odisha.
 - c. The programme provides for desilting existing drains and constructing reinforced cement concrete storm-water drains to improve drainage capacity.
 - d. It enables the covering of drains and the restoration of natural drainage channels to improve water flow and drainage efficiency.
 - e. Further, the programme provides for linking restored natural drainage channels with suitable water bodies.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative aligns with the implemented Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT 2.0)¹⁹⁵ through urban water-resource management and water-body rejuvenation, while providing dedicated state funding for storm-water drainage infrastructure.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Tamil Nadu¹⁹⁶ has expanded storm-water drains and canal desilting in Chennai, while Telangana has developed urban drainage infrastructure in Khammam under AMRUT 2.0.¹⁹⁷ Odisha's programme extends storm-water management to urban local bodies and selected block headquarters across the state.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. In September 2026, Odisha's Housing and Urban Development Department initiated preparation of a coordinated flood-management and stormwater action plan covering all six municipal corporations and major towns across the state, including detailed project reports and priority interventions.¹⁹⁸ The ₹ 500-crore Urban Storm Water Drainage Management and Improvement Programme provides a dedicated funding mechanism to translate this planning exercise into

¹⁹⁵ [Cabinet Approves The Atal Mission For Rejuvenation And Urban Transformation – AMRUT 2.0, Prime Minister Of India.](#)

¹⁹⁶ [Integrated Storm Water Drain.](#)

¹⁹⁷ [Rejuvenation In KhammamULB Under AMRUT 2.0.](#)

¹⁹⁸ [The New Indian Express, September, 2026.](#)

C. Urban Storm Water Drainage Management And Improvement Programme (USWDMIP)

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

infrastructure upgrades, supporting drain desilting, new Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) drains and natural-channel restoration across urban local bodies and selected block headquarters.

- b. The CAG's 2024 performance audit found that 125.172 km of the 193.324 km natural-drain network across five municipal corporations had not received development work during the audited period ending March 2022.¹⁹⁹ The state-wide programme can address this documented infrastructure gap through natural-channel restoration, desilting and connections to suitable water bodies, helping integrate engineered drainage with the wider natural drainage network.
- c. Odisha's urban flooding response already involves drainage inspections, desilting and emergency pumping, with a state-wide standard operating procedure issued in May 2026 requiring urban local bodies to verify drain networks and repair or secure damaged structures.²⁰⁰ The ₹ 500-crore Urban Storm Water Drainage Management and Improvement Programme complements these preventive measures with capital investment in new drains, desilting and natural-channel restoration, enabling urban local bodies to strengthen both routine maintenance and long-term drainage capacity.

¹⁹⁹ [CAG Report No.8 Of 2025, Odisha.](#)

²⁰⁰ [The Hindu, May, 2026.](#)

D. Free Textbook Scheme For Classes IX and X

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 13th October, 2026, the Odisha Cabinet approved the Free Textbook Scheme for students of Classes IX and X in Government and Government-aided secondary schools.
2. The Scheme aims to extend free access to prescribed textbooks to students of Classes IX and X in Government and Government-aided secondary schools over five years, reducing household expenditure on learning materials and supporting enrolment, retention and progression into secondary education.²⁰¹
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme allocates ₹ 284.07 crore for five years, from 2025-26 to 2029-30, with an estimated 28.7 lakh beneficiaries.
 - b. The programme extends free textbook coverage to students of Classes IX and X in Government and Government-aided secondary schools beyond students already covered under existing Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe provisions.
 - c. The School and Mass Education Department undertakes beneficiary-data collection, verification and validation through field-level checks.
 - d. The department provides for the procurement of paper, printing, transportation and textbook distribution through transparent and competitive processes under the Odisha General Financial Rules and applicable procurement guidelines.
 - e. The department ensures that textbooks are printed and supplied to schools before the commencement of each academic session.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative aligns with the implemented Samagra Shiksha²⁰² scheme's objective of equitable access to school education and its provision of free textbooks to students in Government and Government-aided schools at the elementary level. Odisha extends the same access objective to Classes IX and X.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Delhi²⁰³ provides textbooks or financial assistance for textbook purchases to students in Government and aided schools from Nursery to Class XII. Tamil Nadu²⁰⁴ provides free textbooks to differently abled students in Government and Government-aided special schools from Classes I to XII.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Odisha continues to face a secondary-school retention challenge. UDISE+ 2024-25 dataset records a secondary-level dropout rate of 15.0% in Odisha,

²⁰¹ [Hindustan Times, October 2026.](#)

²⁰² [PIB, December 2021.](#)

²⁰³ [Free Supply Of Text Books.](#)

²⁰⁴ [Tamil Nadu Text Book Corporation.](#)

D. Free Textbook Scheme For Classes IX and X

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

compared with 11.5% nationally.²⁰⁵ The state's secondary gross enrolment ratio stood at 72.3%, compared with the national average of 68.5%, indicating that access and continued participation remain relevant concerns at this stage of schooling.²⁰⁶ Extending free textbooks to all students in Classes IX and X in Government and Government-aided schools can reduce one recurring education expense and support continued participation at this stage.

- b. A household in India spends an average of ₹ 2,002 per student annually on textbooks and stationery, rising to ₹ 2,867 in urban areas against ₹ 1,664 in rural areas.²⁰⁷ Extending free textbooks to 28.7 lakh students in Classes IX and X can reduce this recurring expense for eligible families, particularly in urban areas where spending on learning materials is higher.
- c. The scheme could reduce household expenditure on secondary education and remove one material barrier to students' continued participation in school. Its wider effect on retention will depend on timely distribution, accurate beneficiary records and the extent to which textbook access is combined with other measures addressing the financial and academic barriers associated with secondary schooling.

²⁰⁵ [UDISE+ 2024-25 Report.](#)

²⁰⁶ [Odisha Economic Survey. 2025-26](#)

²⁰⁷ [PIB. August. 2025.](#)

V. Bihar

A. Bihar MSME Policy, 2026

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | Impact: High

1. On 8th October, 2026, the Bihar Government launched the Bihar MSME Policy, 2026. The policy aims to expand entrepreneurship, improve access to finance and industrial infrastructure, and strengthen market access for local enterprises.
2. **Key Features -**
 - a. It establishes MSME facilitation centres across all districts to provide guidance and support to aspiring entrepreneurs.
 - b. It provides for 25%–40% of Government procurement to comprise goods manufactured in Bihar under the state's Purchase Preference Act.
 - c. It targets ₹ 5 lakh crore in investment through the public-private partnership (PPP) model and 20,000 MW of power availability for industries over five years.
 - d. It complements the Mukhyamantri Udyami Yojana, backed by ₹ 3,500 crore, which targets support for 45,000 entrepreneurs across social and economic categories.
3. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns thematically with the Centre's Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme,²⁰⁸ which supports MSME competitiveness, access to finance, technology adoption and market access.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Maharashtra²⁰⁹ and Assam²¹⁰ have introduced comparable initiatives to promote MSME growth, entrepreneurship and access to finance. Maharashtra's Industries, Investment and Services Policy 2025 provides a framework for industrial and MSME incentives, while Assam's Industrial and Investment Policy of Assam supports enterprise development and investment.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Bihar's MSME base is dominated by micro-enterprises, with 23.17 lakh of its 23.31 lakh Udyam-registered enterprises classified as micro-enterprises, alongside 31.20 lakh informal micro-enterprises registered through Udyam Assist.²¹¹ The policy's focus on district-level MSME support and entrepreneurship could help informal businesses access formal support systems, improve productivity and build capacity to scale.
 - b. Reported MSME credit outstanding in Bihar increased from Rs. 63,666.35 crore in FY 2024-25 to Rs. 80,801.31 crore in FY 2025-26, while loan accounts increased from 11.94 lakh to 12.80 lakh. These account counts do not identify unique

²⁰⁸ [Ministry Of MSME, Government Of India, RAMP Scheme.](#)

²⁰⁹ [Government Of Maharashtra, State Industrial Policies.](#)

²¹⁰ [Government Of Assam, Industrial And Investment Policy Of Assam \(Amendment 2023\).](#)

²¹¹ [Ministry Of MSME, State-wise Udyam Dashboard.](#)

A. Bihar MSME Policy, 2026

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | **Impact:** High

borrowers or establish how evenly credit is distributed.²¹² The policy's proposed credit guarantees, financial assistance and credit-linkage measures could help expand formal financing for MSMEs, particularly smaller enterprises seeking working capital and investment for expansion.

- c. Bihar has established production clusters in sectors such as makhana processing, Bhagalpuri silk, Madhubani painting, leather, rice milling and handicrafts. However, inadequate shared facilities and technological limitations have previously constrained cluster development.²¹³ The policy's proposed cluster infrastructure, Technology and Extension Centres, testing facilities and market-linkage support could help small producers achieve economies of scale, meet buyer and certification requirements, and capture a greater share of value within the state.
- d. Lastly, district-level MSME centres could strengthen local enterprise ecosystems by bringing credit facilitation, technical assistance, quality certification and market-linkage support closer to small businesses. By coordinating with banks, industrial agencies and procurement departments, these centres could help local producers access common facilities, connect with organised buyers and participate in Government procurement. Their district-level presence could be particularly valuable in linking traditional production clusters with formal markets and wider value chains.

²¹² [Government Of India Ministry Of Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 787.](#)

²¹³ [Bihar Industrial Investment Promotion Policy, 2016.](#)

VI. Andhra Pradesh

A. Andhra Pradesh Policy For Promotion Of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions (FHEIs) And Private Universities, 2026

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 7th October, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approved the Andhra Pradesh Policy for Promotion of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions (FHEIs) and Private Universities, 2026.
2. The policy aims to attract reputed foreign higher educational institutions and leading Indian private universities to establish campuses in Andhra Pradesh.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy targets more than five foreign higher educational institutions and over 5,000 international students in the state by 2029.
 - b. It limits foreign institution eligibility to universities ranked among the global top 500 in Times Higher Education or QS rankings, or the top 100 in relevant subject rankings across priority sectors.
 - c. It provides subsidised land allotments of up to 50 acres and 100% exemptions from stamp duty and registration fees for eligible institutions signing MoUs by 31st December, 2027.
 - d. It enables foreign universities to establish independent campuses, collaborate with Indian universities on joint, dual or twinning programmes, and partner with empanelled Academic Infrastructure Service Providers.
 - e. Further, it introduces single-window clearances through the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) portal to coordinate campus approvals, land allotment and construction permissions.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The policy aligns with the UGC (Setting up and Operation of Campuses of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions in India) Regulations, 2023²¹⁴ and the internationalisation objectives of the National Education Policy 2020,²¹⁵ which support global academic partnerships and expanded access to international higher education.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Under its Higher Education Incentive Policy, 2024, Uttar Pradesh offers the first five foreign institutions a 100% stamp duty exemption and up to ₹ 100 crore (20%) in capital subsidy.²¹⁶ Meanwhile, Maharashtra's CIDCO is developing an International EduCity near Navi Mumbai airport, with five

²¹⁴ [University Grants Commission \(Setting Up And Operation Of Campuses Of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions In India\) Regulations, 2023, November, 2023.](#)

²¹⁵ [Tracking NEP's Agenda For Internationalising Indian Education.](#)

²¹⁶ [Invest UP, Government Of Uttar Pradesh, Higher Education Incentive Policy, 2024.](#)

A. Andhra Pradesh Policy For Promotion Of Foreign Higher Educational Institutions (FHEIs) And Private Universities, 2026

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

foreign universities slated to receive Letters of Intent in June 2025.²¹⁷

6. Relevance -

- a. Andhra Pradesh starts from a higher enrolment base than most states but remains well short of the national target. Its Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education for the 18–23 age group was 35.5% in AISHE 2022–23 (provisional), against an all-India figure of 29.5%,²¹⁸ while the National Education Policy 2020 targets 50% by 2035,²¹⁹ leaving the state 14.5 percentage points to close. The policy's target of more than five foreign campuses and over 5,000 international students by 2029²²⁰ is small relative to that gap, so its contribution is more likely to come through quality and research capacity than enrolment volume.
- b. Further, no foreign campus has yet been sanctioned in the state. Of the 16 Letters of Intent the UGC had issued to foreign institutions by August 2026, six went to Karnataka, six to Maharashtra, three to Delhi NCR and one to Tamil Nadu.²²¹ The policy's concessional land, stamp-duty relief and single-window facilitation are aimed at drawing institutions that have so far chosen these states, while approval to set up a campus remains with the UGC.
- c. Lastly, the state Government estimates that approximately one lakh students leave the state annually to pursue overseas studies. Nationally, 7.6 lakh Indian students went abroad for higher education in 2024, while Andhra Pradesh was among the leading states by student outflow in earlier data covering 2016–2021.²²² The policy could retain part of this demand within the state, although the scale of retention will depend on the affordability and course offerings of incoming foreign campuses.

²¹⁷ [The Week, June, 2025.](#)

²¹⁸ [Ministry Of Education, Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 5878, March, 2026.](#)

²¹⁹ [PIB, July, 2020.](#)

²²⁰ [ETV Bharat, October, 2026.](#)

²²¹ [The Free Press Journal, August, 2026.](#)

²²² [Indian Express, September, 2025.](#)

VII. Tripura

A. Second Amendment To The Tripura Advertisement Policy, 2021

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Low

1. On 9th October, 2026, the Tripura Government approved the Second Amendment to the Tripura Advertisement Policy, 2021.
2. The amendment aims to rationalise Government advertisement distribution by classifying print, television and digital media organisations according to operational history, circulation, audience reach, staffing and infrastructure.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The amendment replaces the existing A-1, A, B and C classifications with three categories namely, Large, Medium and Small for enlisted print, television and web media organisations.
 - b. An Advertisement Subcommittee with media representatives, set up under the Chief Minister-chaired Media Advisory Committee, replaces the Empowered Advertisement Committee and recommends on advertisement matters.
 - c. The policy introduces a separate Tabloid category for small-sized daily and weekly newspapers.
 - d. The department revises media-classification criteria by considering circulation or audience reach, publication or operational history, journalist strength, infrastructure and professional standards.
 - e. The Government gives priority in advertisement allocation to Large-category media organisations with the highest verified circulation or coverage, while retaining a classification framework intended to accommodate both newer and established outlets.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The amendment aligns with the Central Bureau of Communication's Central Government Digital Advertisement Policy, 2023²²³ which establishes eligibility and release procedures for Government advertisements across media platforms. The revised state framework similarly formalises media eligibility and advertisement distribution.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Odisha's e-Sanchar²²⁴ pushes for complete automation of advertisement request, submission, approvals, billing, and release tracking. Meanwhile, Meghalaya's Advertisement Policy, 2023²²⁵ sets empanelment conditions for print, electronic and online news portals, with applications screened by a state-level empanelment committee.²²⁶

²²³ [PIB, November, 2023.](#)

²²⁴ [Odisha 'e-Sanchar'.](#)

²²⁵ [Meghalaya Advertisement Policy, 2023.](#)

²²⁶ [The Sentinel, January, 2023.](#)

A. Second Amendment To The Tripura Advertisement Policy, 2021

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Low

6. Relevance -

- a. Tripura's Government advertisement budget has grown from about ₹ 3 crore in 2017-18 to about ₹ 19 crore, spread across a local media market of 133 outlets, 74 print, 27 television and 32 web.²²⁷ In a market of this size, where the department draws category lines decides which titles get allocation priority. The new Large, Medium and Small categories, together with a separate Tabloid category, let the department set different eligibility conditions for different scales of outlet, with web portals now needing four years of operation and 20,000 average visitors for the Large category, down from five years and 30,000.
- b. Further, the revised staffing requirements could significantly influence eligibility for higher categories. The policy reportedly requires 12 journalists for Large, 8 for Medium and 4 for Small print outlets. Given the size of Tripura's local media market and the reported pool of 320 accredited journalists, these thresholds could affect how smaller publications qualify for advertisement allocation, depending on the criteria applied to accreditation, staffing and other forms of media.²²⁸
- c. Lastly, the policy prioritises Large-category media organisations with the highest verified circulation or coverage, linking advertisement allocation to measurable audience reach. The tiered classification also accommodates outlets of different sizes, allowing smaller publications to qualify under the Medium, Small or Tabloid categories while maintaining differentiated allocation priorities.

²²⁷ [ENewsTime, October, 2026.](#)

²²⁸ [ENewsTime, October, 2026.](#)

VIII. Gujarat

A. Revised Government Vehicle Procurement Policy, 2026

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 12th October, 2026, the Gujarat Government announced its revised Government Vehicle Procurement Policy, 2026.
2. The revised vehicle procurement policy aims to align Government vehicle allocation with operational requirements, expand electric vehicle (EV) adoption in field duties and provide specialised vehicles for officers working in remote and difficult terrain.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The revised policy introduces Category F for field inspection and enforcement, including six conventional vehicle models and two EVs, the Mahindra XUV400 EL Pro 39.4 kWh and Tata Nexon EV Creative 45.
 - b. It introduces Category F1 for off-road duties, covering eligible officers in departments including Home, Forest and Environment, Industries and Mines, Revenue, Water Resources, and Roads and Buildings.
 - c. It permits Category F1 officers to procure specialised four-wheel-drive vehicles and pickups, including the Tata Yodha Pickup, Isuzu V-Cross 4WD Z, Mahindra Bolero Pick-Up 4WD and Mahindra Bolero Camper Gold RX 4WD.
 - d. It retains procurement through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) at prevailing market prices, with purchases outside prescribed categories requiring justification and prior Government approval.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy supports the National Electric Mobility Mission²²⁹ and India's broader electric mobility transition by extending EV procurement to field inspection and enforcement. GeM-based procurement also aligns with the Government's digital public procurement framework.²³⁰
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Odisha²³¹ have mandated that all new official vehicles be electric from 1st June, 2026, with cost ceilings by rank of functionary, across departments, public sector undertakings, institutions and universities, with petrol and diesel vehicles allowed only in exceptional cases.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Gujarat's vehicle procurement policy previously classified vehicles primarily by designation, despite varying field requirements. The Forest and Environment Department operates through 18 circles,²³² while Gujarat has 291 mineral mines.²³³

²²⁹ [Ministry Of Heavy Industries, Government Of India.](#)

²³⁰ [PIB, August, 2026.](#)

²³¹ [Business Standard, June, 2026.](#)

²³² [Details of Circle and Division, PCCF & HoFF](#)

²³³ [Ministry Of Mines.](#)

A. Revised Government Vehicle Procurement Policy, 2026

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

The 2026 revision addresses this mismatch by recognising field inspection and off-road duties, aligning vehicle eligibility more closely with operational requirements.

- b. Gujarat's mining sector requires effective field enforcement to protect mineral resources and Government revenue. In Surendranagar alone, 197 cases relating to illegal Carbocell mining were reported over two years, with ₹ 2.89 crore recovered in 165 cases.²³⁴ With 150 working major-mineral mines across the state as of March 2025,²³⁵ the revised vehicle procurement framework can support inspections and enforcement in mining areas by providing vehicles suited to difficult access routes and off-road conditions.
- c. Gujarat's EV registrations nearly doubled from 28,148 in January–June 2025 to 55,344 in the same period of 2026, indicating a rapid expansion in electric mobility.²³⁶ The revised vehicle procurement policy extends this transition to Government field operations by including electric models for inspection and enforcement duties, creating scope for public-sector fleets to contribute to EV adoption beyond private and commercial purchases.

²³⁴ [The Indian Express, March, 2025.](#)

²³⁵ [The Indian Express, March, 2025.](#)

²³⁶ [Economic Times, July, 2026.](#)

B. MSME Assistance Scheme Under Viksit Gujarat Industrial Policy

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 9th October, 2026, the Gujarat Government publicised the five-year MSME assistance scheme under the Viksit Gujarat Industrial Policy-2026.
2. The scheme aims to economically and technically strengthen micro, small and medium enterprises.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme is in force from 1st June 2026 to 31st May 2031, and eligible investments made from 1st January, 2026 are also covered.
 - b. For selected priority industries the combined incentive limit is 50% in Category A and 45% in Category B.
 - c. The scheme offers 7% interest assistance on term loans for five years, rented manufacturing sheds and collateral-free loans.
 - d. Higher ceilings apply to sports goods, toys, footwear, robots and drones.
 - e. Units must give at least 85% of employment to Gujarat residents and 60% of managerial and supervisory posts to locals.
 - f. MSMEs are classified by investment alone, independent of the Centre's turnover-linked definition. Micro is up to ₹ 2.5 crore, small up to ₹ 25 crore and medium up to ₹ 125 crore.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment-** The initiative aligns with the Central Government's Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) programme²³⁷ and the PM Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)²³⁸ in their broader objectives of strengthening MSMEs, promoting entrepreneurship, facilitating access to support and generating employment.
5. **Similar Initiative In Other States-** States such as Tamil Nadu,²³⁹ under its MSME Policy 2021, Uttar Pradesh,²⁴⁰ under its MSME Promotion Policy 2022, and Madhya Pradesh,²⁴¹ under its MSME Development Policy 2021, have introduced policy frameworks to support MSMEs through financial incentives, enterprise development and industrial growth.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The Ministry of MSME's state-wise dashboard records 34.29 lakh Udyam-registered enterprises and another 18.18 lakh informal micro-enterprises

²³⁷ [National Institute For Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises.](#)

²³⁸ [Government Of India, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme \(PMEGP\).](#)

²³⁹ [Government Of Tamil Nadu, MSME Policy 2021.](#)

²⁴⁰ [Government Of Uttar Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh MSME Promotion Policy 2022.](#)

²⁴¹ [Government Of Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh MSME Development Policy 2021.](#)

B. MSME Assistance Scheme Under Viksit Gujarat Industrial Policy

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

registered through the Udyam Assist Platform in Gujarat, totalling approximately 52.47 lakh registrations. This large enterprise base makes access to affordable finance, technology and market support important, particularly for smaller businesses seeking to expand beyond informal operations.²⁴²

- b. NABARD's State Focus Paper estimated ₹ 1.80 lakh crore in potential priority-sector credit for Gujarat's MSME sector for 2024-25, accounting for 51% of the state's total estimated priority-sector credit potential. This is an estimate of credit potential, not actual lending, but it highlights the sector's substantial financing requirements. Interest assistance and collateral-free lending under the scheme could reduce borrowing costs and help enterprises finance equipment, expansion and modernisation.²⁴³
- c. Under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Gujarat supported 1,040 projects in 2024-25, with approximately ₹ 126 crore in margin-money disbursal and estimated employment generation of 8,320 people. The new scheme could complement such enterprise-creation efforts by supporting capital investment, recruitment and technology adoption. Its effectiveness will depend on actual incentive disbursal and the ability of smaller businesses, particularly in less-industrialised talukas, to access the benefits.²⁴⁴

²⁴² [Ministry Of MSME](#)

²⁴³ [PIB, February 2024](#)

²⁴⁴ [Ministry Of MSME, PMEGP State-wise Dashboard](#)

Social Sector Schemes

I. Kerala

A. Kerala Senior Citizens' (Care And Protection Of Rights) Bill, 2026

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | Impact: High

1. On 13th October, 2026, the Kerala Legislative Assembly introduced and referred the Senior Citizens' (Care And Protection Of Rights) Bill, 2026 to the finance committee, to establish a legal framework for senior citizens' care and protection.
2. The Bill aims to establish a legally guaranteed system of care, protection and monitoring for senior citizens, including older persons living alone, those requiring assistance with daily activities, and those needing dementia, cancer or palliative care support.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Bill would guarantee senior citizens' rights to dignity, home-based care, healthcare, legal assistance, social security and participation in social and cultural activities.
 - b. It would establish state- and district-level Senior Citizen Protection Units and forums to coordinate care, monitor services and address grievances.
 - c. It would introduce a geriatric-care certification framework, caregiver training, police verification and a publicly searchable State Register of Caregivers.
 - d. It would mandate the registration and regulation of care centres and home-care agencies, with prescribed standards and penalties for non-compliance.
 - e. It would provide for ward-level community collectives modelled on Kudumbashree and volunteers in rural areas and panchayats to monitor elderly residents' welfare and coordinate assistance.
 - f. It would strengthen local-body palliative-care services and proposes caregiver training, certification and a one-year internship to develop a trained elderly-care workforce.
 - g. It would provide for living wills and impose penalties for elder abuse, cruelty, abandonment and violations of care-centre registration requirements.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The Bill complements the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007,²⁴⁵ which establishes statutory duties concerning maintenance and welfare of senior citizens, while proposing a broader state-level framework for coordinated care and monitoring.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Tamil Nadu operates the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme²⁴⁶ alongside elder-focused healthcare

²⁴⁵ [The Maintenance And Welfare Of Parents And Senior Citizens Act, 2007.](#)

²⁴⁶ [Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme.](#)

A. Kerala Senior Citizens' (Care And Protection Of Rights) Bill, 2026

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | Impact: High

services. Telangana provides community-based elderly support through its Aasara pension scheme.²⁴⁷

6. Relevance -

- a. Kerala has the oldest population among Indian states, and emigration is thinning family-based care. Projections cited in the state's Elderly Budget 2026–27 put the share of persons aged 60 and above at 18.7% in 2026, against 11.4% nationally,²⁴⁸ while the Kerala Migration Survey 2023 counts about 21.5 lakh emigrants from the state,²⁴⁹ leaving many older persons without resident family support. The Bill's ward-level monitoring and volunteer network is aimed at this group without resident family support, responding to the state's particular pattern of ageing rather than to ageing alone.
- b. Further, the Bill builds on duties the Central Act already places on states, which Kerala has met largely through institutions. The Maintenance And Welfare Of Parents And Senior Citizens Act, 2007²⁵⁰ requires at least one old age home per district for a minimum of 150 indigent senior citizens and a comprehensive action plan to protect their life and property. Kerala had 37,895 residents in old age institutions in 2024–25, with 16 Government homes and about 680 institutions registered with the Orphanage Control Board.²⁵¹ The Bill shifts the emphasis to home and community care, and its standards for care homes and home-care agencies²⁵² would bring this large registered private sector under clearer accountability.
- c. Lastly, according to the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (2017–18), 52% of Kerala's elderly have two or more chronic conditions, against 23% nationally.²⁵³ The Bill relies on the existing local-body palliative care system and a new workforce of certified caregivers with a one-year internship, but no outlay, caregiver target or timeline has been announced. The guarantee will only be as strong as the trained workforce and local-body funding behind it, which the rules under the Bill will need to set out.

²⁴⁷ [Aasara pensions | Hyderabad District, Government Of Telangana | India.](#)

²⁴⁸ [Outlook, September, 2026.](#)

²⁴⁹ [Gulati Institute Of Finance And Taxation And International Institute Of Migration And Development, Kerala Migration Survey 2023, Page 29.](#)

²⁵⁰ [The Maintenance And Welfare Of Parents And Senior Citizens Act, 2007, Sections 19 And 22.](#)

²⁵¹ [Outlook, September, 2026.](#)

²⁵² [The South First, September, 2026.](#)

²⁵³ [Outlook, September, 2026.](#)

II. Assam

A. Mukhya Mantrir Nijut Moina Aasoni

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 1st October, 2026, the Government of Assam announced the disbursement of financial assistance under the Mukhya Mantrir Nijut Moina Aasoni (MMNMA).
2. The scheme aims to provide financial assistance to eligible girl students to support continued education at the secondary and higher education levels.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme covers 2.48 lakh beneficiaries under the Higher Education Department and 1.89 lakh students at the secondary education level during the current academic year.
 - b. The scheme provides the following for a minimum period of 10 months:
 - i. ₹ 800 per month to eligible female students of Classes XI–XII,
 - ii. ₹ 1,250 per month to undergraduate students, and
 - iii. ₹ 2,500 per month to postgraduate and B.Ed. students.
 - c. It enables eligible girl students to receive financial assistance via Direct benefit transfer (DBT) irrespective of economic status, subject to specified eligibility conditions including domicile and course requirements.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The scheme aligns with Samagra Shiksha, a Centrally Sponsored education programme that supports access, retention and reduction of school dropouts through state-level interventions.²⁵⁴
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Tamil Nadu's Pudhumai Penn Scheme²⁵⁵ provides ₹ 1,000 per month through DBT to eligible girls pursuing higher education, while West Bengal's Kanyashree²⁵⁶ uses annual and one-time cash transfers to incentivise girls' continued education and delay marriage.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The initiative targets a persistent drop-off in student retention across Assam's upper-secondary school system. In 2024–25, the state registered a secondary-school dropout rate of 17.5% overall and 16.7% among female students, standing well above the respective national benchmarks of 11.5% and 9.6%.²⁵⁷ Against this baseline, providing targeted financial assistance of ₹ 800 per month to girls in Classes XI–XII directly targets a documented discontinuation barrier at a critical educational junction.
 - b. Further, the scheme bridges this secondary pipeline with higher education, where

²⁵⁴ [PIB, August, 2026.](#)

²⁵⁵ [Pudhumai Penn Scheme, Tamil Nadu.](#)

²⁵⁶ [Kanyashree Conditional Cash Transfer Scheme, West Bengal.](#)

²⁵⁷ [Report On UDISE+, 2024-25, Page 120.](#)

A. Mukhya Mantrir Nijut Moina Aasoni

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

Assam exhibits a similarly pronounced enrolment deficit. In 2023–24, the state recorded a higher-education Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of just 19.8% and a 21.7% female GER, compared to national averages of 30% and 31.2% respectively.²⁵⁸ By mapping monthly stipends of ₹ 1,250 for undergraduate studies and ₹ 2,500 for postgraduate and B.Ed. candidates, the policy addresses out-of-pocket costs to boost female representation and expand the supply of women in professional and skilled careers.

- c. Additionally, the framework establishes end-to-end educational continuity by spanning both school and university tiers within a unified intervention. Currently encompassing 1,89,048 secondary-level students and 2,48,263 higher-education beneficiaries, the measure eliminates the traditional funding gap between school-level incentives and tertiary support. Sustaining financial aid across successive learning milestones helps prevent dropouts during major institutional transitions rather than confining assistance to a single isolated stage.
- d. Lastly, the expansion reflects a rapid scaling of an established conditional-support model across the state. Having expanded the Nijut Moina scheme from 1.6 lakh beneficiaries in 2024–25 to roughly four lakh in 2025–26, and over 4.37 lakh in 2026–27, the state is institutionalising a predictable support architecture.²⁵⁹ Payment through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) supports transparent disbursement, and continuation rates among beneficiaries from Classes XI–XII into degree programmes would show whether the assistance improves retention.

²⁵⁸ [Report Of The All India Survey On Higher Education, 2023-24, Page 160.](#)

²⁵⁹ [The Pioneer, August, 2026.](#)

III. West Bengal

A. Bhagini Nibedita Scheme

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 5th October, 2026, the West Bengal Cabinet approved the Bhagini Nibedita Scheme. The decision aims to reduce the financial barriers to women continuing in higher education.
2. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme will replace the Kanyashree 2 project,²⁶⁰ under which a one-time grant of ₹ 25,000 was paid to support unmarried women.
 - b. It provides total financial assistance of ₹ 50,000 to eligible unmarried women pursuing higher education.
 - c. It disburses ₹ 17,000 in the first year, ₹ 17,000 in the second year and ₹ 16,000 in the third year.
 - d. It targets unmarried women pursuing higher education across West Bengal.
 - e. Further, it establishes a three-year assistance framework, with detailed eligibility conditions and application procedures to be specified through implementation guidelines.
3. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative aligns thematically with the Centre's Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative,²⁶¹ which promotes girls' education and empowerment. It also shares an education-support objective with the Central Sector Scheme of Scholarship for College and University Students (CSSS).²⁶²
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Madhya Pradesh,²⁶³ Uttarakhand²⁶⁴ and Delhi²⁶⁵ have introduced comparable schemes providing financial assistance to girls at different stages of their education.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. West Bengal's female Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at the higher-secondary level stood at 76.0% in 2025-26, compared with 60.0% for boys.²⁶⁶ Sustaining women's educational participation beyond school requires support for the transition to higher education, where tuition fees and other study-related expenses can influence continuation. The Bhagini Nibedita Scheme's ₹ 50,000 financial assistance can help eligible women meet these costs and pursue further education.

²⁶⁰ [UNICEF, October, 2024.](#)

²⁶¹ [India Brand Equity Foundation \(IBEF\), Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao \(BBBP\) Scheme.](#)

²⁶² [Ministry Of Education, Department of Higher Education, Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Protsahan.](#)

²⁶³ [Government Of Madhya Pradesh, Mukhyamantri Ladli Laxmi Yojana.](#)

²⁶⁴ [Government Of Uttarakhand, Nanda Gaura Yojana.](#)

²⁶⁵ [Times Of India, February, 2026.](#)

²⁶⁶ [UDISE+ Report, 2024-25.](#)

A. Bhagini Nibedita Scheme

Source: [Link](#) | **Impact:** Medium

- b. Financial constraints remain an important barrier to educational continuity in West Bengal, with 53% of surveyed students who dropped out citing poverty or financial difficulties, according to a 2026 audit report.²⁶⁷ The Bhagini Nibedita Scheme's ₹ 50,000 assistance can help address this constraint by easing the financial burden on eligible women pursuing higher education and supporting their continued participation in formal education.
- c. Beyond poverty and financial hardship, the same 2026 audit found that 13% of surveyed school dropouts cited migration for work as a reason for leaving education.²⁶⁸ This highlights the trade-off between immediate income and continued study faced by some students from financially constrained households. The Bhagini Nibedita Scheme's ₹ 50,000 assistance over three years could help eligible women meet education-related expenses and reduce the pressure to prioritise immediate earnings over higher education.

²⁶⁷ [The Indian Express, August, 2026.](#)

²⁶⁸ [The Indian Express, August, 2026.](#)

IV. Tamil Nadu

A. Vetri Payanam Thittam Scheme

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 2nd October, 2026, the Tamil Nadu Government launched the Vetri Payanam Thittam scheme.
2. The scheme aims to expand zero-fare Government bus travel for women and transgender persons across a wider range of Government-operated services, reducing transport costs and improving access to education, employment, healthcare and livelihood opportunities across urban, rural and hilly areas.
3. **Key Features-**
 - a. The scheme covers 12,692 Government buses operated by seven State Transport Undertakings, representing 69% of the scheduled fleet.
 - b. It enables free travel on Express, Limited Stop Service (LSS) and Deluxe buses within urban areas, in addition to Mofussil Ordinary and Ghat Ordinary buses operating beyond 40 km.
 - c. It provides free travel to women and transgender persons without restricting eligibility to ordinary city and town bus services covered under the earlier Vidiyal Payanam arrangement.
 - d. The transport undertakings operate 1.65 lakh of the state's 1.95 lakh scheduled single trips under the scheme, covering approximately 85% of total scheduled trips.
 - e. It integrates Electronic Ticketing Machines across designated buses to record free journeys, with an estimated annual expenditure of approximately ₹ 6,000 crore.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The scheme aligns with the National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP), 2006,²⁶⁹ by expanding affordable and accessible public transport and reducing mobility barriers for users.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Karnataka operates the Shakti scheme,²⁷⁰ providing free travel to women and transgender persons on eligible state-run buses. Delhi Government's Saheli Pink Smart Card Yojana²⁷¹ provides free travel to women and transgender persons on DTC and Cluster buses. Punjab provides free travel to women on Government buses.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The expansion builds on a demonstrated baseline of large-scale public transport usage across Tamil Nadu. Under the earlier Vidiyal Payanam scheme, women recorded 682.02 crore free rides over four years, generating an average monthly

²⁶⁹ [National Urban Transport Policy, Ministry Of Housing And Urban Affairs.](#)

²⁷⁰ [Shakti Scheme Of Karnataka.](#)

²⁷¹ [Saheli Pink Smart Card Yojana Scheme.](#)

A. Vetri Payanam Thittam Scheme

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | **Impact:** Medium

savings of ₹ 888 per beneficiary, with daily patronage of about 71.70 lakh women, as reported in May 2025.²⁷² Against this established demand, extending zero-fare travel to Express, LSS, Deluxe, Mofussil Ordinary, and longer-distance Ghat services directly targets the remaining coverage gap that previously confined subsidies to ordinary city and town routes, substantially lowering recurring mobility costs for long-distance commuting.

- b. Further, the scheme links transport affordability to regional labour-market and educational access. Tamil Nadu's female labour-force participation rate was 57.9% in rural areas and 35.9% in urban areas against 45.9% and 27.7% nationally, in 2024-2025.²⁷³ A study, based in Chennai, of 293 workers found that women in low-skilled occupations relied more on public transport and faced longer and less convenient commutes.²⁷⁴ By removing fare barriers on inter-district and longer-distance routes, the policy broadens the feasible geographic radius for employment and higher education without placing an additional financial burden on household transport budgets.
- c. Moreover, the reform scales the effective public-transport network available to women across the state. Previously restricted to local town buses and short-distance Ghat services up to 40 km, the expanded framework brings 12,692 buses, accounting for 69% of the 18,413 scheduled buses across seven State Transport Undertakings, under the zero-fare model, applying to 85% of scheduled single trips.²⁷⁵ This establishes a unified statewide transit layer, improving structural connectivity between residential areas, commercial centres, industrial hubs, and essential public services.
- d. Lastly, the initiative addresses the fiscal and operational demands of managing a large-scale transport subsidy. Given the heavy passenger volumes logged under the prior framework, the expanded scheme integrates Electronic Ticketing Machines (ETMs) across designated buses following system testing and trial runs. Capturing digitised, route-wise journey data strengthens monitoring of subsidy liabilities and passenger demand patterns, allowing State Transport Undertakings to optimise fleet deployment and align fiscal allocations.

²⁷² [Times Of India, May, 2025.](#)

²⁷³ [Periodic Labour Force Survey, Annual Report, July 2024-June 2025, Page 144.](#)

²⁷⁴ [Women's Challenging Commutes In Southern India, The International Journal Of Urban Policy And Planning, August, 2022.](#)

²⁷⁵ [The New Indian Express, October, 2026.](#)

B. Annan Seer Scheme, 2026

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 5th October, 2026, the Tamil Nadu Government issued administrative and financial sanction for the Annan Seer Scheme.
2. The scheme aims to provide wedding assistance to eligible brides from lower-income families in Tamil Nadu through a gold coin and a silk saree, reducing part of the material expenditure associated with marriage.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Government allocates ₹ 812 crore as the initial provision for FY 2026–27.
 - b. The scheme provides each eligible bride with an 8-gram, 22-carat gold coin and one silk saree.
 - c. The scheme covers brides belonging to Tamil Nadu families with an annual income of up to ₹ 2.5 lakh, whose marriages take place within the state.
 - d. The scheme applies to eligible marriages taking place from 5th October, 2026, the date of the Government Order.
 - e. The Government procures gold coins through open tenders under the Tamil Nadu Transparency in Tenders Act, 1998,²⁷⁶ with prices linked to the India Bullion and Jewellers Association rate.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Telangana's Kalyana Lakshmi Scheme²⁷⁷ provides marriage assistance to eligible women from specified disadvantaged communities. Andhra Pradesh's YSR Kalyanamasthu²⁷⁸ provides marriage assistance to eligible brides from SC, ST, BC, minority and other specified categories.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. The ₹ 812 crore initial provision equals 1.46% of the ₹ 55,775 crore revenue deficit and 0.67% of the ₹ 1,21,819 crore fiscal deficit in Tamil Nadu's Revised Budget Estimates for 2026–27, although this comparison does not by itself indicate the scheme's full or recurring cost. At the Chennai retail rate of ₹ 13,590 per gram of 22-carat gold on 14th October, 2026,²⁷⁹ the 8-gram coin alone would cost about ₹ 1.09 lakh, so the allocation would cover roughly 75,000 brides in an illustrative gold-only scenario, before sarees, GST and procurement costs, and not an official beneficiary target.
 - b. Moreover, linking public procurement directly to spot rates from the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA) introduces commodity-price volatility to the

²⁷⁶ [Tamil Nadu Transparency In Tenders Act, 1998.](#)

²⁷⁷ [Kalyana Lakshmi/Shaaadi Mubarak | Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District, Govt Of Telangana.](#)

²⁷⁸ [YSR Kalyanamasthu Scheme.](#)

²⁷⁹ [The Hans India, October, 2026.](#)

B. Annan Seer Scheme, 2026**Source:** [Link](#) | **Impact:** Medium

scheme's fiscal planning. Under a fixed budgetary envelope, upward swings in gold prices will directly compress the physical volume of beneficiaries or necessitate supplementary budgetary grants, making bulk-purchase timing and transparent tender pricing critical to executing the rollout.

- c. Lastly, the in-kind model ensures that beneficiaries receive the specified gold coin and silk saree, while allowing the Government to standardise procurement and monitor delivery. Its effectiveness can be assessed by tracking procurement costs against prevailing market rates, along with rejection rates and distribution timelines, to determine whether the model delivers the intended benefits efficiently and transparently.

V. Maharashtra

A. Scheme For Research, Innovations And Technological Hubs In Higher Education Institutions (CM-SRISHTI Scheme)

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 6th October, 2026, the Maharashtra Cabinet approved the CM-SRISHTI scheme. The scheme aims to strengthen Maharashtra's public higher education institutions through frontier-technology research, industry partnerships and international academic collaboration.
2. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme covers public universities, Government higher and technical education institutions, polytechnics and specified institutions, including the Institute of Chemical Technology, COEP Technological University and Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University.
 - b. It prioritises research in artificial intelligence, machine learning, data science, robotics, generative AI, digital twins, cybersecurity and quantum technology.
 - c. It promotes dedicated Schools of Technology, incubation centres and research parks to connect doctoral, postdoctoral and applied research with industry requirements.
 - d. It enables foreign university campuses, joint degree programmes, research collaborations and student-faculty exchanges within public university campuses.
 - e. Further, it introduces the Meta University concept to integrate multiple universities, research institutions and industries into a shared interdisciplinary academic ecosystem over the five-year period from 2026-27 to 2030-31.
3. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The scheme aligns with the National Education Policy 2020²⁸⁰ and the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Scheme,²⁸¹ launched by the Union Government in November 2025, through its emphasis on research capacity, industry collaboration and deep-tech development.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Karnataka supports university research and innovation²⁸² through its research and technology ecosystem. Tamil Nadu promotes university-industry collaboration through research institutions and innovation programmes,²⁸³ and Telangana has developed research and innovation infrastructure through institutions such as T-Hub and the Telangana State Innovation Cell.²⁸⁴
5. **Relevance -**

²⁸⁰ [National Education Policy 2020.](#)

²⁸¹ [RDI Scheme.](#)

²⁸² [AI University and Hub, Karnataka.](#)

²⁸³ [Tamil Nadu Deep Tech Startup Policy 2025-26.](#)

²⁸⁴ [Telangana State Innovation Cell.](#)

A. Scheme For Research, Innovations And Technological Hubs In Higher Education Institutions (CM-SRISHTI Scheme)

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

- a. Maharashtra's public universities trail peer states on research-led rankings. In the National Institutional Ranking Framework 2025, only four of the top 50 State Public Universities were from Maharashtra, compared with ten from Tamil Nadu, and the state's best performer, Savitribai Phule Pune University, ranked 11th.²⁸⁵ Schools of Technology, Centres of Excellence and research parks target the research output and industry linkage that drive these scores, though gains in rankings will lag investment by several cycles.
- b. Further, the internationalisation component depends on Central regulation rather than state approval. Under the UGC's 2022 regulations, an Indian institution can offer joint or dual degrees with a foreign partner only if it has a NAAC score of at least 3.01, a top-100 NIRF university rank or a top-1,000 global rank.²⁸⁶ In the 2025 NIRF university ranking, Mumbai University (54th) and Savitribai Phule Pune University (56th) were the only state public universities from Maharashtra in the top 100.²⁸⁷ The five foreign universities that received Letters of Intent in June 2025 came through the separate UGC campus route,²⁸⁸ so for most public universities joint degrees will depend on their NAAC scores.
- c. Lastly, the scheme's reach will depend on how research funding and industry partnerships are put into operation over 2026–27 to 2030–31. Maharashtra has 87 universities²⁸⁹ and 5,579 colleges,²⁹⁰ a substantial base for research and technology development. As funding is project-based, with industry partners expected to bear at least 25% of the cost of commercially viable projects,²⁹¹ publishing the total outlay, selection criteria and annual allocations would show how widely support can extend across public institutions.

²⁸⁵ [Ministry Of Education, National Institutional Ranking Framework, State Public Universities Ranking 2025.](#)

²⁸⁶ [University Grants Commission, Academic Collaboration Between Indian And Foreign Higher Educational Institutions To Offer Twinning, Joint Degree And Dual Degree Programmes Regulations, May, 2022.](#)

²⁸⁷ [Ministry Of Education, National Institutional Ranking Framework, University Ranking 2025.](#)

²⁸⁸ [All India Radio News, June, 2025.](#)

²⁸⁹ [Directorate Of Economics And Statistics, Government Of Maharashtra, Economic Survey Of Maharashtra 2025-26, Page 21.](#)

²⁹⁰ [Ministry Of Education, All India Survey On Higher Education 2023-24, Page 18.](#)

²⁹¹ [The Free Press Journal, October, 2026.](#)

VI. Nagaland

A. Samaveshi Aajeevika Yojana (SAY-SOBLOK)

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 6th October, 2026, the Nagaland State Rural Livelihoods Mission (NSRLM) signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BRAC International and launched Samaveshi Aajeevika Yojana (SAY-SOBLOK).
2. The programme aims to support extremely vulnerable rural households that remain excluded from mainstream livelihood programmes by combining livelihood development, financial inclusion, access to Government entitlements and social empowerment through a structured, time-bound graduation approach.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The programme targets 4,000 extremely vulnerable households across selected areas of Nagaland through a three-year collaboration.
 - b. The NSRLM leads implementation, while BRAC International provides technical, implementation and knowledge support.
 - c. The programme adopts BRAC's Graduation Approach, combining household-level coaching, livelihood development, productive assets, financial inclusion and resilience-building.
 - d. The programme facilitates access to Government schemes, public services and entitlements alongside livelihood support.
 - e. The programme uses existing community institutions, including Village Level Organisations (VLOs) and Cluster Level Federations (CLFs), to identify beneficiaries and deliver need-based assistance.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The programme is implemented under Deendaya Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM),²⁹² which supports inclusive livelihoods and the integration of vulnerable rural households into Self-Help Group (SHG) networks²⁹³ and applicable social-protection schemes.
5. **Similar Initiatives in Other States -** By FY 2025-26, 10 states including Jharkhand, Tripura, Assam, West Bengal, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu had adopted the Samaveshi Aajeevika Yojana (SAY).²⁹⁴
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The programme targets ultra-poverty beyond Nagaland's established community architecture, which encompasses 15,481 SHGs, 1,269 VLOs, and over 400 specialised vulnerable-group SHGs under NSRLM.²⁹⁵ By focusing on a dedicated

²⁹² [PIB, October, 2025.](#)

²⁹³ [PIB, July, 2019.](#)

²⁹⁴ [Ministry Of Rural Development, Annual Report, 2025-26, Page 62.](#)

²⁹⁵ [Department Of Information And Public Relations, Government Of Nagaland, October, 2026.](#)

A. Samaveshi Aajeevika Yojana (SAY-SOBLOK)

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | **Impact:** Medium

cohort of 4,000 extremely vulnerable households typically excluded from mainstream microfinance networks, the SAY-SOBLOK model bridges the coverage gap between broad-based community mobilisation and the hardest-to-reach rural poor.

- b. Further, the initiative integrates productive asset creation with public entitlement access and intensive household mentoring across a structured three-year graduation cycle. Partnering NSRLM with BRAC International pairs financial inclusion and asset transfers with continuous household coaching, establishing a time-bound delivery pathway to build diversified income sources rather than relying solely on one-off credit or relief disbursements.
- c. The evidence from Bangladesh supports the potential of BRAC's Graduation Approach to improve livelihoods. A randomised evaluation found 21% higher household income and a 14% lower likelihood of remaining below the extreme-poverty line among programme participants.²⁹⁶ These findings provide an evidence base for adapting the model in Nagaland, while local monitoring will be necessary to establish whether similar outcomes are achieved among the 4,000 targeted households.
- d. Lastly, the framework shifts programme evaluation from initial intake targets, capped at 4,000 households over three years, to verifiable economic graduation. Systematically tracking baseline and endline metrics across household income stability, net savings, productive asset retention, and women's economic decision-making would show whether participating households sustain these gains after the programme ends, rather than measuring success by enrolment counts.

²⁹⁶ [BRAC Impact Evaluation, August, 2023, Page 16.](#)

VII. Goa

A. Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Cell Scheme

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 13th October, 2026, the Goa Government launched the Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Cell under the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to provide financial assistance for eligible residents' medical treatment.
2. The scheme aims to reduce out-of-pocket expenditure for residents facing the cost of serious illnesses and high-cost medical procedures by providing supplementary financial assistance beyond the coverage available under existing healthcare schemes.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme provides financial assistance of 30% of medical procedure costs, subject to a maximum of ₹ 2 lakh per patient, based on recommendations of the Chief Minister's Medical Committee.
 - b. It requires applicants to have resided in Goa for at least 15 years.
 - c. It permits applications through the Goa Online portal and offline submission at the Directorate of Planning, Statistics and Evaluation (DPSE), Porvorim.
 - d. It allows additional assistance for diseases covered under the Deen Dayal Swasthya Seva Yojana (DDSSY), Mediclaim or Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), where treatment expenditure exceeds the applicable coverage limit.
 - e. It provides a dedicated helpline, 14524, for application-related information and assistance.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The scheme complements Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)²⁹⁷ by extending state-funded assistance for eligible medical expenses.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Maharashtra provides treatment assistance through the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Jan Arogya Yojana²⁹⁸ and related state health-support mechanisms, while Kerala²⁹⁹ and Karnataka³⁰⁰ operate state-funded medical assistance and healthcare coverage programmes for eligible patients.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The scheme establishes a supplementary financing mechanism to absorb uncovered treatment expenses within Goa's established healthcare safety net. While the state recorded 1.84 lakh active Deen Dayal Swasthya Seva Yojana (DDSSY) cards in 2024-25 and disbursed ₹ 1.94 crore across 241 beneficiaries

²⁹⁷ [Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.](#)

²⁹⁸ [Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Jan Arogya Yojana.](#)

²⁹⁹ [Karunya Arogya Suraksha Padhathi \(KASP\).](#)

³⁰⁰ [Arogya Karnataka-Benefits, Eligibility.](#)

A. Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Cell Scheme

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | Impact: Medium

under the Goa Mediclaim Scheme through January 2025, existing coverage limits do not fully eliminate patient liabilities.³⁰¹ Providing financial assistance of up to 30% of treatment costs, capped at ₹ 2 lakh, is intended to cover part of this residual gap for eligible patients facing high medical bills.

- b. Further, the initiative targets out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) on hospitalisation. In 2022-23, Goa's average household out-of-pocket expenditure on hospitalisation over a 365-day reference period was ₹ 907 in rural areas and ₹ 1,605 in urban areas.³⁰² As assistance is limited to 30% of costs, capped at ₹ 2 lakh and subject to eligibility and committee recommendation, it can reduce, but not remove, the self-financed share of high-cost treatment.
- c. Moreover, the framework lowers procedural barriers by coupling financial support with accessible, multi-channel application pathways. Allowing both online submissions via the Goa Online portal and physical filings through the Department of Planning and Statistics, reinforced by dedicated helpline 14524, is intended to reduce administrative barriers to applying, and application-to-decision times would show whether patients needing urgent support are served in time.
- d. Lastly, the Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Cell reinforces administrative synergy across Goa's broader healthcare safety net. Rather than duplicating primary entitlements under DDSSY, Goa Mediclaim, or AB-PMJAY, the Cell operates as a coordinated secondary tier.³⁰³ Establishing a defined criteria-based channel specifically to cover residual liabilities is intended to complement existing insurance packages, although the assistance remains partial, capped and subject to eligibility and committee recommendation.

³⁰¹ [Economic Survey 2024-25, Government Of Goa, Page 168.](#)

³⁰² [National Sample Survey Office, Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey, 2022-23, Page 84.](#)

³⁰³ [Economic Survey 2024-25, Government Of Goa, Chapter 16.](#)

Investment Announcements

I. Andhra Pradesh

A. Rayalaseema Rising 2026

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | Impact: High

1. On 2nd October, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Government laid the foundation stone for the ₹ 1 lakh-crore Global Horticulture Hub and Indian School of Agriculture under the Rayalaseema Rising initiative at Madanapalle in Annamayya district.
2. The Global Horticulture Hub – Rayalaseema Rising aims to transform Rayalaseema into a major national and global horticulture production and value-addition region by expanding cultivation, improving irrigation and farm infrastructure, strengthening processing and logistics, and increasing farmer incomes through technology, market access and exports.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The initiative covers 10 districts, 303 mandals, 5,869 villages and 201 specialised horticulture clusters through a three-phase development programme.
 - b. The project targets expansion of horticultural cultivation from 8.41 lakh hectares to 14.41 lakh hectares and an increase in production from 222 lakh metric tonnes to 435 lakh metric tonnes.
 - c. The programme envisages ₹ 40,352 crore in public investment, including ₹ 20,284 crore for micro-irrigation and water management, ₹ 15,000 crore for horticulture development and ₹ 4,662 crore for roads, connectivity, pack-houses, cold chains and export logistics.
 - d. It targets creation of an additional 9 lakh acres of ayacut and stabilisation of irrigation facilities covering another 4.3 lakh acres to strengthen water security for horticulture.
 - e. The programme establishes the Indian School of Agriculture at Madanapalle with a focus on AI, precision agriculture, scientific research and modern agricultural technology, alongside efforts to mobilise private-sector investment.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative aligns with implemented Central agricultural programmes including PM-KISAN,³⁰⁴ Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana³⁰⁵ and PM-KUSUM,³⁰⁶ alongside the Centre's support for horticulture, climate-resilient agriculture, irrigation efficiency and solar-powered farm infrastructure.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Maharashtra has developed horticulture clusters and value-chain infrastructure under its state horticulture programmes, while

³⁰⁴ [PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi](#).

³⁰⁵ [Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana - Crop Insurance](#).

³⁰⁶ [National Portal for PM-KUSUM](#)

A. Rayalaseema Rising 2026

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | **Impact:** High

Karnataka and Gujarat have promoted integrated horticulture, food-processing and export-oriented agricultural clusters to connect farm production with markets and value addition.

6. Relevance -

- a. The GHH targets a region where horticulture constitutes an established production base with substantial expansion potential. Statewide, horticulture covers 18.23 lakh hectares and produces 365.92 lakh metric tonnes, 15.6% of national output, and the state ranks second in mango, sweet orange and turmeric.³⁰⁷ By concentrating on Rayalaseema's 10 districts, which already contribute 8.41 lakh hectares and 222 lakh metric tonnes of output, the programme seeks to scale up cultivated area and overall yield.
- b. Further, the initiative directly addresses Rayalaseema's severe water deficit and rainfall variability. During the 2026 monsoon, rainfall deficits ranged from 49.65% below normal in Kurnool to 74.70% below normal in Annamayya, alongside major shortfalls in Ananthapuramu (51.84%), Chittoor (58.72%), and Sri Sathya Sai (65.73%).³⁰⁸ Building on major irrigation interventions like the Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanthi project, conceived to irrigate 6.025 lakh acres,³⁰⁹ the GHH anchors horticultural expansion directly to water security, new ayacut creation, and existing supply stabilisation.
- c. Moreover, the framework consolidates the supply chain to address post-harvest and market-integration gaps. Andhra Pradesh recorded 45.59 lakh acres under horticulture and 365.92 lakh MT of production in 2023-24, with the state's 2024-25 Socio-Economic Survey identifying post-harvest infrastructure as a key priority.³¹⁰ The GHH integrates pack houses, cold chains, processing, grading, branding, FPO mobilisation and export linkages into a single regional framework.
- d. Lastly, the programme adapts execution to the region's diverse horticultural base through localised cluster planning. The GHH covers 201 clusters across 10 districts, with differentiated opportunities across crops and value-added products such as mango pulp, banana powder, tomato puree and chilli oleoresin. This allows infrastructure, processing and market linkages to be aligned with the production strengths of individual clusters.

³⁰⁷ [Socio Economic Survey 2024-25, Government Of Andhra Pradesh, Page 3.](#)

³⁰⁸ [District Wise Rainfall For Andhra Pradesh From Jun 01-2026 To Oct 06-2026, Rainfall Dashboard, Andhra Pradesh Water Resources.](#)

³⁰⁹ [Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanthi Irrigation Project, Kurnool District.](#)

³¹⁰ [Socio Economic Survey 2024-25, Government Of Andhra Pradesh.](#)

B. Regional Investment Conference And Industrial Investment Facilitation Initiative

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 7th October, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Government signed 31 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) worth ₹ 21,498 crore at its first regional investment conference in Visakhapatnam.
2. The initiative aims to attract region-specific industrial investment, facilitate project implementation, generate employment, and extend investment promotion beyond major urban centres through regional conferences.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The largest commitments came from Himadri Speciality Chemical (₹ 5,000 crore), Oriana Power (₹ 4,500 crore), Granules India (₹ 4,000 crore) and ReNew Photovoltaics (₹ 1,500 crore), with a combined employment potential of 56,945 jobs across all MoUs.
 - b. The conference facilitated the grounding or inauguration of 33 projects worth ₹ 3,518.73 crore, with an estimated employment potential of 9,449 jobs, across State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) approved, tourism and MSME projects.
 - c. Four further conferences follow in Kakinada (12th October, 2026, where 15 MoUs worth ₹ 4,256.61 crore were signed³¹¹), the Amaravati region (16th October, 2026), Anantapur (23rd October, 2026) and Tirupati (26th October, 2026), each with an assigned sector focus.
 - d. It supports the Swarna Andhra Vision 2047, which targets a \$ 2.4 trillion economy (₹ 228 lakh crore), \$ 500 billion in investment (₹ 47.5 lakh crore) and 50 lakh jobs.
 - e. The Visakhapatnam conference focused on AI, data centres, IT, fintech, semiconductors, GCCs, pharma and med-tech, the sectors assigned to the region.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The initiative aligns with Make in India³¹² and the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme³¹³ through investment mobilisation, industrial project facilitation, and employment generation.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Gujarat promotes investment through its Vibrant Gujarat summit,³¹⁴ Tamil Nadu uses the Global Investors Meet³¹⁵ to secure industrial commitments, and Uttar Pradesh conducts investment summits³¹⁶ and regional investor engagements to attract capital and expand employment.
6. **Relevance -**

³¹¹ [The Print, October, 2026.](#)

³¹² [Make In India.](#)

³¹³ [National Industrial Corridor Development Programme \(NICDC\).](#)

³¹⁴ [Vibrant Gujarat.](#)

³¹⁵ [CII M&E Global Investor Meet.](#)

³¹⁶ [Invest UP.](#)

B. Regional Investment Conference And Industrial Investment Facilitation Initiative

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

- a. Andhra Pradesh's investment pipeline is large but slow to convert. Since June 2024, the state has signed MoUs for 714 projects worth ₹ 22.57 lakh crore, of which 473 worth ₹ 16.6 lakh crore have been converted and 247 grounded, about 34.6% of all MoU projects and 52.2% of converted ones. Against targets of converting 80% of proposals by the end of October and grounding 75% of converted projects,³¹⁷ the conference's on-the-spot groundings were worth ₹ 3,518.73 crore against ₹ 21,498 crore in new MoUs, although the two cover different sets of projects, so their ratio is not a conversion rate.
- b. Further, Central tracking covers only a subset of the state's pipeline. In a Lok Sabha reply covering projects monitored by DPIIT and Invest India, the Centre reported 10 projects grounded in Andhra Pradesh over two years, with estimated investment of ₹ 6,962 crore and 22,167 projected jobs, and only two had completed construction.³¹⁸ Although the two sets of figures are not directly comparable, MoU values in lakh crore are far larger than tracked groundings in thousand crore, so the 56,945 jobs linked to the new MoUs indicate potential employment rather than jobs created.
- c. Lastly, the regional format depends on industrial infrastructure being ready in the host regions. The Anantapur and Tirupati conferences target aerospace, defence, automotive, electronics, renewable energy and food processing,³¹⁹ all sectors that need serviced industrial land. The approval of industrial smart cities at Orvakal and Koppa, within a ₹ 28,602 crore package for 12 nodes nationally,³²⁰ gives these regions a Central base for such units, so conversion will depend more on how quickly these nodes and state industrial parks deliver plots and utilities than on how many MoUs are signed.

³¹⁷ [Deccan Chronicle, September, 2026.](#)

³¹⁸ [News Arena India, July, 2026.](#)

³¹⁹ [The Hans India, September, 2026.](#)

³²⁰ [PIB, August, 2024.](#)

II. Haryana

A. Haryana–Singapore Investment Facilitation Initiative

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 6th October, 2026, the state Government secured investment proposals worth around ₹ 5,500 crore from Singapore-based companies and institutions, following the Chief Minister's visit to Singapore.
2. The initiative aims to attract Singaporean investment and technology partnerships in healthcare, water management, education and skill development.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The state secures proposed investments of ₹ 3,000 crore in health and wellness, covering hospitals, healthcare centres, medical research and healthcare technologies.
 - b. The proposed investments include ₹ 1,500 crore for water treatment and management, including sewage treatment, industrial water management, water reuse and smart water systems.
 - c. Further, it earmarks ₹ 1,000 crore in proposals for educational institutions, technical education, digital learning and employment-oriented skill development.
 - d. The state assigned concerned departments the responsibility of coordinating with investors to convert proposals into projects and facilitate implementation.
4. **Similar Initiative In Other States -** States such as Chhattisgarh³²¹ and Tamil Nadu³²² have undertaken similar initiatives through partnerships with Singapore on sustainable industrial infrastructure, vocational skill development, and industrial water recycling and reuse.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Haryana's groundwater extraction rate reached 136.75% in 2025, against 60.63% nationally, underscoring the need to substitute freshwater with treated wastewater. Of the 1,725.57 MLD treated by the state's sewage and common effluent treatment plants, reuse stood at 464.20 MLD in 2025–26,³²³ rising to around 655 MLD by September 2026.³²⁴ The proposed ₹ 1,500 crore Singapore-linked investment in water treatment and management could accelerate this transition, reducing industrial and urban dependence on overstressed groundwater resources.
 - b. Haryana's health outcomes remain mixed against national benchmarks. NFHS-6 reports institutional births at 96.3%, while 79.0% of mothers received at least four

³²¹ [The New Indian Express, October, 2026.](#)

³²² [The Hindu, May, 2023.](#)

³²³ [Hindustan Times, July 2026](#)

³²⁴ [PIB, September, 2026.](#)

A. Haryana–Singapore Investment Facilitation Initiative

Source: [Link](#) | **Impact:** Medium

antenatal care visits and 79.7% of children aged 12–23 months were fully vaccinated.³²⁵ These gaps in maternal and child health service coverage indicate scope to strengthen access and continuity of care. The proposed Singapore-linked healthcare investments could expand specialised medical infrastructure, but their contribution will depend on translating additional capacity into more equitable service delivery and improved health outcomes.

- c. Haryana's vocational education system has expanded to 1,398 Government schools, covering 2,03,557 students in Classes IX–XII in 2025–26, but instructor availability remains a constraint. Of 2,784 sanctioned vocational teacher posts, only 2,052 were filled, leaving 732 vacancies, or 26.3% of sanctioned posts unfilled.³²⁶ The proposed ₹ 1,000 crore in Singapore-linked education and skill-development investment could support industry-aligned training and strengthen school-to-work pathways, although the announced proposals do not yet specify vocational training targets or placement commitments.

³²⁵ [National Family Health Survey \(NFHS-6\), 2023-24.](#)

³²⁶ [Economic Survey Of Haryana 2025-26](#)

III. Chhattisgarh

A. Singapore Investment Outreach: ₹ 43,250 Crore In FDI Proposals

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 5th October, 2026, the Chhattisgarh Government secured foreign direct investment proposals worth ₹ 43,250 crore at the inaugural Singapore-India Network for Growth (SING) Forum 2026, held in Singapore.
2. The commitments mark a step in the state Government's push to diversify its investment base beyond traditional industries into digital infrastructure, clean energy and emerging technologies.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The investment proposal involves ₹ 41,750 crore from Singapore-headquartered Energy Capital Global Pte Ltd for a 100 MW AI-ready data centre campus in Chhattisgarh.
 - b. The proposed data centre project will combine AI-ready digital infrastructure with on-site clean-power solutions and training opportunities for engineers from Chhattisgarh.
 - c. The investment package also includes a ₹ 1,500 crore commitment from Sunstream Green Energy Pvt Ltd for solar energy, battery storage and related components.
 - d. The Singapore engagement also covered industrial wastewater reuse with Aquatech and food-processing opportunities with Adroit Overseas Pte Ltd through separate meetings held alongside the forum.
4. Central Initiative Alignment- The initiative aligns with the Singapore-India Network for Growth (SING) Forum 2026,³²⁷ established to strengthen state-level economic linkages between Singapore and India and facilitate investment, partnerships and business opportunities across Indian states.
5. Similar Initiative In Other States- States such as Maharashtra,³²⁸ Telangana³²⁹ and Tamil Nadu³³⁰ have pursued investment-led digital infrastructure development by attracting large-scale data centre and AI infrastructure investments through dedicated policies, incentives and streamlined approvals.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Chhattisgarh's investment pipeline remains substantially larger than its recorded foreign investment inflows. DPIIT data show cumulative FDI equity inflows of ₹ 1,877.68 crore between October 2019 and March 2026, against investment

³²⁷ [Minister Of State For Energy, Trade And Industry, Government Of Singapore, October, 2026.](#)

³²⁸ [Financial Express, October, 2026.](#)

³²⁹ [Tribune, January, 2025.](#)

³³⁰ [STT GDC India, February, 2026.](#)

A. Singapore Investment Outreach: ₹ 43,250 Crore In FDI Proposals

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

- proposals worth around ₹ 8 lakh crore received under the state's Industrial Development Policy 2024-30.³³¹ The gap highlights the importance of converting investor commitments into actual capital expenditure and operational projects, particularly in emerging sectors such as digital infrastructure and clean energy.
- b. Chhattisgarh's established power sector provides a foundation for energy-intensive digital infrastructure. The state had 15,373 MW of installed power-generation capacity in September 2025.³³² The proposed 100 MW AI-ready data centre could be built on this power base, while complementary investment in solar energy and battery storage could support more sustainable electricity supply.
 - c. Further, the investment could complement Chhattisgarh's expanding digital connectivity infrastructure. The state's 4G and 5G base transceiver stations increased from 32,489 in March 2022 to 49,481 by December 2025.³³³ The proposed data centre could add computing and storage infrastructure to this expanding telecommunications network, strengthening the ecosystem for cloud services, AI applications and digital businesses.

³³¹ [Fact Sheet On Foreign Direct Investment \(FDI\) Inflow From April, 2000 To March, 2026.](#)

³³² [Ministry Of Power Annual Report 2025-26.](#)

³³³ [PIB, February 2026.](#)

Other Decisions

I. Kerala

A. Nirmalam Puthuyuga Suchithwa Kerala Campaign (2026–31)

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: High

1. On 2nd October, 2026, the Keralam Government launched the five-year Nirmalam Puthuyuga Suchithwa Kerala campaign.
2. The campaign aims to make Keralam waste-free by 30th March, 2031 through decentralised waste reduction and segregation, scientific treatment, resource recovery, recycling and expanded processing infrastructure for different categories of waste.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The campaign proposes two to three model plants for plastic-waste disposal and four to five for converting regular waste into electricity within one to two years.
 - b. The waste-management system includes a proposed centralised 500-tonne-per-day waste-to-energy plant and a network of regional refuse-derived-fuel (RDF) facilities for processing non-recyclable waste.
 - c. The Local Self-Government Department would coordinate household-level collection, source segregation and scientific treatment through local bodies and the Suchitwa Mission.
 - d. The campaign provides for greater public participation and awareness on the scientific disposal of e-waste, chemical waste and other emerging waste streams.
 - e. The Government seeks to establish an integrated processing chain from household collection and segregation to RDF production and energy generation, reducing dependence on transporting processed waste outside the state.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The campaign aligns with the Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban 2.0³³⁴ framework for scientific solid-waste management and builds on the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's Waste to Energy Programme (2021–26),³³⁵ which supported biogas, Bio-CNG and power generation from waste.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Telangana³³⁶ operates a state framework supporting waste-to-energy projects from municipal solid waste/RDF.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The campaign directly targets Kerala's in-state processing deficit, where Clean Kerala Company currently transports 4,500–5,000 tonnes of non-biodegradable waste to out-of-state cement plants.³³⁷ The proposed 12 Refuse-Derived Fuel (RDF)

³³⁴ [Swachh Bharat Mission.](#)

³³⁵ [Waste To Energy Programme.](#)

³³⁶ [Telangana Waste To Energy Programme.](#)

³³⁷ [The New Indian Express, October, 2026.](#)

A. Nirmalam Puthuyuga Suchithwa Kerala Campaign (2026–31)

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: High

facilities and a 500-tonne-per-day waste-to-energy plant in Kochi would create a localised processing chain once commissioned, and actual processing throughput will show how far they reduce out-of-state transport.

- b. Further, the framework expands scientific treatment capacity to address 20 legacy dumpsites containing 4.5 lakh tonnes of accumulated waste across 67 acres.³³⁸ Scaling dedicated facilities for plastics, glass, e-waste, textiles, paper, and construction waste could accelerate material recovery and limit further landfill accumulation.
- c. Additionally, the initiative connects Keralam's extensive collection network with downstream processing infrastructure. Linking an established aggregation base, comprising 1,350 Material Collection Facilities, 20,051 Mini-MCFs, 205 Resource Recovery Facilities, and 37,765 Haritha Karma Sena workers across 1,034 local bodies, with new organic, recycling, and RDF plants is intended to narrow the operational gap between waste collection and final scientific treatment.³³⁹
- d. Lastly, the campaign complements expanding regulatory enforcement with physical processing infrastructure to achieve 100% scientific waste management. Pairing strict compliance measures, including 90,438 inspections, ₹ 8.55 crore in fines, and 5,410 surveillance locations, with dedicated treatment plants is intended to shift Kerala's approach from a cleanliness-driven compliance model to an integrated, circular resource-recovery system.³⁴⁰

³³⁸ [Environment Budget 2025-26, Government Of Kerala, Page 56.](#)

³³⁹ [Economic Review 2025, Volume I, Government Of Kerala, Page 198, 661.](#)

³⁴⁰ [Economic Review 2025, Volume I, Government Of Kerala, Page 661.](#)

B. Nammude Kerala 2.0: Unified Digital Citizen Services Platform (2026)

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 7th October, 2026, the Kerala Government operationalised Nammude Kerala 2.0 as a unified digital platform consolidating more than 130 state Government services through a mobile application and web portal.
2. The platform aims to integrate public services across state departments into a single digital interface, simplify citizen access to Government information and transactions, reduce administrative friction, and enable digital access to services ranging from welfare and health to education, food safety and public grievance redressal.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The application provides access to lottery-result and ticket-verification services, information on food-safety-certified restaurants, Government schemes, certificates, scholarships and other departmental services.
 - b. The platform enables online applications, bill payments, application-status tracking, official appointment scheduling and submission of public grievances.
 - c. The system incorporates location-aware utilities, access to digital documents through DigiLocker and integrated emergency SOS functionality.
 - d. The Kerala State IT Mission manages the platform, which was developed by the Kerala Blockchain Academy under Digital University Kerala, with departmental authorities responsible for the content and data of their respective services.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The initiative aligns with Digital India,³⁴¹ the Union Government's programme for expanding digital public services, and complements the National e-Governance Plan³⁴² objective of delivering Government services electronically through integrated platforms.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Karnataka operates the Karnataka One³⁴³ and Seva Sindhu³⁴⁴ platforms for integrated citizen services. Andhra Pradesh provides departmental services through its e-Pragathi³⁴⁵. Tamil Nadu delivers multiple Government services through its e-Sevai³⁴⁶ portal.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Kerala declared itself fully digitally literate on 21st August, 2025, after the Digi Keralam programme surveyed 83.45 lakh households and trained 21.88 lakh learners, including more than 15,000 aged above 90.³⁴⁷ Nammude Keralam 2.0

³⁴¹ [Digital India.](#)

³⁴² [National e-Governance Plan.](#)

³⁴³ [Karnataka One.](#)

³⁴⁴ [Seva Sindhu.](#)

³⁴⁵ [e-Pragathi.](#)

³⁴⁶ [e-Sevai.](#)

³⁴⁷ [Gulf News, August, 2025.](#)

B. Nammude Kerala 2.0: Unified Digital Citizen Services Platform (2026)

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

- gives these newly trained users a single interface for certificates, payments and grievances instead of separate departmental portals.
- b. Further, Kerala is India's most aged state, with 20.7% of its population aged 60 and above in NFHS-6 (2023-24), up from 18.6% in NFHS-5 (2019-21), ahead of Goa at 17.2%.³⁴⁸ For a population with limited mobility, online applications, appointments with officials by video call and the integrated SOS function reduce repeated visits to Government offices and give elderly residents a direct emergency channel.
 - c. Kerala recorded 2.59 crore tourist visits in 2025, comprising 2.51 crore domestic visits and 8.22 lakh foreign visits. Domestic tourist visits increased by 12.64% over 2024, creating a substantial user base for reliable information on transport, destinations and public amenities.³⁴⁹ Nammude Keralam 2.0 provides tourist-attraction information, live KSRTC bus tracking, nearby public-toilet locations, EV charging-station information and listings of food-safety-approved restaurants. These services bring mobility and consumer information into a common interface.
 - d. Moreover, the Kerala Migration Survey 2023 estimates 22 lakh emigrants from the state and 18 lakh return emigrants.³⁵⁰ Many households therefore deal with Government offices from abroad or on behalf of absent members. A single mobile and web interface for applications, bill payments and status tracking lets emigrants complete these transactions without travelling home, although services that need physical verification will still limit what can be done remotely.
 - e. Lastly, the platform reinforces administrative continuity by building upon Kerala's existing digital governance infrastructure rather than displacing established systems. Expanding from its initial 24th February, 2026 rollout across 15 departments,³⁵¹ Nammude Keralam leverages the proven operational scale of K-SMART, which processed 35 lakh files across urban local bodies in its first year alone, to create a unified, citizen-facing interface that deepens digital integration without duplicating underlying administrative workflows.³⁵²

³⁴⁸ [Onmanorama, June, 2026.](#)

³⁴⁹ [Kerala Tourist Visits Statistics, 2025, Highlights.](#)

³⁵⁰ [Kerala Migration Survey 2023, International Institute Of Migration And Development, June, 2024, Page 2-3.](#)

³⁵¹ [Deshabhimani, February, 2026.](#)

³⁵² [The Week, April, 2025.](#)

II. Odisha

A. CM-GROW Wildlife Research Initiative

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: High

1. On 3rd October, 2026, the Odisha Government launched CM-GROW (Chief Minister's Grant for Research on Odisha's Wildlife).
2. The initiative aims to support research on Odisha's wildlife and generate scientific evidence to inform conservation and wildlife management.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The CM-GROW initiative provides a dedicated grant mechanism for research focused on Odisha's wildlife and conservation priorities.
 - b. As part of the initiative, the Government will deploy 300 additional AI-enabled and conventional surveillance cameras in Similipal Tiger Reserve to monitor wildlife, detect poaching and study animal behaviour.
 - c. The research programme will support the use of scientific and technological tools for studying wildlife movement, behaviour and habitats across the state.
 - d. The initiative was launched alongside the release of wildlife research publications and technical documents covering biodiversity, species monitoring, satellite telemetry and ecosystems across Odisha.
 - e. The Wildlife Week programme also expanded the wider conservation programme through new ecotourism destinations and proposed visitor infrastructure across Chandaka, Similipal, Chilika, Hirakud, Mahanadi and other wildlife divisions.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - aligns with the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH) scheme,³⁵³ particularly its component on wildlife research, monitoring and evaluation.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Odisha recorded 143 human deaths due to elephant attacks in 2024-25 and 192 in 2025-26, according to year-wise figures reported from government replies to Parliament and the State Assembly. These figures highlight the continuing human cost of human-elephant conflict and the need for better evidence on elephant movement, conflict hotspots and the effectiveness of existing mitigation measures.
 - b. A 25-year assessment by the Wildlife Institute of India and Project Elephant documented 1,671 elephant deaths in Odisha between 2000 and 2025, of which at least 508 were attributed to human-related causes. The study associated mortality with human-modified landscapes, including areas near mines, settlements, croplands and transport networks. CM-GROW could support

³⁵³ [PIB, September, 2024.](#)

A. CM-GROW Wildlife Research Initiative**Source:** [Link](#) | **Impact:** High

research into these risk factors, causes of death and targeted conservation responses.³⁵⁴

- c. The additional 300 cameras announced for Similipal could strengthen wildlife monitoring, poaching detection and the study of animal behaviour. Their conservation value will depend on how camera data are analysed and used in management decisions. The camera deployment should be described as an announcement made alongside CM-GROW unless formal documentation confirms it as a provision of the grant scheme.³⁵⁵

³⁵⁴ [The Hindu, February, 2026.](#)

³⁵⁵ [Webnews Wire, October 2026.](#)

B. MICE Incentive Portal

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 4th October, 2026, the Odisha Government launched India's first dedicated digital incentive portal for Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) tourism.
2. The portal is aimed at attracting investment and business tourism by centralising and simplifying the process through which event organisers and tourism operators can apply for financial incentives.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The portal provides a dedicated digital mechanism for MICE organisers, event managers, destination management companies, tour operators and hotel owners to apply for eligible incentives.
 - b. The incentive framework covers large-scale conferences, exhibitions, corporate events, weddings, concerts and similar events organised in Odisha, subject to prescribed eligibility conditions.
 - c. Eligible events held during the lean season from 1st April to 30th September receive an incentive of ₹ 1,000 per room per day for qualifying bookings in 3-star and above hotels, subject to minimum room-booking and out-of-state participant requirements.
 - d. The Odisha Tourism (Amendment) Policy, 2026 identifies MICE tourism as a priority tourism product and seeks to develop the Bhubaneswar-Cuttack-Puri-Paradip region as a MICE tourism hub.
 - e. The Government has also committed to expediting approvals for MICE events and considering private-sector recommendations to address administrative bottlenecks.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment-** The initiative aligns with the National Strategy and Roadmap for MICE Industry and Meet in India initiative,³⁵⁶ which aim to position India as a global destination for business events by promoting MICE tourism and supporting event organisers.
5. **Similar Initiative In Other States-** States such as Maharashtra³⁵⁷ and Gujarat³⁵⁸ have introduced dedicated MICE initiatives, including a MICE Bureau in Maharashtra to attract and facilitate large-scale business events and financial incentives in Gujarat for domestic and international MICE events.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Odisha received 113.8 lakh tourist visits in 2024-25, a 14% increase over the

³⁵⁶ [PIB, November, 2023.](#)

³⁵⁷ [Government of Maharashtra, Tourism Policy 2024, Page 10.](#)

³⁵⁸ [Indian Express, January, 2021.](#)

B. MICE Incentive Portal

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

previous year. However, monthly visits in calendar 2024 ranged from 7.9 lakh in May to 11.7 lakh in December, with May approximately 32% below the December peak. The MICE incentive targets this seasonal variation by offering support for qualifying events held between April and September, encouraging conferences and corporate events during the lean tourism period.³⁵⁹

- b. Domestic tourists accounted for 99.5% of Odisha's tourist visits in 2024-25. The amended Odisha Tourism Policy sets an objective of increasing the average length of stay from three to five days for domestic tourists and from nine to twelve days for foreign tourists. MICE tourism can contribute to this objective by attracting visitors for multi-day events and encouraging spending on accommodation, food, transport and local attractions.³⁶⁰
- c. The MICE incentive is conditional on at least 100 rooms being booked per day in recognised three-star-or-higher hotels, with at least 50% of daily room occupants coming from outside Odisha. The ₹ 1,000-per-room-per-day incentive is restricted to rooms occupied by out-of-state participants. This structure links public support to events that bring visitors into the state rather than subsidising all accommodation booked for an event.³⁶¹
- d. Odisha recorded 52,020 hotel rooms across 2,480 establishments in 2024, while Bhubaneswar's five-star hotel inventory comprised 552 rooms and a combined capacity of 1,800 seats, according to the Ministry of Tourism's MICE booklet. The incentive could help attract events to existing venues and strengthen demand for specialised accommodation and conference facilities. However, overall hotel capacity should not be treated as equivalent to MICE-ready capacity.³⁶²

³⁵⁹ [Odisha Tourism Statistical Bulletin 2024.](#)

³⁶⁰ [Odisha Tourism Policy Amendment 2026.](#)

³⁶¹ [Odisha Tourism Policy Amendment 2026,](#)

³⁶² [Odisha Economic Survey 2025-26.](#)

III. Gujarat

A. Motor Vehicle Tax Concession For Scrapping Old Vehicles

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 1st October, 2026, the state Government announced a motor vehicle tax concession of up to 50% for eligible vehicle owners scrapping old vehicles and registering replacement vehicles.
2. The concession aims to encourage the scrapping of older, high-emission vehicles and make replacement easier for owners, particularly those of ageing commercial vehicles.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The concession covers vehicles with older emission standards, including medium and heavy goods and passenger vehicles manufactured under BS-II norms.
 - b. The decision links the whole process, from scrapping to purchase of a replacement, with a financial incentive.
 - c. Only Certificate of Deposit (CoDs) issued on or before 31st March, 2027 qualify, so owners must complete scrapping within this window.
 - d. A concession already availed against a CoD cannot be claimed again for the same scrapped vehicle.
 - e. The existing method of calculating motor vehicle tax remains unchanged, with the concession applied as per the prescribed rules.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The decision builds on the Union Government's Vehicle Scrappage Policy,³⁶³ and the Union Government's framework for incentivising states to provide motor vehicle tax concessions against scrapping certificates.³⁶⁴
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Rajasthan,³⁶⁵ Madhya Pradesh,³⁶⁶ Maharashtra³⁶⁷ and Haryana³⁶⁸ have introduced motor vehicle tax concessions for purchasing new vehicles against a Certificate of Deposit issued after scrapping an old vehicle.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Gujarat had scrapped 15,448 vehicles through Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSFs) by 12th August, 2025, placing it among the top five states nationally.³⁶⁹ The revised 50% motor vehicle tax concession can help build on this existing uptake by reducing the cost of replacing eligible older vehicles. By linking

³⁶³ [PIB, March, 2021.](#)

³⁶⁴ [PIB, February, 2026.](#)

³⁶⁵ [Government Of Rajasthan, Transport Department.](#)

³⁶⁶ [Times Of India, September, 2025.](#)

³⁶⁷ [Business Standard, April, 2025.](#)

³⁶⁸ [Government Of Haryana, September, 2026.](#)

³⁶⁹ [Gujarat Ranks Among Top Five States In Vehicle Scrapping: Union Govt, DeshGujarat.](#)

A. Motor Vehicle Tax Concession For Scrapping Old Vehicles

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | **Impact:** Medium

the benefit to a Certificate of Deposit issued after authorised scrapping, the policy creates a direct financial incentive to move older, higher-emission vehicles into the formal scrapping system and accelerate fleet renewal.

- b. Gujarat had 39.13 lakh vehicles with expired Pollution Under Control Certificates (PUCs) as of March 2024, while its 2,239 emission-testing centres operated without software integration with the VAHAN database, limiting centralised monitoring of compliance.³⁷⁰ The revised 50% motor vehicle tax concession complements emission-control efforts by incentivising the scrapping and replacement of eligible older vehicles, while improved data integration remains necessary to track vehicles operating without valid certificates.
- c. The Union Government allocated ₹ 2,000 crore under the Special Assistance to states for Capital Investment scheme for 2025–26 to incentivise vehicle scrapping. By 30th January 2026, 4.30 lakh vehicles had been scrapped through 129 Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities across 21 states and Union Territories.³⁷¹ Gujarat's revised 50% motor vehicle tax concession complements this national initiative by lowering the cost of replacing eligible vehicles and strengthening the financial incentive to use authorised scrapping facilities.

³⁷⁰ [Gujarat Samachar, August 2026.](#)

³⁷¹ [PIB Press Release, February 2026.](#)

B. Gujarat Electricity Grid Code Regulations, 2026

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 7th October, 2026, the Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission (GERC) notified the Gujarat Electricity Grid Code, 2026.
2. The regulations aim to strengthen grid reliability, security and operational flexibility while accommodating growing renewable energy capacity and changing electricity demand.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The code requires 10-year rolling transmission-development plans, supported by integrated resource planning and demand forecasting across multiple time horizons.
 - b. It standardises power scheduling and dispatch in 15-minute blocks and requires grid frequency to remain between 49.900 Hz and 50.050 Hz, supported by primary, secondary and tertiary reserves.
 - c. It formalises the State Load Despatch Centre's (SLDC's) role in optimising dispatch schedules to minimise consumer costs while respecting intra-state grid constraints. It also provides for the Security-Constrained Unit Commitment (SCUC) framework, enabling the SLDC to manage unit commitment schedules and maintain grid balance.
 - d. It introduces specific testing, trial-run and Commercial Operation Date (COD) requirements for solar, wind, hybrid renewable energy projects, standalone energy storage systems and pumped-storage plants.
 - e. It requires thermal power plants to operate at minimum turndown levels of up to 55% of Maximum Continuous Rating (MCR), with compensation mechanisms for part-load operation.
 - f. It strengthens grid-connection standards for telemetry, communications, protection systems and cybersecurity, while providing for settlement of scheduling deviations and reactive-power exchanges through state pool accounts. Persistent non-compliance may lead to disconnection and legal penalties.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The initiative aligns with the Central Government's Green Energy Corridor (GEC) scheme,³⁷² implemented by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), which strengthens transmission infrastructure to facilitate renewable energy integration.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Rajasthan, under the Rajasthan Electricity Grid Code 2024,³⁷³ and Tamil Nadu, under the Tamil Nadu Electricity Grid

³⁷² [Ministry Of New And Renewable Energy, Government Of India.](#)

³⁷³ [Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission \(RERC\).](#)

B. Gujarat Electricity Grid Code Regulations, 2026

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

Code,³⁷⁴ have established regulatory frameworks for grid operations, transmission-system coordination and renewable energy integration.

6. Relevance -

- a. Gujarat's renewable energy capacity reached 47,178 MW by March 2026, including 29,303 MW of solar and 15,642 MW of wind power.³⁷⁵ The Gujarat Electricity Grid Code, 2026 establishes updated requirements for grid planning, scheduling, frequency management and renewable-energy integration, providing a common operating framework for managing a power system with a large and growing share of variable generation.
- b. Further, the provision for 15-minute scheduling and non-discriminatory grid connectivity establishes a common framework for renewable energy generators and battery storage systems to access and use the grid.³⁷⁶ This can improve coordination between electricity generation, transmission and storage, helping manage fluctuations in renewable output. However, scheduling rules alone cannot resolve transmission congestion or the mismatch between when renewable electricity is generated and when demand peaks; adequate network capacity and operational storage will also be necessary.
- c. Moreover, allowing coal- and lignite-based thermal plants to operate at lower technical minimums could help accommodate periods of high renewable generation without requiring conventional plants to maintain higher output levels.³⁷⁷ This flexibility is relevant as Gujarat expands renewable energy capacity while continuing to rely on thermal generation for dispatchable power. However, the benefits will depend on plants' technical capabilities and the availability of sufficient balancing resources to manage fluctuations in generation.
- d. Lastly, dedicated settlement accounts for deviations and reactive power exchanges, alongside penalties for persistent non-compliance, strengthen accountability for grid users and provide a clearer basis for managing the commercial consequences of operational deviations.³⁷⁸ These provisions can encourage generators and utilities to adhere to schedules and maintain grid discipline. Their effectiveness will depend on transparent settlement procedures, timely enforcement and coordination with the State Load Despatch Centre.

³⁷⁴ [Tamil Nadu Electricity Regulatory Commission \(TNERC\).](#)

³⁷⁵ [The Times Of India, May, 2026.](#)

³⁷⁶ [Gujarat Electricity Grid Code Regulations, 2026, Page 95.](#)

³⁷⁷ [Gujarat Electricity Grid Code Regulations, 2026, Page 5.](#)

³⁷⁸ [Gujarat Electricity Grid Code Regulations, 2026, Page 90.](#)

IV. Andhra Pradesh

A. Revised Backward Classes (BC) Reservation Framework For Rural And Urban Local Bodies

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 10th October, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh BC Welfare Department issued G.O.Ms.No.17, accepting the Rajiv Ranjan Mishra Commission's recommendations on BC reservations in rural and urban local bodies.
2. The framework aims to determine BC reservation percentages for individual rural and urban local bodies using empirical data on social backwardness and representation, while complying with constitutional provisions and Supreme Court requirements governing reservations in local Government elections.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Order sets BC reservations at 26.73% for Gram Panchayat ward members, 27.95% for sarpanches, 25.55% for Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC) members, 24.60% for Mandal Parishad Presidents (MPPs) and Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) members, and 23.08% for Zilla Parishad chairpersons.
 - b. It provides BC reservations of 32.78% for urban ward members, 33.02% for municipal chairpersons and 35.29% for mayors.
 - c. It caps combined SC, ST and BC reservations at 50% per local body and determines SC/ST reservations using the latest published Census population figures under Articles 243D and 243T.
 - d. It directs the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development and Municipal Administration and Urban Development departments to implement the framework in accordance with applicable laws, constitutional provisions and judicial directions.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The framework aligns with Articles 243D³⁷⁹ and 243T³⁸⁰ of the Constitution of India, governing reservation in Panchayats and municipalities, and the Supreme Court's triple-test requirements for determining BC reservation in local bodies.³⁸¹
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Maharashtra³⁸² has used a dedicated empirical commission to determine OBC reservation in local bodies, while Karnataka³⁸³ and Bihar³⁸⁴ have also used state-level legal and data-based frameworks for the same.
6. **Relevance -**

³⁷⁹ [Article 243D: Reservation of seats - Constitution of India.](#)

³⁸⁰ [Article 243T in Constitution of India.](#)

³⁸¹ *Vikas Kishanrao Gawali v. State of Maharashtra* (2021), AIR ONLINE 2021 SC 125.

³⁸² [OBC quota in local bodies .Mumbai News - The Indian Express.](#)

³⁸³ [Karnataka State Commission For Backward Classes - Overview-of-the-commission.](#)

³⁸⁴ [Importance of Extremely Backward Classes in Bihar's Electoral Landscape | The India Forum.](#)

A. Revised Backward Classes (BC) Reservation Framework For Rural And Urban Local Bodies

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | **Impact:** Medium

- a. The Order seeks to restore an evidence-based pathway for BC political representation, directly addressing the gap created when local-body quotas were reduced from 34% to 24% in 2019, a shift associated with the loss of approximately 17,000 elected positions.³⁸⁵ In the absence of published BC census data, adopting the Rajiv Ranjan Mishra Commission's empirical assessment, anchored in the Unified Family Survey and administrative datasets, gives the state an empirical basis for setting body-specific quotas across rural and urban bodies.
- b. Further, the Government has framed the exercise around the Supreme Court's "triple test" laid down in *Vikas Kishanrao Gawali* (2021),³⁸⁶ namely a dedicated commission, local-body-specific quotas and the 50% aggregate ceiling, following court directions of October 2026. Whether this particular exercise meets the test is for the courts to decide, but the stated process gives election authorities a defined basis for roster preparation.
- c. Moreover, the framework addresses the critical dimension of intra-category equity across BC-A, BC-B, BC-C, BC-D, and BC-E communities. The proceedings before the Andhra Pradesh High Court regarding sub-classification under Section 15(2) of the Panchayat Raj Act highlighted that treating BCs as a single cohort risks overlooking disparities in representation.³⁸⁷ The Order sets office-wise percentages, while the distribution among sub-categories remains a separate question of quota design that the available reports do not settle.
- d. Lastly, the framework establishes an actionable, transparent roadmap to administer representation at scale across more than 1.40 lakh elected posts, unlocking over 38,000 positions for BC candidates.³⁸⁸ Coordinating constituency-wise roster preparation and criteria publication between line departments and the state Election Commission will determine how smoothly pre-election administration proceeds.

³⁸⁵ [The New Indian Express, October, 2026.](#)

³⁸⁶ *Vikas Kishanrao Gawali v. State of Maharashtra* (2021), AIR ONLINE 2021 SC 125.

³⁸⁷ *Thandava Yogesh v. State Election Commission & Ors.*, Andhra Pradesh High Court, W.P.(PIL) No. 126 of 2026.

³⁸⁸ [The New Indian Express, October, 2026.](#)

V. Tripura

A. Establishment Of Tripura Staff Selection Commission (TSSC)

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 7th October, 2026, the Tripura Cabinet approved the establishment of the Tripura Staff Selection Commission (TSSC).
2. The initiative aims to establish a dedicated recruitment institution for Group-B, Group-C and Group-D state Government posts, strengthen transparency and impartiality in selection, and standardise recruitment procedures based on prescribed eligibility criteria and merit.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The state Government approved the establishment of the TSSC to conduct recruitment examinations for Group-B, Group-C and Group-D Government positions.
 - b. The commission is intended to provide a more systematic recruitment framework based on eligibility and merit.
 - c. The state Government seeks to improve transparency and impartiality in recruitment through a dedicated selection institution.
 - d. The TSSC will operate within a state recruitment system in which other recruitment boards are already functional.
 - e. The Government has not yet detailed the commission's statutory framework, operational timeline, examination calendar or staffing structure in the cited announcement.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative aligns with the Union Public Service Commission³⁸⁹ and Staff Selection Commission³⁹⁰ model of structured, merit-based public recruitment, while remaining a state-level institutional reform.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Bihar operates the Bihar Staff Selection Commission³⁹¹ for recruitment to various state posts, while Rajasthan³⁹² and Uttar Pradesh³⁹³ use dedicated subordinate-services selection bodies to conduct recruitment examinations for state Government positions.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Recruitment to Tripura Government posts is split across separate bodies whose processes are repeatedly corrected in court. In July 2023, 232 graduate-teacher posts advertised by the Teachers Recruitment Board Tripura were cancelled after

³⁸⁹ [PIB September, 2026.](#)

³⁹⁰ [Staff Selection Commission.](#)

³⁹¹ [Bihar Staff Selection Commission.](#)

³⁹² [Rajasthan Staff Selection Board.](#)

³⁹³ [UPPSC.](#)

A. Establishment Of Tripura Staff Selection Commission (TSSC)

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

the High Court held that reserving more than 50% of posts was impermissible. In February 2026, it directed the Teachers Recruitment Board, Tripura (TRBT), to include candidates whose diplomas had been wrongly rejected.³⁹⁴ A single commission with codified eligibility and reservation rules, settled before advertisements are issued, could reduce such reversals.

- b. Further, Group-C and Group-D recruitment is currently handled by Joint Recruitment Board Tripura (JRBT) under the Directorate of Employment Services and Manpower Planning, advertised 2,500 Multi Tasking Staff posts in December 2020.³⁹⁵ In May 2026, the High Court directed JRBT to revise its merit lists to apply disability reservation horizontally.³⁹⁶ The proposed TSSC is intended to bring Group-B, Group-C and Group-D recruitment under a common institutional framework, making the division of responsibilities between the new commission, TPSC and JRBT an important aspect of its design.
- c. Lastly, the commission's autonomy will depend on the form it takes since TPSC derives its mandate from the Constitution, whereas the Cabinet decision names no Act or ordinance, and its functioning is still to be worked out.³⁹⁷ Assam gave its Class III and IV commission a statutory basis through a 2021 Act before holding a single common examination for 26,441 posts.³⁹⁸ A clear statutory mandate for the TSSC, defining its relationship with TPSC for Group-B posts and replacing JRBT for Group-C and Group-D posts, could establish a unified and well-defined recruitment framework for Tripura.

³⁹⁴ [Northeast Today, July, 2023.](#)

³⁹⁵ [Joint Recruitment Board Tripura, Prospectus For Recruitment To Multi Tasking Staff \(Group-D\), Advertisement No. 02/2020, December, 2020.](#)

³⁹⁶ [Borok Times, May, 2026.](#)

³⁹⁷ [Northeast Today, October, 2026.](#)

³⁹⁸ [Assam Career, March, 2022.](#)

VI. Maharashtra

A. Mandatory Aadhaar Authentication For Immovable Property Registration (2026)

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 1st October, 2026, the Maharashtra Government made Aadhaar-based identity authentication mandatory for registration of specified immovable property documents, with an alternative-document route for persons without Aadhaar.
2. The measure aims to strengthen identity verification in property registration, prevent fraudulent transactions involving fictitious parties and witnesses, reduce manual intervention, and improve transparency in the registration of immovable property documents.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The requirement covers 63 categories of property-document registrations, including sale, purchase, mortgage and partition deeds.
 - b. The Registration and Stamps Department requires Aadhaar-based identity authentication before completing registration of covered documents.
 - c. Applicants without Aadhaar need to provide an Aadhaar-enrolment acknowledgement, another Government-issued identity document and proof establishing their relationship with the relevant transaction parties.
 - d. The registration authorities finalise transactions only after verification of the submitted identity documents and details.
 - e. The notification provides special provisions for minors, including Aadhaar enrolment with parental or legal-guardian consent, while ensuring registration is not denied solely due to the absence of an Aadhaar number.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The measure aligns with the implemented Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP),³⁹⁹ which promotes digitisation and integration of land records and property-registration systems.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Andhra Pradesh⁴⁰⁰ and Karnataka⁴⁰¹ have implemented Aadhaar-linked and digital identity verification mechanisms within land-record and property-registration services, while Telangana has expanded digital property-registration and integrated land-record systems.⁴⁰²
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The reform addresses an identity-verification gap within Maharashtra's high-volume property-registration system, which serves about 2 crore citizens

³⁹⁹ [DILRMP, Department Of Land Resources, Government Of India.](#)

⁴⁰⁰ [Linking Aadhaar Number With Andhra Pradesh Land Records.](#)

⁴⁰¹ [Land records In Karnataka Linked With Aadhaar - The Hindu.](#)

⁴⁰² [Digital Property Registration And Integrated Land-records Systems.](#)

A. Mandatory Aadhaar Authentication For Immovable Property Registration (2026)

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

annually through 507 Sub-Registrar Offices.⁴⁰³ The department registered 17.21 lakh documents in April–July 2026, up from 15.63 lakh in the corresponding period of 2025–26.⁴⁰⁴ By making Aadhaar-based authentication mandatory across 63 document categories, the measure establishes a standardised identity-verification requirement at the registration stage.

- b. Further, the requirement targets concerns raised by recent high-value property disputes, such as the Mundhwa land case.⁴⁰⁵ Shifting identity checks from an optional layer to a mandatory pre-registration control strengthens the transaction audit trail and can reduce impersonation of parties or witnesses, although it verifies identity only and does not establish ownership or cure a defective title.
- c. Moreover, embedding biometric, iris, and facial authentication into established digital platforms like SARITA and i-SARITA minimises manual verification points across the state's 507 Sub-Registrar Offices. This reduces dependence on physical witnesses while standardising processing workflows as transaction volumes grow. Maharashtra's 94.27% Aadhaar coverage (12.1 crore live IDs) provides a broad base for digital identity integration, while the alternative-document route means that citizens without an Aadhaar number are not denied registration on that ground alone.⁴⁰⁶

⁴⁰³ [Structure, Department Of Registration And Stamps, Government Of Maharashtra.](#)

⁴⁰⁴ [Times Of India, August, 2026.](#)

⁴⁰⁵ [The Indian Express, May, 2026.](#)

⁴⁰⁶ [Unique Identification Authority Of India, Annual Report, 2024-25.](#)

B. Revised 5% Sports Quota And Krida e-Praman Digital Verification System

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 5th October, 2026, the Maharashtra School Education and Sports Department implemented a revised 5% parallel reservation policy for meritorious sportspersons in Government and semi-Government employment.
2. The policy aims to standardise the 5% sports quota recruitment process, expand digital verification of sports credentials, prevent fraudulent certificates, and ensure transparent eligibility assessment for meritorious sportspersons across covered Government and semi- Government institutions.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy retains 5% parallel reservation for sportspersons in direct recruitment to Group A, B, C and D posts across state Government departments, local bodies, universities, Government undertakings and specified aided institutions.
 - b. The Government mandates candidates to submit certificates generated through the Krida e-Praman platform, carrying unique QR codes and digital signatures for electronic verification.
 - c. The system uses blockchain-based record preservation and cryptographic verification to reduce tampering and facilitate authentication of sports certificates.
 - d. The policy requires sports organisations to upload final competition results and participating-sportsperson data on the portal within 30 days, with non-compliant organisations placed on a defaulter list.
 - e. The Government provides up to five years' upper-age relaxation for eligible sportspersons, with the maximum age generally capped at 43 years and up to 45 years for eligible persons with disabilities.
 - f. Disputed credentials may also be subjected to recorded practical skill assessments.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the Central Government's 5% sports-quota framework⁴⁰⁷ for direct recruitment, under which up to 5% of direct-recruit vacancies in Group C and erstwhile Group D are reserved for meritorious sportspersons.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Tamil Nadu reserves 3% of vacancies in identified Government posts for meritorious sportspersons, with an upper age limit

⁴⁰⁷ [No.DOPT-1720781414772.](#)

B. Revised 5% Sports Quota And Krida e-Praman Digital Verification System

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

of 40 years.⁴⁰⁸ Haryana applies a 3% quota to Group C posts recruited through the Haryana Staff Selection Commission, with eligibility based on a sports gradation certificate from the Sports and Youth Affairs Department.⁴⁰⁹

6. Relevance -

- a. Fraudulent certificates have been the main weakness of Maharashtra's sports quota. In September 2026, Pune police arrested office-bearers of the Maharashtra Kurash Association over more than 1,000 fake certificates, at least 60 of which were used to seek Government jobs.⁴¹⁰ By requiring certificates to be generated on the portal from results uploaded by organising bodies, the GR addresses fraud at the point of issue.
- b. Further, the Government Resolution (GR) consolidates verification reforms the state began in 2022 with QR-coded certificates, when about 19,000 certificates were issued a year.⁴¹¹ Krida e-Praman, launched in April 2026, added blockchain records, AI-based checks and a verification report within 24 hours.⁴¹² The GR makes this a binding condition for every recruiting body and cancels earlier sports-quota orders, and its effect will turn on how many earlier candidates complete online re-verification within the three-month window.
- c. Lastly, the state quota is wider than the Central framework. The Centre reserves up to 5% of direct-recruit vacancies only in Group C and erstwhile Group D posts,⁴¹³ while Maharashtra applies 5% parallel reservation to direct recruitment in Groups A to D, across local bodies, universities, Government undertakings, aided institutions and cooperative bodies including banks and sugar factories.⁴¹⁴ Wider coverage raises the cost of any verification failure, which makes the defaulter list for sports bodies that miss the upload deadline as important as the portal itself.

⁴⁰⁸ [Youth Welfare And Sports Development Department, Government Of Tamil Nadu, G.O.\(Ms\) No. 43, November, 2019.](#)

⁴⁰⁹ [Hindustan Times, November, 2022.](#)

⁴¹⁰ [The Pioneer, September, 2026.](#)

⁴¹¹ [Business Standard, July, 2022.](#)

⁴¹² [Navbharat Live, April, 2026.](#)

⁴¹³ [Ministry Of Youth Affairs And Sports, Department Of Sports, Jobs For Sportspersons In Government.](#)

⁴¹⁴ [The Free Press Journal, September, 2026.](#)

VII. Uttar Pradesh

A. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Skill Training And Employment Zone (SVPSTPZ) Development Scheme

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 9th October, 2026, the state cabinet approved the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Skill Training and Employment Zone (SVPSTPZ) Development Scheme.
2. The scheme aims to develop Uttar Pradesh as the “Ultimate Sourcing Hub of Skilled Manpower” and a “Global Manpower Hub”, training youth to industry requirements and connecting them with jobs in India and abroad.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme allocates ₹ 1,725 crore over three years for skill training, employment facilitation and development of the proposed training centres.
 - b. It establishes five initial centres in Lucknow, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Gautam Buddha Nagar and Jhansi, with each centre requiring 10–25 acres of land.
 - c. It divides all 75 districts into nine employment zones to align training programmes with regional industrial requirements and labour-market demand.
 - d. It provides basic skill training for non-technical graduates, technical upskilling for ITI, polytechnic and engineering graduates, and need-based Indian and foreign language training.
 - e. Further, it enables centre development through Government institutions or the public-private partnership model, with hostel facilities, placement cells, industry linkages and digital monitoring systems.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment-** Uttar Pradesh is one of the states named for State Skills Transformation Pilots under the Integrated Scheme in Skilling Architecture announced in the Union Budget 2026-27, which links national skilling frameworks with state-level planning.⁴¹⁵
5. **Similar Initiative In Other States-** States such as Maharashtra^{416,417} and Odisha⁴¹⁸ have introduced similar employment-oriented skilling initiatives. Maharashtra’s Pramod Mahajan Kaushalya and Udyojakta Vikas Abhiyan provide skill training across districts, while Odisha’s Placement Linked Training Programme links vocational training with industry requirements and job placements.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Uttar Pradesh’s existing skilling infrastructure provides a substantial base for the proposed employment zones. By June 2026, 25.22 lakh candidates had been

⁴¹⁵ [Government Of India, Expenditure Budget 2026-27, Page 310.](#)

⁴¹⁶ [PIB, October, 2023.](#)

⁴¹⁷ [Maharashtra State Skill Development Society \(MSSDS\).](#)

⁴¹⁸ [Government Of Odisha, Department Of Skill Development And Technical Education.](#)

A. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Skill Training And Employment Zone (SVPSTPZ) Development Scheme

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

- trained or oriented under PMKVY in the state,⁴¹⁹ supported by an extensive network of public and private training partners. The scheme's nine employment zones and five initial centres could build on this capacity by aligning district-level training with local industry demand and integrating technical training, employer partnerships and placement support within a common system.
- b. Uttar Pradesh has approximately 96 lakh MSMEs, accounting for 14.2% of India's total,⁴²⁰ with established clusters in Meerut's sports goods, Moradabad's brassware, Kannauj's perfumery, Kanpur's leather, Agra's footwear, Bhadohi's carpets and Lucknow's chikankari. Aligning training with these regional specialisations could help address sector-specific skill requirements and connect trainees with local employers, including MSMEs and larger industrial units.
 - c. Lastly, the hub-and-spoke model offers a cost-efficient way to extend specialised training and employment services across Uttar Pradesh's 75 districts without duplicating infrastructure in every district. The first phase's five centres in Lucknow, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Gautam Buddha Nagar and Jhansi will serve as regional hubs for technical training, employer engagement and placement support, extending access to specialised facilities across surrounding districts.

⁴¹⁹ [PIB, August 2026](#).

⁴²⁰ [Invest UP](#).

VIII. Sikkim

A. SAHARA Scheme, 2026 And Vichar Vimarsh Kendra (VVK), 2026

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 1st October, 2026, the Sikkim State Legal Services Authority (SSLSA) launched the Support, Assurance, Healing, Aftercare and Rehabilitation Assistance (SAHARA) Scheme, 2026 and Vichar Vimarsh Kendra (VVK), 2026.
2. The SAHARA Scheme and Vichar Vimarsh Kendra aim to establish coordinated legal, medical, psychological, educational, rehabilitative and counselling support for child victims and survivors of sexual offences and other vulnerable persons, from reporting and crisis intervention through rehabilitation and aftercare.
3. **Key Features** -
 - a. The scheme provides a continuum of care for child victims and survivors of sexual offences covering reporting, institutional care, rehabilitation, transition to adulthood and aftercare.
 - b. The scheme facilitates legal, medical, psychological, educational, rehabilitation and livelihood assistance through coordination with relevant departments and statutory authorities.
 - c. The VVK provides individual, family and legal counselling, crisis intervention, and online or video counselling for children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, victims of violence and abuse, litigants and other vulnerable persons.
 - d. The VVK enables access through a dedicated helpline, walk-in facility and referrals from courts, police, NGOs and other institutions.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The initiatives align with the implemented NALSA Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children Scheme, 2024⁴²¹ and NALSA JAGRITI Scheme, 2025,⁴²² adapting their legal-services framework to Sikkim's vulnerable and child-protection needs.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Kerala operates the Victim Rights Centre⁴²³ through its legal-services system, providing legal assistance, counselling and support particularly to survivors of sexual assault and child abuse. Other states implement NALSA's specialised legal-services schemes through their respective State Legal Services Authorities.⁴²⁴
6. **Relevance** -
 - a. The SAHARA Scheme expands Sikkim's victim-support framework, demonstrated by Mangan's One Stop Centre handling 311 cases since 2019, beyond initial

⁴²¹ [NALSA \(Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children\) Scheme, 2024.](#)

⁴²² [NALSA \(Jagriti\) Scheme, 2025.](#)

⁴²³ [Victim Rights Centre, Kerala State Legal Services Authority.](#)

⁴²⁴ [PIB, February, 2026.](#)

A. SAHARA Scheme, 2026 And Vichar Vimarsh Kendra (VVK), 2026

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | **Impact:** Medium

emergency shelter and legal aid.⁴²⁵ By integrating institutional care, medical support, rehabilitation, aftercare, and livelihood training into a single continuum, the scheme establishes a continuous care pathway that prevents assistance from ending prematurely after initial reporting.

- b. Further, the VVK initiative directly responds to high legal-aid demand among vulnerable populations, where Sikkim SLISA assisted 1,094 beneficiaries in 2025 and another 695 in H1 2026, predominantly women and children.⁴²⁶ Institutionalising individual, family, and crisis counselling alongside formal legal representation improves case-level coordination for litigants requiring both legal intervention and psychosocial support.
- c. The model also addresses operational fragmentation across child protection bodies, including District Child Protection Units and Mission Vatsalya.⁴²⁷ Connecting legal services directly with welfare, enforcement, and healthcare authorities creates an integrated inter-agency framework spanning early reporting through long-term rehabilitation and adulthood transition.
- d. Lastly, Lok Adalats held by Sikkim's District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) disposed of 591 cases in 2025 and 75 cases in 2026 up to 31st August, while those held by Taluk Legal Services Committees (TLSCs) disposed of 230 and 69 cases in the same periods.⁴²⁸ Routing court, police and NGO referrals through this existing legal-aid network could extend counselling and legal support across the stages of a case.

⁴²⁵ [Press Release, Government Of Sikkim, October, 2026.](#)

⁴²⁶ [Legal Aid, State Legal Services Authority.](#)

⁴²⁷ [Press Release, Government Of Sikkim, February, 2026.](#)

⁴²⁸ [Sikkim Lok Adalat, Sikkim Legal Services Authority.](#)

IX. Manipur

A. Holistic Progress Card (HPC) – Secondary Stage And Integrated Test Management System (ITMS), 2026

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 1st October, 2026, the Council of Higher Secondary Education, Manipur launched the Holistic Progress Card (HPC) – Secondary Stage and Integrated Test Management System (ITMS) under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 framework.⁴²⁹
2. They aim to shift school assessment towards continuous, holistic and competency-based evaluation by documenting students' academic and broader developmental progress and digitally managing competency-based question development and assessment processes.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The HPC covers students' academic and broader developmental progress through continuous and holistic assessment rather than relying solely on conventional examination scores.
 - b. The first phase of the HPC covers 46 schools across Manipur and is being introduced for secondary-stage students in a phased manner, while the existing Council of Higher Secondary Education Manipur (COHSEM) examination continues as the summative assessment.
 - c. The ITMS provides a digital platform for competency-based question-bank development, blueprint preparation, question-paper generation, secure printing and end-to-end assessment monitoring.
 - d. The assessment framework incorporates competency-based questions into summative examinations to support the transition towards competency-based assessment envisaged under NEP 2020.
 - e. The COHSEM implements the initiatives under the guidance of PARAKH-NCERT, while the existing Higher Secondary examination continues under the summative assessment framework.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The initiatives directly align with NEP 2020 and the implemented PARAKH-NCERT⁴³⁰ assessment-reform framework, including the national Holistic Progress Card and competency-based assessment architecture.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Sikkim has piloted the PARAKH Holistic Progress Card at school level.⁴³¹ Ladakh has also initiated Digital Holistic Progress Card implementation in PM SHRI schools.⁴³²

⁴²⁹ [National Education Policy, 2020.](#)

⁴³⁰ [Parakh-NCERT.](#)

⁴³¹ [Press Release, Government Of Sikkim, March, 2025.](#)

⁴³² [Administration Of Union Territory Of Ladakh, June, 2026.](#)

A. Holistic Progress Card (HPC) – Secondary Stage And Integrated Test Management System (ITMS), 2026

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

6. Relevance -

- a. The adoption of the HPC addresses the need for multi-dimensional learning assessment across Manipur's school ecosystem, which encompassed 6.73 lakh students, 4,666 schools, and 41,490 teachers in UDISE+ 2024-25.⁴³³ Rather than relying solely on summative examination scores, the HPC integrates self-assessment, project work, classroom participation, competencies, and learning engagement into a continuous evaluation record, providing schools and families with granular progress data to identify learning needs early.
- b. Further, the Integrated Test Management System (ITMS) aligns state examination design with national competency-based frameworks. Responding to PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024 standards across Grades three, six, and nine, the COHSEM-developed digital platform enables question tagging and mapping against defined competencies, learning outcomes, and difficulty levels.⁴³⁴ Embedding this structured mapping into paper-setting workflows ensures assessment data pinpoints specific learning gaps rather than producing aggregate marks alone.
- c. Additionally, continuous evaluation provides a proactive mechanism to support secondary-stage retention. Though Manipur recorded a secondary-school dropout rate of 9.1% across 975 secondary schools in 2024-25,⁴³⁵ continuous tracking of academic competencies, skills, and engagement allows schools to spot learning drop-offs before they manifest in final examination failures or eventual school withdrawal.
- d. Lastly, the digital platform modernises examination administration in line with national assessment standards.⁴³⁶ By adopting the PARAKH ITMS framework, COHSEM digitises question-bank management, blueprint creation, and multi-user workflows, replacing fragmented paper-setting with a secure, standardised, and transparent assessment management system across the state board.

⁴³³ [UDISE+, 2024-25, Page 31.](#)

⁴³⁴ [PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024 Reports.](#)

⁴³⁵ [UDISE+, 2024-25, Page 31, 120.](#)

⁴³⁶ [PARAKH ITMS, June, 2026.](#)

X. Punjab

A. 'HUNAR Punjab' And 'Fast-Track Punjab' Portals

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 8th October, 2026, the state Government launched the 'HUNAR Punjab' and 'Fast-Track Punjab' digital portals.
2. The initiative aims to make approvals and incentive tracking transparent for investors, and to help young people find jobs closer to home by matching local skills with industry requirements.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. It integrates four modules under HUNAR Punjab: Institute Discovery, Hiring and Placements, Internship and Industrial Training, and Industry-Institute Collaboration.
 - b. It provides a 45-day timeline for necessary investment approvals through the Fast-Track Punjab single-window portal.
 - c. It introduces a Financial Incentives Module under Fast-Track Punjab, enabling investors to track incentive eligibility, utilisation and outstanding balances through a digital passbook.
 - d. Further, it connects industries with educational and skill-development institutions to facilitate recruitment, internships, on-the-job training and industry-linked curriculum development.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - Punjab's HUNAR portal aligns thematically with the Centre's Skill India Mission⁴³⁷ and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY),⁴³⁸ which promote industry-relevant skill development and employability. The Fast-Track portal similarly aligns with the National Single Window System (NSWS)⁴³⁹ in its objective of streamlining business approvals and improving ease of doing business.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Odisha^{440,441} and Rajasthan⁴⁴² have established skill-development portals that connect training institutions with employment opportunities.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Punjab received investment proposals worth ₹ 1.89 lakh crore between 2022 and September 2026, with the potential to generate 6.31 lakh jobs.⁴⁴³ Converting this

⁴³⁷ [Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, National Skill Development Mission.](#)

⁴³⁸ [Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0.](#)

⁴³⁹ [Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade \(DPIIT\), National Single Window System.](#)

⁴⁴⁰ [Government of Odisha, GO SWIFT.](#)

⁴⁴¹ [Government of Odisha, Skill Development and Technical Education Department.](#)

⁴⁴² [Government of Rajasthan, Department of Skill, Employment and Entrepreneurship.](#)

⁴⁴³ [India Today, September 2026.](#)

A. 'HUNAR Punjab' And 'Fast-Track Punjab' Portals

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

investment pipeline into operational projects and employment requires timely regulatory clearances and implementation. The Fast-Track Punjab portal's 45-day approval timeline and escalation mechanisms are intended to reduce administrative delays and facilitate this transition.

- b. The Rajya Sabha recorded 1,06,401 candidates trained under PMKVY in Punjab in FY 2024-25. This is an annual training figure, not a placement count or a cumulative PMKVY 4.0 total.⁴⁴⁴ HUNAR Punjab's direct interface between employers and educational and skill-development institutions could help align courses and practical training with industry requirements and vacancies. However, Punjab-specific data on placements, skill-job matching and job retention will be needed to assess whether this translates into sustained employment.
- c. Mohali and Ludhiana accounted for 49.8% of the investment value proposed through Common Application Forms (CAFs) in Punjab since FY 2022-23, indicating a concentration of proposed investment in these two districts.⁴⁴⁵ HUNAR Punjab could help align local skill-development programmes with the workforce requirements of businesses in these investment hubs, while connecting employers with candidates from other districts could widen access to emerging employment opportunities and support a broader regional distribution of jobs.
- d. The launch of Fast-Track Punjab and HUNAR Punjab addresses two complementary constraints on industrial growth, namely delays in obtaining approvals and mismatches between workforce skills and employer requirements. While the former seeks to accelerate project implementation through time-bound clearances, the latter aims to connect employers with suitably trained candidates. Their combined contribution will depend on timely processing of approvals and the extent to which employer participation translates into actual job placements, particularly for local youth.

⁴⁴⁴ [Rajya Sabha Answer 2048, 6th August 2025, p. 2.](#)

⁴⁴⁵ [The Times Of India, October 2026.](#)

XI. Arunachal Pradesh

A. Arunachal Creative Economy (ACE) Programme And Institute For Transforming Arunachal (ITA)

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 13th October, 2026, Arunachal Pradesh Government announced the ACE programme and proposed the ITA.
2. The ACE-ITA initiative aims to convert young people's creative ideas into viable enterprises while strengthening entrepreneurship, incubation and investment access across Arunachal Pradesh. It proposes an expert-led think tank to guide policy in agriculture, allied activities and tourism, alongside expanded startup incubation, seed funding, investor engagement and digital access to Government schemes.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The ACE programme proposes to provide young people with a platform to develop creative ideas into viable businesses.
 - b. The ITA is proposed as an expert think tank to guide policy development in agriculture, allied activities and tourism.
 - c. The Arunachal Pradesh Entrepreneurship Development Programme (APEDP) doubles annual intake from 50 to 100 startups and raises the announced seed-funding levels from ₹ 5 lakh to ₹ 10 lakh and ₹ 4 lakh to ₹ 8 lakh.
 - d. It provides for nine months of incubation at Arunachal Pradesh Innovation and Investment Park (APIIP) and expert mentorship.
 - e. The Government also inaugurated satellite incubation cells at seven higher education institutions and signed MoUs with five additional institutions.
 - f. The Government also launched the Youth Empowerment Sphere (YES) Arunachal portal for single-window access to Central and state schemes, plans a venture-capital pitching conference, and directs consultations on possible startup incentives and digital-market access workshops.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The initiative aligns with Startup India,⁴⁴⁶ implemented by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, and complements the national entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem supported through startup incubation and mentoring programmes.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Kerala operates the Kerala Startup Mission⁴⁴⁷ to support incubation, funding and entrepreneurship, Karnataka supports startups through the Karnataka Startup Policy⁴⁴⁸ and incubation ecosystem, and Tamil Nadu operates startup-support programmes through StartupTN.

⁴⁴⁶ [Startup India.](#)

⁴⁴⁷ [Kerala Startup Mission.](#)

⁴⁴⁸ [Karnataka Startup Policy 2025-30.](#)

A. Arunachal Creative Economy (ACE) Programme And Institute For Transforming Arunachal (ITA)

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#) | Impact: Medium

6. Relevance -

- a. The initiative establishes a dedicated enterprise-creation pathway to address pronounced youth unemployment across Arunachal Pradesh. The state recorded a 19.9% unemployment rate among individuals aged 15–29 and 24.0% among young women, substantially above the national benchmark of 9.9%.⁴⁴⁹ Against this baseline, pairing the ACE programme with a doubled annual cohort under the APEDP channels youth talent into structured self-employment and sustainable business creation.
- b. Further, the framework decentralises incubation across the state's broader institutional landscape to serve an enterprise base that includes 64,930 registered Udyam and micro-units.⁴⁵⁰ Establishing satellite incubation cells in higher education institutions broadens access beyond the central APIIP. This distributed network ensures aspiring entrepreneurs in outer districts obtain direct access to campus-level incubation, technical facilities, and early-stage business mentoring.
- c. Moreover, the strategy bridges early-stage incubation with commercial growth by expanding startup financing and external market integration. Building on over 150 startups established under APEDP since 2021,⁴⁵¹ providing enhanced seed funding, convening a venture-capital conference, and conducting digital market workshops directly connect home-grown ventures with institutional investors and national consumer markets, strengthening post-launch enterprise viability and private capital mobilisation.
- d. Lastly, the intervention capitalises on the state's rich cultural heritage and community collectives to drive high-value, sector-specific growth. Leveraging the state's 20 Geographical Indication (GI) tags alongside an active network of 1.5 lakh women in self-help groups,⁴⁵² the ACE initiative and the proposed ITA integrate design capabilities, digital branding, and sector expertise across agriculture and tourism. This creates a clear commercialisation route, translating traditional craftsmanship and indigenous resources into diversified rural livelihoods.

⁴⁴⁹ [Periodic Labour Force Survey \(PLFS\) 2025, July, 2026, Page 152.](#)

⁴⁵⁰ [MSME \(Udyam\) Registration Including Udyam Assist Platform \(UAP\) Dashboard.](#)

⁴⁵¹ [Department Of Information And Public Relations, Government Of Arunachal Pradesh, October, 2026.](#)

⁴⁵² [Department Of Information And Public Relations, Government Of Arunachal Pradesh, October, 2026.](#)

XII. Meghalaya

A. Meghalaya School Education (School Complex) Rules, 2026	
Source: Link Impact: Medium	
1.	On 13 th October, 2026, the Meghalaya Cabinet approved the Meghalaya School Education (School Complex) Rules, 2026, which propose a voluntary nodal-school framework to simplify transitions between school education levels.
2.	The Rules aim to facilitate students' progression from lower and upper primary education to secondary and higher secondary schooling by linking nearby institutions, reducing repeated admission procedures and transfer-certificate requirements, and improving access to schools at higher levels.
3.	Key Features -
a.	The Rules would establish a voluntary school-complex framework linking lower and upper primary schools with nearby secondary and higher secondary institutions through nodal schools.
b.	The nodal-school system would facilitate student transitions between school stages, including from Class 5 to Class 6 and Class 8 to Class 9.
c.	The framework seeks to reduce repeated admission procedures, transfer-certificate requirements and related formalities.
d.	The Government permits participation by schools that voluntarily opt into the arrangement rather than making the system compulsory.
e.	The framework would enable the state to identify gaps in secondary and higher secondary school availability and strengthen the network of such schools across blocks, subdivisions and districts.
4.	Central Initiative Alignment - The Rules align with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, ⁴⁵³ particularly its focus on equitable access, continuity of schooling and improved coordination across educational stages.
5.	Similar Initiatives In Other States - Rajasthan ⁴⁵⁴ has developed school-complex arrangements under its school education reforms, while Karnataka ⁴⁵⁵ and Tamil Nadu ⁴⁵⁶ have pursued school-clustering and institutional-coordination approaches to improve educational access and resource utilisation.
6.	Relevance -
a.	The Rules directly address severe progression deficits across Meghalaya's school education tiers. According to UDISE+ 2024-25, Meghalaya's transition rates trail national benchmarks significantly at primary to upper primary (75.5% vs 92.2%),

⁴⁵³ [National Education Policy 2020.](#)

⁴⁵⁴ [School Education in Rajasthan.](#)

⁴⁵⁵ [Tamil Nadu and Karnataka's State Education \(SEP\) Policies 2025.](#)

⁴⁵⁶ [Tamil Nadu and Karnataka's State Education \(SEP\) Policies 2025.](#)

A. Meghalaya School Education (School Complex) Rules, 2026

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Medium

- upper primary to secondary (65.0% vs 86.6%), and secondary to higher secondary (47.8% vs 75.1%).⁴⁵⁷ Establishing nodal school complexes links primary institutions directly with secondary and higher secondary facilities, which could reduce procedural barriers at each transition point for students in participating schools.
- b. Further, the initiative targets a steep institutional pyramid that restricts access at higher levels. The state's school network contracts sharply from 9,244 lower primary and 2,396 upper primary schools to 1,755 secondary and only 532 higher secondary schools.⁴⁵⁸ School-complex mapping provides an evidence base to identify localised seat deficits and prioritise secondary capacity expansion where geographic access remains constrained.
 - c. Moreover, the framework would eliminate repetitive administrative friction across a network comprising 14,587 schools, 57,002 teachers, and 10.61 lakh students.⁴⁵⁹ By replacing fragmented admission procedures across Classes I, VI, IX, and XI with standardised student record-sharing, the reform could reduce recurring transfer-certificate requirements for families whose schools opt in.
 - d. Lastly, systematic monitoring is essential to address persistent gender gaps and uneven voluntary adoption. UDISE+ 2024-25 reveals boys trailing girls in transitions from primary to upper primary, 71.7% vs 79.3%, and upper primary to secondary, 60.6% vs 68.6%, before both plummet to 47.1% and 48.3% at the higher secondary stage.⁴⁶⁰ Tracking voluntary school-complex participation and transition metrics across districts and genders would show where administrative linkages must be reinforced with direct seat expansion.

⁴⁵⁷ [UDISE+, 2024-25, Table 6.14.](#)

⁴⁵⁸ [NDTV, October, 2026.](#)

⁴⁵⁹ [UDISE+, 2024-25, Table 2.1.](#)

⁴⁶⁰ [UDISE+, 2024-25, Table 6.14.](#)

XIII. Assam

A. Green Cess On Older Vehicles

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Low

1. On 4th October, 2026, the Assam Cabinet approved the introduction of a Green Cess on the sale or transfer of eligible vehicles.
2. The Green Cess aims to generate dedicated resources for afforestation and environmental conservation by levying a one-time charge on the resale or ownership transfer of vehicles older than three years.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The provision exempts electric vehicles, CNG-powered vehicles, two-wheelers and three-wheelers from the cess.
 - b. It imposes a green cess of ₹ 3,000 on the sale or transfer of ownership of eligible vehicles more than three years old.
 - c. The cess does not apply where ownership passes to the owner's children or nominees after the owner's death.
 - d. The Assam Government earmarks the proceeds from the cess for afforestation, conservation and measures to address environmental degradation.
 - e. The cess puts into effect the vehicle component of the Green Cess Policy approved by the Cabinet on 7th September, 2026.⁴⁶¹
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The measure aligns with the implemented Vehicle Scrapping Policy,⁴⁶² which uses financial incentives and disincentives to phase out older, unfit and polluting vehicles.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Rajasthan,⁴⁶³ Telangana⁴⁶⁴ and Maharashtra⁴⁶⁵ levy Green Tax on older vehicles through age- and vehicle-category-based taxation at registration renewal or specified vehicle transactions.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Assam has been losing forest cover. The India State of Forest Report 2023 recorded that Assam's forest and tree cover fell by a net 83.92 sq km between 2021 and 2023, including a decrease of 86.66 sq km within the Recorded Forest Area.⁴⁶⁶ Earmarking the cess for afforestation and conservation gives that loss a dedicated, if small, source of funding, but its effect will depend on whether collections are kept in a separate fund for that purpose, which the Cabinet decision does not specify.

⁴⁶¹ [Economic Times, September, 2026.](#)

⁴⁶² [Vehicle Scrapping Policy, PIB March, 2021.](#)

⁴⁶³ [Rajasthan Green Tax Rules.](#)

⁴⁶⁴ [Telangana Transport Green Tax.](#)

⁴⁶⁵ [Green Tax In Maharashtra.](#)

⁴⁶⁶ [National Green Tribunal, Report On Behalf Of Amicus Curiae In OA No. 20 Of 2025, October, 2025, Page 3.](#)

A. Green Cess On Older Vehicles

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Low

- b. Further, the cess is the third step in a policy announced in stages. The 2026–27 Budget, presented on 10th July, 2026, proposed a green cess on the transfer of second-hand vehicles, stone crushers, brick kilns and groundwater extraction, with proceeds for afforestation, pollution control, biodiversity, climate adaptation and green energy.⁴⁶⁷ The Cabinet adopted the Green Cess Policy on 7th September, 2026, leaving rates to individual departments and directing revenue to embankments and solar projects.⁴⁶⁸ As the stated use has shifted between these stages, it is unclear which of them the vehicle cess will fund.
- c. Lastly, the exemptions narrow the base considerably. In 2025–26, Assam registered over 5 lakh vehicles, of which EVs were 16% including e-rickshaws and 8% excluding them.⁴⁶⁹ Exempting EVs, CNG vehicles, two-wheelers and three-wheelers leaves mainly older petrol and diesel four-wheelers and heavier vehicles liable, and as the flat ₹ 3,000 does not vary with vehicle age beyond three years or with emissions, the cess works mainly as a revenue measure rather than an incentive to retire older vehicles.

⁴⁶⁷ [ETV Bharat, July, 2026.](#)

⁴⁶⁸ [The Sentinel, September, 2026.](#)

⁴⁶⁹ [Down To Earth, July, 2026.](#)

XIV. Karnataka

A. Amendment To Karnataka Civil Services (General Recruitment) Rules

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Low

1. On 3rd October, 2026, the Karnataka Government notified the amended Karnataka Civil Services (General Recruitment) Rules, 1977,⁴⁷⁰ introducing final sports-quota recruitment provisions.
2. The rules aim to provide a structured pathway for eligible sports achievers to enter Karnataka Government services.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The rules reserve 2% of direct-recruitment vacancies within General Merit, SC, ST and OBC categories for eligible sports achievers.
 - b. They require candidates to have at least 10 years of Karnataka domicile, participation in one of 34 listed sports at national or international level, and representation of Karnataka in at least one recognised National Championship or National Games.
 - c. The framework assigns sports-achievement weightage, with Olympic and Paralympic gold receiving 50 marks, Olympic/Paralympic participation 47 marks, Asian Games gold 46 marks, and National Games gold 20 marks.
 - d. The selection process combines 50% of examination marks with the prescribed sports weightage for examination-based recruitment and considers only the candidate's highest qualifying sporting achievement.
 - e. The rules provide that unfilled sports-quota vacancies revert to other candidates within the same vertical reservation category and require achievement certificates to be verified by the Commissioner, Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The rules align with the implemented Central Government sports-quota recruitment framework, under which up to 5% of direct-recruitment vacancies in Group C and erstwhile Group D posts are reserved for meritorious sportspersons.⁴⁷¹
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Tamil Nadu implemented a 3% reservation for meritorious sportspersons in identified Government posts,⁴⁷² while Haryana operates a dedicated policy for recruitment of outstanding sportspersons in Government services.⁴⁷³
6. **Relevance -**

⁴⁷⁰ [Karnataka Civil Services \(General Recruitment\) Rules, 1977.](#)

⁴⁷¹ [Department Of Personnel And Training, Office Memorandum, March, 2024.](#)

⁴⁷² [Youth Welfare And Sports Development \(S1\) Department, February, 2019.](#)

⁴⁷³ [Haryana Outstanding Sportspersons \(Group A, B And C\) Service Rules, 2021.](#)

A. Amendment To Karnataka Civil Services (General Recruitment) Rules

Source: [Link](#) | Impact: Low

- a. Although the state approved a 2% sports quota for direct recruitment to the state civil services in February 2024⁴⁷⁴ and notified it in September 2024 for 33 disciplines,⁴⁷⁵ its operationalisation was put on hold in December 2024 pending rule revisions, and subsequent recruitment notifications went ahead without quota benefits.⁴⁷⁶ By substituting the relevant provision of the Karnataka Civil Services (General Recruitment) Rules, the 2026 amendment removes this rule-level bottleneck and sets out clear provisions for eligibility, scoring and vacancy allocation.
- b. Further, the initiative connects state civil-service opportunities directly to Karnataka's sports-development infrastructure. Karnataka hosts 39 Khelo India academies, second only to Maharashtra's 41.⁴⁷⁷ A structured recruitment pathway links this institutional talent pipeline to stable public-sector employment for high-performing athletes, and the rules also allow athletes who have represented other organisations, such as Railways, to qualify, provided they have represented Karnataka at least once.
- c. Lastly, the amendment substantially widens eligibility beyond the earlier, highly restricted provisions.⁴⁷⁸ The state's 2023 special rules limited direct recruitment to medallists from the Olympics, Paralympics, Asian Games, Para Asian Games and Commonwealth Games, against a capped number of posts.⁴⁷⁹ The 2026 framework extends rule-based coverage to 34 sports and a wider set of achievements, including the National Games and Senior National Championships.

⁴⁷⁴ [The South First, February, 2024.](#)

⁴⁷⁵ [Deccan Herald, September, 2024.](#)

⁴⁷⁶ [The Indian Express, December, 2024.](#)

⁴⁷⁷ [Sports Authority Of India, Khelo India Dashboard, Khelo India Academies State-Wise.](#)

⁴⁷⁸ [The Indian Express, December, 2024.](#)

⁴⁷⁹ [Karnataka State Civil Services \(Recruitment Of Persons Awarded With Medals At Olympics, Paralympics, Asian Games, Para Asian Games And Commonwealth Games To Certain Posts\) \(Special\) Rules, 2023.](#)



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