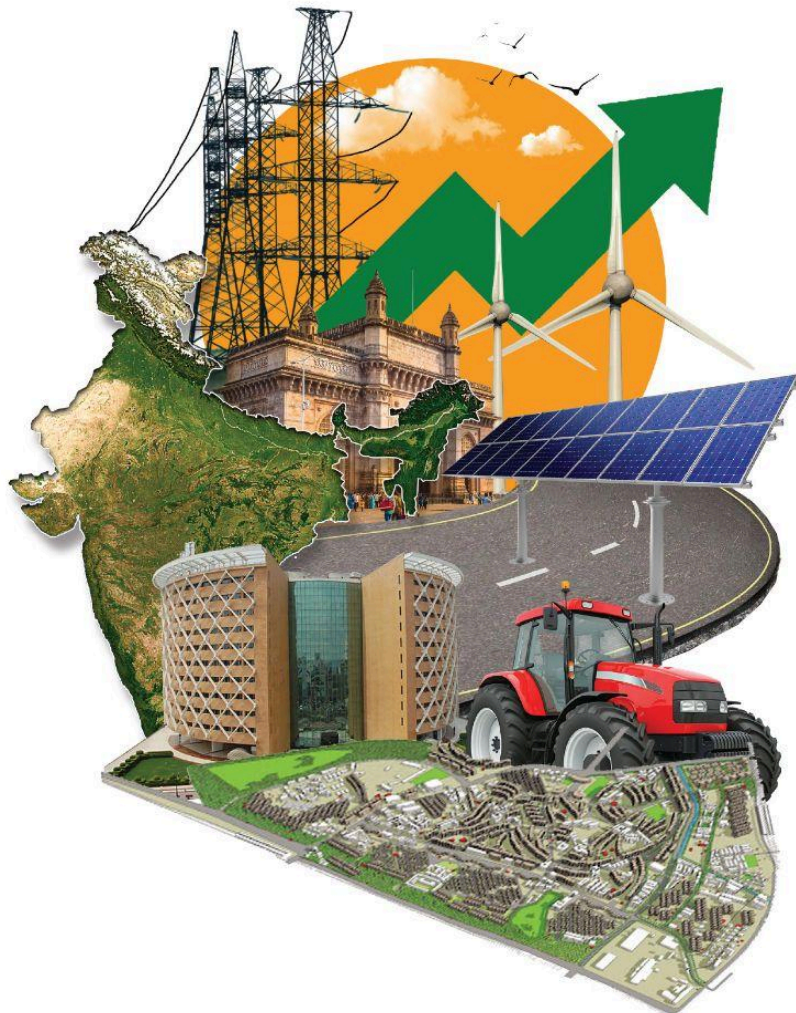


STATES IN MOTION

What's Happening In Indian States



1st September - 15th September

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Key Announcements

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

Reform Decisions

I. Gujarat

- A. **Prevention Of Fragmentation And Consolidation Of Holdings (Amendment) Bill, 2026:** The Gujarat Assembly passed the bill to regularise historical land fragmentation violations and simplify land transactions. It sets a uniform 10-guntha minimum holding for rural Gujarat, removes urban areas from the Act's purview, and enables regularisation of eligible fragmented holdings without penalty or premium.
- B. **Ease Of Doing Business (EoDB) Bill, 2026:** The Gujarat Assembly passed the Bill to reduce regulatory burden by replacing procedural approvals with self-certification and simplifying compliance requirements. It permits 24×7 operations for shops and commercial establishments, and strengthens technology-driven mechanisms for MSME registration and delayed public service appeals.

II. Odisha

- A. **Jan Vishwas Bill, 2026:** The Odisha Cabinet approved the Bill to reduce regulatory burden by decriminalising minor violations, simplifying licensing requirements and introducing proportionate enforcement mechanisms. It proposes amendments across 62 provisions in 16 state laws, rationalises Gram Panchayat-level licensing, and extends licence validity for selected sectors.

III. Telangana

- A. **Praja Viswasam (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026:** The Telangana Legislative Assembly passed bill to decriminalise 15 minor provisions across five departments by replacing criminal penalties with proportionate monetary penalties, administrative adjudication, and compounding mechanisms, while removing obsolete regulatory provisions to simplify compliance and reduce litigation.

IV. Nagaland

- A. **Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority Bill, 2026:** The Nagaland Assembly passed the revised Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority Bill, 2026 to establish a decentralised regional governance framework for Eastern Nagaland. The proposed Authority will comprise 62 members and exercise legislative, executive, administrative and financial powers over 46 subjects, with provisions for elected representation, women's reservation and dedicated financial arrangements.

V. Maharashtra

- A. **Land Bank Digital System, 2026:** The Maharashtra Government launched the Maharashtra Land Bank, a unified digital platform to consolidate Government-owned

Key Announcements

land records and streamline land identification, verification and allocation for infrastructure and compensatory afforestation. It integrates land records, GIS and field-verification data while enabling online land requisition, scrutiny and approval.

VI. Uttar Pradesh

- A. **Third Amendment To Uttar Pradesh Land-Use Conversion Rules, 2026:** The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the amendment to reduce the cost and administrative time for converting agricultural land to permitted uses. It delegates conversion powers for plots up to 6,000 sq m to development authorities and reduces conversion charges for residential, industrial, commercial and office uses, including mixed-use conversion.

Policy Level Announcements

I. Karnataka

- A. **Aerospace Policy, 2026-31:** The Karnataka Government approved the Karnataka Aerospace Policy, 2026-31 to attract ₹ 60,000 crore in investment and generate 60,000 jobs while strengthening the state's aerospace and allied manufacturing ecosystem. The policy provides location-based incentives, establishes seven aerospace clusters across the state, and supports investments in aerospace, defence, space technology, drones and avionics.

II. Uttar Pradesh

- A. **Toy Manufacturing Promotion Policy, 2025:** The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the policy to establish the state as a competitive toy manufacturing base through targeted financial and regional incentives. It provides investment assistance of up to ₹ 35 crore, land subsidies of up to 40%, a 10-year electricity-duty exemption, and dedicated toy clusters with workforce development support.

III. Chhattisgarh

- A. **Export Promotion Policy, 2026-30:** The Chhattisgarh Cabinet approved the policy to expand market access for products manufactured and produced in the State. It seeks to strengthen export and logistics infrastructure, promote value-added agricultural and industrial products, and facilitate direct access to international markets through e-commerce platforms, trade fairs and exhibitions.

Social Sector Schemes

I. Uttar Pradesh

- A. **Enhanced Honorarium And Cashless Health Coverage For Anganwadi Workers And Helpers, 2026:** The State Government announced an increase in monthly honorarium from ₹ 8,000 to ₹ 12,000 for Anganwadi workers and ₹ 4,000 to ₹ 6,000 for helpers. The package also provides cashless health coverage of up to ₹ 5 lakh annually for

Key Announcements

workers, helpers and their families, alongside additional material support and smartphones to facilitate their work.

II. Karnataka

- A. **Shramika Nivas Scheme:** The Karnataka Government approved the scheme to provide affordable housing near workplaces for industrial workers. It proposes 10,000 housing units initially, with industries developing worker housing through government support and KIADB facilitating subsidised land, while permitting 15–20% of land in industrial areas for worker housing.

Investment Announcements

I. Odisha

- A. **UAE Investment Outreach, 2026:** The Odisha Government concluded a three-day investment outreach in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, securing 24 MoUs and investment intents worth ₹ 2.43 lakh crore, with a projected employment potential of over 6.18 lakh jobs. The proposals span critical minerals, metals, infrastructure, logistics and manufacturing, while strengthening Odisha's export linkages with UAE and wider MENA markets.

II. Maharashtra

- A. **Nuclear Power Development MoUs:** The Maharashtra Government signed MoUs with JSW Energy and Torrent Power to develop a combined 4,200 MW of nuclear power capacity and strengthen the state's long-term energy security. The proposed projects involve ₹ 79,000 crore in investment, with JSW Energy developing a 2,800 MW plant and Torrent Power a 1,400 MW plant, alongside an estimated 11,700 direct and indirect employment opportunities.

Other Decisions

I. Chhattisgarh

- A. **Chief Minister Startup and NIPUN Mission:** The Chhattisgarh Government approved the Mission to integrate entrepreneurship, skill development, emerging technologies and employment. It will establish 33 Entrepreneurship Development Centres, 100 Emerging Technology Labs and five Industry Excellence Centres, while the NIPUN Job Engine will link industry requirements with training and formal employment.

II. Odisha

- A. **Revised Buxi Jagabandhu Assured Water Supply to Habitations (BASUDHA) Scheme, 2026:** The Odisha Cabinet approved the revised BASUDHA scheme with an outlay of ₹ 5,045 crore for 2026–27 to 2028–29 to strengthen rural drinking water supply. The scheme covers left-out habitations and incomplete projects, modernises existing systems, strengthens water-quality monitoring, and promotes climate-resilient and energy-efficient technologies.

Reform Decisions

I. Gujarat

A. Ease Of Doing Business Bill, 2026

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

1. On 11th September, 2026, the Gujarat Assembly passed the Gujarat Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) Bill, 2026.
2. The Bill aims to reduce regulatory burden by replacing procedural approvals with self-certification, simplifying compliance requirements and introducing a more risk-based and technology-driven regulatory framework.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Bill amends 12 provisions across five state laws covering fire safety, shops and establishments, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), medical registration and public service delivery.
 - b. The revised framework shifts low-risk regulatory processes towards self-declaration and self-certification, reducing mandatory prior approvals and physical interactions with Government authorities.
 - c. The fire-safety framework adopts risk-based and performance-oriented standards, allowing compliance requirements to vary according to building type and local conditions.
 - d. The Shops and Establishments framework permits shops and commercial establishments to operate 24×7 across the state, subject to prescribed working-hour, rest-period and worker-safety requirements.
 - e. Further, the bill strengthens the MSME Right to Business framework, enables self-declaration-based registration for doctors registered in other states and introduces technology-based auto-appeal and auto-escalation for delayed public services.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The Bill operates within the Centre's Reducing Compliance Burden (RCB) program and Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP),¹ 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,² Madhya Pradesh,³ Haryana,⁴ Rajasthan,⁵ Maharashtra,⁶ Bihar,⁷ and Telangana,⁸ through

¹ [DPIIT; Ease of Doing Business Initiative.](#)

² [Times of India, August, 2026.](#)

³ [Invest MP; Ease of Doing Business.](#)

⁴ [The Indian Express, July, 2026.](#)

⁵ [Times of India, June, 2026.](#)

⁶ [Maharashtra Legislative Council, Bill No. 96 of 2025.](#)

⁷ [Times of India, September, 2026.](#)

⁸ [Times of India, September, 2026.](#)

A. Ease Of Doing Business Bill, 2026

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

compliance reduction, decriminalisation, simplified approvals and digital/technology-driven processes.

6. Relevance -

- a. Gujarat's GSDP is projected at ₹ 33.25 lakh crore in 2026-27,⁹ growing 11% over 2025-26, while the State accounted for 10.86% of India's foreign tourist footfall in 2025.¹⁰ In this expanding economy, 24×7 operations can improve asset utilisation and support late-hour demand across retail, hospitality and other visitor-facing services.
- b. Despite Gujarat being an industrial powerhouse, female labour force participation, which stands at 29.8%,¹¹ has historically lagged due to shift-based restrictions.¹² Since the state has already permitted women to work between 9 pm and 6 am subject to safeguards, 24×7 establishments expand the range of shifts in which that provision can actually be used.
- c. According to Rural Health Statistics Gujarat faces a shortfall of surgeons at rural CHCs against the required strength.¹³ The self-declaration-based registration for doctors registered in other States can shorten the time taken to bring medical professionals into Gujarat's health system.
- d. Gujarat is one of India's strongest industrial states, but the Economic Survey classifies it as having high per-capita industrial GSVA without a comparably strong services presence.¹⁴ Hence, liberalising operating hours can deepen servicification, as expanding industrial activity increasingly generates demand for supporting services.
- e. The Bill also comes after Gujarat raised the Shops and Establishments Act coverage threshold from 10 to 20 workers and extended the permissible working day from nine to ten hours in February, 2026.¹⁵ Therefore, this reform continues a broader shift toward lower compliance intensity and greater operating flexibility.

⁹ [Gujarat Budget Analysis, 2026-27.](#)

¹⁰ [Gujarat Tourism.](#)

¹¹ [Periodic Labour Force Survey Report, Annual Report 2025, Page 146.](#)

¹² [The Economic Times, April, 2025.](#)

¹³ [The Indian Express, April, 2021.](#)

¹⁴ [Economic Survey 2024-25, Page 242.](#)

¹⁵ [The Economic Times, February, 2026.](#)

B. Prevention Of Fragmentation And Consolidation Of Holdings (Amendment) Bill, 2026

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

1. On 11th September, 2026, the state Assembly unanimously passed the Gujarat Prevention of Fragmentation and Consolidation of Holdings (Amendment) Bill, 2026.
2. The Bill aims to resolve long-pending title issues arising from fragmented land holdings, simplify land transactions and establish a uniform minimum landholding standard across rural Gujarat.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The amendment regularises land fragmentation violations committed between 1948 and 31st March, 2026 without recovery of any penalty or premium.
 - b. The revised framework sets a uniform minimum land area of **10 gunthas (1,012 sq m)** for rural Gujarat, replacing different standards based on land type and irrigation status.
 - c. The amendment removes municipal corporations, municipalities and urban development authority areas from the Act's purview, taking urban land outside the fragmentation restrictions.
 - d. The revised framework facilitates non-agricultural land conversion for fragmented holdings, addressing cases where bona fide purchasers remained unable to secure valid titles despite having paid the applicable penalty.
 - e. Further, the amendment prohibits subdivision of agricultural land below the prescribed 10-guntha threshold in rural areas, while providing statutory backing to the regularisation measure introduced through the Government's August 2026 ordinance.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Maharashtra has a similar Maharashtra Prevention of Fragmentation and Consolidation of Holdings (Amendment) Act, 2025 which relaxes restrictions on fragmented land holdings, particularly by regularising certain past transactions and enabling smoother transfer and development of small land parcels.¹⁶
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Gujarat has 53.2 lakh operational agricultural holdings of which 37.94% are marginal holdings below one hectare, while large holdings above 10 hectares account for just 0.75%.¹⁷ A uniform 10-guntha threshold better reflects the state's predominantly small-holding structure and can simplify inheritance, subdivision and subsequent land transactions.
 - b. The Gujarat Agriculture Census records 20.18 lakh marginal and 16.16 lakh small

¹⁶ [The Maharashtra Prevention Of Fragmentation And Consolidation Of Holdings \(Amendment\) Act, 2025.](#)

¹⁷ [State Focus Paper 2023-24: Gujarat, Page 137](#)

B. Prevention Of Fragmentation And Consolidation Of Holdings (Amendment) Bill, 2026

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

operational holdings in the State, together accounting for around 36.3 lakh holdings.¹⁸ Regularising past fragmentation violations can therefore address title and transaction constraints affecting a substantial share of Gujarat's agricultural holdings, rather than only isolated disputed parcels.

- c. The amendment addresses a long-standing title and litigation problem by regularising fragmentation-law violations from 1948 to 31st March, 2026 without penalty or premium and bringing pending proceedings to an end. This can clear legacy disputes that have kept otherwise transacted land in an uncertain legal position.
- d. Gujarat registered 18.95 lakh property documents in 2025-26, indicating a large and active property transaction market.¹⁹ The exclusion of municipal and urban development authority areas from the Fragmentation Act can reduce regulatory friction for land transactions, construction-related processes and non-agricultural conversion in these areas.
- e. Before the amendment, bona fide purchasers could remain in legal limbo even after paying a penalty equivalent to 10% of Jantri value, with the underlying transaction still treated as invalid.²⁰ Removing the penalty and regularising eligible historical transactions directly addresses this marketability problem by providing a pathway to clearer title rather than imposing a charge without curing the underlying defect.

¹⁸ [State Focus Paper 2023-24: Gujarat, Page 21.](#)

¹⁹ [Times Of India, April, 2026.](#)

²⁰ [Desh Gujarat, September, 2026](#)

C. Gujarat Rent Bill, 2026

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

1. On 11th September, 2026, the Gujarat Legislative Assembly passed the Gujarat Rent Bill, 2026.
2. The bill aims to improve transparency, reduce friction in the rental market and modernise the state's rental framework through dedicated rent authorities, faster dispute resolution and a three-month security-deposit cap.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The proposed legislation repeals the Gujarat Rents, Hotel and Lodging House Rates Control Act, 1947, replacing the existing rent-control framework with a contract-based tenancy regime.
 - b. The framework requires written rental agreements to be submitted to the Rent Authority within two months of execution, with either party allowed to submit them separately within an additional one-month period.
 - c. The digital registration system provides online registration, a unique identification number for each tenancy agreement, and online access to registered tenancy details.
 - d. The security-deposit provision caps deposits at three months' rent and requires refunds within one month of the tenant vacating the premises, after permissible deductions.
 - e. Further, the dispute-resolution framework establishes Rent Authorities, Rent Courts and Rent Tribunals, with cases targeted for disposal within 60 days and ordinary civil-court jurisdiction excluded.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The Bill draws on the Model Tenancy Act, 2021,²¹ particularly its provisions for written tenancy agreements, Rent Authorities and time-bound dispute resolution through Rent Courts and Rent Tribunals.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** -States such as Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh have enacted or notified tenancy laws aligned with the Model Tenancy Act, 2021.²²
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Gujarat accounts for 6.1% of India's total rental households,²³ yet continued to operate under the Bombay Rents, Hotel and Lodging House Rates Control Act, 1947, a post-war rent-control statute. This bill updates the state's rental framework after decades of reliance on a repeatedly extended legacy law.
 - b. Gujarat's urban population is 48.7% and it is growing rapidly.²⁴ This makes a

²¹ [Model Tenancy Act, 2021.](#)

²² [Ministry Of Housing And Urban Affairs, August, 2025.](#)

²³ [Urban Rental Housing In India, ORF.](#)

²⁴ [Macro And Fiscal Landscape of the State of Gujarat, NITI Aayog.](#)

C. Gujarat Rent Bill, 2026

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

functioning rental market a structural necessity for the state's expanding migrant and working-class urban population. The 1947 Act's strong tenant protections, without corresponding clarity on eviction grounds, created a well-documented "landlord lock-in" problem where property owners kept units vacant rather than risk indefinite tenancy. The bill's specific eviction grounds under Section 21 and time-bound Rent Court proceedings directly unlock this supply suppression.

- c. India's rental market grew 10–13% in 2025, with Gujarat averaging ₹ 22,000 monthly rent.²⁵ A three-month deposit therefore requires ₹ 66,000 upfront, creating a significant barrier for migrant and lower-income tenants. Without a statutory cap, deposits can reach 6–12 months' rent in high-demand areas, making formal housing less accessible. The three-month cap limits this upfront burden even as rents rise.
- d. This legislation advances digital formalisation by requiring tenancy agreements and related information to be filed electronically. This creates verifiable rental records, making tenancy terms easier to authenticate and disputes easier to resolve.
- e. Lastly, Gujarat's courts have over 3 lakh pending civil cases as of September, 2026,²⁶ while rent disputes continue to reach the Small Causes Courts and higher courts under the 1947 Rent Act. Creating dedicated Rent Authorities, Courts and Tribunals can provide a specialised forum for such disputes and reduce the burden on the broader civil-court system.

²⁵ [India Data Map](#).

²⁶ [National Judicial Data Grid](#).

D. New Taluka Classification Under Industrial Policy 2026

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

1. On 8th September, 2026, the state Government notified a new taluka classification under the Viksit Gujarat Industrial Policy, 2026.²⁷
2. The reform aims to classify talukas into two categories under Industrial Policy 2026 to determine the level of industrial incentives and target better investment incentives across different regions of the state.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The revised classification replaces the three-category system of Category-I, Category-II and Category-III covering 251 talukas under the Gujarat Industrial Policy, 2020²⁸ with a two-category framework.
 - b. The revised classification covers 268 talukas across 34 districts, comprising 130 Category-A and 138 Category-B talukas.
 - c. The classification determines the level and nature of incentives available to eligible industrial units under schemes notified under the Gujarat Industrial Policy 2026.
 - d. The revised framework incorporates the new taluka structure created since the 2020 policy, expanding the classified administrative units from 251 to 268.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Maharashtra²⁹ classifies talukas into Groups A-D+ based on industrial development, while Karnataka³⁰ similarly groups taluks into Zones 1-3 based on industrial backwardness, and Himachal Pradesh³¹ classifies areas into A, B and C categories, with different incentives for each category.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Gujarat's organised industrial employment is highly concentrated: Ahmedabad, Kutch, Surat, Bharuch and Vadodara together account for the majority of large-scale industrial jobs with over 2 lakh jobs in each region, while Dahod had only 228 such jobs, Narmada 994 and Patan 2,143 in the State's district skill-gap study.³² Taluka-based incentives can target these stark intra-state disparities.
 - b. A significant planning challenge within Gujarat's economic landscape is the sharp development gap between its rich golden-corridor industrial belts and its interior tribal or backward districts. Tying the subsidy straight to regional taluka classifications turns site selection into a primary financial decision for corporate boards.
 - c. In light of the above, allowing a project located within a Category-A taluka to

²⁷ [IC Gujarat, VGIP 2026.](#)

²⁸ [Industries Commissionerate, Gujarat: Industrial Policy 2020.](#)

²⁹ [Maharashtra Government: Package Scheme of Incentives 2019.](#)

³⁰ [Invest Karnataka: Industrial Policy 2025-30.](#)

³¹ [Himachal Pradesh Government: Industrial & Investment Policy.](#)

³² [District Wise Skill Gap Study For The State Of Gujarat \(2012-17, 2017-22\), Page 57.](#)

D. New Taluka Classification Under Industrial Policy 2026

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

qualify for a higher subsidy ceiling than an identical plant in a developed zone uses market forces to redirect capital into lagging regions, helping to distribute wealth and jobs more equitably across the state.

- d. Even within Ahmedabad district, 2026–27 GIDC land rates vary from ₹ 870 per sq m in Dhandhuka and Sanand RIDC to ₹ 11,150 in Vatva, Odhav and Naroda.³³ Therefore, a taluka-level classification is more precise than district-wide incentives for capturing local differences in industrial maturity and investment costs.
- e. Further, the additional 5% incentive for SC and ST entrepreneurs layered on top of the taluka-based rate addresses a dual disadvantage of backward location and social marginalisation. In Category-A talukas like those in Tapi and Dang, which have among the highest ST population shares in Gujarat, an ST entrepreneur now qualifies for up to 50% eligible Fixed Capital Investment (eFCI) in incentives, making enterprise formation financially viable at a scale that was previously inaccessible.

³³ [Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation.](#)

E. Gujarat State Goods And Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2026

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

1. On 10th September, 2026, the state Assembly unanimously passed the Gujarat GST (Amendment) Bill, 2026.
2. The bill aims to simplify GST compliance, accelerate eligible refunds and streamline registration and post-sale discount procedures.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The refund mechanism provides for provisional release of 90% of eligible inverted-duty refunds within seven days of application, based on system-driven risk assessment, instead of requiring businesses to await completion of the normal refund process, which can extend up to 60 days.
 - b. The export refund threshold of ₹ 1,000 is removed, allowing refunds of tax paid on exported goods even where the eligible amount is below ₹ 1,000.
 - c. The post-sale discount provision removes the requirement for discounts to be linked to the original contract, subject to the buyer reversing the corresponding input tax credit.
 - d. The credit-note framework permits sellers to reduce taxable value and tax liability for eligible post-sale discounts, with corresponding amendments to Section 34 governing credit notes.
 - e. Further, GST registration and certification processes are to be completed within three days through a faceless system for the applicable categories of taxpayers.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The amendments align Gujarat's GST provisions with changes recommended by the 56th GST Council, including simplified refund and credit-note procedures.³⁴
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Gujarat has one of India's largest GST taxpayer bases, with nearly 13.7 lakh active GST registrations.³⁵ The faster registration, refunds and certification can therefore affect a very large business base and reduce the time businesses spend dealing with tax administration.
 - b. The refund reform matters for Gujarat's export-heavy economy. Gujarat accounted for 26.6% of India's merchandise exports in 2024-25, the highest share among states, with exports worth \$ 116.35 billion (₹ 9.75 lakh crore).³⁶ Removing the ₹ 1,000 minimum threshold for GST refund claims on exported goods can improve cash recovery for smaller exporters and low-value consignments that were previously uneconomic to claim.

³⁴ [PIB, September, 2025.](#)

³⁵ [Budget 2026-27, Government Of Gujarat.](#)

³⁶ [Federation of Indian Export Organisations.](#)

E. Gujarat State Goods And Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2026

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

- c. The changes can reduce compliance costs for Gujarat's large MSME base. As of September, 2026, the state had over 51.6 lakh enterprises registered on the Udyam portal and Udyam Assist Platform.³⁷ Removing the ₹ 1,000 refund threshold and simplifying credit-note adjustments eases smaller GST claims, while provisional release of 90% of eligible inverted-duty refunds within seven days reduces working-capital blockage for businesses facing accumulated input tax credit.
- d. The 56th GST Council recommended 90% provisional refunds for inverted-duty claims based on system-led risk evaluation, with detailed scrutiny reserved for exceptional cases.³⁸ Gujarat's seven-day provisional refund provision aligns with this shift towards risk-based processing, reducing working-capital lock-in for eligible businesses while allowing scrutiny to focus on higher-risk claims.
- e. The amendments also strengthen Gujarat's shift towards faceless tax administration. With around 12.46 lakh normal GST taxpayers alone,³⁹ completing registration and certification processes within three days can reduce physical interaction and administrative delays across a large taxpayer base.
- f. The credit-note change simplifies post-sale discounting while retaining an ITC-reversal safeguard. Gujarat's own tax department has previously noted the administrative difficulty of verifying such ITC reversals, indicating why a clearer mechanism can reduce documentation and reconciliation burdens.

³⁷ [Performance Smartboard, Ministry Of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.](#)

³⁸ [PIB, September, 2025.](#)

³⁹ [Gujarat Budget Speech FY 2025-2026, Desh Gujarat, February, 2025.](#)

F. Gujarat Secondary And Higher Secondary Education (Amendment) Bill, 2026

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

1. On 10th September, 2026, the state Assembly passed the Gujarat Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (Amendment) Bill, 2026.
2. The amendment mandates reservation in staff recruitment, recognises special educators, strengthens qualifications and recruitment rules, and introduces stricter penalties for illegal appointments, unregistered schools and arbitrary closures, while expanding representation on the Education Board.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The amendment strengthens the existing regulatory framework for government-aided private schools by giving the state clearer authority over staff qualifications, selection procedures and reservation in recruitment.
 - b. The recruitment provision makes the state's reservation policy mandatory for staff appointments in aided private schools, while the government will prescribe qualification standards for principals, teachers, special educators and non-teaching staff.
 - c. The bill provides for the appointment of special educators for students with disabilities, strengthening staffing requirements for inclusive education in regulated schools.
 - d. The penalty framework raises the fine for illegal appointments in government-aided schools to ₹ 10 lakh, substantially increasing the earlier ₹ 1,000 penalty; running an unregistered school can attract imprisonment of up to two years and a fine of up to ₹ 15 lakh.
 - e. Further, the Bill requires schools discontinuing operations to provide six months' prior notice to the board, with non-compliance attracting a fine of up to ₹ 20 lakh.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The special educator provision aligns with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016,⁴⁰ a central law mandating inclusive education infrastructure.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Gujarat's Government-aided schools enrolled 9.63 lakh students in Classes IX-X and 5.51 lakh in Classes XI-XII in 2024-25, taking aided secondary and higher-secondary enrolment to about 15.14 lakh.⁴¹ The mandatory implementation of the State's reservation policy in aided-school recruitment therefore extends to a large publicly supported education network serving over 15 lakh students.
 - b. Gujarat recorded a 15.7% secondary-school dropout rate in 2025-26, compared with 9.5% nationally, while nearly 50,000 of the 6.41 lakh children identified as

⁴⁰ [DEPwD, RPWD Act.](#)

⁴¹ [UDISE+ Report, 2024-25.](#)

F. Gujarat Secondary And Higher Secondary Education (Amendment) Bill, 2026

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

dropouts remained out of school after the State's enrollment drive.⁴² Against this retention challenge, the Bill's requirement of six months' prior notice before discontinuing a school can reduce the risk of abrupt institutional closure disrupting students' education.

- c. Notably, only around 1,504 special teachers/educators were reported to be serving in Gujarat when the issue was placed before the Supreme Court in May 2026.⁴³ The Bill's explicit provision for recruiting special educators in secondary and higher-secondary schools therefore addresses a documented staffing gap in providing specialised support to students with disabilities.
- d. Further, Gujarat has begun requiring grant-in-aid schools to verify non-teaching staff records on the Comprehensive Teacher System (CTS), following discrepancies in staff and payment records.⁴⁴ The Bill complements this administrative shift by imposing a fine of up to ₹ 10 lakh for illegal appointments in aided schools, linking digital staff verification with a stronger enforcement mechanism.

⁴² [The Indian Express, July, 2026.](#)

⁴³ [Writ Petition\(s\)\(Civil\) No\(s\). 132/2016, Supreme Court Of India](#)

⁴⁴ [The Times Of India, September, 2026](#)

G. Livestock Feed, Poultry Feed And Mineral Mixture (Regulation Of Production, Storage, Distribution, Sale And Quality Control) Bill, 2026

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

1. On 10th September, 2026, the state Assembly passed the Gujarat Livestock Feed, Poultry Feed and Mineral Mixture (Regulation of Production, Storage, Distribution, Sale and Quality Control) Bill, 2026.
2. The bill aims to establish a licensing and quality-control framework for livestock feed, poultry feed and mineral mixtures to prevent adulteration and misbranding and protect animal health.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The bill makes licences mandatory for the manufacture, storage, distribution and sale of livestock feed, poultry feed and mineral mixtures, including products brought into Gujarat from other states or countries.
 - b. The regulatory framework prescribes quality standards for feed products and provides for inspection, sampling and testing to detect adulteration, substandard quality and misbranding.
 - c. The enforcement structure assigns regulatory powers across the Animal Husbandry Department, from the Director of Animal Husbandry to field-level inspectors, with an Expert Committee advising on licensing and quality-control matters.
 - d. The penalty framework provides fines of up to ₹ 10 lakh and imprisonment of up to 10 years where adulterated feed causes animal death, with graded penalties for other violations.
 - e. Further, the licensing requirements exempt farmers producing feed for their own livestock and research institutions producing feed for research purposes, keeping the new regulatory requirements focused on commercial production and distribution.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - It aligns with the National Livestock Policy, 2013,⁴⁵ which calls for state-level testing of commercial livestock feed against BIS standards and action against substandard feed.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Kerala,⁴⁶ Karnataka⁴⁷ and Andhra Pradesh⁴⁸ have enacted dedicated legislation regulating the manufacture, sale, distribution and quality of livestock or animal feed.

⁴⁵ [The National Livestock Policy, 2013.](#)

⁴⁶ [The Hindu, November, 2022.](#)

⁴⁷ [Karnataka Animal Feed \(Regulation of Manufacture and Quality Control\) Act, 2025.](#)

⁴⁸ [The Andhra Pradesh Animal Feed \(Regulation Of Manufacture, Quality Control, Sale And Distribution\) Act, 2020](#)

G. Livestock Feed, Poultry Feed And Mineral Mixture (Regulation Of Production, Storage, Distribution, Sale And Quality Control) Bill, 2026

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

6. Relevance -

- a. Gujarat's livestock base makes feed quality a significant farm-productivity issue. The state has over 96 lakh cattle, 106 lakh buffaloes and 2.17 crore poultry birds,⁴⁹ while animal husbandry contributes around 25% of agriculture's GSVA.⁵⁰ A statewide quality-control framework therefore covers a large productive asset base.
- b. Gujarat accounted for 7.78% of India's milk production in 2024-25, while the State's Viksit Gujarat 2047 targets seek to raise cattle productivity from 2,200 kg to 2,800 kg per animal per year.⁵¹ The feed quality is therefore an important input alongside breeding, animal health and veterinary services in achieving higher per-animal productivity.
- c. The Bill addresses a regulatory gap in a large and dispersed market. Gujarat previously lacked a dedicated framework governing the manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and quality control of livestock and poultry feed and mineral mixtures. Licensing and prescribed standards of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) bring these activities under a common regulatory framework.
- d. Lastly, the Bill establishes a graduated enforcement regime linked to the severity of feed-quality violations. Substandard feed can attract a fine of up to ₹ 5 lakh and licence suspension, while adulterated feed can result in licence cancellation and imprisonment, rising to seven to 10 years and a fine of up to ₹ 10 lakh where the adulterated feed causes an animal's death.

⁴⁹ [The Indian Express, September, 2026.](#)

⁵⁰ [Department Of Animal Husbandry, Government Of Gujarat.](#)

⁵¹ [CMO Gujarat.](#)

II. Odisha

A. Odisha Jan Vishwas Bill, 2026

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

1. On 8th September, 2026, the Odisha Cabinet approved the Odisha Jan Vishwas Bill, 2026.
2. The Bill aims to reduce regulatory burden by decriminalising minor violations, simplifying licensing requirements and replacing disproportionate criminal penalties with more proportionate enforcement mechanisms.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Bill proposes amendments to 62 provisions across 16 state laws administered by 11 departments, covering regulatory requirements across multiple sectors.
 - b. The revised framework decriminalises specified minor offences by replacing imprisonment provisions or criminal liability with monetary penalties and other proportionate enforcement measures.
 - c. The licensing provisions are simplified by reducing repetitive approvals and extending the validity of selected licences, including agricultural market licences.
 - d. The Gram Panchayat-level licensing requirements are rationalised to reduce procedural requirements for businesses and local economic activities.
 - e. Further, the Bill consolidates regulatory changes across departments into a single legislative reform package, extending the Jan Vishwas approach beyond individual sector-specific amendments.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - It aligns with the Central Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023,⁵² and Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026⁵³, 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,⁵⁴ Puducherry,⁵⁵ Maharashtra,⁵⁶ Haryana,⁵⁷ Madhya Pradesh,⁵⁸ Tripura,⁵⁹ Gujarat,⁶⁰ Chhattisgarh,⁶¹ Uttarakhand,⁶² and Jammu and Kashmir⁶³ have undertaken similar reforms, strengthening India's broader compliance-reduction agenda.

⁵² [Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2023.](#)

⁵³ [Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Bill, 2026.](#)

⁵⁴ [The Delhi Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2026](#)

⁵⁵ [The Puducherry Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Bill, 2025.](#)

⁵⁶ [Maharashtra Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2025.](#)

⁵⁷ [The Haryana Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Bill, 2025.](#)

⁵⁸ [Madhya Pradesh Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2024.](#)

⁵⁹ [The Tripura Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2025.](#)

⁶⁰ [The Gujarat Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2025.](#)

⁶¹ [The Chhattisgarh Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2025.](#)

⁶² [Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Ordinance, 2025.](#)

⁶³ [Jammu And Kashmir Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Bill, 2026.](#)

A. Odisha Jan Vishwas Bill, 2026

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

6. Relevance -

- a. The reform affects a large and overwhelmingly small-business base. As of September, 2026, Odisha has 30.2 lakh registered MSMEs⁶⁴ of which more than 99.5% are micro and informal micro enterprises (IMEs).⁶⁵ For such firms, reducing repeated licences, renewals and departmental approvals can lower the fixed compliance burden of operating formally.
- b. The timing matters because Odisha is simultaneously trying to attract a large volume of new investment. The state approved 244 projects worth ₹ 5.66 lakh crore in 2025, with 80 projects already implemented and ₹ 1.75 lakh crore invested.⁶⁶ Simplifying approvals across 11 departments can reduce regulatory friction as this investment pipeline moves from approval to operation.
- c. The Bill addresses duplication that remains even after Odisha's single-window reforms. GO SWIFT already provides online access to 32 industrial services across 14 departments, including application, payment, tracking and approval.⁶⁷ The new Bill tackles the legal layer behind these services by eliminating overlapping licences and allowing some municipal licences to substitute for separate departmental approvals.
- d. Lastly, this is a continuation of a measurable compliance-reduction program rather than a standalone reform. Odisha completed 425 of 434 reforms under BRAP 2024,⁶⁸ while the first Jan Vishwas exercise rationalised 161 burdensome compliances across 16 Acts and 9 departments.⁶⁹ The 2026 Bill extends that trajectory from decriminalising minor contraventions towards reducing the number and frequency of regulatory approvals themselves.

⁶⁴ [Udyam Dashboard](#).

⁶⁵ IMEs are defined as small businesses that are exempted from filing GST returns based on their turnover. They generally lack standard documentation like a PAN card or a GST Identification Number (GSTIN).

⁶⁶ [Odisha Economic Survey, 2025-26](#).

⁶⁷ [Industries Department, Government Of Odisha](#).

⁶⁸ [Odisha Economic Survey, 2025-26](#).

⁶⁹ [The Economic Times, April, 2026](#).

B. Digitisation Of Bhoodan Land Records

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

1. On 7th September, 2026, the Revenue and Disaster Management Department announced a program to digitise Bhoodan land records.
2. The initiative aims to create a verified digital record of Bhoodan land and prevent unauthorised transfers, mutations and encroachments.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The digitisation exercise will create a consolidated digital database of Bhoodan land records across Odisha to establish clear ownership and land-status records.
 - b. The revenue records will be digitised and verified against existing physical records to identify discrepancies, unauthorised transfers and mutations.
 - c. The restrictions will be imposed on illegal transfer and mutation of Bhoodan land until the digitisation and verification exercise is completed.
 - d. The digital records will support identification of Bhoodan land that has been illegally transferred, mutated or otherwise diverted from its designated purpose.
 - e. Further, the digitisation framework is intended to strengthen monitoring of Bhoodan land and provide a reliable record for subsequent revenue and legal action.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The digitisation push builds on the Centre's Digital India Land Records Modernisation program (DILRMP)⁷⁰, launched in 2016, which funds states to move land records onto a unified digital platform.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Bihar manages Bhoodan land through the Bihar Bhoodan Yagna Act, 1954 and a dedicated Bhoodan Yagna Committee that maintains related records, alongside wider digitisation of land records by the Revenue and Land Reforms Department.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Odisha's historical Bhoodan Yagna Samiti records show that 6.39 lakh acres were received as donations, of which 5.80 lakh acres were distributed among 1.53 lakh landless persons.⁷¹ Digitising these records can establish a more verifiable link between the original donation, subsequent allotment and current Record of Rights.
 - b. Further, the move responds to an existing problem with mutation and verification of Bhoodan holdings. In July 2026, the state suspended distribution and mutation of Bhoodan land⁷² amid concerns over procedural lapses and potential legal disputes arising from irregular allotments. The digitisation exercise therefore

⁷⁰ [Digital India Land Records Modernization program \(DILRMP\), Government of India.](#)

⁷¹ [Government Of Odisha.](#)

⁷² [OdishaTV, July 2026.](#)

B. Digitisation Of Bhoodan Land Records

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

addresses a documented administrative gap rather than simply adding another digital database.

- c. Moreover, linking Bhoodan records with Bhulekh can bring a legacy land category into Odisha's existing digital land-record system. Bhulekh already provides online access to Record of Rights, plot, tenant and map details. Extending this architecture to Bhoodan records can support verification of beneficiary status and past allotments during subsequent mutation and land-record transactions.
- d. Lastly, restricting mutation during digitisation prevents new entries from being recorded before historical Bhoodan records are verified. This is consequential given the Government's stated concerns over illegal transfers and encroachments, alongside investigations into alleged fraud and orders to remove illegal occupants.

III. Telangana

A. Telangana Praja Viswasam (Amendment Of Provisions) Bill, 2026

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

1. On 12th September, 2026, the Telangana Legislative Assembly passed the Telangana Praja Viswasam (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026.
2. The Bill aims to replace criminal penalties for minor, technical and procedural violations with proportionate monetary penalties and reduce litigation.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Bill decriminalises 15 provisions across five departments, covering laws relating to forests, excise, factories and establishments, labour welfare, VAT and Telangana Industrial Project Approval and Self-Certification System (TS-iPASS), among others.
 - b. It introduces administrative adjudication with proportionate penalties, allowing designated authorities to determine financial penalties based on the nature and duration of the violation without initiating criminal prosecution.
 - c. It permits compounding of specified offences, enabling eligible violations to be settled through payment of the prescribed amount instead of continuing with criminal proceedings.
 - d. It removes obsolete regulatory provisions, including the repeal of one outdated law identified through the state's review of its regulatory framework.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - It aligns with the Central Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023,⁷³ and Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026⁷⁴, 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,⁷⁵ Puducherry,⁷⁶ Maharashtra,⁷⁷ Haryana,⁷⁸ Madhya Pradesh,⁷⁹ Tripura,⁸⁰ Gujarat,⁸¹ Chhattisgarh,⁸² Uttarakhand,⁸³ and Jammu and Kashmir⁸⁴ have undertaken similar reforms, strengthening India's broader compliance-reduction agenda.
6. **Relevance -**

⁷³ [Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2023.](#)

⁷⁴ [Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Bill, 2026.](#)

⁷⁵ [The Delhi Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2026](#)

⁷⁶ [The Puducherry Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Bill, 2025.](#)

⁷⁷ [Maharashtra Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2025.](#)

⁷⁸ [The Haryana Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Bill, 2025.](#)

⁷⁹ [Madhya Pradesh Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2024.](#)

⁸⁰ [The Tripura Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2025.](#)

⁸¹ [The Gujarat Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2025.](#)

⁸² [The Chhattisgarh Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2025.](#)

⁸³ [Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Ordinance, 2025.](#)

⁸⁴ [Jammu And Kashmir Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Bill, 2026.](#)

A. Telangana Praja Viswasam (Amendment Of Provisions) Bill, 2026

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

- a. The Economic Survey 2024-25⁸⁵ and a NITI Aayog-commissioned assessment of MSME competitiveness identify compliance costs as a constraint on formalisation, productivity and firms' ability to expand and realise economies of scale.⁸⁶ By decriminalising 15 provisions across five departments and replacing criminal liability for specified minor defaults with monetary penalties and administrative mechanisms, the Praja Viswasam Bill reduces the cost and legal risk of routine compliance, supporting firms as they transition beyond small-scale operations.
- b. Criminal cases account for 6.51 lakh of the 9.91 lakh cases pending in Telangana's district and subordinate courts, or 65.8% of the total caseload as of 9th March, 2026.⁸⁷ In this context, the Bill's use of administrative adjudication, monetary penalties and compounding for specified minor regulatory violations creates an alternative enforcement route that can keep eligible technical and procedural defaults outside the criminal-prosecution process.
- c. Telangana has eliminated 1,467 compliances across 13 Government departments,⁸⁸ while TG-iPASS has received over 85,000 Consent for Establishment and 33,000 Consent for Operation applications since April 2016.⁸⁹ The Praja Viswasam Bill extends this ease-of-doing-business architecture to enforcement by replacing imprisonment for specified minor violations with monetary penalties, adjudication and compounding, reducing the criminal-law consequences of routine regulatory non-compliance.
- d. Consequently, the Bill shifts Telangana's enforcement architecture for specified minor violations from a predominantly criminal-law model towards graded administrative enforcement. By separating routine regulatory defaults from conduct warranting imprisonment, the framework allows enforcement intensity to be calibrated to the nature of the violation, while reserving criminal sanctions for more serious offences.

⁸⁵ [Economic Survey 2024-25, Ministry Of Finance, The Government Of India.](#)

⁸⁶ [Enhancing Competitiveness of MSMEs in India, 2025, NITI Aayog.](#)

⁸⁷ [Ministry Of Law And Justice, March, 2026.](#)

⁸⁸ [Deccan Chronicle, November, 2025.](#)

⁸⁹ [iPass Telangana.](#)

IV. Arunachal Pradesh

A. Arunachal Pradesh Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises (Facilitation, Establishment And Operation) Bill, 2026

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

1. On 8th September, 2026, the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed the Arunachal Pradesh Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Facilitation, Establishment and Operation) Bill, 2026.
2. The Bill aims to ease the setting up and running of micro, small and medium enterprises by cutting regulatory and compliance requirements, simplifying start-up procedures, and promoting entrepreneurship, investment and job creation.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Bill provides exemptions from specified approvals and inspections required for the establishment and operation of eligible MSMEs, reducing the regulatory burden during the initial operating period.
 - b. It introduces a self-declaration mechanism enabling eligible MSMEs to commence operations without completing specified prior approval processes, subject to applicable laws and regulatory conditions.
 - c. The framework provides eligible enterprises a three-year exemption from routine inspections, limiting immediate inspection-related compliance during the facilitation period.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Bill aligns with the **Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) 2024**,⁹⁰ implemented by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, by advancing simplified regulatory processes, inspection reforms and reduction of compliance burdens for businesses.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Rajasthan⁹¹ and Punjab⁹² have implemented comparable reforms, providing temporary approval and inspection relief and simplified mechanisms for establishing MSMEs.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Arunachal Pradesh has 63,048 MSMEs, including 25,401 informal micro enterprises,⁹³ highlighting the dominance of very small firms in the state's formal and emerging enterprise base. For this segment, fixed approval and compliance requirements can impose a relatively higher administrative burden, making the Bill's simplified establishment and operating framework particularly relevant for lowering entry barriers and enabling more enterprises to formalise and scale.
 - b. NITI Aayog's assessment of MSME competitiveness identifies regulatory

⁹⁰ [Business Reforms Action Plan \(BRAP\) 2024.](#)

⁹¹ [Rajasthan Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises \(Facilitation Of Establishment And Operation\) Act, 2019.](#)

⁹² [Indian Express, January, 2020.](#)

⁹³ [Ministry Of Micro Small And Medium Enterprises.](#)

A. Arunachal Pradesh Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises (Facilitation, Establishment And Operation) Bill, 2026

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

compliance costs as a factor preventing enterprises from expanding and realising economies of scale, contributing to India's missing middle.⁹⁴ The Bill addresses this constraint by allowing eligible MSMEs to commence operations through self-declaration and exempting them from specified approvals and inspections, reducing the compliance threshold for firms seeking to establish and expand operations.

- c. Further, the World Bank identifies multiple entry clearances, paperwork and compliance requirements as a significant burden for SMEs and start-ups in India.⁹⁵ By allowing eligible MSMEs to begin operations through self-declaration and exempting them from specified approvals and inspections, the Bill reduces approval dependencies at the point of entry, allowing regulatory scrutiny to be applied more selectively rather than uniformly before operations begin.
- d. Moreover, newly established MSMEs face regulatory obligations before they have had time to stabilise operations and build internal compliance systems. The Bill's three-year inspection moratorium gives eligible enterprises a defined period of regulatory stability, reducing routine inspection burden during the early stages of operation while retaining enforcement under applicable laws.
- e. Lastly, third-party certification of Consent to Establish (CTE) and Consent to Operate (CTO) can separate routine compliance verification from departmental approval, reducing processing time and administrative workload. The Government has identified third-party certification of CTE and CTO as a deregulation measure,⁹⁶ while the 2026 Uniform Consent Guidelines⁹⁷ allow Registered Environmental Auditors to undertake verification, creating a mechanism for regulators to shift from routine inspections towards risk-based oversight.

⁹⁴ [Enhancing Competitiveness of MSMEs in India, 2025, NITI Aayog.](#)

⁹⁵ [India Systematic Country Diagnostic, The World Bank Group, 2018.](#)

⁹⁶ [Economic Survey 2025–26.](#)

⁹⁷ [PIB, January, 2026.](#)

V. Nagaland

A. Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority Bill, 2026

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

1. On 1st September, 2026, the Nagaland Assembly withdrew the existing Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority Bill and passed the revised Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority Bill, 2026 in the Nagaland Legislative Assembly on 3rd September, 2026.
2. The Bill aims to constitute the Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority (FNTA) to provide democratic and decentralised regional self-governance with legislative, executive, administrative and financial powers.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The FNTA proposes a 62-member authority comprising 40 directly elected members, two Governor-nominated members from unrepresented or under-represented tribes, and 20 ex-officio Nagaland MLAs without voting rights; one-third of elected seats are reserved for women.
 - b. The bill vests legislative, executive, administrative and financial powers over 46 transferred subjects, including agriculture, education, health, land records, tourism, rural development, local taxation, housing, trade and commerce, and public works.
 - c. The FNTA establishes an Executive Council of not more than 9 members, headed by a Chief Executive Member and Deputy Chief Executive Member, with executive powers vested in the Council.
 - d. The elections provide for 40 single-member territorial constituencies, five-year terms for elected and nominated members, and overall supervision by the State Election Commission.
 - e. The governance framework enables the FNTA to prepare annual development plans, establish its own planning and finance mechanisms, and receive State allocations and Central Special Development Grants for infrastructure and regional development.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Bill aligns with the tripartite Memorandum of Agreement,⁹⁸ signed in February, 2026 between the Government of India, the Government of Nagaland and the Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO), which provides for the creation of the FNTA and devolution of powers over 46 subjects.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. The Village Level Development Indicators Survey records basic-amenity availability at 34.52% in Shamator, 33.99% in Longleng, 33.16% in Noklak and

⁹⁸ [PIB, February. 2026.](#)

A. Frontier Nagaland Territorial Authority Bill, 2026

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

33.10% in Tuensang, indicating persistent service and infrastructure gaps across Eastern Nagaland.⁹⁹ The FNTA seeks to address these gaps by devolving powers over 46 subjects, enabling the region to set development priorities and direct resources towards local infrastructure and service needs.

- b. The revised Bill defines the FNTA's powers within Nagaland's existing Constitutional framework. The earlier Bill was withdrawn after the Ministry of Home Affairs sought further examination of its proposed legislative powers. The revised Bill, prepared following consultations with the Centre and the ENPO, retains the safeguards under Article 371A while providing for the transfer of powers over 46 subjects to the FNTA.¹⁰⁰
- c. More broadly, the FNTA shifts the long-standing demand for a separate Frontier Nagaland State towards regional autonomy within Nagaland. The ENPO has pursued statehood since 2010, citing developmental and administrative disparities across the eastern districts.¹⁰¹ The revised framework seeks to address these demands by devolving powers over 46 subjects without altering Nagaland's territorial boundaries.
- d. Finally, the FNTA links the devolution of functions with dedicated financial and administrative arrangements. The February 2026 Tripartite Agreement provides for financial autonomy, a mini-secretariat, development outlay for Eastern Nagaland based on its population and area, and a fixed annual Central allocation, alongside the transfer of 46 subjects.¹⁰² This enables the Authority to plan and finance regional priorities within a defined institutional framework.

⁹⁹ [Survey Report Level And Block Level, 2024, The Government Of Nagaland.](#)

¹⁰⁰ [The Federal, September, 2026.](#)

¹⁰¹ [The Indian Express, November, 2024.](#)

¹⁰² [Nagaland Post, February, 2026.](#)

VI. Haryana

A. Revision Of Policy For Nursing Homes On Leased Residential Plots

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

1. On 12th September, 2026, the state's Town and Country Planning Department issued a new policy permitting nursing homes to be set up on leased residential plots in licensed colonies.
2. The policy widens an earlier February, 2026, rule¹⁰³ that required doctors to own the plot outright, aiming to expand neighbourhood-level healthcare access across the state's residential sectors.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Under the revised rules, qualified Allopathic or AYUSH doctors can now set up nursing homes on residential plots taken on lease, provided the lease runs for at least 10 years.
 - b. The permission granted will remain co-terminus with the validity of the lease, and applicants will need to pay the requisite conversion charges before beginning operations.
 - c. Permission will only be granted on plots where all internal services have been laid and a completion or part-completion certificate has been issued, ensuring the surrounding infrastructure can support a healthcare facility.
 - d. Only one nursing-home site will be permitted on the service road abutting or along the sector-dividing road of a sector, with a maximum of four such sites allowed per sector.
 - e. Stilt parking will be mandatory, and all vehicles, including ambulances, must be accommodated entirely within the plot boundary, with no front boundary wall permitted.
 - f. The basement of the nursing home may be used for a clinic, X-ray facility or laboratory, subject to compliance with the Haryana Building Code, 2017.¹⁰⁴
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Delhi permits nursing homes on residential plots exceeding 209 sq m, subject to prescribed minimum road-width requirements.¹⁰⁵
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. The reform creates a formal pathway for nursing homes within residential colonies, reducing reliance on informal or unauthorised land-use conversion. At the same time, it retains safeguards on plot size, access, parking, waste disposal, building approvals and Health Department inspection to manage the externalities of medical facilities in residential areas.

¹⁰³ [The Tribune, September, 2026.](#)

¹⁰⁴ [Haryana Building Code, 2017.](#)

¹⁰⁵ [Delhi Development Authority.](#)

A. Revision Of Policy For Nursing Homes On Leased Residential Plots

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

- b. With an estimated population of about 3.09 crore¹⁰⁶ and only 14,150 beds across all public healthcare facilities,¹⁰⁷ Haryana's bed density stands at roughly **0.46 beds per 1,000 people**, far below the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS 2022) norm of 1 bed per 1,000.¹⁰⁸ By incentivising private doctors to add beds using leased residential plots, the policy effectively crowdsources health infrastructure and bridges the deficit without heavy state capital spending.
- c. By permitting up to four doctor-led nursing homes within each residential sector, the policy embeds primary healthcare infrastructure directly into plotted colonies, decentralising service delivery, reducing dependence on distant tertiary hospitals, and ensuring timely access to essential and emergency care within neighbourhood limits.
- d. Haryana has 120 Community Health Centres (CHCs), 407 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and 71 civil hospitals in its public network, but the state has also invited private hospitals for secondary-care tie-ups across all districts.¹⁰⁹ The leased-plot policy broadens that private provider base at a smaller, neighbourhood scale.
- e. Haryana's private sector already supplies roughly 52–62% of hospital beds, according to National Health Profile data.¹¹⁰ Permitting nursing homes on leased plots therefore works with the state's existing mixed-provider model, lowering the real-estate barrier for smaller private facilities rather than relying only on new public hospitals.
- f. Further, the policy also tackles a real-estate barrier rather than only a medical one. Requiring doctors to own residential land tied healthcare expansion to upfront property acquisition. A minimum 10-year lease lowers that capital threshold while still ensuring operational stability, potentially making smaller doctor-led facilities viable in high-cost urban sectors.

¹⁰⁶ [Haryana State Finances Audit Report, Comptroller And Auditor General Of India, 2026.](#)

¹⁰⁷ [Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare, July, 2025.](#)

¹⁰⁸ [Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare, July, 2025.](#)

¹⁰⁹ [Health Department, Haryana.](#)

¹¹⁰ [National Health Profile, 2022.](#)

VII. Manipur

A. Draft Manipur Unified (Trade, Shops And Establishment) Licensing Bill, 2026

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

1. On 1st September, 2026, the Manipur Cabinet approved the draft Manipur Unified (Trade, Shops and Establishment) Licensing Bill, 2026.
2. The Bill aims to establish a unified licensing system for trade, shops and establishments by consolidating overlapping requirements, reducing documentation and physical interfaces, and strengthening safeguards against arbitrary regulatory action.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Bill proposes a single Unified Trade, Shops and Establishments Licence to replace multiple licences required for overlapping business activities.
 - b. The unified licence covers trade, shops and establishments and overrides inconsistent licensing requirements under existing State laws.
 - c. The licensing process reduces repetitive documentation and physical interaction with Government offices by consolidating regulatory requirements.
 - d. The framework provides grievance-redressal mechanisms for businesses facing arbitrary or unauthorised regulatory action.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Bill is consistent with the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP), 2015,¹¹¹ and National Single Window System (NSWS), 2021¹¹² approach, which promotes integrated, technology-based and lower-friction business approvals. It goes further than a conventional single-window portal by seeking to consolidate overlapping statutory trade and establishment licences into a unified licensing framework.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Delhi¹¹³ introduced single-window business approvals, while Assam¹¹⁴ and Jharkhand¹¹⁵ adopted measures to simplify MSME licensing and approvals.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Manipur's economy is heavily services-led, with the sector contributing 69.39% of GSVA in 2023-24.¹¹⁶ Against this expanding services base, fragmented licensing requirements can impose avoidable compliance costs and administrative friction on businesses, particularly smaller enterprises with limited capacity to navigate multiple regulatory processes.

¹¹¹ [PIB, August, 2026.](#)

¹¹² [National Single Window System, Department For Promotion Of Industry And Internal Trade.](#)

¹¹³ [The Hindu, September, 2026.](#)

¹¹⁴ [Assam Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises \(Facilitation Of Establishment And Operation\) Act, 2020.](#)

¹¹⁵ [Jharkhand Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises \(Special Concession\) Act, 2025.](#)

¹¹⁶ [Manipur Budget Analysis 2026-27, NFPRC.](#)

A. Draft Manipur Unified (Trade, Shops And Establishment) Licensing Bill, 2026

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

- b. The reform is particularly relevant for Manipur's predominantly micro-enterprise base. The state has 140,157 Udyam-registered MSMEs, including 139,685 micro enterprises, making up nearly the entire registered MSME base.¹¹⁷ For these smaller firms, consolidating multiple licences and repetitive documentation can lower recurring compliance requirements and reduce the administrative friction of maintaining separate registrations.
- c. The concurrent amendment to the Shops and Establishments Act, 2021,¹¹⁸ extends the reform beyond licence consolidation by addressing the underlying regulatory framework governing small commercial establishments. This indicates a shift from merely reducing procedural duplication to simplifying the broader compliance framework for businesses operating in the State.¹¹⁹
- d. Further, the Bill supports Manipur's broader business formalisation agenda by reducing a foundational compliance barrier and creating enabling conditions for promoting Ease of Doing Business. With the State's GSDP projected at ₹ 68,823 crore in 2026-27,¹²⁰ a simpler licensing regime can help lower entry barriers for formal enterprises and strengthen the institutional environment for private investment and economic activity.

¹¹⁷ [State Wise Udyam Registration, Ministry Of Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises.](#)

¹¹⁸ [Shops And Establishments Act, 2021, The Government Of Manipur.](#)

¹¹⁹ [Desi Talk Chicago, September, 2026.](#)

¹²⁰ [Manipur Budget Analysis 2026-27, NFPRC.](#)

VIII. Uttar Pradesh

A. Amendment to the Uttar Pradesh Nagar Yojana aur Vikas Rules, 2014

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

1. On 15th September, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the third amendment to the Uttar Pradesh Nagar Yojana aur Vikas (Bhu Upyog Parivartan Shulk Nirdharan, Udgrahan and Sangrahan) Rules, 2014.¹²¹
2. The reform aims to reduce the cost and administrative time involved in converting agricultural land for residential, industrial, commercial and other permitted uses.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The amendment delegates land-use conversion powers to development authorities for plots up to 6,000 sq m, while larger cases will continue to require state Government approval.
 - b. Land-use conversion charges have been reduced across major categories as follows:
 - i. Agricultural to Industrial Use - Reduced from 20% to 15% of circle rate.
 - ii. Residential Use - Reduced from 50% to 25% of circle rate.
 - iii. Commercial Use - Reduced from 150% to 75% of circle rate.
 - iv. Office use - Reduced from 100% to 50% of circle rate.
 - c. For mixed-use conversion, the charge has been reduced from 125% to 65% of the applicable circle rate.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - It aligns with the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP), which promotes reforms in areas including land administration, and time-bound approval of business-related services to reduce compliance costs and improve the ease of doing business.¹²²
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Rajasthan¹²³ and Maharashtra¹²⁴ have simplified land-use conversion through delegated approvals, rationalised charges and streamlined procedures for converting agricultural or other land to non-agricultural uses.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Uttar Pradesh has notified around 4 lakh hectares under industrial development authorities, but master plans have so far been prepared for only 1.5 lakh hectares, leaving a substantial notified land base still under planning.¹²⁵ Delegating land-use

¹²¹ [The Uttar Pradesh Urban Planning And Development \(Assessment, Levy, And Collection Of Land Use And Conversion Charge\) Rules, 2014.](#)

¹²² [Annual Report, 2025-26, DPIIT.](#)

¹²³ [Rajasthan Land Revenue \(Conversion Of Agricultural Land For Non-Agricultural Purposes In Rural Areas\) Rules, 2007](#)

¹²⁴ [The Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, 1966.](#)

¹²⁵ [Press Release, Invest UP, August, 2025.](#)

A. Amendment to the Uttar Pradesh Nagar Yojana aur Vikas Rules, 2014

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

conversion decisions for plots up to 6,000 sq m to development authorities can reduce an approval layer for smaller projects and accelerate the transition from notified land to commercially usable sites.

- b. Industrial land costs have been identified as a constraint to investment in Uttar Pradesh, with a 2025 state committee tasked with comparing industrial land rates with neighbouring states and recommending measures to reduce the cost of doing business.¹²⁶ Cutting land-use conversion charges from 150% to 75% of the circle rate for commercial use and from 100% to 50% for office use directly reduces the upfront regulatory cost of converting land for non-agricultural activity.
- c. Further, Uttar Pradesh already provides 486 services across 42 departments through Nivesh Mitra, with online applications and time-bound service delivery.¹²⁷ Delegating land-use conversion for plots up to 6,000 sq m to development authorities complements this digital single-window architecture by removing routine small-plot cases from higher-level approval, reducing administrative escalation within the investment-clearance process.
- d. Lastly, Uttar Pradesh has over 57.2 lakh Udyam-registered MSMEs and more than 53.5 lakh Udyam Assist registrations, creating a large base of smaller enterprises that may require land for expansion, commercial activity or formal business premises.¹²⁸ The lower conversion charges can reduce the upfront fixed cost of adapting land for industrial, office and commercial use, making expansion more financially viable for smaller firms and supporting formalisation of business activity.

¹²⁶ [Press Release, Invest UP, August, 2025.](#)

¹²⁷ [NiveshMitra, Invest UP.](#)

¹²⁸ [State Wise Udyam Registration, Ministry Of Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises.](#)

B. Rationalisation Of Stamp Duty And Registration Fees On Leases Up To 10 Years

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

1. On 15th September, 2026, the state cabinet approved rationalised stamp duty and registration fee rates for lease and tenancy agreements of up to 10 years.
2. The measure aims to reduce the cost of registering tenancy agreements and encourage greater formalisation of lease arrangements.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The revised structure sets fees according to lease duration and annual rent as follows:
 - i. ₹ 1,000-4,000 for average annual rents up to ₹ 2 lakh;
 - ii. ₹ 3,000-8,000 for average annual rents between ₹ 2-6 lakh and
 - iii. ₹ 4,500-13,000 for average annual rents between ₹ 6-10 lakh.
 - b. For leases exceeding ₹ 10 lakh annual rent, the concession will apply to the first ₹ 10 lakh, while the excess will attract normal rates.
 - c. The toll-related and mining leases have been excluded from the concession to prevent revenue loss.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Gujarat under the Gujarat Stamp (Amendment) Act has introduced duration-based stamp duty rates for agreements varying by lease duration to reduce transaction costs and encourage formal rental arrangements.¹²⁹
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Uttar Pradesh collected ₹ 32,598.49 crore through the Stamp and Registration Department in 2025-26,¹³⁰ providing a substantial revenue base against which the estimated ₹ 8.31 crore impact of the concession¹³¹ remains limited. The rationalisation therefore uses a relatively modest revenue foregone to lower the cost of longer-term leases, supporting greater formalisation of tenancy agreements while limiting the fiscal impact on the state.
 - b. The Uttar Pradesh Regulation of Urban Premises Tenancy Act, 2021 requires tenancy agreements to be reported to the Rent Authority, while residential tenancies of less than 12 months are exempt from this requirement.¹³² By lowering stamp-duty costs on leases extending beyond one year, the reform reduces the cost advantage of repeatedly using short-term agreements and creates a stronger incentive for landlords and tenants to formalise longer-duration leases.
 - c. Further, Uttar Pradesh has already digitised stamp-duty processing for rent

¹²⁹ [Gujarat Stamp \(Amendment\) Act, 2025.](#)

¹³⁰ [Stamp And Registration Department, Uttar Pradesh.](#)

¹³¹ [The Times Of India, September, 2026.](#)

¹³² [Uttar Pradesh Regulation Of Urban Premises Tenancy Act, 2021.](#)

B. Rationalisation Of Stamp Duty And Registration Fees On Leases Up To 10 Years

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

agreements of up to 12 months, while the Stamp and Registration Department reports an average one-day turnaround for registered deeds.¹³³ Extending stamp-duty rationalisation to longer leases complements this administrative infrastructure by combining faster registration with lower transaction costs, making formal longer-duration tenancy agreements more accessible.

- d. Lastly, the Uttar Pradesh Regulation of Urban Premises Tenancy Act, 2021 establishes a digital tenancy platform through which tenancy details, including the parties, premises and tenure, are recorded with the Rent Authority and assigned a unique identification number.¹³⁴ By reducing stamp-duty costs on longer leases, the reform can encourage greater use of this formal tenancy framework, expanding the availability of verified rental records and providing clearer documentation for tenancy-related disputes.

¹³³ [Stamp And Registration Department, Uttar Pradesh.](#)

¹³⁴ [Uttar Pradesh Regulation Of Urban Premises Tenancy Act, 2021.](#)

C. Uttar Pradesh Corporation For Outsourcing Services (UPCOS)

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

1. On 2nd September, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Government launched the Uttar Pradesh Corporation for Outsourcing Services (UPCOS).
2. The UPCOS portal digitises recruitment, posting, attendance, remuneration, gratuity, insurance, and service-benefit records, with employees able to access their details and raise grievances online.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The digital portal will handle salary and payment processing, grievance resolution, and attendance and leave management for outsourced staff through an integrated system.
 - b. The departments, outsourcing agencies and UPCOS will operate under a tripartite agreement, with outsourced staff guaranteed full remuneration between the 1st and 5th of every month.
 - c. The corporation will ensure compliance with **Employees' Provident Fund (EPF)** and **Employees' State Insurance (ESI)** requirements, which had previously been inconsistently deposited by private outsourcing agencies.
 - d. The social security package provides:
 - i. ₹ 20–40 lakh accident insurance.
 - ii. ₹ 10 lakh assistance for fire incidents, ₹ 5 lakh for emergency medicines, and ₹ 10 lakh for air ambulance services.
 - iii. Up to ₹ 8 lakh education assistance for sons and ₹ 10 lakh for daughters.
 - iv. ₹ 8–10 lakh marriage assistance for two daughters.
 - v. ₹ 50,000 immediate assistance to the family in case of an employee's death.
 - e. Personnel selection will follow a transparent, point-based system considering qualifications, experience, written tests and local residency, with a Board of Directors headed by the Chief Secretary and monitoring committees at the secretariat, divisional, district and local levels.
 - f. Further, outsourcing agencies will not be permitted to terminate employees directly and must first inform the Government, which will investigate the matter before any removal.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** – UPCOS operationalises key provisions of the Code on Social Security, 2020¹³⁵ and Code on Wages, 2019,¹³⁶ which provide statutory frameworks for EPF, ESI, gratuity and timely wage payments.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** – Haryana¹³⁷ has run a similar model since 2021

¹³⁵ [Code On Social Security, 2020.](#)

¹³⁶ [The Code On Wages, 2019.](#)

¹³⁷ [Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam.](#)

C. Uttar Pradesh Corporation For Outsourcing Services (UPCOS)

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

through the Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam (HKRN), a state corporation that deploys contractual and outsourced manpower across Government departments, boards and universities with fixed Government pay scales, Provident Fund (PF) and ESI.

6. Relevance -

- a. The fragmented nature of outsourced employment across government departments has created gaps in oversight, resulting in issues such as delayed wages, salary deductions, denial of EPF/ESI benefits and opaque recruitment practices.¹³⁸ UPCOS consolidates fragmented departmental outsourcing arrangements into a common system with greater state oversight.
- b. UPCOS strengthens remuneration and payment security for around 3.5 lakh contract workers. The earlier system had faced complaints of workers receiving less than their contracted remuneration due to agency deductions and delayed payments. For workers with limited savings, even one month's delay can push households into informal debt. The new framework sets remuneration at ₹ 20,000-₹ 40,000, mandates payment by the 5th of each month, and bars deductions by the agencies.
- c. Non-compliance with EPF and ESI requirements can attract penalties of ₹ 10,000 to ₹ 1 lakh per violation,¹³⁹ along with possible criminal prosecution.¹⁴⁰ However, fragmented departmental contracting made it difficult to monitor private outsourcing agencies. UPCOS's centralised digital tracking creates a verifiable record of payments and compliance, strengthening enforcement of EPFO and ESIC requirements.
- d. Lastly, the tripartite agreement between UPCOS, Government departments and outsourcing agencies creates a single accountable node within a system where responsibility was previously fragmented. By placing departments, agencies and workers under a common framework for payments, grievances and statutory benefits, UPCOS strengthens accountability and makes responsibility for wage and social-security compliance easier to establish.

¹³⁸ [The Indian Express, April, 2025](#)

¹³⁹ [Incorpx, April, 2026.](#)

¹⁴⁰ [Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948.](#)

IX. Goa

A. Goa Advocates Protection Bill, 2026

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

1. On 1st September, 2026, the Goa Legislative Assembly passed the Goa Advocates Protection Bill, 2026.
2. The Bill aims to protect advocates from violence, intimidation, harassment and false implication while performing professional duties.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Bill prescribes up to two years' imprisonment and a fine of up to ₹ 55,000 for assault or criminal force against an advocate, rising to seven years and ₹ 1 lakh for voluntarily causing grievous hurt.
 - b. It provides up to two years' imprisonment and a fine of up to ₹ 25,000 for criminal intimidation or harassment, extending to seven years where threats involve death, grievous hurt or destruction of property.
 - c. The framework mandates a seven-day inquiry by an officer not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police before registering a cognisable offence against an advocate for acts linked to professional duties, with the Bar Council and advocates' association informed after registration.
 - d. The Bill provides police protection to advocates facing threats, obtainable through the Sessions Court and not to be withdrawn or reduced without its permission.
 - e. Further, it enables courts to award compensation from fines and order reimbursement for property damage and medical expenses, while false or malicious complaints by an advocate may attract up to one year's imprisonment, a fine, or both.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Rajasthan,¹⁴¹ Karnataka¹⁴² and Telangana¹⁴³ have adopted similar statutory safeguards to protect advocates against violence, intimidation, and interference in the discharge of their professional duties.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. In July, 2026 advocate Ankur Kumar at Morjim was assaulted, while he was assisting with the enforcement of a court-ordered demolition.¹⁴⁴ The case exposed investigative lapses including delays in evidence collection and the handling of his request for police protection. The Bill responds to this enforcement gap by creating specific offences for attacks on advocates and prescribing a seven-day preliminary inquiry by an officer not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP) for certain complaints arising from professional duties.

¹⁴¹ [Rajasthan Advocates Protection Act, 2023.](#)

¹⁴² [Karnataka Prohibition Of Violence Against Advocates Act, 2023.](#)

¹⁴³ [Live Law, July, 2026.](#)

¹⁴⁴ [The Times Of India, July, 2026.](#)

A. Goa Advocates Protection Bill, 2026

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

- b. Further, the October, 2024 Margao incident exposed the absence of a defined escalation mechanism for complaints involving threats to advocates. After advocate Leona Barretto's complaint, fellow advocate Byron Rodrigues threatened to approach the High Court through a writ petition and make the Margao Police Inspector a party if an FIR was not registered.¹⁴⁵ The Bill addresses this procedural uncertainty by requiring a seven-day inquiry by an officer not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police before registration of specified cognisable complaints arising from an advocate's professional duties.
- c. Moreover, advocates may require protection beyond the immediate reporting of an offence, particularly where threats arise from their professional work. The Bill allows an advocate facing threats to seek police protection through the Sessions Court and requires prior court permission before protection can be withdrawn or reduced by an officer below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DySP), creating judicial oversight over the continuation of security.
- d. Lastly, the Bill balances enhanced protection with safeguards against misuse of the framework. Advocates found to have knowingly made false or malicious complaints can face imprisonment of up to one year, a fine, or both, while courts can also direct compensation for property damage and medical expenses caused by an offender. This creates a framework that strengthens protection for genuine professional risks while attaching consequences to deliberate misuse of the statutory mechanism.

¹⁴⁵ [The Goan, October, 2024.](#)

B. Goa Children's (Amendment) Bill, 2026

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

1. On 1st September, 2026, the Goa Legislative Assembly passed the Goa Children's (Amendment) Bill, 2026.
2. The Bill aims to remove statutory references that expressly associate leprosy with social stigma and bring the Goa Children's Act, 2003 into conformity with the Supreme Court's 7th May, 2025 direction requiring States to identify and remove discriminatory expressions concerning persons affected or cured by leprosy.¹⁴⁶
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The bill proposes deleting the reference to "leprosy" from Section 2 of the Goa Children's Act, 2003, where it is included among diseases considered socially stigmatic.
 - b. Further, Section 5 removes "leprosy" as a specifically named example from the provision on healthcare, while retaining the underlying protection against denial of healthcare on grounds of socially stigmatic illnesses or diseases.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The bill complements the **National Leprosy Eradication program's National Strategic Plan 2023-2027**,¹⁴⁷ a central program focused on ending stigma and discrimination against those affected by leprosy, while promoting dignified treatment and rehabilitation.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Andhra Pradesh¹⁴⁸ enacted an amendment bill to remove discriminatory terminology concerning persons affected by leprosy. Maharashtra¹⁴⁹ enacted the same to remove similar statutory references.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The previous framework embedded leprosy-based discrimination in law by classifying leprosy alongside HIV as a socially stigmatic illness under the Goa Children's Act, 2003 and retaining disease-specific provisions affecting healthcare access for children and pregnant mothers.¹⁵⁰ This created a statutory basis for treating leprosy differently despite it being a treatable infectious disease. The Bill addresses this gap by removing "leprosy" from Sections 2 and 5, thereby eliminating its classification as a socially stigmatic illness and repealing the corresponding leprosy-specific healthcare provisions.

¹⁴⁶ [Federation Of Lepy.Organ.\(Folo\) vs. Union Of India, May, 2025.](#)

¹⁴⁷ [National Leprosy Eradication program's National Strategic Plan 2023-2027, Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare.](#)

¹⁴⁸ [The Hindu, September, 2025.](#)

¹⁴⁹ [Maharashtra Prevention of Begging \(Amendment\) Act, 2025.](#)

¹⁵⁰ [Goa Children's Act, 2003.](#)

B. Goa Children's (Amendment) Bill, 2026

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

- b. The amendment responds to the Supreme Court's 7th May 2025 directive to States to identify and remove discriminatory provisions concerning persons affected by leprosy.¹⁵¹ Despite progress in controlling leprosy as a public-health issue, statutory classifications can continue to reinforce stigma and hinder treatment-seeking and social integration. By removing leprosy-specific references from the Goa Children's Act, the amendment eliminates one such legal basis for differential treatment and advances compliance with the Court's anti-discrimination mandate.
- c. Despite achieving leprosy elimination in 2006, Goa continues to report new cases, with **68 cases in 2024-25**, including 2 child cases, while the **Prevalence Rate (PR) rose from 0.50 to 0.61 per 10,000 population**.¹⁵² The State's National Leprosy Eradication program (NLEP) now targets zero indigenous cases, zero transmission, zero disability, and zero stigma and discrimination by 2027.¹⁵³ The amendment therefore addresses the legal dimension of stigma alongside ongoing disease-control measures, removing disease-specific references from child-protection legislation while the State continues to work towards further leprosy elimination.

¹⁵¹ [The Hindu, July, 2025.](#)

¹⁵² [National Leprosy Eradication program \(NLEP\), Directorate Of Health Services, The Government Of Goa.](#)

¹⁵³ [Directorate Of Health Services, The Government Of Goa.](#)

C. Municipalities (Amendment) Act, 2026

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

1. On 7th September, 2026, the Government of Goa notified the Goa Municipalities (Amendment) Act, 2026.
2. The Act aims to revise the framework for determining municipal council strength, ward delimitation, reservation of seats, preparation of electoral rolls, and conduct of municipal elections by introducing population-based criteria.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The amended Act raises the population threshold for determining municipal council strength from 2,500 to 3,000 persons per councillor.
 - b. The State Election Commission is empowered to undertake ward delimitation and determine the number of wards based on the revised population criteria.
 - c. The OBC reservation provision makes the earlier mandatory 27% reservation discretionary, with the actual extent to be determined using empirical data on OBC political backwardness for each municipal area and ward.
 - d. The delimitation process requires proposed ward boundaries to be published, allowing residents to submit objections and suggestions before finalisation.
 - e. Further, the amended framework revises the process for determining ward boundaries, seat reservation and municipal electoral representation ahead of local-body elections.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The Act aligns with Articles 243R,¹⁵⁴ 243T¹⁵⁵ and 243ZA¹⁵⁶ of the Constitution (Seventy-Fourth Amendment) Act, 1992,¹⁵⁷ 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 Maharashtra¹⁵⁸ empower the State Election Commissioner to determine municipal wards and reservations, and Kerala¹⁵⁹ provides for delimitation into broadly equal-population wards through a Delimitation Commission chaired by the State Election Commissioner.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Goa is among India's most urbanised states, with 62.2% of its population living in urban areas as per the 2011 Census,¹⁶⁰ making municipal representation particularly significant. The amendment shifts the basis for determining council

¹⁵⁴ [Article 243R, Constitution \(Seventy-Fourth Amendment\) Act, 1992.](#)

¹⁵⁵ [Article 243T, Constitution \(Seventy-Fourth Amendment\) Act, 1992.](#)

¹⁵⁶ [Article 243ZA, Constitution \(Seventy-Fourth Amendment\) Act, 1992.](#)

¹⁵⁷ [Constitution \(Seventy-Fourth Amendment\) Act, 1992.](#)

¹⁵⁸ [Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats And Industrial Townships Act, 1965.](#)

¹⁵⁹ [Kerala Municipality Act, 1994.](#)

¹⁶⁰ [PIB, January, 2020.](#)

C. Municipalities (Amendment) Act, 2026

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

strength from registered voters to population, enabling municipal representation to better reflect the actual resident population.

- b. Goa's projected population has increased from 14.59 lakh in 2011 to approximately 15.96 lakh in 2025, a 9.4% rise. The amendment raises the population threshold for determining municipal council strength from 2,500 to 3,000, aligning the number of elected representatives more closely with the population size of municipalities.¹⁶¹
- c. Notably, the amendment raises the population threshold for determining municipal council strength by 20%, from 2,500 to 3,000 residents per councillor. This higher threshold could contain growth in the number of councillors as municipal populations increase, while the shift from voter-based to population-based calculations ties representation more closely to the resident population.
- d. Lastly, the amendment strengthens the evidence base for OBC representation by requiring empirical data on political backwardness before determining OBC-reserved municipal seats. This can make reservation decisions more data-driven and improve consistency and transparency in the allocation of reserved wards.

¹⁶¹ [Goa Economic Survey, 2024-25.](#)

X. Maharashtra

A. Uniform Object-Head Accounting Structure

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

1. On 3rd September, 2026, the Maharashtra Government approved the Government Resolution on Uniform Object-Head Structure.
2. The resolution aims to standardise the classification and recording of Government expenditure from 1st April, 2027, enabling consistent comparison of Maharashtra's expenditure with the Union Government and other states.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The framework introduces 70 uniform object heads covering revenue expenditure, capital expenditure and accounting adjustments, including salaries, pensions, subsidies, scholarships, interest payments, investments, loans, infrastructure and land.
 - b. The structure provides separate expenditure heads for dearness allowance, medical treatment, leave travel concession, training, digital equipment, repair and maintenance, bank and agency charges, and social security expenditure.
 - c. It classifies capital expenditure separately for buildings, infrastructure, land, furniture and fixtures, ICT equipment and intangible assets, making asset-related spending easier to identify.
 - d. The revision reorganises existing heads by merging overtime allowance into allowances and bringing telephone, electricity and water charges under office expenses, while distributing computer expenditure across the relevant functional heads.
 - e. The order mandates adoption of the revised object heads from 1st April, 2027, requiring all departments to incorporate them while preparing the Budget Estimates for 2027-28.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The reform aligns with the Delegation of Financial Powers Rules, 2024,¹⁶² particularly Rule 8 governing standard Object Heads as primary units of appropriation.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Andhra Pradesh implemented the Standardization of Object Heads (Revised)¹⁶³ revising expenditure classifications for state accounts.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Maharashtra's actual fiscal deficit breached the 3% Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act limit,¹⁶⁴ amid rising off-budget borrowings,

¹⁶² [Delegation Of Financial Powers Rules, 2024, The Government Of India.](#)

¹⁶³ [Standardisation Of Object Heads \(Revised\), 2019, The Government Of Andhra Pradesh.](#)

¹⁶⁴ [NDTV Profit, September, 2026.](#)

A. Uniform Object-Head Accounting Structure

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

liabilities and unspent funds outside the Consolidated Fund. The introduction of 70 standardised expenditure heads from 2027 can improve the consistency of fiscal reporting and make the state's underlying spending and deficit position easier to track.

- b. Notably, ₹ 15,299 crore of Government funds was lying unspent outside the Consolidated Fund,¹⁶⁵ including substantial balances parked in various bank accounts. The uniform object-head structure can improve the comparability of expenditure reporting by standardising the classification of similar types of expenditure.
- c. Further, ₹ 20,993.06 crore remained in Virtual Personal Deposit Accounts (VPDAs) beyond March,¹⁶⁶ indicating that a significant volume of Government funds was not reflected through the regular year-end expenditure process. Bringing expenditure under standardised heads from 2027 can improve the visibility of such funds and strengthen scrutiny of when they are drawn, utilised and ultimately accounted for.
- d. Lastly, Maharashtra's fiscal position is under increasing pressure from rising liabilities, off-budget borrowings and large spending commitments such as the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana.¹⁶⁷ Against this backdrop, standardised expenditure heads can provide greater granularity in tracking where public funds are being deployed, helping distinguish program expenditure from accounting adjustments and strengthen fiscal scrutiny.

¹⁶⁵ [The Times Of India, July, 2026.](#)

¹⁶⁶ [The Times Of India, July, 2026.](#)

¹⁶⁷ [The Times Of India, July, 2026.](#)

B. Maharashtra Land Bank Digital System, 2026

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

1. On 2nd September, 2026, the Maharashtra Government launched the Maharashtra Land Bank Digital System.
2. The system aims to consolidate Government-owned land information on a unified digital platform to accelerate land identification, verification and allocation for infrastructure projects and facilitate the identification of suitable land for compensatory afforestation.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The system integrates Government land records, field-verification information, Geographic Information System (GIS)¹⁶⁸ data and Management Information System (MIS)¹⁶⁹ inputs into a common digital repository.
 - b. It provides plot-level information on survey number, area, land classification, current use and allocation status, establishing the availability and condition of Government land.
 - c. The platform verifies records against electronic mutation data, followed by physical inspection to assess land condition, remaining area and any violation of allocation conditions.
 - d. It gives Tehsildars taluka-level access to update Government land allocations, Bhogwatdar Class-2 land and condition violations, with GIS tools mapping available land and pending cases.
 - e. The system provides an end-to-end online land requisition process covering registration, scrutiny, verification and approval, with GPS coordinates, date and time recorded for site inspections and progress monitoring.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The system aligns with the National Geospatial Policy, 2022,¹⁷⁰ which promotes integrated use of geospatial data for land administration, infrastructure development and Government service delivery through common location-based digital frameworks.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Odisha¹⁷¹ provides a Land Bank Scheme supported by the GIS-based GO PLUS¹⁷² platform, Uttar Pradesh's¹⁷³ Policy integrates

¹⁶⁸ GIS is a computer-based technology used to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage, and visualize spatial or geographic data.

¹⁶⁹ MIS is a technology-enabled system that collects, processes, stores, and analyzes raw business data to provide managers with timely, actionable information for decision-making and planning.

¹⁷⁰ [PIB, February, 2025.](#)

¹⁷¹ [Odisha Industrial Policy Resolution, 2022.](#)

¹⁷² [GO PLUS, The Government Of Odisha.](#)

¹⁷³ [Hindustan Times, November, 2022.](#)

B. Maharashtra Land Bank Digital System, 2026

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

industrial land banks with GIS platforms, and Karnataka's¹⁷⁴ Policy provides online land-bank information and GIS-based industrial land mapping.

6. Relevance -

- a. Maharashtra requires 3,000–5,000 hectares of land annually for compensatory afforestation, while the new Land Bank contains 40,602 hectares, including 33,056 hectares of degraded forest land and 7,546 hectares of non-forest land.¹⁷⁵ The inventory therefore provides roughly 8–14 years of land at the State's current annual requirement, creating a ready reserve for future infrastructure-linked afforestation.
- b. The forest-record discrepancies have delayed infrastructure projects in Maharashtra. The Wardha–Nanded–Yavatmal railway project faced delays and cost overruns because Forest Department records and Revenue Department 7/12 extracts classified the same parcels differently, including cases where land was recorded as forest in one system and private land in another.¹⁷⁶ The Land Bank's common digital inventory of Revenue and Forest land can address this record-mismatch problem.
- c. Government-land information was previously dispersed across departments and administrative levels, making it difficult to determine availability, current use, remaining area and breaches of allotment conditions quickly. The common repository and online departmental requisition workflow address this information and process fragmentation directly rather than requiring departments to obtain the same information sequentially from multiple offices.
- d. Maharashtra's infrastructure pipeline repeatedly requires diversion of forest land for highways, railways, ports and transmission corridors, creating a recurring need to locate compensatory-afforestation land before forest approvals can be completed. Maintaining a verified district-wise reserve allows future projects to identify candidate land at the outset rather than beginning a fresh search after each diversion proposal is prepared.

¹⁷⁴ [Karnataka Industrial Policy, 2020–25.](#)

¹⁷⁵ [Hindustan Times, September, 2026.](#)

¹⁷⁶ [The Times Of India, April, 2026.](#)

XI. Tamil Nadu

A. Tamil Nadu Private Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2026

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

1. On 8th September, 2026, the Tamil Nadu Government introduced the Tamil Nadu Private Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2026.
2. The Bill aims to ease the establishment of private universities by reducing location-based land requirements and the mandatory permanent endowment fund under the Tamil Nadu Private Universities Act, 2019.¹⁷⁷
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Bill reduces the minimum land requirement from 100 acres to 12 acres within the Greater Chennai Corporation limits.
 - b. It prescribes a minimum of 18 acres in other municipal corporations and municipal councils and 25 acres in other areas of the state.
 - c. The amendment lowers the mandatory permanent endowment fund from ₹ 50 crore to ₹ 25 crore for private universities.
 - d. The revised framework extends the reduced ₹ 25 crore endowment requirement to existing private universities covered under the Tamil Nadu Private Universities Act, 2019.
 - e. The Bill brings Shiv Nadar University and Sai University, established through separate Acts in 2018, within the scope of the amended framework.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Bill follows the Centre's Compliance Reduction and Deregulation Phase II initiative,¹⁷⁸ 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 Haryana,¹⁷⁹ and Rajasthan¹⁸⁰ have rationalised private university land norms, with Haryana adopting location-based thresholds and Rajasthan replacing minimum land requirements with a carpet-area norm. Maharashtra¹⁸¹ mandates a permanent endowment fund for private skills universities.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Tamil Nadu's higher education Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) stood at 52.3% in 2023-24, compared with 30.0% nationally,¹⁸² indicating substantially higher participation in higher education than the national average. The proposed

¹⁷⁷ [Tamil Nadu Private Universities Act, 2019.](#)

¹⁷⁸ [The Economic Times, February, 2026.](#)

¹⁷⁹ [Haryana Private Universities Act, 2006.](#)

¹⁸⁰ [Education Department, The Government Of Rajasthan.](#)

¹⁸¹ [Maharashtra Private Universities \(Establishment And Regulation\) Act, 2023.](#)

¹⁸² [All India Survey on Higher Education 2023-24, July, 2026.](#)

A. Tamil Nadu Private Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2026

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

relaxation of minimum land and financial requirements for private universities can ease entry barriers for new institutions, enabling higher-education capacity to expand in a state with already high levels of participation.

- b. Tamil Nadu had 61 functioning universities in 2025-26, including 2 central, 22 state, 29 deemed-to-be and 8 private universities.¹⁸³ Although the number of private universities has doubled from 4 in 2024,¹⁸⁴ they still account for only 13% of the state's universities.¹⁸⁵ The proposed relaxation of land and financial requirements could further lower entry barriers for private institutions, supporting greater private-sector participation in Tamil Nadu's university sector.
- c. The earlier 100-acre land requirement could make university establishment particularly difficult in land-constrained urban locations, while the ₹ 50 crore endowment requirement increased the upfront financial commitment.¹⁸⁶ By lowering both thresholds, the amendment reduces the resources that prospective institutions must commit before entering the university sector, potentially widening the set of projects that are financially and spatially feasible.
- d. Further, the reform could shift private university expansion from large peripheral land parcels towards more compact urban locations. By reducing the land threshold most sharply within Greater Chennai, the amendment can make university projects feasible closer to major population and employment centres, reducing the need for institutions to locate on large, contiguous parcels outside established urban areas. This could improve access to higher education while allowing private investment to respond more directly to urban demand.

¹⁸³ [Higher Education Department, Tamil Nadu, 2025-26.](#)

¹⁸⁴ [Annual Report 2023-24, University Grants Commission.](#)

¹⁸⁵ [Higher Education Department, Tamil Nadu, 2025-26.](#)

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

B. Tamil Nadu Town And Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2026

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

1. On 8th September, 2026, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly passed the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2026.
2. The amendment aims to streamline the approval process for development in non-planning areas by removing an additional layer of administrative concurrence.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Bill removes the requirement of prior concurrence from the District Collector for developing wetlands outside designated planning areas.
 - b. It empowers the Director of Town and Country Planning to grant prior permission to local authorities for developing such wetlands.
 - c. The existing requirement of the Director's prior concurrence before a local authority grants planning permission in non-planning areas is retained.
 - d. The Urban Development Authority will have a full-time Chairman and a full-time Member-Secretary, with the District Collector continuing as a member.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Bill aligns with the Centre's Compliance Reduction and Deregulation Initiative, which seeks to remove unnecessary regulatory layers and reduce procedural delays.¹⁸⁷
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** The states such as Maharashtra¹⁸⁸ and Gujarat¹⁸⁹ have removed separate Collector-level land-use approvals, with Maharashtra treating planning-authority approval as deemed Non-Agricultural (NA) permission and Gujarat abolishing separate NA certification in notified town-planning areas.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Only 7% of Tamil Nadu's geographical area is currently covered by approved master plans, with the Directorate of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) targeting an increase to 22% through 135 GIS-based master plans.¹⁹⁰ This leaves 93% of the state outside the current master-plan framework, making the removal of a separate Collector concurrence particularly significant for wetland development in these non-planning areas, where formal spatial planning controls are limited.
 - b. Tamil Nadu's urban population is estimated to have reached 53.7% of the state's total population in 2023, up from 49% in 2011,¹⁹¹ making it one of India's most urbanised large states. With urban expansion increasingly extending into areas outside existing planning jurisdictions, the Bill's removal of a separate Collector

¹⁸⁷ [PIB, February, 2026.](#)

¹⁸⁸ [The Times Of India, February, 2026.](#)

¹⁸⁹ [The Secretariat, February, 2026.](#)

¹⁹⁰ [Minister For Housing And Urban Development, Tamil Nadu, 2024.](#)

¹⁹¹ [Macro And Fiscal Landscape Of The State Of Tamil Nadu, NITI Aayog, March, 2025.](#)

B. Tamil Nadu Town And Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2026	
Source: Link Impact: Medium	
concurrence for wetland development in non-planning areas can reduce an additional approval layer for land parcels coming under development pressure, while retaining scrutiny by the Director of Town and Country Planning. c. Tamil Nadu's groundwater is under significant stress, with 106 of 313 assessed taluks classified as over-exploited and 20 as critical in 2024, while 30.66% of recharge-worthy area was over-exploited.¹⁹² As groundwater impact is one of the checks under the existing Collector concurrence, removing this separate approval stage shifts this assessment into the DTCP-led process even as groundwater stress remains widespread. d. Further, Tamil Nadu is pursuing faster planning approvals, with the Government targeting a 21-day building-plan approval timeline, while the existing system allows up to 66 days for certain building approvals through the DTCP and Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA).¹⁹³ Removing the separate Collector concurrence for wetland development in non-planning areas eliminates an additional approval stage within this time-intensive process, directly supporting the Government's shift towards faster and more streamlined land-use approvals. e. Consequently, the Bill shifts wetland development decisions in non-planning areas from a dual-authority process to a DTCP-led approval, removing the Collector's separate concurrence while retaining planning scrutiny. This can shorten the approval chain, but places greater weight on DTCP's capacity to incorporate district-level land, water and environmental considerations within a single planning assessment.	

¹⁹² [Central Ground Water Board, 2024.](#)
¹⁹³ [The New Indian Express, June, 2026.](#)

XII. Andhra Pradesh

A. General Terms And Conditions Of Supply (GTCS) Amendment, 2026

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

1. On 2nd September, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (APERC) issued the General Terms and Conditions of Supply (GTCS) Amendment, 2026.
2. The amendment aims to align state electricity-supply regulations with recent changes in central law and replace criminal action for specified minor offences with defined monetary penalties and compounding mechanisms.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The amendment revises penalties under the Electricity Act, 2003¹⁹⁴ for negligent or intentional damage to electrical materials and supply works, with fines ranging from ₹ 5,000 to ₹ 10 lakh.
 - b. The amended Section 139 provides a penalty of ₹ 5,000 to ₹ 1 lakh for negligent damage to electrical materials or supply works.
 - c. Section 140 provides a fine of ₹ 5,000 to ₹ 1 lakh for intentionally injuring or damaging electricity works, while Section 146 provides a maximum fine of ₹ 10 lakh for non-compliance with orders or directions.
 - d. It allows specified offences under Section 152 to be compounded, including electricity theft, meter tampering and intentional damage to electrical works.
 - e. It sets offence-specific compounding fees, including ₹ 20,000 per kW/HP for industrial theft, ₹ 10,000 for commercial theft, ₹ 2,000 for agricultural theft and ₹ 4,000 for other services.
 - f. Further, it provides for a 10% increase in the minimum fines under Sections 139, 140 and 152 every three years.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The amendment directly implements the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026,¹⁹⁵ replacing specified criminal consequences with monetary penalties and compounding provisions.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Gujarat¹⁹⁶ Electricity Supply Code provides for compounding of electricity-theft offences, with offence-specific rates linked to consumer category and connected load.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Andhra Pradesh recorded Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses of 7.87% in FY 2024-25, well below the 15.4% average for state-sector distribution

¹⁹⁴ [The Electricity Act, 2003, Andhra Pradesh.](#)

¹⁹⁵ [Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2026.](#)

¹⁹⁶ [Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission \(Electricity Supply Code And Related Matters\) Regulations, 2015.](#)

A. General Terms And Conditions Of Supply (GTCS) Amendment, 2026

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

utilities.¹⁹⁷ The revised GTCS therefore strengthens the enforcement framework for specified violations such as electricity theft, meter tampering and damage to electrical works, supporting continued control of commercial losses even as aggregate distribution losses remain relatively low.

- b. Andhra Pradesh's three DISCOMs face a net revenue gap of ₹ 15,790.57 crore for FY 2026–27, after Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (APERC) reduced the ₹ 17,508.17 crore gap filed by the utilities.¹⁹⁸ While this gap cannot be attributed to electricity theft or other violations alone, clearer penalties and compounding provisions under the revised GTCS strengthen one component of the enforcement framework supporting DISCOM revenue recovery.
- c. Andhra Pradesh has ₹ 4,128 crore of smart-metering works and ₹ 120 crore of Information Technology/Operational Technology (IT/OT) works sanctioned under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS),¹⁹⁹ creating a substantial digital layer across the State's distribution system. The revised GTCS introduces a ₹ 10,000 compounding fee for meter interference or tampering, providing a defined enforcement mechanism to protect the integrity of the metering infrastructure being deployed.
- d. The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023²⁰⁰ replaced the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973²⁰¹ as India's criminal-procedure framework, making references to the repealed CrPC in sectoral regulations outdated. The revised GTCS replaces these references with the BNSS, ensuring that enforcement procedures for electricity-related violations remain aligned with the criminal law currently in force.

¹⁹⁷ [Report On Performance Of Power Utilities 2024–25, February, 2026, Power Finance Corporation.](#)

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

¹⁹⁹ [PIB, August, 2026.](#)

²⁰⁰ [Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.](#)

²⁰¹ [Code of Criminal Procedure \(CrPC\), 1973.](#)

Policy Level Announcements

I. Bihar

A. Water Resources Restoration And Sediment Management Policy, 2026

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

1. On 15th September, 2026, the Bihar Cabinet approved the Bihar Water Resources Restoration and Sediment Management Policy, 2026.
2. The policy aims to restore the water-holding and carrying capacity of rivers, barrages and reservoirs through systematic silt removal and productive reuse of the extracted material.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy provides for systematic removal of accumulated silt from rivers, barrages, reservoirs and other water bodies to restore their water-carrying and storage capacity.
 - b. It enables extracted silt to be reused for earth filling and construction of national highways, railways, state roads, irrigation projects, flood-protection works and buildings, reducing dependence on fertile soil for such activities.
 - c. It aims to improve irrigation capacity and reduce flood risks by addressing sediment accumulation that restricts the flow and storage capacity of water bodies.
 - d. It provides for regulated transportation, use and disposal of extracted sediment, along with monitoring to ensure its safe and productive utilisation.
 - e. Further, it also provides a framework for restoration and maintenance of traditional water bodies, linking sediment management with broader water-resource conservation.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** It aligns with the Centre's State Water Reform Framework under Viksit Bharat 2047 and National Framework on Sediment Management (NFSM), which emphasises restoration and maintenance of water bodies, efficient water-resource management and sediment management.²⁰²
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Maharashtra,²⁰³ through Gaalmukt Dharan Gaalyukt Shivar, and Telangana, through Mission Kakatiya,²⁰⁴ have undertaken large-scale desilting of water bodies and productive reuse of extracted silt. However, Bihar's Policy goes further by providing a broader framework for the extraction, transportation, reuse and disposal of sediment across water bodies and infrastructure projects.
6. **Relevance -**

²⁰² [PIB, May, 2026.](#)

²⁰³ [Soil and Water Conservation Department, Government Of Maharashtra.](#)

²⁰⁴ [Mission Kakatiya, Telangana.](#)

A. Water Resources Restoration And Sediment Management Policy, 2026

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

- a. The Ganga crossed its previous record level of 50.52 metres on 5th September, 2026 and reached 50.57 metres the following morning, with nearly 20 lakh people affected across 11 districts.²⁰⁵ The scale of the flood highlights the need to address declining river and storage capacity alongside emergency response. The policy can make systematic desiltation a part of flood management, helping restore the carrying capacity of rivers and water bodies.
- b. Bihar's concerns over Ganga sedimentation and the Farakka Barrage are longstanding enough that the Union Government commissioned an independent study on flood and siltation in the Ganga in Bihar.²⁰⁶ At the same time, the Centre has cautioned that sediment movement in alluvial rivers is dynamic and that generalised river desiltation is not technically sustainable.²⁰⁷ The policy is therefore useful if it creates a scientific framework for identifying specific reaches and structures where sediment removal is demonstrably justified.
- c. Further, sediment management is a critical river-management issue for Bihar, particularly as the Ganga Water Treaty with Bangladesh reaches its 30-year term in December 2026 and discussions around Farakka gain renewed attention.²⁰⁸ A dedicated silt-management framework can help Bihar build systematic evidence on sediment accumulation, changes in river capacity and the effectiveness of desiltation, strengthening its technical position in future discussions on the Ganga and Farakka.
- d. Lastly, Bihar's groundwater extraction is 46.20% overall, but 49 assessment units are classified as semi-critical, 12 as critical and 3 as over-exploited.²⁰⁹ This combination of flood exposure and local groundwater stress makes surface-water restoration particularly relevant. By linking silt removal with the restoration of rivers and water bodies, the policy can improve surface-water storage and reduce pressure on stressed groundwater resources.

²⁰⁵ [The Times Of India, September, 2026.](#)

²⁰⁶ [PIB, May, 2017.](#)

²⁰⁷ [National Framework For Sediment Management, Ministry Of Jal Shakti, October, 2022.](#)

²⁰⁸ [The Indian Express, September, 2026.](#)

²⁰⁹ [National Compilation On Dynamic Ground Water Resources Of India, 2025.](#)

II. Karnataka

A. Karnataka Aerospace Policy, 2026-31	
Source: Link Impact: High	
1.	On 9 th September, 2026, the Karnataka Government approved the Karnataka Aerospace Policy, 2026-31.
2.	The policy aims to establish Karnataka as a global hub for aerospace manufacturing and innovation by attracting major investment while expanding aerospace and allied industrial activity beyond Bengaluru.
3.	Key Features -
a.	The policy provides capital subsidies of up to 30% in focus areas and 25% in non-focus areas, with incentives differentiated by project location.
b.	Seven aerospace clusters will be developed across Karnataka, including manufacturing hubs in Vijayapura, Shivamogga, Mysuru and Hassan, an avionics cluster in Jangamakote, a space cluster in Chitradurga and a UAV and Urban Air Mobility cluster in Chikkaballapura.
c.	The first three anchor investors in each cluster will receive land-cost subsidies, at 50% for clusters outside Bengaluru and 25% for clusters in Bengaluru Urban and Rural.
d.	The policy covers aerospace and defence manufacturing, aviation, space technology, drones and avionics, with incentives available across identified focus and non-focus areas.
e.	Further, private developers establishing Aerospace and Defence parks will qualify for incentives under the Karnataka Industrial Policy, subject to a minimum development area of 50 acres.
4.	Central Initiative Alignment - The policy aligns with the National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016, ²¹⁰ which promotes an integrated aviation ecosystem covering aerospace manufacturing, Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO), skill development and associated aviation industries.
5.	Similar Initiatives In Other States - States such as Tamil Nadu ²¹¹ and Uttar Pradesh ²¹² have adopted comparable sector-specific frameworks providing investment incentives and manufacturing support for aerospace and defence industries.
6.	Relevance -
a.	Karnataka accounts for around 60-65% of India's aerospace manufacturing capacity and 65% of national aerospace-related exports, with Bengaluru hosting major institutions including Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, the Indian Space

²¹⁰ [National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016.](#)

²¹¹ [Tamil Nadu Aerospace And Defence Industrial Policy, 2022.](#)

²¹² [Uttar Pradesh Aerospace And Defence Unit And Employment Promotion Policy, 2024.](#)

A. Karnataka Aerospace Policy, 2026-31

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

Research Organisation and the Defence Research and Development Organisation.²¹³ The policy 2026-31 builds on this established industrial base by targeting ₹ 60,000 crore in investment over five years, reinforcing Karnataka's position as India's leading aerospace manufacturing hub.

- b. Karnataka's aerospace ecosystem remains heavily concentrated around Bengaluru, while peripheral districts have comparatively limited access to specialised infrastructure, skilled workforce, testing facilities and established supply chains. The policy's zone-differentiated incentives and seven proposed aerospace clusters can therefore support a broader geographic distribution of aerospace manufacturing capacity and investment across the state.²¹⁴
- c. The previous Karnataka Aerospace Policy 2022-27 targeted ₹ 45,000 crore in investment over five years, compared with ₹ 60,000 crore under the 2026-31 policy.²¹⁵ The 33% increase in the investment target, alongside the continued objective of generating 60,000 jobs, signals a higher level of ambition for private investment and manufacturing expansion in the sector.
- d. Bengaluru ranks among the top three global aerospace cities for attracting foreign investment, with major multinational firms including Boeing, Airbus, Honeywell and Rolls-Royce maintaining engineering, R&D and manufacturing operations in the city.²¹⁶ The policy builds on this established global presence through differentiated incentives and proposed aerospace clusters to support further investment and facility expansion across Karnataka.
- e. Bengaluru already hosts major global aerospace companies and a mature research and engineering ecosystem built around institutions such as Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, the Indian Space Research Organisation and the Defence Research and Development Organisation.²¹⁷ The 2026-31 policy complements this established base with incentives for new investments across multiple aerospace clusters, creating scope for Karnataka to expand beyond its existing Bengaluru-centred ecosystem.

²¹³ [IBEF Report, June, 2025.](#)

²¹⁴ [Deccan Herald, September, 2026.](#)

²¹⁵ [Karnataka Aerospace And Defence Policy, 2022-27.](#)

²¹⁶ [Invest Karnataka, February, 2025.](#)

²¹⁷ [Invest Karnataka.](#)

B. New Textile And Readymade Garments Policy 2026-31

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

1. On 9th September, 2026, the Karnataka Cabinet approved the Karnataka Textile and Apparel Policy, 2026-31.
2. The policy aims to expand Karnataka's textile and apparel manufacturing base by promoting apparel parks, attracting investment beyond Bengaluru and supporting the sector's value chain.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy targets ₹ 20,000 crore in private investment over five years, with Government investment of ₹ 4,000-5,000 crore to support the program.
 - b. It identifies 33 focus taluks for textile development and proposes apparel parks to encourage investment beyond Bengaluru.
 - c. The eligible textile and garment units will receive a 5% credit-linked capital subsidy and a power subsidy of ₹ 2 per unit, subject to the prescribed eligibility conditions.
 - d. It expands sectoral coverage to include the silk industry, alongside textiles and readymade garments, updating the scope of the previous 2019-24 policy.
 - e. Further, it provides for apparel parks and location-based incentives in identified focus taluks to facilitate new textile and garment manufacturing capacity.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks Scheme, 2021,²¹⁸ which promotes integrated, large-scale textile manufacturing infrastructure and value-chain development.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Gujarat,²¹⁹ Maharashtra²²⁰ and Tamil Nadu²²¹ have implemented comparable sectoral frameworks, providing investment incentives, textile infrastructure, technology support and value-chain development measures.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Karnataka exported ₹ 24,890 crore of textile and apparel products in FY 2025-26, reflecting the sector's established export base, while the State's new policy seeks to expand textile manufacturing beyond Bengaluru.²²² By identifying 33 focus taluks for targeted investment, the policy seeks to promote greater geographic diversification of textile and garment production and extend industrial activity to regions outside the State's existing manufacturing centres.

²¹⁸ [PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Parks Scheme, 2021.](#)

²¹⁹ [Gujarat Textile Policy, 2024.](#)

²²⁰ [Maharashtra Integrated And Sustainable Textile Industry Policy, 2023-28.](#)

²²¹ [Tamil Nadu New Integrated Textile Policy, 2019.](#)

²²² [PIB, August, 2026.](#)

B. New Textile And Readymade Garments Policy 2026-31

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

- b. Karnataka's six companies approved under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Textiles had made ₹ 1,515.99 crore of actual investment and generated 5,611 jobs by 31st March 2026, equivalent to approximately 3.7 jobs per ₹ 1 crore invested.²²³ With the policy targeting a further ₹ 20,000 crore of investment, the existing PLI base provides a benchmark for the employment potential of additional textile and apparel manufacturing capacity in Karnataka.
- c. Karnataka's textile sector employs approximately 8 lakh people and accounts for around 20% of India's readymade garment production, supported by about 1.20 lakh power looms and 42,000 handlooms across the state.²²⁴ The policy can build on this established production base by targeting ₹ 20,000 crore of fresh investment and expanding manufacturing capacity through apparel parks and incentives across 33 focus taluks.
- d. Further, Karnataka is proposing two Textile Export Facilitation Centres in North Karnataka and Doddaballapur to help textile producers and exporters access international markets.²²⁵ These centres can strengthen market access for the additional manufacturing capacity targeted under the updated policy, particularly as the policy seeks to attract ₹ 20,000 crore of investment into the sector over five years.

²²³ [PIB, July, 2026.](#)

²²⁴ [Department Of Textiles And Handlooms, The Government Of Karnataka.](#)

²²⁵ [The Times Of India, August, 2026.](#)

III. Uttar Pradesh

A. Toy Manufacturing Promotion Policy, 2025

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

1. On 15th September, 2026, the state cabinet approved the Uttar Pradesh Toy Manufacturing Promotion Policy, 2025.
2. The policy aims to establish Uttar Pradesh as a competitive toy manufacturing base by providing targeted financial and regional incentives for new manufacturing units.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy provides maximum investment assistance of ₹ 35 crore for new toy units and existing units undertaking expansion, diversification or technological upgradation.
 - b. It provides region-specific land subsidies of up to -
 - i. 40% in Purvanchal and Bundelkhand,
 - ii. 30% in Madhyanchal and
 - iii. 20% in Noida and Ghaziabad.
 - c. It provides a 10-year electricity-duty exemption and ₹ 2 per unit electricity subsidy for five years, capped at ₹ 60 lakh annually.
 - d. It waives land-use conversion charges and supports intellectual property creation, including 75% reimbursement of domestic patent costs and up to ₹ 10 lakh for international patents.
 - e. It provides for dedicated toy clusters and workforce development, covering skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workers.
 - f. Further, land for eligible units can be allotted through industrial authorities including the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA), with Invest UP handling incentives for large projects.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The policy aligns with the National Action Plan for Toys, 2020,²²⁶ which promotes toy clusters, domestic manufacturing, design, skills and exports, and complements the Ministry of MSME's Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI),²²⁷ support for traditional toy clusters and artisans.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Tamil Nadu have introduced the Toy Manufacturing Policy, 2025,²²⁸ while Karnataka has developed the Koppal Toy Manufacturing Cluster.²²⁹ Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh have also developed toy clusters under SFURTI.²³⁰

²²⁶ [PIB, September, 2022.](#)

²²⁷ [SFURTI, Ministry Of Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises.](#)

²²⁸ [Tamil Nadu Toy Policy 2025.](#)

²²⁹ [Invest India, Koppal Toy Manufacturing Cluster.](#)

²³⁰ [PIB, July, 2022.](#)

A. Toy Manufacturing Promotion Policy, 2025

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

6. Relevance -

- a. India's toy trade has already undergone a significant shift towards domestic production. Toy exports rose from \$ 203.5 million (₹ 1,947 crore) in 2018–19 to \$ 384.7 million (₹ 3,690 crore) in 2025–26, while imports fell from \$ 371.7 million (₹ 3,564 crore) to \$ 232.3 million (₹ 2,227 crore) over the same period.²³¹ With Uttar Pradesh accounting for 28% of modern toy manufacturing units,²³² the state has an existing production base that can be scaled to capture this expanding domestic and export market.
- b. Bundelkhand's seven districts generate only 7.1% of Uttar Pradesh's GSDP, with per capita income in Mahoba and Chitrakoot below ₹ 80,000 versus the State average of ₹ 1.26 lakh.²³³ By offering higher incentives in Bundelkhand and Purvanchal, the policy can directly offset the location disadvantage of these regions and improve their ability to attract new manufacturing investment, supporting a wider geographic spread of industrial activity.
- c. Uttar Pradesh already has the production base needed to scale toy manufacturing, with a dedicated Toy Park in Noida²³⁴ and established clusters in Jhansi, Chitrakoot and Varanasi.²³⁵ The concentration of soft-toy, wooden-toy and traditional toy production allows new investment to build on existing suppliers, skills and production networks, reducing the need to develop an ecosystem from scratch.
- d. Jhansi's ODOP support increased one unit's output nearly 13-fold, from 3–6 to 50–80 toys a day, while employment rose to 18–20 workers.²³⁶ This indicates that the binding constraint for Bundelkhand's small toy enterprises is not necessarily production capability, but the capital needed to move from micro-scale operations to commercially viable volumes. The new policy can target this scale threshold through larger investment support in the region.
- e. Noida's Toy Park has a land-to-production conversion problem. Of 140 plots allotted and 84 lease deeds executed, only 2–3 factories had started construction by September 2025.²³⁷ The policy's capital-linked incentives therefore matter less for creating another industrial cluster and more for converting already-committed industrial land into operating production capacity.

²³¹ [DD News, July, 2026.](#)

²³² [Department For Promotion Of Industry And Internal Trade, July, 2026.](#)

²³³ [Hindustan Times, August, 2025.](#)

²³⁴ [The Times Of India, July, 2020.](#)

²³⁵ [Invest UP, September, 2026](#)

²³⁶ [India Brand Equity Foundation, February, 2022.](#)

²³⁷ [Amar Ujala, July, 2025.](#)

B. Uttar Pradesh Automated Testing Station State Policy, 2026

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

1. On 15th September, 2026, the state cabinet approved the revised State Policy for establishing Automated Testing Stations (ATS) for vehicle fitness testing.
2. The policy aims to expand automated vehicle fitness testing across the state and ensure transparent, machine-based assessment of vehicle fitness.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy provides for establishing Automated Testing Stations in every district to expand the availability of automated vehicle fitness testing.
 - b. It permits up to three ATS in each district, creating scope for wider private-sector participation in the testing network.
 - c. It removes the earlier land requirement and ₹ 6 crore net-worth requirement for establishing an ATS, lowering entry requirements for operators.
 - d. It requires vehicle fitness testing to be conducted through automated machines without human intervention, replacing manual assessment with technology-based testing.
 - e. Further, the policy incorporates the latest directions and amendments issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989,²³⁸ bringing the state framework in line with the updated national requirements.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The decision incorporates the latest directions and amendments issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989,²³⁹ aligning state transport governance with central road safety standards.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Gujarat²⁴⁰ and Karnataka²⁴¹ have expanded Automated Testing Station (ATS) infrastructure through private investment and PPP models to improve the transparency and efficiency of vehicle fitness testing.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Uttar Pradesh recorded 46,052 road accidents and 24,118 fatalities in 2024,²⁴² the highest road-death toll among states. Expanding automated vehicle fitness testing across districts can strengthen preventive safety checks by identifying mechanically unfit vehicles before they enter or continue in commercial operation, addressing a vehicle-level risk within the state's wider road-safety

²³⁸ [Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, Government Of India.](#)

²³⁹ [Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, Government Of India.](#)

²⁴⁰ [NITI Aayog, 2026: Page 40.](#)

²⁴¹ [The Hindu, October, 2025.](#)

²⁴² [Hindustan Times, January, 2025.](#)

B. Uttar Pradesh Automated Testing Station State Policy, 2026

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

burden.

- b. Central rules require transport vehicles to undergo fitness testing through registered Automated Testing Stations, with fitness certificates valid for two years for new transport vehicles and renewed annually after the vehicle completes eight years.²⁴³ Expanding ATS coverage across Uttar Pradesh can make mandatory fitness certification more accessible while decentralising testing capacity across the state.
- c. MoRTH's national ATS dashboard has recorded over 54.8 lakh automated tests, with around 83,000 vehicles failing,²⁴⁴ demonstrating that automated testing is identifying vehicles that do not meet prescribed fitness standards. Expanding ATS coverage in Uttar Pradesh can extend this machine-based screening to a substantially larger vehicle base and strengthen enforcement of fitness standards.
- d. The Central ATS framework allows stations to be owned or operated by private entities, companies or public-private partnerships (PPPs), subject to registration, qualified manpower and periodic accredited audits.²⁴⁵ Uttar Pradesh's private-investment model can therefore expand testing capacity through private capital and specialised operators, reducing the need for the Government to directly finance and operate every testing facility.

²⁴³ [PIB, September, 2021.](#)

²⁴⁴ [Vahan Dashboard.](#)

²⁴⁵ [Enhancing Circular Economy Of End-Of-Life Vehicles \(ELVs\) In India, Niti Aayog.](#)

IV. Andhra Pradesh

A. Generic Pharmacy Scheme, 2026

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

1. On 3rd September, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Government launched the Generic Pharmacy Scheme.
2. The scheme aims to create self-employment opportunities for unemployed Backward Classes (BC) youth with pharmacy qualifications by supporting the establishment of generic medicine outlets across Andhra Pradesh.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme gives a subsidy of ₹ 4 lakh against the estimated cost of ₹ 8 lakh for setting up each generic pharmacy. The remaining amount is to be raised through bank-linked finance.
 - b. It provides for a generic medicine outlet in every mandal, with the twin aims of improving access to affordable medicines and generating self-employment.
 - c. The eligibility is restricted to residents of Andhra Pradesh belonging to the Backward Classes, aged between 21 and 60 years, who come from Below Poverty Line (BPL) households and hold a D.Pharmacy, B.Pharmacy or M.Pharmacy qualification.
 - d. The applicants must hold a valid BC certificate and arrange suitable premises for the pharmacy.
 - e. Further, the applications are processed through the BC Corporation's Online Beneficiary Management and Monitoring System (OBMMS).
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The scheme complements the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP),²⁴⁶ which promotes affordable quality-assured generic medicines through entrepreneur-operated Jan Aushadhi Kendras.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Kerala implemented the Kudumbashree Jan Aushadhi Stores²⁴⁷ enabling women entrepreneurs to operate generic-medicine outlets with local-body infrastructure support, and Tamil Nadu²⁴⁸ established cooperative-run pharmacies to provide medicines at discounted prices.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Andhra Pradesh had 283 Jan Aushadhi Kendras as of March 2026, compared with 3,944 in Uttar Pradesh, 727 in Maharashtra and 675 in Rajasthan.²⁴⁹ The plan to establish a generic pharmacy in every mandal can therefore significantly expand

²⁴⁶ [PIB, August, 2026.](#)

²⁴⁷ [The Times Of India, February, 2018.](#)

²⁴⁸ [The Hindu, November, 2021.](#)

²⁴⁹ [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

A. Generic Pharmacy Scheme, 2026

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

Andhra Pradesh's relatively smaller network of affordable-medicine outlets while creating self-employment opportunities for BC pharmacy graduates.

- b. Notably, generic medicines sold through the Jan Aushadhi network are typically priced 50–80% lower than their branded equivalents,²⁵⁰ creating substantial scope for reducing out-of-pocket expenditure on medicines. By supporting BC youth to establish generic pharmacies, the scheme can simultaneously expand access to lower-cost medicines and create a viable self-employment channel in a sector with recurring consumer demand.
- c. Further, Andhra Pradesh has allocated ₹ 51,012 crore to the BC component in its 2026-27 Budget, including ₹ 23,324 crore for the Backward Classes Welfare Department.²⁵¹ The generic pharmacy scheme complements this broader allocation by directing part of BC support towards enterprise creation, enabling eligible youth to build income-generating businesses rather than relying solely on welfare transfers.
- d. Lastly, the Government estimates the cost of setting up a generic pharmacy at around ₹ 8 lakh, against which the scheme provides a ₹ 4 lakh subsidy and facilitates bank finance for the remaining amount. By covering 50% of the estimated establishment cost upfront, the scheme materially lowers the initial capital requirement for pharmacy-qualified BC youth entering self-employment.

²⁵⁰ [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

²⁵¹ [The New Indian Express, February, 2026.](#)

V. Chhattisgarh

A. Chhattisgarh Export Promotion Policy 2026–30

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

1. On 9th September, 2026, the Chhattisgarh Cabinet approved the Chhattisgarh Export Promotion Policy 2026–30, to expand market access for products manufactured and produced in the state.
2. The policy aims to build a stronger export ecosystem by improving market access and trade facilitation while increasing exports of value-added agricultural and industrial products.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy seeks to strengthen export and logistics infrastructure to improve the movement of goods from Chhattisgarh to domestic and international markets.
 - b. It provides for improved market access and trade facilitation for exporters across the state.
 - c. It promotes value-added agricultural and industrial products to increase both the volume and value of Chhattisgarh's exports.
 - d. It facilitates direct access to international markets through e-commerce platforms, trade fairs and exhibitions.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** It aligns with the Export Promotion Mission (EPM), which aims to strengthen export competitiveness through improved market access, quality, branding, packaging and export finance support.²⁵² It also complements the Districts as Export Hubs initiative, which identifies export-potential products at the district level and addresses supply-chain bottlenecks.²⁵³
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Odisha has adopted Odisha Export Policy, 2022,²⁵⁴ while Maharashtra has adopted the Maharashtra Export Policy, 2023,²⁵⁵ to expand market access, promote value-added exports and strengthen export infrastructure.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Chhattisgarh's exports increased nearly five-fold from ₹ 3,731 crore in 2015–16 to ₹ 18,714 crore in 2025–26,²⁵⁶ creating a significantly larger base for export-led growth. The policy can now focus on converting this scale into broader and more competitive export growth by improving market access, trade facilitation and the integration of local producers into export supply chains.
 - b. However, Chhattisgarh's FY 2024–25 exports were concentrated in milled rice,

²⁵² [Export Promotion Mission, DGFT.](#)

²⁵³ [PIB, September, 2026.](#)

²⁵⁴ [Odisha Export Policy, 2022.](#)

²⁵⁵ [Maharashtra Export Policy, 2023.](#)

²⁵⁶ [Department Of Commerce & Industries, Chhattisgarh.](#)

A. Chhattisgarh Export Promotion Policy 2026–30

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

unwrought aluminium, ferro-alloys and steel ingots, with milled rice alone contributing ₹ 6,424 crore and unwrought aluminium ₹ 1,889 crore.²⁵⁷ This concentration leaves significant scope to increase the value generated from the state's existing production base, making the policy's focus on value-added products relevant for shifting exports towards processed, finished and engineered goods and retaining a larger share of value within Chhattisgarh.

- c. Further, Chhattisgarh ranked 13th among large states in NITI Aayog's Export Preparedness Index 2024, with a score of 48.50,²⁵⁸ despite its substantial production base in agriculture, metals and minerals. The policy can help convert this production capacity into stronger export performance by strengthening exporter support, market development and trade facilitation across sectors and districts.
- d. Chhattisgarh moved from "Aspirer" in LEADS 2024 to "High Performer" among landlocked states in LEADS 2025, reflecting improvements in logistics infrastructure, services and regulatory facilitation.²⁵⁹ The Export Promotion Policy can leverage this improving logistics base by shifting the policy focus towards trade facilitation, exporter support and market development, where stronger logistics can translate into greater export volumes and product diversification.
- e. Chhattisgarh's exports are geographically concentrated, with Africa and Asia accounting for the bulk of the state's export destinations and Benin, Togo, Italy, the UAE and Senegal among the leading markets.²⁶⁰ Such concentration exposes the state's export base to demand and trade conditions in a limited set of markets, making the policy's focus on market development and trade promotion relevant for diversifying export destinations and broadening the state's international market reach.
- f. Chhattisgarh has already demonstrated potential to diversify beyond bulk agricultural exports, with APEDA facilitating exports of 12 MT of fortified rice kernels to Costa Rica and 20 MT of fortified rice to Papua New Guinea in 2025.²⁶¹ The policy's focus on value-added agricultural products can build on such emerging categories by supporting processing, product diversification and access to international buyers, allowing a larger share of export value to be generated within the state.

²⁵⁷ [Department Of Commerce And Industries, Chhattisgarh.](#)

²⁵⁸ [Export Preparedness Index 2024, NITI Aayog.](#)

²⁵⁹ [The Times Of India, May, 2026.](#)

²⁶⁰ [Department Of Commerce And Industries, Chhattisgarh.](#)

²⁶¹ [PIB, June, 2025.](#)

VI. Punjab

A. Custom Milling Policy, 2026-27

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

1. On 5th September, 2026, the Punjab Government approved the **Custom Milling Policy** for the 2026-27 paddy season.
2. The policy allows rice millers to receive fresh paddy for milling even if they have not completed delivering rice from the previous crop.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The new framework proposes eligibility for fresh paddy allotment to millers that have delivered at least 90% of the rice against their 2025-26 paddy allocation.
 - b. The eligible millers can receive fresh paddy for Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2026-27 without first completing the remaining 10% of their previous-season rice delivery.
 - c. The Government extends the deadline for completing pending rice delivery from the earlier March 31 deadline to 31st October, 2026 for the 2025-26 season.
 - d. The fresh allotments will cover paddy procured against the State's 180 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) procurement target for KMS 2026-27, against estimated production of 185 LMT.
 - e. The procurement framework incorporates the Punjab Foodgrain Transport Policy, 2026, and Punjab Foodgrain Labour and Cartage Policy, 2026 for transportation and handling of procured foodgrain.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** Procurement under this policy operates within the central Minimum Support Price (MSP) framework for paddy,²⁶² under which the Food Corporation of India and state agencies jointly manage foodgrain procurement.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Punjab's 280 LMT foodgrain storage capacity is already fully occupied, creating limited space to accommodate fresh paddy when procurement of around 180 LMT begins in 2026-27.²⁶³ Since millers with pending deliveries could otherwise be barred from receiving new paddy, the policy allows those that have completed 90% of their previous-season rice obligations to take fresh allocations, thereby freeing the procurement chain to move new paddy into mills despite the storage constraint.
 - b. Punjab's food grain evacuation remains below the level needed to relieve storage pressure, with the state seeking monthly lifting of 12 LMT while only 75.67 LMT was moved between January and July 2026.²⁶⁴ Against this constraint, the policy

²⁶² [PIB, July, 2021.](#)

²⁶³ [The New Indian Express, September, 2026.](#)

²⁶⁴ [Hindustan Times, July, 2026.](#)

A. Custom Milling Policy, 2026-27

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

provides an immediate operational workaround by allowing millers with 90% completion of previous-season rice deliveries to receive fresh paddy, preventing pending deliveries from becoming a bottleneck for the 2026-27 procurement cycle.

- c. A significant quantity of previous-season paddy remains stuck at rice mills because millers cannot mill it without assured space for the resulting rice. In July 2026, around 32 LMT of paddy was still lying at mills, while 153.5 LMT of milled rice awaited evacuation from Punjab.²⁶⁵ The 90% relaxation directly helps break this cycle by allowing mills that have substantially completed earlier deliveries to take up fresh paddy.
- d. Further, the earlier requirement of 100% completion of previous-season rice deliveries could prevent millers with only a small pending balance from receiving fresh paddy, even after completing the bulk of their obligations. This could restrict their participation in the new procurement cycle and create avoidable disruption at the mill level. The revised 90% threshold provides a performance-based relaxation, allowing substantially compliant millers to receive fresh allocations while the remaining balance is cleared.

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

Social Sector Schemes

I. Odisha

A. No-Advance-Fee Arrangement For SC/ST Students, 2026

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

1. On 1st September, 2026, the Odisha Government directed that meritorious Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students from economically weaker sections will not be required to deposit tuition and other fees at the time of admission to Government medical and engineering colleges, or for six months thereafter.
2. The directive aims to remove the upfront financial barrier faced by SC/ST students who qualify in competitive entrance exams but lack the funds to pay admission fees immediately.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The arrangement provides for deferred payment of tuition and other prescribed fees for eligible SC/ST students admitted to Government medical and engineering colleges.
 - b. The six-month deferment period will allow students to complete admission without paying the prescribed fees upfront and receive scholarship assistance before payment becomes due.
 - c. The deferred fees will be deposited by students after receiving scholarship funds from the Central and state Governments.
 - d. The arrangement addresses the reported 3-4 month gap between completion of scholarship formalities and receipt of funds.
 - e. The Odisha Government will issue detailed guidelines for implementing the no-advance-fee arrangement across Government medical and engineering colleges.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The directive works alongside the central post-matric scholarship schemes for SC and ST students run by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment²⁶⁶ and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs,²⁶⁷ bridging the gap between admission and the actual disbursement of central scholarship funds.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Odisha's higher education system enrolled over 2 lakh students under the Higher Education Department in 2024-25, including nearly 70,000 SC/ST students who accounted for 34.3% of enrolment.²⁶⁸ The deferment of upfront fee payments can therefore reduce a key financial barrier to SC/ST students' entry into Government medical and engineering colleges.

²⁶⁶ [Ministry Of Social Justice And Empowerment; Post-Matric Scholarship for SC Students.](#)

²⁶⁷ [Ministry Of Tribal Affairs; Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes.](#)

²⁶⁸ [Odisha Economic Survey, 2025-26.](#)

A. No-Advance-Fee Arrangement For SC/ST Students, 2026

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

- b. The fee-deferral mechanism is particularly relevant for Odisha's large ST population, which constitutes 22.85% of the State's population,²⁶⁹ given that the national GER for ST students was only 22.8% in 2023–24, compared with 30.0% overall.²⁷⁰ By allowing eligible ST students to defer fees until scholarship funds are received, the measure can reduce an admission-stage financial barrier to higher education, including professional courses.
- c. The policy is particularly relevant because Odisha's post-matric scholarships involve **multi-stage verification and DBT-based disbursement** through the State Scholarship Portal and PFMS. Bridging the period between admission and scholarship credit prevents a student's ability to pay at a fixed deadline from determining whether they can take up a hard-won professional seat.
- d. It protects low-income tribal and scheduled-caste households from turning to informal sources to arrange emergency lump sums for upfront college admission fees.
- e. The intervention imposes zero additional fiscal load on the state exchequer, as it acts purely as a cash-flow buffer and regulatory fee deferral rather than a waiver, with revenues recouped automatically once Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scholarship tranches arrive.

²⁶⁹ [Government Of Odisha.](#)

²⁷⁰ [AISHE Report, 2023-24.](#)

B. Expansion Of Ex-Gratia Assistance For School Students

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

1. On 3rd September, 2026, the Odisha School and Mass Education Department issued new guidelines for ex-gratia financial assistance to students who die or suffer permanent disability in accidents at school, while commuting to or from school, or during school-related activities, replacing guidelines issued in March 2015.
2. The guidelines aim to ensure prompt, adequate financial support to affected families, reducing the financial and medical burden that accident-related emergencies place on a student's education and household.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme extends coverage from Classes I-X to students from Shishu Vatika through Class XII, including all students of Odisha Adarsha Vidyalayas (OAV) and Odisha Mining Adarsha Vidyalayas (OMAV).
 - b. The scheme provides ₹ 2 lakh ex-gratia assistance to families of students who die or suffer permanent disability due to accidents on school premises, while commuting to or from school, during school-related activities, or from mid-day-meal-linked food poisoning.
 - c. The scheme enables seriously injured students requiring treatment outside their district to receive up to ₹ 30,000 for incidental travel expenses and ₹ 10,000 towards transportation charges.
 - d. The Government mandates payment to the parent or eligible guardian within 24 hours of approval, with the Collector sanctioning assistance on the recommendation of the District Education Officer.
 - e. The guidelines provide for medical expenses to be met through Ayushman Bharat, the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, Red Cross support or other applicable Government programs, with treatment remaining free in Government hospitals.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The measure complements the Centre's broader school-safety and student-welfare framework under Samagra Shiksha,²⁷¹ providing an additional layer of financial protection for government-school students and their families in the event of accidents.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Rajasthan²⁷² and Maharashtra²⁷³ have a comparable framework for providing ex-gratia assistance to students affected by accidents.
6. **Relevance -**

²⁷¹ [DSEL, Samagra Shiksha.](#)

²⁷² [Student Safety Accident Insurance.](#)

²⁷³ [The Times Of India, October, 2025.](#)

B. Expansion Of Ex-Gratia Assistance For School Students

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

- a. The revised guidelines address an implementation gap in Odisha's earlier accident-relief framework, which had provided ₹ 2 lakh compensation since 2015 but lacked a defined disbursement timeline. In one Orissa High Court case, a ₹ 2 lakh grant sanctioned following a student's death in 2016 remained pending for years due to fund-allocation delays.²⁷⁴ The new 24-hour disbursement requirement introduces a time-bound mechanism to ensure that approved assistance reaches affected families without prolonged administrative delays.
- b. Odisha recorded around 700 accidents and 300 fatalities near schools over the three years to 2025, highlighting the continuing exposure of schoolchildren to accident-related risks around school locations.²⁷⁵ The revised framework provides ₹ 2 lakh for accidental death or permanent disability, along with up to ₹ 30,000 for incidental travel expenses for treatment outside the district and ₹ 10,000 for eligible transport costs, strengthening immediate relief for affected Government school students.
- c. Further, the revised guidelines strengthen administrative accountability by assigning defined roles to the District Education Officer (DEO), Block Education Officer (BEO), Collector and Headmaster/Principal for identifying eligible cases, processing claims and disbursing accident-relief assistance. This creates a clear administrative chain from the school to the district level and reduces ambiguity in claim processing.
- d. Lastly, the expansion of coverage from Classes I-X to Shishu Vatika-Class XII extends accident-relief protection across the full Government school cycle. The revised framework also includes OAVs and OMAVs, reducing eligibility gaps for students previously outside the ex-gratia framework.

²⁷⁴ [Sanyasi Pradhan v State Of Odisha.](#)

²⁷⁵ [The Times Of India, July, 2025.](#)

II. Gujarat

A. State Child Protection Policy, 2026

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

1. On 15th September, 2026, the Gujarat Government notified the Gujarat State Child Protection Policy, 2026, following the publication of its draft in the Gujarat Government Gazette on 15th July, 2026, after the draft policy was published on 1st April, 2025 for objections and suggestions.
2. The policy aims to establish a rights-based and institution-wide child protection framework covering children's safety, education, healthcare and holistic development.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy mandates child-safeguarding measures across schools, healthcare facilities, childcare institutions, workplaces, digital environments and public spaces.
 - b. It applies to Government departments, statutory bodies, Government agencies, NGOs, civil society organisations and institutions that directly or indirectly interact with children.
 - c. The institutions working with children must conduct background and police verification of employees, contractual workers and volunteers, with relevant personnel required to sign a child-protection declaration.
 - d. It requires suspected cases of child abuse, exploitation or neglect to be reported to the appropriate authorities, while protecting the identity of informants and providing for action against non-compliance.
 - e. It provides for technology-enabled monitoring through the Gujarat Child Protection Society and strengthens safeguards against online and emerging digital risks.
 - f. Lastly, the Social Justice and Empowerment Department will serve as the nodal department, with departments required to prepare annual implementation plans and allied departments to frame operational guidelines within one year.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The policy aligns with Protection of Children From Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012,²⁷⁶ Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015,²⁷⁷ POCSO Rules, 2020,²⁷⁸ and Mission Vatsalya,²⁷⁹ translating national child-protection requirements into a common state-wide institutional framework.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have adopted dedicated state-level child protection frameworks through the Karnataka

²⁷⁶ [The Protection Of Children From Sexual Offences Act, 2012.](#)

²⁷⁷ [Juvenile Justice \(Care And Protection Of Children\) Act, 2015.](#)

²⁷⁸ [The Protection Of Children From Sexual Offences Rules, 2020.](#)

²⁷⁹ [Mission Vatsalya.](#)

A. State Child Protection Policy, 2026

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

State Child Protection Policy, 2016, revised in 2023,²⁸⁰ and the Tamil Nadu State Policy for Children.²⁸¹

6. Relevance -

- a. Gujarat recorded 346 POCSO judgments in the first eight months of 2026, taking the total to 1,785 since 2022. The sustained judicial caseload highlights the need to strengthen prevention alongside prosecution.²⁸² The policy can move protection upstream by requiring institutions to strengthen abuse identification, reporting protocols and designated safeguarding responsibilities before cases reach the criminal-justice system.
- b. The National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-6 reports that 18% of women aged 20–24 in Gujarat were married before the age of 18,²⁸³ indicating that child marriage remains a significant protection risk for adolescents. The policy directly addresses this gap by requiring suspected child marriages to be reported to designated authorities and incorporating the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act into institutional training. This can strengthen early detection and intervention by making child marriage a defined reporting responsibility across the wider child-protection system.
- c. Further, Gujarat Police conducted 5,289 cyber-safety awareness programs in the first fortnight of July 2026, covering online grooming, deepfakes, cyberstalking and sextortion.²⁸⁴ The policy can institutionalise protection against these emerging risks by embedding online-safety awareness, risk identification and reporting within routine safeguarding practices, rather than relying primarily on periodic awareness campaigns.
- d. Lastly, the policy extends safeguarding responsibilities across Government departments, statutory bodies, NGOs and other institutions working with children, with requirements for institutional child-protection policies, codes of conduct and defined reporting responsibilities. This can address fragmentation in the protection system by establishing common minimum safeguards and clearer accountability across institutions that interact with children.

²⁸⁰ [Karnataka State Child Protection Policy, 2016, Revised 2023.](#)

²⁸¹ [Tamil Nadu State Policy For Children 2021.](#)

²⁸² [The Indian Express, September, 2026.](#)

²⁸³ [National Family Health Survey \(NFHS-6\), 2023-24.](#)

²⁸⁴ [DD News, July, 2026.](#)

B. Administrative Restructuring For Development Of Primitive Tribal Communities

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

1. On 6th September, 2026, the state Government introduced an administrative reform under the “Mukhyamantri Adimjuth Sarvangi Utkarsh Yojana” to improve implementation of development programs for primitive tribal communities.
2. The reform aims to accelerate the social and economic development of Gujarat’s most backward and marginalised primitive tribal communities, the Padhar and Siddi, by fixing clear administrative responsibility where none existed before.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The revised framework appoints Class-I officers of the Tribal Development Department as Member Secretaries of district-level committees overseeing development works for primitive tribal communities in Ahmedabad, Surendranagar, Gir Somnath and Junagadh from financial year 2026-27.
 - b. The Assistant Commissioner (Class-I), Tribal Development, Ahmedabad is assigned to Ahmedabad and Surendranagar, while the Assistant Commissioner (Class-I), Tribal Development, Rajkot is assigned to Gir Somnath and Junagadh as Member Secretary.
 - c. The district committees are responsible for administrative approval, monitoring and reporting of development works receiving in-principle approval, establishing dedicated departmental oversight in the four districts.
 - d. The Class-II Tribal Development offices at Bagodara and Talala are responsible for local-level planning, technical approvals, post-completion inspections and issuance of Completion and Utilisation Certificates, creating a defined division between administrative and field-level functions.
 - e. Further, the revised structure creates dedicated administrative arrangements for Padhar and Siddi families living in scattered settlements outside designated tribal areas, covering Padhar villages in Ahmedabad and Surendranagar and Siddi-inhabited areas of Gir Somnath and Junagadh.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The reform strengthens the delivery of PM-JANMAN²⁸⁵ (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan), the Centre’s flagship initiative for the welfare and socio-economic development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), including the Siddi community.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States like Jharkhand²⁸⁶ have undertaken targeted outreach to improve PVTG access to welfare schemes, while Karnataka²⁸⁷ has introduced dedicated housing support for forest-based tribal communities.

²⁸⁵ [PIB, July, 2026.](#)

²⁸⁶ [PIB, December, 2025.](#)

²⁸⁷ [Times of India, November, 2025.](#)

B. Administrative Restructuring For Development Of Primitive Tribal Communities

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

6. Relevance -

- a. Gujarat has 30,932 Padhar and 8,661 Siddi people, with these Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) concentrated across districts outside the State's traditional tribal areas.²⁸⁸ With nearly 40,000 people spread across non-tribal districts, the creation of dedicated Tribal Development officers and district-level committees can address the administrative fragmentation in delivering development programs to these communities.
- b. Moreover, the Padhar community comprises 5,566 households, with a literacy rate of just 41.0%, falling to 28.2% among women.²⁸⁹ Given these substantial human-development gaps, placing dedicated Tribal Development officers and district-level committees in charge of Padhar and Siddi welfare can strengthen the targeting and monitoring of education, livelihood and social-development interventions for these PVTG communities.
- c. Further, Gujarat's latest habitation-level survey identifies 1,009 PVTG habitations across 601 villages, covering 32,162 households and 1.53 lakh people.²⁹⁰ The new district-level committee structure can provide a clearer administrative chain for coordinating and monitoring welfare interventions across these geographically dispersed PVTG settlements, particularly in districts outside the traditional tribal belt.

²⁸⁸ [Tribal Development Department, Government Of Gujarat.](#)

²⁸⁹ [Statistical Profile Of Scheduled Tribes In India, 2013.](#)

²⁹⁰ [Tribal Development Department, Government Of Gujarat.](#)

III. Haryana

A. Financial And Welfare Measures For Rural Sanitation Workers

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

1. On 10th September, 2026, the Haryana Government announced a package of welfare measures for rural sanitation workers.
2. The measures aim to improve the financial security, allowances and employment-related welfare of rural sanitation workers.
3. The measures follow demands raised by rural sanitation workers at a meeting held on 29th May, 2026, and have been formally communicated by the Development and Panchayats Department.
4. **Key Features -**
 - a. The monthly honorarium has been increased from ₹16,000 to ₹18,100, effective retrospectively from January 2026.
 - b. The Government will pay ₹ 2,100 per month in arrears for the period from January to June 2026.
 - c. The eligible workers will also receive the pending honorarium for October, 2023, covering the period affected by the sanitation workers' strike.
 - d. The order requires monthly honorarium to be disbursed by the 7th of every month, with delay beyond this deadline attracting a ₹ 500 penalty.
 - e. The rural sanitation workers deployed outside their own village will receive a ₹ 200 per day duty allowance, payable through the Block Development and Panchayat Officer's (BDPO) office.
 - f. The annual uniform allowance has been increased from ₹ 4,000 to ₹ 6,000, while the washing allowance has risen from ₹ 1,000 to ₹ 1,500 per year.
 - g. In case of a worker's death while on duty, one eligible family member will be considered for appointment on compassionate grounds, while the BDPO office will assist the family with Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees' State Insurance (ESI) death-claim formalities.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Tamil Nadu's Sanitation Workers' Development Scheme provides training, insurance, and treatment support,²⁹¹ while Odisha's GARIMA scheme includes risk and hardship allowances, accident assistance and housing/vehicle support.²⁹²
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The relief package responds to demands raised by rural sanitation workers over honorarium arrears, payment delays and inadequate work-related allowances, with the Government also agreeing to release eligible outstanding payments from

²⁹¹ [The Hindu, December, 2022.](#)

²⁹² [Firstpost, June, 2023.](#)

A. Financial And Welfare Measures For Rural Sanitation Workers

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

the October 2023 strike period.²⁹³ By addressing both recurring remuneration and previously pending payments, the measures strengthen the financial predictability of the rural sanitation workforce.

- b. Haryana has around 11,000 rural sanitation workers, making the increase from ₹ 16,000 to ₹ 18,100 a broad-based enhancement in the remuneration of the workforce responsible for sanitation services across rural areas.²⁹⁴ The 13.1% increase, together with the payment of arrears from January 2026, raises both current earnings and the immediate value of the remuneration package, strengthening the financial incentive attached to continued sanitation work.
- c. A large share of sanitation workers are older and have limited literacy, which can make navigating documentation-heavy social-security processes difficult.²⁹⁵ Therefore, mandating Block Development and Panchayat Officer (BDPO) offices to assist families with Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees' State Insurance (ESI) death claims shifts part of the administrative burden from workers' families to the local administration, improving access to eligible benefits following a work-related death.
- d. Further, the ₹ 200 per day allowance for outside-village duties compensates workers for deployment-related mobility costs, while mandating honorarium payment by the 7th of each month with a ₹ 500 penalty for delay strengthens payment certainty. Together, the provisions align remuneration more closely with actual work requirements while creating greater predictability in monthly income.

²⁹³ [Hindustan Times, September, 2026.](#)

²⁹⁴ [The Tribune, September, 2026.](#)

²⁹⁵ [Sagepub, Kumar, K., And Shetty, D. R. \(2024\).](#)

B. Expansion Of Deendayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana

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

1. On 7th September, 2026, the Haryana Government announced an expansion of the Deendayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana by raising the annual family income eligibility limit from ₹ 1 lakh to ₹ 1.80 lakh.
2. The expansion scheme aims to provide monthly financial assistance to women from economically weaker families and strengthen their financial self-reliance.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The income eligibility ceiling is increased from ₹ 1 lakh to ₹ 1.80 lakh annual family income, expanding the pool of eligible women.
 - b. The eligible women will continue to receive ₹ 2,100 per month under the scheme after registration.
 - c. The registration portal will be reopened for newly eligible women following the expansion of the income criterion.
 - d. The existing Lado Lakshmi beneficiaries will retain benefits under other Government schemes, including existing pensions and other financial assistance.
 - e. Further, the scheme has a ₹ 6,500 crore budget allocation, with more than ₹ 2,000 crore already transferred to nearly 10 lakh women.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The decision aligns with Mission Shakti (Samarthya),²⁹⁶ which focuses on the social and economic empowerment of women and improving their access to government services.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Maharashtra,²⁹⁷ Madhya Pradesh,²⁹⁸ Karnataka,²⁹⁹ Tamil Nadu,³⁰⁰ Chhattisgarh,³⁰¹ Telangana,³⁰² Assam,³⁰³ Punjab³⁰⁴ and Odisha³⁰⁵ have implemented similar schemes to provide direct financial assistance to women.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The reform nearly doubles the family-income ceiling, from around ₹ 8,333 to ₹ 15,000 per month, substantially expanding eligibility. Since Haryana already verifies eligibility through the Family Information Data Repository (Parivar

²⁹⁶ [Ministry of Women & Child Development, Mission Shakti, GoI.](#)

²⁹⁷ [Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana.](#)

²⁹⁸ [Ladli Behna Yojana.](#)

²⁹⁹ [Gruha Lakshmi Yojana.](#)

³⁰⁰ [Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai.](#)

³⁰¹ [Mahtari Vandan Yojana.](#)

³⁰² [Maha Lakshmi Scheme.](#)

³⁰³ [Urunodoi 3.0.](#)

³⁰⁴ [The New Indian Express, April, 2026.](#)

³⁰⁵ [Subhadra Yojana.](#)

B. Expansion Of Deendayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana

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

Pehchan Patra),³⁰⁶ the newly eligible households can be identified through the existing database rather than a new beneficiary-survey system.³⁰⁷

- b. Haryana's overall female LFPR is 38.4%,³⁰⁸ indicating substantial scope to strengthen women's economic participation. Expanding the direct ₹ 2,100 monthly transfer to women in families earning up to ₹ 1.8 lakh can provide women with greater independent access to cash while participation in the labour market remains limited.
- c. Haryana has increased the scheme's annual allocation from ₹ 5,000 crore to ₹ 6,500 crore, a 30% rise, alongside the higher income ceiling.³⁰⁹ That budget expansion is important because bringing families earning ₹ 1-1.8 lakh into eligibility materially enlarges the potential beneficiary pool and recurring fiscal commitment.
- d. The scheme allows multiple eligible women from the same family to receive ₹ 2,100 each and does not automatically disqualify women receiving pensions or other welfare benefits. This makes the transfer more household-intensive than a one-beneficiary-per-family model and can raise aggregate support to low-income households with several adult women.

³⁰⁶ Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) is Haryana's family identification system, under which each family is assigned a unique Family ID and its demographic and socioeconomic information is maintained in the Family Information Data Repository (FIDR). The database is used by the state to verify eligibility and deliver government schemes and services.

³⁰⁷ [Press Release, Government Of Haryana.](#)

³⁰⁸ [Periodic Labour Force Survey Report, Annual Report 2025, Page 146.](#)

³⁰⁹ [CM Press Release, September, 2026.](#)

IV. West Bengal

A. Pension Hike For Old Age, Widow And Persons With Disability

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

1. On 7th September, 2026, the state Government transferred the first enhanced payments under its Old Age, Widow and Disability Pension schemes.
2. It raised the monthly amount from ₹ 1,000 to ₹ 1,500 for roughly 80 lakh beneficiaries, with the increase applied retroactively from 1st August, 2026.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The monthly pension for elderly persons, widows and persons with disabilities increases from ₹ 1,000 to ₹ 1,500, with the enhanced amount applicable from August 2026.
 - b. The revised assistance covers beneficiaries under the state's old-age, widow and disability pension schemes, bringing the monthly support across these categories to ₹ 1,500.
 - c. The Government has scrapped the existing waiting list for pension beneficiaries and directed officials to prepare a fresh list of eligible beneficiaries.
 - d. The enhanced pension was credited to beneficiaries from 7th September, including the revised August payment for beneficiaries who had received ₹ 1,000 until July.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The enhanced pensions complement benefits under the Central National Social Assistance program (NSAP), including the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme, Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme,³¹⁰ and Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme,³¹¹ with the ₹ 1,500 rate reflecting the state's own top-up over the central base pension.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. West Bengal's elderly population was projected at 1.10 crore in 2021, or 11.3% of the state population, and is expected to rise to 1.61 crore, or 15.7%, by 2031.³¹² Raising old-age pensions therefore responds to a rapidly expanding beneficiary base rather than a static welfare population.
 - b. West Bengal had 20.17 lakh persons with disabilities in the 2011 Census, equivalent to 2.21% of the State's population.³¹³ The scale of the population makes accurate identification of eligible pension beneficiaries important, particularly given that only 10.98 lakh persons with 40% or more disability had been issued disability identity cards as of the latest State-level assessment.
 - c. According to the West Bengal Government's 2026 report card, 50.61 lakh senior citizens, 20.57 lakh widows and 7.59 lakh persons with disabilities received

³¹⁰ [Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme.](#)

³¹¹ [Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension Scheme.](#)

³¹² [Elderly In India, 2021, Ministry Of Statistics And program Implementation.](#)

³¹³ [Handbook On Social Welfare Statistics, The Government Of India.](#)

A. Pension Hike For Old Age, Widow And Persons With Disability

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

monthly pensions under Jai Bangla, alongside 2.12 lakh other beneficiaries, with annual expenditure of ₹ 10,573.87 crore.³¹⁴ A 50% increase in the monthly benefit therefore carries a substantial recurring fiscal cost, making accurate beneficiary verification increasingly important.

- d. In that light, removing around 50,000 allegedly ineligible municipal beneficiaries³¹⁵ and reallocating the savings to genuine claimants strengthens targeting and becomes more important as the benefit rises by 50%.

³¹⁴ [Government Of West Bengal.](#)

³¹⁵ [The Times Of India, September, 2026.](#)

V. Uttarakhand

A. Mukhyamantri Yuva Bhavishya Nirman Yojana

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

1. On 7th September, 2026, the state Government launched the Mukhyamantri Yuva Bhavishya Nirman Yojana.
2. The policy aims to expand access to quality competitive-examination preparation for students who may face financial or resource constraints, by providing free online coaching through state-supported digital learning.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme targets eligible final-year undergraduate and postgraduate students enrolled in government and government-aided colleges and state universities in Uttarakhand, as well as candidates who completed their undergraduate or postgraduate degree in the previous year.
 - b. The first phase provides free online coaching to 11,000 students, with seats allocated across different competitive-examination categories.
 - c. The coaching allocation covers 2,000 students for Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and State Public Service Commission examinations, 5,000 for Staff Selection Commission (SSC), railways and banking examinations, and 2,000 for defence examinations.
 - d. The remaining 2,000 seats cover 1,000 students for National Eligibility Test (NET), Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) examinations, and 1,000 for management entrance examinations such as Common Admission Test (CAT) and Management Aptitude Test (MAT).
 - e. Further, colleges and universities identify and nominate top-performing final-year students, who are then enrolled directly for online classes, recorded lectures, digital study material, question banks and regular tests.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Uttar Pradesh,³¹⁶ Himachal Pradesh³¹⁷ and Jharkhand³¹⁸ offer free coaching for UPSC, NEET, and other competitive exams.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Uttarakhand's youth unemployment rate was 13.9% in 2025, rising to 18.4% in urban areas.³¹⁹ The free preparation for recruitment and eligibility examinations therefore targets a state where young people continue to face significant barriers in transitioning from education into employment.

³¹⁶ [Uttar Pradesh Mukhyamantri Abhyuday Yojana.](#)

³¹⁷ [The Tribune, September, 2026.](#)

³¹⁸ [The Indian Tribal, December, 2025.](#)

³¹⁹ [Periodic Labour Force Survey, Annual Report, 2025.](#)

A. Mukhyamantri Yuva Bhavishya Nirman Yojana

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

- b. Geography further increases the cost of accessing specialised coaching, with around 86% of Uttarakhand's 53,483 sq km area being hilly and settlements dispersed across difficult terrain.³²⁰ The online coaching offers students in hill districts an alternative to travelling or relocating to Dehradun, Haldwani and other urban centres for examination preparation.
- c. Further, Uttarakhand had 118 Government colleges and 21 aided colleges in 2024, providing an existing institutional network for delivering the program.³²¹ Routing online coaching through this network can extend access beyond major urban centres without requiring separate physical coaching infrastructure across districts.
- d. Lastly, Uttarakhand has identified 474 villages as migration-affected under the Mukhyamantri Palayan Roktham Yojana, which targets areas facing unemployment and limited livelihood opportunities.³²² The wider access to preparation for UPSC, SSC, banking, defence and other recruitment examinations can create an additional pathway to formal employment for youth in these migration-affected areas.

³²⁰ [State Horticulture Mission, Uttarakhand.](#)

³²¹ [Department Of Higher Education, Uttarakhand.](#)

³²² [Rural Development Department, Uttarakhand.](#)

VI. Uttar Pradesh

A. Enhanced Honorarium For PRD Personnel, Anganwadi Workers And Helpers

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#), [Link 3](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 8th September, 2026, the state Government announced enhanced honorarium and cashless health coverage for Anganwadi workers and helpers, along with increased duty allowance and health coverage for Prantiya Raksha Dal (PRD) personnel.
2. The measures aim to strengthen the financial and social security of PRD personnel Anganwadi workers and helpers by increasing their monthly honorarium and extending cashless medical treatment coverage to them and their families.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The revised honorarium increases the monthly payment for Anganwadi workers from ₹ 8,000 to ₹ 12,000 and for Anganwadi helpers from ₹ 4,000 to ₹ 6,000.
 - b. The health-cover provision provides cashless medical treatment of up to ₹ 5 lakh annually for Anganwadi workers, helpers and their families.
 - c. The cashless health coverage extends to Government and empanelled private hospitals, enabling beneficiaries to access treatment across both public and designated private facilities.
 - d. The PRD personnel will receive an increased duty allowance of ₹ 600 per day, up from ₹ 500, involving an additional annual expenditure of ₹ 101.44 crore.
 - e. The PRD personnel and their families will receive cashless medical treatment of up to ₹ 5 lakh, with an estimated additional expenditure of ₹ 9.34 crore.
 - f. The welfare package provides additional sarees to Anganwadi workers and helpers, with the Government expanding material support alongside the revised honorarium and health coverage.
 - g. Further, the Government is expanding smartphone access for Anganwadi workers to enable real-time reporting and program monitoring, with 1.28 lakh smartphones already distributed in the first phase.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - Anganwadi honorariums are jointly funded by the Centre and states under the Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0³²³ (erstwhile ICDS) scheme, with this hike specifically raising the state's own contribution share on top of the central base.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. The 50% honorarium hike covers roughly 1.83 lakh Anganwadi workers and 1.13 lakh helpers in Uttar Pradesh. At this scale, raising monthly payments from ₹ 8,000 to ₹ 12,000 for workers and ₹ 4,000 to ₹ 6,000 for helpers materially increases recurring income across a major frontline welfare workforce.³²⁴

³²³ [Saksham Anganwadi And Poshan 2.0, Ministry Of Women And Child Development.](#)

³²⁴ [PIB, February, 2024.](#)

A. Enhanced Honorarium For PRD Personnel, Anganwadi Workers And Helpers

Source: [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#), [Link 3](#) | Impact: Medium

- b. Uttar Pradesh has 23,697 Anganwadi centres approved for upgradation under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0.³²⁵ The higher honorarium and improved facilities provide additional support to the workforce responsible for delivering services across this expanding network of upgraded centres.
- c. Uttar Pradesh has 27,794 active PRD personnel serving as a frontline auxiliary workforce supporting police and district administration.³²⁶ With the raising of daily duty allowance from ₹ 500 to ₹ 600 and extending cashless medical treatment up to ₹ 5 lakh to them and their families. Together, the measures strengthen both income support and service-linked health protection for a sizable auxiliary workforce whose compensation is tied directly to days on duty.
- d. The scale of service delivery is substantial, with around 1.57 crore beneficiaries receiving supplementary nutrition and 34.49 lakh children aged 3–6 receiving hot cooked meals through Anganwadi centres in Uttar Pradesh. Given this reach, workforce stability has direct implications for the continuity of frontline nutrition, preschool and growth-monitoring services.
- e. Further, Anganwadi workers are increasingly required to support digital monitoring and inter-departmental convergence alongside their frontline responsibilities. The proposed smartphones and real-time data systems can reduce the operational burden of reporting, with 1.28 lakh smartphones already distributed in the first phase, and improve the timeliness of information used to track beneficiaries and program delivery.
- f. Lastly, Anganwadi workers support a wider service package covering supplementary nutrition, preschool education, nutrition and health education, immunisation, health check-ups and referrals. Extending ₹ 5 lakh of cashless family healthcare therefore adds a layer of social protection for a frontline workforce performing multiple health and early-childhood functions while remaining engaged on an honorarium basis rather than as regular salaried Government employees.

³²⁵ [PIB, July, 2026.](#)

³²⁶ [The Indian Express, September, 2026.](#)

B. Reservation For Former Agniveers In Jail And Transport Posts

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

1. On 15th September, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved 20% horizontal reservation for former Agniveers in direct recruitment to the posts of Jail Warder and Enforcement Constable in the Transport Department.
2. The measure aims to facilitate the transition of former Agniveers into state Government employment following completion of their four-year military service.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The reform reserves 20% of direct-recruitment vacancies horizontally for former Agniveers in the Jail Warder cadre and in the post of Enforcement Constable under the Transport Department.
 - b. It provides a three-year relaxation in the maximum age limit for eligible former Agniveers.
 - c. It allows the four-year period of Agniveer service to be deducted while calculating the candidate's age.
 - d. The reservation will operate within the candidates' respective social categories.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The provision aligns with the Agnipath Scheme, under which the Central Government now provides 50% reservation for Ex-Agniveers in recruitment to Constable (GD)/Rifleman posts in CAPFs and Assam Rifles.³²⁷
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States/UTs such as Haryana,³²⁸ Gujarat,³²⁹ Chhattisgarh,³³⁰ Uttarakhand,³³¹ Sikkim,³³² and Delhi³³³ have adopted similar measures providing reservation for former Agniveers in state government recruitments, particularly in police, prison, forest and other uniformed services.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Under the Agnipath scheme, up to 25% of each batch may be retained in the regular Armed Forces, leaving the majority to transition into civilian employment after four years.³³⁴ A 20% horizontal reservation in Uttar Pradesh creates a defined state-employment pathway for this larger pool of former Agniveers, improving the employment transition after military service.
 - b. Uttar Pradesh's 15-29 age group is projected to constitute 27.8% of the state's

³²⁷ [PIB, July, 2026.](#)

³²⁸ [Human Resource Department, Haryana Government.](#)

³²⁹ [India Today, June, 2026.](#)

³³⁰ [The New Indian Express, July, 2026.](#)

³³¹ [The Hindu, September, 2026.](#)

³³² [News On Air, July, 2026.](#)

³³³ [News On Air, August, 2026.](#)

³³⁴ [PIB, June, 2022.](#)

B. Reservation For Former Agniveers In Jail And Transport Posts

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

population in 2026, underscoring the scale of its young workforce.³³⁵ The Government has initially limited the 20% horizontal reservation for former Agniveers to uniformed enforcement posts rather than extending it across Government employment, covering Jail Warders and Transport Enforcement Constables where the discipline, field duties and enforcement functions can draw on the military training and experience acquired by former Agniveers.

- c. Uttar Pradesh's 2025-26 recruitment drive included 3,385 Jail Warder vacancies within a wider recruitment of 32,679 posts across the police and prisons departments.³³⁶ A 20% horizontal reservation could therefore provide a substantial pool of dedicated opportunities for former Agniveers, rather than functioning only as a nominal preference.
- d. The provision of three years' additional age relaxation, along with deduction of the four-year Agniveer service period when calculating age, addresses a specific eligibility constraint created by the four-year military engagement. This allows former Agniveers to compete for state recruitment without their period of military service materially narrowing their eligibility window.
- e. Further, the 20% reservation is horizontal, meaning it cuts across the existing SC, ST, OBC, EWS and unreserved categories rather than creating a separate vertical category for former Agniveers. This allows the state to extend preferential access to ex-Agniveers while retaining the existing vertical reservation framework.

³³⁵ [National Institute Of Urban Affairs.](#)

³³⁶ [The Times Of India, January, 2026.](#)

VII. Maharashtra

A. Rollout Of Welfare Package For Transport Drivers

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

1. On 4th September, 2026, the Maharashtra Government rolled out a package of social-security benefits under the Dharmaveer Anand Dighe Saheb Passenger Transport Driver-Owner Welfare Board.
2. The package provides passenger transport driver-owners and their families with support including retirement assistance, life and disability insurance, healthcare benefits, injury assistance and education scholarships.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Retirement Honour Scheme provides a ₹ 10,000 honorarium to eligible driver-owners who have attained 65 years of age, with payments made directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts.
 - b. The welfare package provides life and disability insurance coverage for drivers while on duty, along with financial assistance for injuries sustained during work.
 - c. The board provides health assistance to registered driver-owners, extending welfare support to medical needs arising during their working years.
 - d. The education support provides scholarships for children of registered driver-owners, including ₹ 5,000 for students securing at least 75% in Class 10 and ₹ 7,000 for those achieving the same threshold in Class 12, with further assistance for degree-level education.
 - e. The board operates under an expanded membership framework covering licensed, badged drivers of passenger transport vehicles, beyond only auto-rickshaw and taxi drivers; membership requires a ₹ 500 one-time registration fee and ₹ 300 annual subscription.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative aligns with the **Code on Social Security, 2020**,³³⁷ which extends social-security coverage to unorganised, gig, platform and self-employed workers and enables Governments to frame welfare measures for these categories.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Tamil Nadu³³⁸ implements a welfare scheme for unorganised drivers, while Kerala³³⁹ provides pension, medical, death, maternity and educational benefits to motor transport workers.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Maharashtra had 978,541 valid auto rickshaw and taxi permits in 2026, including 916,884 auto rickshaw and 61,657 taxi permits, with around 4.62 lakh permits

³³⁷ [Code On Social Security, 2020, The Government Of India.](#)

³³⁸ [Tamil Nadu Unorganised Drivers Social Security And Welfare Scheme, 2006.](#)

³³⁹ [Kerala Motor Transport Workers Welfare Fund Scheme, 1985.](#)

A. Rollout Of Welfare Package For Transport Drivers

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

concentrated in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.³⁴⁰ The dedicated welfare board and the reform package therefore provide social-security coverage across a large passenger-transport workforce that operates through a predominantly permit-based and fragmented employment structure.

- b. The State sanctioned an initial ₹ 50 crore fund for the Welfare Board, with ₹ 10,000 payments already deposited into the bank accounts of around 735 eligible senior members by September, 2026.³⁴¹ This indicates that the Board has an operational role in financing and disbursing social-security benefits to passenger transport driver-owners, rather than limiting it to registration or representation of transport workers.
- c. Transport workers, particularly auto-rickshaw drivers, face chronic occupational health risks including Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), musculoskeletal disorders from sustained driving posture, vibration-related injuries, and cardiovascular stress from air-pollution exposure.³⁴² The board's structured health assistance and disability insurance provisions provide preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic support mechanisms for occupational disease early detection and management.
- d. Lastly, Maharashtra's 2026 Aggregator Policy requires app-based taxi operators to submit verified driver details to the Transport Department,³⁴³ with eligible drivers to be enrolled as members of the welfare board. This creates a link between the State's expanding platform-transport regulation and formal welfare coverage, bringing app-based drivers and their families within the same institutional framework.

³⁴⁰ [Trak, September, 2026.](#)

³⁴¹ [Mid Day, September, 2026.](#)

³⁴² [Occupational Health Risks Among Taxi and Auto-Rickshaw Drivers in India: A Review, Research Gate, 2025.](#)

³⁴³ [Hindustan Times, September, 2026.](#)

VIII. Goa

A. Goa Ujjwala Yojana, 2026

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

1. On 5th September, 2026, the Goa Government launched the Ujjwala Yojana, 2026. The scheme aims to reduce household cooking-fuel expenditure by providing annual financial assistance for LPG or PNG use across eligible Goa households without an income ceiling.
2. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme provides ₹ 3,000 annually, equivalent to support for three domestic LPG refills, through a one-time Direct Benefit Transfer to an Aadhaar-linked bank account.
 - b. It introduces a ₹ 100 crore financial provision and sets no income ceiling for accessing the assistance.
 - c. The coverage extends to existing Griha Aadhaar and female Dayanand Social Security Scheme beneficiaries, while other residents aged 18 years or above with a valid Voter's ID (EPIC) and a domestic LPG or PNG connection can apply under an open category.
 - d. It limits assistance to one beneficiary per household irrespective of the number of LPG or PNG connections, and permits widows, widowers and divorcees to qualify subject to prescribed conditions.
 - e. The scheme establishes a two-stage grievance mechanism for rejection, non-inclusion or non-receipt of assistance, and enables recovery of benefits obtained through false, incorrect or incomplete information.
3. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The scheme complements the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), 2016,³⁴⁴ which provides deposit-free LPG connections to adult women from poor households.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Haryana³⁴⁵ provides eligible Antyodaya/BPL families LPG cylinders at ₹ 500, while Rajasthan³⁴⁶ Rasoi Gas Cylinder Subsidy Yojana, 2024 provides eligible BPL and PMUY families with up to 12 LPG cylinders annually at ₹ 450 each.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Goa already had 96.5% of households using clean cooking fuel in 2019–21, including 93.1% in rural areas and 98.8% in urban areas.³⁴⁷ The ₹ 3,000 annual LPG assistance therefore shifts the policy focus from expanding basic access to

³⁴⁴ [Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, 2016, The Government Of India.](#)

³⁴⁵ [News On Air, August, 2024.](#)

³⁴⁶ [Hindustan Times, December, 2023.](#)

³⁴⁷ [National Family Health Survey \(NFHS-5\), 2019-21.](#)

A. Goa Ujjwala Yojana, 2026

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

improving the affordability of continued LPG use among households that already have high access to clean cooking fuel.

- b. Notably, around 10,600 domestic LPG cylinders were being delivered daily in Goa in April 2026,³⁴⁸ a level described by the Government as consistent with normal delivery levels and current requirements. The annual assistance therefore operates primarily as a household affordability measure within an established LPG consumption and distribution network, rather than addressing a basic supply gap.
- c. Further, PM Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries receive a ₹ 300 subsidy per 14.2 kg LPG cylinder for up to nine refills a year under the Centre's 2025–26 targeted subsidy framework.³⁴⁹ Goa's additional ₹ 3,000 annual assistance therefore provides State-level affordability support alongside the existing national LPG subsidy.
- d. Lastly, the Goa Government has allocated ₹ 100 crore from the State Consolidated Fund for the Goa Ujjwala Yojana, under which eligible households will receive ₹ 3,000 annually towards LPG costs. The dedicated allocation gives the scheme a defined fiscal envelope for 2026–27, with the assistance equivalent to the cost of three domestic LPG refills.

³⁴⁸ [PIB, April, 2026.](#)

³⁴⁹ [PIB, August, 2025.](#)

IX. Karnataka

A. Shramika Nivas Scheme, 2026

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

1. On 9th September, 2026, the Karnataka Government approved the Shramika Nivas Scheme.
2. The scheme aims to provide affordable housing close to workplaces for industrial workers and reduce the distance between workers' residences and employment locations.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme proposes an initial target of 10,000 housing units for industrial workers near their workplaces.
 - b. It provides for companies and industries to develop worker housing facilities, supported through government subsidies and other state assistance.
 - c. The framework enables the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB)³⁵⁰ to facilitate land requirements for worker housing on a subsidised basis.
 - d. The initiative permits 15–20% of land in industrial areas to be used for housing workers under the Shramika Nivas framework.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The scheme aligns with the Affordable Rental Housing (ARH) component of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban 2.0,³⁵¹ which provides affordable rental housing for industrial workers and urban migrants near employment centres.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** The states such as Tamil Nadu³⁵² have implemented the Affordable Rental Housing Complexes for industrial and migrant workers, while Gujarat³⁵³ provided incentives for dormitory housing for industrial labourers in industrial clusters.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The manufacturing productivity is closely linked to worker proximity to workplaces and access to affordable accommodation. In Bengaluru's Narasapura Industrial Area, workers travel up to two hours each way to factories, while employers incur around ₹ 5,000 per worker per month on transportation.³⁵⁴ By enabling housing closer to industrial areas, the scheme can reduce commuting costs and fatigue, improve worker retention and strengthen workforce reliability for manufacturing units.
 - b. Karnataka's industrial clusters have a substantial dependence on migrant labour,

³⁵⁰ [Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board.](#)

³⁵¹ [Affordable Rental Housing \(ARH\) Vertical Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Urban 2.0, 2024.](#)

³⁵² [The New Indian Express, July, 2020.](#)

³⁵³ [Gujarat Industrial Policy, 2020.](#)

³⁵⁴ [SAFE Accommodation Report, December, 2024, NITI Aayog.](#)

A. Shramika Nivas Scheme, 2026

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

with 46,393 migrant workers from more than 30 states and UTs registered in the State as of March 2026.³⁵⁵ By providing 10,000 houses near workplaces, the scheme can support the mobility of this workforce, improving labour availability, worker retention and operational continuity for industrial employers.

- c. Karnataka's registered industrial base already comprises over 19,000 factories employing 19.49 lakh workers,³⁵⁶ while the Karnataka Industrial Policy 2025–30 targets ₹ 7.5 lakh crore of investment and 20 lakh additional jobs by 2030.³⁵⁷ Providing 10,000 houses near industrial workplaces can therefore strengthen the labour infrastructure required to support this planned expansion, particularly in clusters where access to affordable accommodation can influence workers' ability to take up and retain industrial employment.
- d. The scheme uses Government support to crowd in private investment for worker housing, with industrial units developing accommodation while the Government provides subsidised land and other assistance. This industry-led model can expand housing capacity without placing the full development burden on the Government. The Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) scheme provides a precedent, with 82,273 units sanctioned for development by public and private entities,³⁵⁸ including industrial employers, demonstrating the scope for employer-led worker accommodation.

³⁵⁵ [The Times Of India, March, 2026.](#)

³⁵⁶ [Karnataka Economic Survey, 2025-26.](#)

³⁵⁷ [The Indian Express, February, 2025.](#)

³⁵⁸ [PIB, March, 2025.](#)

B. Chief Minister's Negila Yogi Scheme, 2026

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

1. On 9th September, 2026, the Karnataka Government approved the Chief Minister's Negila Yogi Scheme, 2026.
2. The scheme aims to expand access to mechanised cultivation by providing tractor-based farm services to small landholders and bringing cultivable fallow land back under production.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme offers a 50% subsidy on farm-machinery hiring costs for farmers who own up to three acres, with an annual cap of ₹ 4,500 per farmer.
 - b. The pilot will be implemented in 31 taluks, one from each district, backed by an initial allocation of ₹ 152.28 crore.
 - c. The program enables the government to deploy privately owned tractors for mechanised cultivation and bring in machinery from other locations wherever local availability falls short.
 - d. The framework also allows for the procurement of additional tractors as needed; the Government has indicated that it may purchase between 500 and 1,000 tractors, depending on demand.
 - e. The pilot will be extended to the remaining taluks from the following year, subject to successful implementation in the initial 31 taluks.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The scheme aligns with the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), which expands access to farm machinery for small and marginal farmers through Custom Hiring Centres and subsidised mechanisation services.³⁵⁹
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Andhra Pradesh³⁶⁰ and Telangana³⁶¹ have expanded farm mechanisation through Custom Hiring Centres, enabling small and marginal farmers to access tractors and other agricultural machinery on a rental basis.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Karnataka had 10.65 lakh hectares of fallow land, comprising 6.78 lakh hectares of current fallows and 3.86 lakh hectares of other fallows.³⁶² The scheme provides a 50% subsidy on farm machinery hire for farmers owning up to three acres, capped at ₹ 4,500 annually, helping address machinery-access constraints that can prevent cultivable fallow land from being brought back into production.

³⁵⁹ [PIB, August, 2026.](#)

³⁶⁰ [Deccan Chronicle, August, 2026.](#)

³⁶¹ [Agriculture Action Plan, 2020.](#)

³⁶² [Karnataka State Focus Paper, 2025-26.](#)

B. Chief Minister's Negila Yogi Scheme, 2026

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

- b. Around 80% of Karnataka's 86.81 lakh operational holdings are small and marginal holdings below two hectares, yet they account for only 44% of the operated area.³⁶³ The scheme's three-acre eligibility threshold is therefore aligned with the state's smallholder structure, reducing the cost of hiring machinery for farmers whose limited scale makes individual ownership less viable.
- c. Karnataka's agricultural and allied subsidies rose from ₹ 879 per agricultural landholder in 2013-14 to ₹ 4,607 in 2023-24,³⁶⁴ while farm mechanisation programs received ₹ 412.72 crore in 2024-25.³⁶⁵ With 1,013 custom-hiring centres already serving around 42 lakh farmers,³⁶⁶ Negila Yogi extends this mechanisation push by subsidising machinery hire for holdings of up to three acres, with support capped at ₹ 4,500 per farmer annually.
- d. The agricultural uncertainty and weak rural employment opportunities in North Karnataka are contributing to rural-to-urban migration of farm workers, reducing the availability of agricultural labour during critical cultivation periods.^{367,368} By covering 50% of eligible farm machinery-hire costs, subject to the ₹ 4,500 annual cap, Negila Yogi reduces farmers' dependence on individually owned equipment and lowers the upfront cost of mechanised cultivation.

³⁶³ [State Level Bankers Committee, Karnataka.](#)

³⁶⁴ [Fiscal Policy Institute Karnataka.](#)

³⁶⁵ [Economic Survey 2024-25, The Government Of Karnataka.](#)

³⁶⁶ [Fiscal Policy Institute Karnataka.](#)

³⁶⁷ [Deccan Herald, April, 2025.](#)

³⁶⁸ [The New Indian Express, November, 2025.](#)

C. Udyoga Nidhi Scheme, 2026

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

1. On 9th September, 2026, the Karnataka Cabinet approved the Udyoga Nidhi Scheme, 2026.
2. The scheme aims to promote formal employment and attract private investment to economically backward regions by providing incentives linked to new job creation.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme covers 10 districts including Yadgir, Bidar, Koppal, Raichur, Kalaburagi, Vijayapura, Belagavi, Vijayanagara, Haveri and Gadag.
 - b. It provides employers with ₹ 2,500 per month for every new employee hired, with the incentive available for up to 24 months in the identified districts.
 - c. It targets the creation of approximately 1 lakh new jobs and has been provided around ₹ 300 crore for implementation.
 - d. The scheme links the employment incentive to Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) contributions.
 - e. Further, it enables employment-oriented investment across sectors including aerospace, defence, drones, automobiles, semiconductors, telecommunications, biotechnology and medical equipment.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The scheme aligns with the **Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana (PM-VBRY), 2025**,³⁶⁹ which provides employers up to ₹ 3,000 per month per additional employee to encourage sustained formal job creation and expand Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)-linked employment.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** The States such as Odisha³⁷⁰ reimburses eligible employers' Employees' State Insurance (ESI) and EPF contributions, and Rajasthan³⁷¹ provides employment-generation subsidies through reimbursement of employers' EPF and ESI contributions for specified categories of workers.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The 10 districts targeted under Udyoga Nidhi rank between 22nd and 31st among Karnataka's 31 districts on per capita income, based on the latest available 2024-25 district-level data. While Karnataka's overall per capita income rose to ₹ 4.33 lakh in 2025-26, district-level estimates for 2025-26 are not yet available. The ₹ 2,500 monthly incentive therefore targets job creation in districts that remain at the lower end of the state's income distribution, using a direct employment subsidy to reduce the cost of new hiring in these regions.

³⁶⁹ [Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana, 2025, The Government Of India.](#)

³⁷⁰ [Industrial Policy Resolution, 2022, The Government Of Odisha.](#)

³⁷¹ [Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme, 2024.](#)

C. Udyoga Nidhi Scheme, 2026

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

- b. Moreover, Karnataka's youth opportunity gap remains substantial, with Bengaluru Urban recording a YouthPOWER score of 65 compared with 42 in Yadgir across education, skilling, employment opportunities, quality of work and workforce participation. With nearly 23% of young people neither working nor studying,³⁷² Udyoga Nidhi links Government support directly to job creation in districts where youth opportunities remain weaker.
- c. Further, Karnataka had 77.1 lakh contributory EPFO members across 63,017 establishments in 2024, but these were concentrated heavily in established employment centres, with Bengaluru Urban alone accounting for 60.1 lakh members.³⁷³ By incentivising new formal jobs in the 10 backward districts and linking the incentive to obligations such as EPF contributions, Udyoga Nidhi can extend formal-sector employment and social-security coverage beyond the state's existing employment hubs.
- d. Lastly, Karnataka ranked first among Indian states in per capita NSDP in 2025–26 at ₹ 4,33,326, yet substantial income disparities persist within the state. Udyoga Nidhi targets one lakh new jobs across 10 backward districts, tying Government support to actual hiring and creating a measurable mechanism to extend Karnataka's strong aggregate economic performance to its weaker regions.

³⁷² [The Hindu, July, 2026.](#)

³⁷³ [The New Indian Express, September, 2026.](#)

Investment Announcements

I. Maharashtra

A. Nuclear Power Development MoUs With JSW Energy And Torrent Power

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

1. On 10th September, 2026, the Maharashtra Government signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with JSW Energy and Torrent Power.
2. The MoUs aim to expand Maharashtra's nuclear power capacity and strengthen the state's supply of reliable, low-carbon electricity to meet rising energy demand.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The two projects involve a combined proposed capacity of 4,200 MW, with JSW Energy and Torrent Power undertaking separate nuclear power projects in Maharashtra.
 - b. The JSW Energy project proposes a 2,800 MW nuclear power plant at Bhiv Bunder in Dapoli taluka of Ratnagiri district, with an estimated investment of ₹ 44,000 crore.
 - c. The Torrent Power project proposes a 1,400 MW nuclear power plant, with Ratnagiri or another suitable location under consideration, involving an estimated investment of ₹ 35,000 crore.
 - d. The proposed projects are expected to generate around 11,700 direct and indirect employment opportunities across the state.
 - e. Further, the nuclear capacity is intended to provide reliable and stable electricity supply alongside Maharashtra's expanding renewable-energy capacity, supporting long-term energy security.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The initiative aligns with the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Act, 2025,³⁷⁴ which enables private-sector participation in nuclear power generation and supports the expansion of India's nuclear energy capacity.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Madhya Pradesh³⁷⁵ and Chhattisgarh³⁷⁶ have pursued comparable nuclear-development partnerships with National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) to explore nuclear power projects subject to site feasibility and Government of India approval.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Maharashtra's electricity demand reached a peak of 32,317 MW in May 2026, its highest recorded peak.³⁷⁷ The proposed 4,200 MW of nuclear capacity would

³⁷⁴ [SHANTI Act, 2025.](#)

³⁷⁵ [NTPC, February, 2025.](#)

³⁷⁶ [NTPC, March, 2025.](#)

³⁷⁷ [Hindustan Times, June, 2026.](#)

A. Nuclear Power Development MoUs With JSW Energy And Torrent Power

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

therefore constitute a significant addition to the State's generation portfolio, particularly as nuclear power can provide firm, round-the-clock generation to complement variable renewable sources.

- b. Further, Maharashtra plans to increase its electricity-generation capacity from 36 GW to 81 GW by 2030, implying an addition of approximately 45 GW, with the contribution of renewable energy expected to increase from 14% to 53% in the State's energy portfolio.³⁷⁸ The proposed nuclear projects would introduce an additional low-carbon, firm generation source alongside the State's large planned renewable-energy expansion, potentially strengthening the reliability and diversification of Maharashtra's future power mix.
- c. Moreover, the two nuclear projects involve ₹ 79,000 crore of proposed investment and are expected to generate around 11,700 employment opportunities, with JSW Energy's 2,800 MW project accounting for ₹ 44,000 crore and 8,000–10,000 jobs.³⁷⁹ The MoUs therefore represent not only a capacity addition but also a large industrial investment opportunity, particularly for engineering, construction and other activities associated with nuclear-power infrastructure.
- d. Lastly, the MoUs come after India opened the nuclear power sector to private participation, creating a new investment channel beyond the traditional public-sector model.³⁸⁰ JSW Energy and Torrent Power's proposed projects could therefore provide an early test of private-sector participation in nuclear generation and help establish a pipeline for larger private investments in the sector.

³⁷⁸ [Energy Transition Plan, 2025, Energy Department, The Government Of Maharashtra.](#)

³⁷⁹ [India Times, September, 2026.](#)

³⁸⁰ [PIB, March, 2025.](#)

II. Madhya Pradesh

A. ₹ 53,000 Crore Investment Proposals From UAE Outreach

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

1. During a three-day investment outreach in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 6th to 8th September, 2026, the state Government secured investment proposals worth more than ₹ 53,000 crore.
2. The move aims to attract UAE investment into green energy, technology, manufacturing, logistics, healthcare and education and build long-term international partnerships and also strengthen the state's investment pipeline.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The investment pipeline includes proposals worth over ₹ 53,000 crore across energy, technology, education, healthcare, logistics and retail sectors.
 - b. The green-energy and technology proposals include a 2,000 MW solar portfolio, 200 MW green hydrogen plant, AI and compute data centre, critical-minerals recovery and recycling complex, and smart manufacturing hub, with combined investment potential of about ₹ 35,200 crore.
 - c. The AI infrastructure proposal covers a 50 MW AI factory with an investment potential of nearly ₹ 18,000 crore, with capacity planned to expand beyond 100 MW.
 - d. The investment discussions cover food processing, retail, agricultural procurement, logistics parks, warehousing, cold-chain infrastructure, tourism, hospitality, K-12 education, healthcare and digital health.
 - e. Further, the state is using the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to promote investment, manufacturing and export partnerships in food processing, agricultural exports, textiles, pharmaceuticals, logistics and renewable energy.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The outreach builds on the India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA),³⁸¹ as well as the India-UAE Bilateral Investment Treaty in force since August 2024,³⁸² by leveraging the bilateral framework to expand investment, manufacturing and export linkages.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. India-UAE bilateral trade reached \$ 101.25 billion (₹ 9.62 lakh crore) in FY 2025-26, up from \$ 100.03 billion (₹ 9.50 lakh crore) in the previous year.³⁸³ Cumulative UAE FDI into India stood at \$ 25.59 billion (₹ 2.43 lakh crore) between April 2000 and March 2026, making the UAE India's seventh-largest source of foreign

³⁸¹ [UAE Ministry Of Economy, India-UAE CEPA.](#)

³⁸² [PIB, October, 2024.](#)

³⁸³ [Deccan Chronicle, May, 2026.](#)

A. ₹ 53,000 Crore Investment Proposals From UAE Outreach

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

- investment.³⁸⁴ Madhya Pradesh's use of the CEPA framework to seek manufacturing and export partnerships positions the State to draw a larger share of this growing investment and trade corridor.
- b. Madhya Pradesh has attracted around ₹ 7,800 crore in FDI over the past two years, with investments spanning pharmaceuticals, food processing, renewable energy, and medical devices across five districts.³⁸⁵ The State's outreach to UAE investors can therefore build on an existing base of foreign investment that has already moved beyond proposals towards land allotment and early-stage project execution.
 - c. India's installed data-centre capacity rose to 1.57 GW as of January, 2026, from about 375 MW in 2020, and is projected to reach nearly 6.5 GW by 2030. However, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Delhi NCR, Bengaluru and Chennai together account for nearly 65% of the country's data-centre facilities.³⁸⁶ The proposed 50 MW AI factory, equal to about 3% of India's current installed capacity, can help Madhya Pradesh enter a sector that remains concentrated in a few metropolitan markets.
 - d. Madhya Pradesh had built a foreign-investment pipeline of around ₹ 28,000 crore involving 10 companies from eight countries over the preceding 18 months.³⁸⁷ The push for long-term UAE partnerships can broaden this pipeline by bringing in investors from the Gulf while diversifying the state's sources of foreign capital.
 - e. Lastly, Madhya Pradesh and the UAE have agreed to identify up to 10 investment-ready projects and review their progress within three months.³⁸⁸ This creates a defined project-level follow-up mechanism that can help move the engagement from broad investor outreach and investment proposals towards actual project conversion and implementation.

³⁸⁴ [Consulate General Of India, Dubai, UAE.](#)

³⁸⁵ [The Times Of India, April, 2026.](#)

³⁸⁶ [Business Standard, July, 2026.](#)

³⁸⁷ [The Times Of India, August, 2026.](#)

³⁸⁸ [The Times Of India, September, 2026.](#)

III. Odisha

A. ₹ 2.43 Lakh Crore In Investment Proposals From UAE Outreach

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

1. On 11th September, 2026, the state Government concluded a three-day investment outreach across Abu Dhabi and Dubai, securing proposals worth ₹ 2.43 lakh crore.
2. The outreach aimed to attract global capital and manufacturing partnerships, with the proposed investments carrying a projected employment potential of over 6.18 lakh jobs.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The investment pipeline includes proposals worth more than ₹ 2.43 lakh crore, with the 24 MoUs and investment intents combined covering projects across multiple sectors.
 - b. The proposed investments span critical minerals, metals, renewable energy, infrastructure, ports, logistics, manufacturing and other industrial sectors.
 - c. The investment proposals are expected to generate substantial employment opportunities, with the outreach linked to plans for several lakh jobs in the state.
 - d. The outreach also promotes Odisha's export potential by connecting the state's products, including seafood, turmeric and processed food, with UAE and wider Middle East and North Africa (MENA) markets.
 - e. Further, the Government is positioning Odisha as a diversified industrial and export hub by targeting investments beyond traditional mining into higher-value manufacturing, technology and green-energy sectors.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The outreach aligns with the India-UAE CEPA by leveraging the bilateral framework to expand investment, manufacturing and export linkages.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Madhya Pradesh³⁸⁹ secured a ₹ 53,000 crore investment pipeline from its own UAE outreach earlier this month, part of a broader trend of Indian states running parallel Gulf-region investment roadshows.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Odisha's economy remains strongly industry-led, with industry contributing 41.3% of State GSVA in 2025-26 and manufacturing accounting for 45.6% of industrial GVA.³⁹⁰ UAE proposals spanning metals, downstream manufacturing, critical minerals and green industry therefore reinforce sectors that are already central to the State's economic base and can deepen value addition within these industries.
 - b. Further, Odisha's GO SWIFT investment portal currently records proposed

³⁸⁹ [Indian Express, September, 2026.](#)

³⁹⁰ [Odisha Economic Survey, 2025-26.](#)

A. ₹ 2.43 Lakh Crore In Investment Proposals From UAE Outreach

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

- investments of ₹ 24.59 lakh crore and proposed employment of 16.80 lakh.³⁹¹ The ₹ 2.43 lakh crore UAE pipeline therefore adds significant scale to an already large investment pipeline, while making project conversion critical to ensuring that proposed investments translate into actual industrial capacity and employment.
- c. Moreover, Paradip Port handled a record 156.45 million tonnes of cargo in 2025–26, its highest-ever annual throughput and a 4.02% increase over the previous year.³⁹² The proposals in LNG, metals, logistics and downstream industries can leverage this established maritime base, while additional industrial activity will increase demand for storage, evacuation capacity and connectivity around Odisha's coastal industrial corridor.
 - d. In addition, the UAE accounted for 4.9% of Odisha's marine-product exports by quantity in 2024–25,³⁹³ while the State's marine exports reached ₹ 4,708 crore.³⁹⁴ The deeper UAE commercial ties can therefore complement investment mobilisation with stronger market access, particularly for marine products, food processing and logistics-related activities.
 - e. Lastly, the employment potential of the UAE proposals is substantial, with the ₹ 2.43 lakh crore investment intended to generate around 6.18 lakh jobs. This is considerably larger than the 50,517 jobs expected from the ₹ 76,612 crore of projects approved by Odisha's High-Level Clearance Authority in June 2026, making the eventual grounding and sectoral composition of the UAE proposals particularly important for employment outcomes.³⁹⁵

³⁹¹ [Go Swift, Government Of Odisha.](#)

³⁹² [Paradip Port Authority.](#)

³⁹³ [Odisha Economic Survey 2025-26, Page 161.](#)

³⁹⁴ [Odisha Economic Survey 2025-26, Page 160.](#)

³⁹⁵ [The Hindu, June, 2026.](#)

IV. Uttar Pradesh

A. ₹ 6,566 Crore Investment By Global Beverage-Can Manufacturers

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

1. On 11th September, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Government announced proposed investments by three global packaging companies.
2. The investment aims to establish the state as a major hub for aluminium beverage cans and advanced packaging manufacturing.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The investment pipeline includes ₹ 6,566 crore from Ball Corporation, Crown Holdings and Canpack for manufacturing projects in Meerut and Unnao.
 - b. The Crown Packaging project involves ₹ 2,078.44 crore for a greenfield aluminium beverage-can plant in Unnao, with an initial capacity of 116.2 crore cans annually and potential expansion to 178.6 crore cans.
 - c. The Ball Beverage Packaging project involves ₹ 2,913 crore for an aluminium beverage-can manufacturing unit in Meerut, supported by the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA).
 - d. The Canpack project involves ₹ 1,574.62 crore for a greenfield aluminium beverage-can unit in Unnao, with an annual production capacity of about 130 crore cans.
 - e. Further, the projects are being developed within integrated manufacturing and logistics clusters along Uttar Pradesh's expressways, strengthening linkages with beverages, fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG), food processing, logistics, warehousing and ancillary manufacturing.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. India's packaging industry is projected to reach \$ 92 billion (₹ 8.50 lakh crore) by FY 2030-31,³⁹⁶ growing at around 9% annually, driven by rising demand from food and beverages, pharmaceuticals, personal care and e-commerce. The entry of Ball Corporation, Crown Holdings and Canpack positions Uttar Pradesh to capture a larger share of this expanding packaging value chain.
 - b. Uttar Pradesh's exports are targeted to rise from \$ 21 billion (₹ 1.85 lakh crore) in 2024 to \$ 50 billion (₹ 4.40 lakh crore) by 2030.³⁹⁷ These investments can increase the domestic aluminium-can manufacturing capacity, as the export policy prioritises stronger logistics.
 - c. India's juice category is forecast to add more than 35 million litres of volume by 2028, reflecting growing demand for new beverage formats and healthier

³⁹⁶ [The Economic Times, March, 2026.](#)

³⁹⁷ [Uttar Pradesh Export Promotion Policy, 2025-30.](#)

A. ₹ 6,566 Crore Investment By Global Beverage-Can Manufacturers

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

products.³⁹⁸ Aluminium cans offer advantages in portability, logistics, recyclability and product shelf life, creating a growing market for advanced beverage packaging and strengthening the commercial case for the new can-manufacturing capacity in Uttar Pradesh.

- d. Ball already serves major beverage brands in India, including Pepsi, Coca-Cola, AB InBev and Heineken, while the company describes its global portfolio as supported by long-term customer partnerships and contracted volumes. The new facilities can generate wider ecosystem linkages across beverage manufacturers, packaging suppliers, logistics providers and other ancillary industries as production capacity scales.
- e. Lastly, Uttar Pradesh's Plug and Play Industrial Shed Policy, 2026, explicitly identifies plastics and packaging among its target sectors, alongside food processing, electronics, textiles and other manufacturing activities.³⁹⁹ Therefore, the ₹ 6,566 crore investment by Ball, Crown and Canpack adds substantial scale to a packaging segment that the State has already identified as a priority within its broader manufacturing strategy.

³⁹⁸ [CanTech, December, 2025.](#)

³⁹⁹ [Plug and Play Industrial Shed Policy \(DBFOT Model\), 2026.](#)

Other Decisions

I. Meghalaya

A. Tracing The Roots program	
Source: Link 1 , Link 2 Impact: Medium	
1.	On 1 st September, 2026, the Meghalaya Government launched the Tracing the Roots program.
2.	The program aims to scientifically document the origins, historical migration, cultural linkages and indigenous heritage of Meghalaya's Garo, Khasi and Jaintia communities through multidisciplinary research.
3.	Key Features -
a.	The program engages an indicative pool of 75 scholars and academicians to study the origins and historical journeys of the Garo, Khasi and Jaintia communities, with smaller specialised teams undertaking fieldwork in Vietnam, Cambodia and Tibet where required.
b.	The Garo research component examines competing theories of origin and migration, including the Tibet or northern-highlands hypothesis.
c.	The Khasi-Jaintia research team undertakes "Ki Dienjat: Re-examining Khasi-Jaintia Socio-cultural Linkages with Southeast Asia."
d.	The research framework integrates historical research, oral traditions, indigenous knowledge, linguistics, archaeology and archival study.
e.	The dedicated e-Portal provides a central platform for research data and collaboration, including digital archives, scholarly publications and educational resources.
4.	Central Initiative Alignment - The program aligns with the Government of India's Support to Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs) Scheme, 2017, ⁴⁰⁰ which supports tribal research, documentation, digital repositories and preservation of tribal languages, cultural practices and heritage.
5.	Similar Initiatives In Other States - States such as Assam ⁴⁰¹ and Arunachal Pradesh ⁴⁰² have frameworks for cultural heritage preservation and documentation, while Tamil Nadu's Tamizhar Thadam ⁴⁰³ digitally documents Tamil migration histories and heritage.
6.	Relevance -
a.	The program addresses a substantial documentation gap concerning Meghalaya's indigenous communities. Scheduled Tribes constituted 86.15% of the State's

⁴⁰⁰ [Support To Tribal Research Institutes \(TRIs\) Scheme, 2017.](#)

⁴⁰¹ [Directorate Of Historical And Antiquarian studies, Assam.](#)

⁴⁰² [Department Of Cultural Affairs.](#)

⁴⁰³ [Tamizhar Thadam, The Government Of Tamil Nadu.](#)

A. Tracing The Roots program
Source: Link 1 , Link 2 Impact: Medium
population in the 2011 Census, with the Khasi-Jaintia grouping accounting for 47.64% and the Garo community for 27.67%.⁴⁰⁴ The absence of a consolidated evidence base on their migration histories, cultural practices and indigenous knowledge limits systematic preservation and transmission of this heritage. b. The program’s cross-border research component can address gaps in tracing the historical origins and migration trajectories of Meghalaya’s indigenous communities. The evidence from Vietnam, Cambodia and Tibet can help test competing origin hypotheses by combining archival records with linguistic, archaeological and oral evidence.⁴⁰⁵ Such triangulation can strengthen the historical basis for understanding the Garo, Khasi and Jaintia communities’ links with wider population movements and cultural exchanges across Northeast India, East Asia and Southeast Asia. c. The program builds on Meghalaya’s existing State-supported research infrastructure. The Chief Minister’s Research Grant provides ₹ 3 lakh per project and supports research on arts and culture, heritage, and the land, language and lineage of indigenous communities.⁴⁰⁶ The Tracing the Roots program extends this project-based support into a coordinated, multi-community and cross-border research framework, enabling the State to consolidate dispersed research into a structured evidence base on indigenous history and heritage. d. The dedicated e-Portal gives the program a preservation and dissemination function beyond academic fieldwork. Research findings are intended to be placed in the public domain through digital archives, publications and educational resources, allowing material gathered across different communities, institutions and disciplines to be consolidated rather than remaining dispersed across individual studies or archives.

⁴⁰⁴ [Statistical Handbook Of Meghalaya 2024, The Government Of Meghalaya.](#)

⁴⁰⁵ [“Multiple Migrations From East Asia Led To Linguistic Transformation In Northeast India And Mainland Southeast Asia.” Frontiers In Genetics, 2022.](#)

⁴⁰⁶ [Chief Minister’s Research Grant, Department Of Arts And Culture, The Government Of Meghalaya.](#)

II. Maharashtra

A. State Task Force Against Illegal Sex Determination and Female Foeticide

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

1. On 8th September, 2026, the Maharashtra Government constituted a state-level task force to strengthen enforcement against illegal abortions, prenatal sex determination and female foeticide.
2. The task force aims to strengthen enforcement of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) (PCPNDT) Act, 1994⁴⁰⁷ and the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971,⁴⁰⁸ while improving monitoring of healthcare facilities and corrective action against violations.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The task force is mandated to conduct surprise inspections of sonography centres and clinics to identify illegal prenatal sex determination, female foeticide and violations related to abortions.
 - b. The enforcement framework covers implementation of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 and the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971 across districts and municipal corporations.
 - c. The inspection mechanism requires district collectors, municipal commissioners and other designated authorities to provide administrative, technical and record-related support during inspections.
 - d. The task force will review enforcement gaps and recommend corrective measures to strengthen compliance and action against violations by healthcare facilities.
 - e. Further, the reporting mechanism requires the task force to submit inspection findings and recommendations to the Public Health Department every three months, with the body constituted for a three-year tenure.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The measure aligns with the **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme, 2015**,⁴⁰⁹ which includes prevention of gender-biased sex selection and effective enforcement of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994⁴¹⁰ as core interventions for improving the child sex ratio.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Rajasthan⁴¹¹ and Uttar Pradesh⁴¹² introduced informer and decoy mechanisms to detect illegal sex determination, while

⁴⁰⁷ [Pre-Conception And Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques \(Prohibition Of Sex Selection\) \(PCPNDT\) Act, 1994.](#)

⁴⁰⁸ [Medical Termination Of Pregnancy Act, 1971.](#)

⁴⁰⁹ [Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme, 2015.](#)

⁴¹⁰ [The Pre-Conception And Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques \(Prohibition Of Sex Selection\) Act, 1994.](#)

⁴¹¹ [The Times Of India, March, 2012.](#)

⁴¹² [Business Standard, July, 2017.](#)

A. State Task Force Against Illegal Sex Determination and Female Foeticide

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

Haryana⁴¹³ strengthened inspections and inter-departmental enforcement through its State Task Force under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme.

6. Relevance -

- a. Maharashtra registered **627 court cases under the PCPNDT Act** between March 2024 and March 2026, of which 127 resulted in convictions.⁴¹⁴ The relatively low conversion from cases filed to convictions highlights an enforcement gap beyond initial detection, making the state-level task force relevant for identifying district-level weaknesses in investigation, prosecution and inter-agency coordination.
- b. Further, Maharashtra inspected nearly 99% of its 11,837 registered sonography centres in 2024–25, yet only 13 of 118 decoy operations conducted in 2025–26 successfully detected suspected illegal prenatal sex determination.^{415,416} The task force's mandate to conduct surprise inspections and review implementation across districts can therefore strengthen targeted enforcement rather than relying primarily on routine inspections.
- c. Moreover, Maharashtra's child sex ratio declined from **946 girls per 1,000 boys in 1991 to 894 in 2011**,⁴¹⁷ while its sex ratio at birth stood at 899 girls per 1,000 boys in 2022–24, below the national average of 918.⁴¹⁸ The persistence of an adverse sex ratio despite the statutory prohibition on sex selection highlights the need to complement procedural compliance with sustained enforcement and district-level monitoring.
- d. Lastly, the Task Force will visit districts and municipal corporations, conduct surprise inspections of sonography centres, diagnostic facilities and MTP centres, review implementation gaps and submit observation and recommendation reports to the Public Health Department every three months during its three-year tenure.⁴¹⁹ The institutionalised review mechanism can strengthen State-level oversight by enabling recurring identification of enforcement deficiencies and follow-up on corrective measures rather than leaving implementation primarily to district-level authorities.

⁴¹³ [Women And Child Development Department, The Government Of Haryana.](#)

⁴¹⁴ [The Times Of India, June, 2026.](#)

⁴¹⁵ [PCPNDT Act, 1994.](#)

⁴¹⁶ [The Indian Express, June, 2026.](#)

⁴¹⁷ [The Times Of India, June, 2026.](#)

⁴¹⁸ [The Indian Express, June, 2026.](#)

⁴¹⁹ [The Times Of India, September, 2026.](#)

B. Drug-Free State Policy, 2029

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

1. On 1st September, 2026, the Maharashtra Cabinet approved a comprehensive policy to completely eradicate narcotics and synthetic drugs from the state by 2029.
2. The policy aims to make Maharashtra drug-free by 2029 through coordinated enforcement, de-addiction and public awareness initiatives across all Government levels.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy framework adopts a Whole-of-Government approach covering enforcement, de-addiction, treatment and rehabilitation, with responsibilities distributed across departments and administrative levels.
 - b. The drug-control measures cover the cultivation of crops used for illegal drug production and the production, sale and consumption of natural and synthetic drugs.
 - c. The framework requires each State Government department to appoint a Deputy Secretary-rank nodal officer to coordinate with the Anti-Narcotics Task Force.
 - d. The educational interventions provide for drug-awareness lessons from Class V onwards from the 2027 academic year and drug-free campuses across educational institutions, with additional points for awareness initiatives.
 - e. Further, local-level measures provide additional points under the Chief Minister's Prosperous Panchayati Raj Campaign and My Village, Healthy Village Campaign for drug-control and awareness initiatives.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the **Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan, 2020**,⁴²⁰ and reflects the Vision Document on Narcotics Control (2026-2029),⁴²¹ through its focus on prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, enforcement and inter-agency coordination.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Punjab⁴²² have combined enforcement, de-addiction and community-level prevention, while Kerala⁴²³ has adopted an inter-departmental approach integrating awareness, educational programs, counselling and de-addiction services.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Maharashtra recorded 14,553 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and 14,135 arrests in 2024, while agencies seized 2,177.49 kg of mephedrone in the State.⁴²⁴ The scale of cases and synthetic-drug seizures

⁴²⁰ [Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan, 2020.](#)

⁴²¹ [The Hindu, June, 2026](#)

⁴²² [The Times Of India, June, 2026.](#)

⁴²³ [Vimukthi Mission, 2016](#)

⁴²⁴ [Narcotics Bureau, August, 2025.](#)

B. Drug-Free State Policy, 2029

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

highlights the State's continuing enforcement challenge, making the 2029 drug-free target a time-bound framework for coordinated enforcement, prevention and rehabilitation.

- b. Maharashtra's existing drug-control architecture already involves multiple departments and agencies, while the State has also been implementing the Centre's Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan.⁴²⁵ The new policy addresses the coordination gap by requiring every department to appoint a Deputy Secretary-rank nodal officer at Mantralaya level and coordinate with the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF), establishing a defined state-level mechanism for integrating enforcement, prevention and rehabilitation efforts.
- c. Further, Maharashtra is strengthening prevention through the education system by mandating at least one drug-awareness lesson from Class V onwards from the 2027 academic year and promoting drug-free campuses in higher and technical education institutions.⁴²⁶ The drug-awareness activities will also receive additional points under Mukhyamantri Majhi Shala, Sundar Shala – Phase 3, linking prevention efforts to school-level performance assessment.
- d. Lastly, Maharashtra has been expanding its de-addiction capacity in response to rising treatment demand, with beneficiaries at supported de-addiction centres increasing from 10,347 in FY 2023–24 to 28,739 in FY 2024–25.⁴²⁷ The policy builds on this expansion by providing for coordinated de-addiction, treatment and rehabilitation services at the district level, alongside prevention and awareness measures, to ensure growing demand is supported by corresponding treatment capacity.

⁴²⁵ [PIB, April, 2026.](#)

⁴²⁶ [Mid Day, October, 2025.](#)

⁴²⁷ [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

C. Maharashtra Technical Assistance Cell (Maha-TAC)

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

1. On 15th September, 2026, the Maharashtra Government approved the establishment of the Maharashtra Technical Assistance Cell (Maha-TAC).
2. The initiative aims to institutionalise concurrent evaluation of Government schemes and policies and identify implementation gaps while programs are still underway.
3. **Key Features** -
 - a. The Cell provides for a one-year evaluation of 25 policies and 25 welfare schemes, supported by IIM Mumbai and the Centre for Research in Schemes and Policies (CRISP).
 - b. It will assess beneficiary coverage, timeliness of delivery, compliance with scheme guidelines and the quality of public expenditure, including incomplete or unusable assets.
 - c. It introduces quarterly field evaluations across 12 districts, with about 11,600 beneficiary interviews each quarter.
 - d. The evaluation framework covers around 46,400 interviews a year on compliance, spending, reach and coordination.
 - e. Maha-TAC enables consultations with departments, industries, agencies, local bodies and beneficiaries during implementation.
 - f. The institutional structure provides for oversight by the CMO, a steering mechanism under the Chief Secretary and 13 policy committees.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The initiative aligns institutionally with NITI Aayog's Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO), 2015,⁴²⁸ which undertakes monitoring and evaluation of government programs and provides technical support to States for strengthening evidence-based program management.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Karnataka,⁴²⁹ Rajasthan,⁴³⁰ Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya and Haryana⁴³¹ have institutionalised Government scheme evaluation through dedicated authorities, digital evaluation systems or structured monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.
6. **Relevance** -
 - a. The 25 welfare schemes selected for concurrent evaluation together involve an annual expenditure exceeding ₹ 1.25 lakh crore.⁴³² At this fiscal scale, even relatively small improvements in beneficiary targeting, implementation efficiency,

⁴²⁸ [Development Monitoring And Evaluation Office \(DMEO\), 2015, The Government Of India.](#)

⁴²⁹ [Karnataka Evaluation Authority, 2011.](#)

⁴³⁰ [Development Monitoring And Evaluation Office.](#)

⁴³¹ [Development Monitoring And Evaluation Office.](#)

⁴³² [Budget In Brief, 2025-26, The Government Of Maharashtra.](#)

C. Maharashtra Technical Assistance Cell (Maha-TAC)

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

or expenditure quality can have material effects. Maha-TAC thus concentrates evaluation capacity on programmes where implementation findings can influence a substantial volume of public expenditure.

- b. Maharashtra has previously identified beneficiary-level issues in the delivery of welfare schemes, including duplicate payments and exclusion of eligible beneficiaries under construction worker welfare programs.⁴³³ Maha-TAC's quarterly field evaluations across 12 districts, covering around 11,600 beneficiary interviews each quarter, can institutionalise ground-level verification by cross-checking administrative records with direct beneficiary feedback and identifying such delivery failures during implementation.
- c. Further, recurring field-level assessment can help distinguish between scheme expenditure and actual program outcomes. Maha-TAC's quarterly evaluations of 25 welfare schemes, covering around 11,600 beneficiary interviews across 12 districts each quarter, can generate regular evidence on beneficiary reach and implementation performance, enabling the Government to identify delivery issues and course-correct programs while they are being implemented.

⁴³³ [CNBC TV 18, December, 2025.](#)

D. Soft Loan Scheme For Cooperative Sugar Mills, 2026

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

1. On 15th September, 2026, the Maharashtra Cabinet approved the Soft Loan Scheme for Cooperative Sugar Mills.
2. The scheme aims to provide working capital support to cooperative sugar mills while enabling timely payment of FRP dues to sugarcane farmers.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme provides an estimated ₹ 738.51 crore in interest subsidy over seven years to support eligible cooperative sugar mills.
 - b. It offers interest subsidy on bank loans at 10% per annum or the actual lending rate, whichever is lower, for a seven-year repayment period beginning 1st October 2026.
 - c. The framework mandates priority use of sanctioned loans for clearing pending Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) dues, while mills without arrears may use the financing for 2026–27 pre-season requirements.
 - d. The eligible mills must secure loan sanction and disbursement by 31st October 2026 and submit utilisation certificates by July 2027.
 - e. The scheme withdraws further interest concessions from mills that fail to repay loan installments according to the prescribed schedule.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Centre introduced a similar soft loan scheme in 2019 to help sugar mills clear pending cane dues, with ₹ 738 crore in interest subvention from the Government.⁴³⁴
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Maharashtra's 102 cooperative sugar mills crushed 527.51 lakh tonnes of sugarcane during the 2025–26 season, making mill-level financial viability critical to sustaining large-scale cane procurement and processing.⁴³⁵ The soft-loan scheme therefore targets the financing constraints of cooperative mills to support timely farmer payments and uninterrupted operations.
 - b. As of July 2026, Maharashtra's sugar mills had paid ₹ 40,190 crore of ₹ 40,446 crore payable as FRP for 2025–26, leaving ₹ 256 crore outstanding across 39 mills.⁴³⁶ The soft-loan scheme therefore provides targeted liquidity support to cooperative mills facing residual payment stress rather than addressing a statewide FRP payment shortfall.
 - c. Further, Maharashtra's sugarcane production rose to 1,316.49 lakh tonnes in

⁴³⁴ [PIB, December, 2019.](#)

⁴³⁵ [Hindustan Times, September, 2026.](#)

⁴³⁶ [Chini Mandi, August, 2026.](#)

D. Soft Loan Scheme For Cooperative Sugar Mills, 2026

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

2025-26, up 19.7% from 1,099.70 lakh tonnes in 2024-25.⁴³⁷ The higher cane volume increases the financing required for procurement and processing, making subsidised credit relevant for mills managing larger seasonal working-capital requirements.

- d. Lastly, cooperative sugar mills face a recurring seasonal liquidity gap between the costs of cane procurement and processing and the realisation of revenues from sugar sales.⁴³⁸ The soft-loan scheme addresses this financing constraint by providing subsidised credit to eligible mills, supporting timely farmer payments while enabling mills to meet working-capital requirements for continued operations.

⁴³⁷ [PIB, July, 2026](#)

⁴³⁸ [NITI Aayog, 2023.](#)

III. Chhattisgarh

A. Chief Minister Startup And Nipun Mission For The Youth
Source: Link Impact: Medium
- On 9th September, 2026, the Chhattisgarh Government approved the Chief Minister Startup and NIPUN Mission. - The mission aims to integrate startups, skill development, emerging technologies and employment within a single ecosystem, enabling youth to develop enterprises or access industry-linked employment. Key Features - - Under the mission, Entrepreneurship Development Centres will be established in all 33 districts to promote entrepreneurship across the State. - It will establish 100 Emerging Technology Labs to provide practical exposure to technologies including Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Internet of Things, Big Data, Augmented Reality (AR)/Virtual Reality (VR), blockchain and fintech. - It introduces the NIPUN Job Engine to link industry requirements with skill development, training and formal employment opportunities. - It will establish five Industry Excellence Centres to strengthen collaboration between industry, academia and youth in technology and skill development. - Further, the mission will support startups addressing local economic opportunities, including health-tech, agri-tech, green technology and mining-tech. Central Initiative Alignment - It aligns with the National Skill Development Mission (NSDM), which seeks to rapidly scale up skill development across India, improve the quality and relevance of training, and bridge the gap between skill supply and industry demand.⁴³⁹ Similar Initiatives In Other States - States such as Uttar Pradesh,⁴⁴⁰ Goa,⁴⁴¹ and Maharashtra⁴⁴² have similar provisions which combine startup promotion with skilling, emerging-technology infrastructure and industry-academia linkages. Relevance - - Chhattisgarh was classified as an “Emerging Startup Ecosystem” in the 5th edition of the States’ Startup Ecosystem Ranking, with relatively lower scores in institutional support, funding opportunities and ecosystem capacity building.⁴⁴³ Establishing Entrepreneurship Development Centres across all 33 districts can

⁴³⁹ [National Skill Development Mission \(NSDM\).](#)

⁴⁴⁰ [UP Startup Mission, Government Of Uttar Pradesh.](#)

⁴⁴¹ [Goa Startup Policy, 2025.](#)

⁴⁴² [Maharashtra IT-ITeS Policy, 2023.](#)

⁴⁴³ [Startup Ecosystem Ranking, DPIIT.](#)

A. Chief Minister Startup And Nipun Mission For The Youth

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

extend startup support beyond existing hubs by providing local access to incubation, mentorship and market linkages.

- b. Chhattisgarh's youth unemployment rate stood at 6.1% in 2025, but was significantly higher at 13.7% in urban areas and 18.4% among urban young women.⁴⁴⁴ The NIPUN JOB Engine's industry-led approach can strengthen the transition from skilling to employment by aligning training with actual industry requirements and matching trained youth with formal job opportunities.
- c. Chhattisgarh had 2,587 DPIIT-recognised startups as of June 2026, compared with more than 2.23 lakh nationally as of March 2026, highlighting the relatively limited scale of its formal startup base.⁴⁴⁵ The 33-district Entrepreneurship Development Centre network can expand the pipeline of new enterprises by decentralising incubation, mentorship and market access, particularly in districts currently outside the state's established startup ecosystem.
- d. Chhattisgarh's startup ecosystem has under 3,000 DPIIT-recognised startups,⁴⁴⁶ which is still relatively shallow compared with India's broader expansion. Nationally, there were over 2.23 lakh Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)-recognised startups as on March, 2026, with 53% located in Tier-II and Tier-III cities.⁴⁴⁷ Establishing entrepreneurship centres in all 33 districts can help the state capture more of this non-metro startup growth.
- e. Chhattisgarh's Innovation and Startup Promotion Policy 2025-30 targets 5,000 new startups by 2030, supported by a ₹ 100 crore Startup Capital Fund, ₹ 50 crore Credit Risk Fund and measures for incubation, mentorship and market linkages.⁴⁴⁸ The ₹ 500 crore Startup NIPUN Mission can strengthen the delivery infrastructure needed to achieve these targets by taking entrepreneurship support to all 33 districts, while its emerging technology labs and industry linkages support the Anjor@2047 vision⁴⁴⁹ of developing a more innovation-led and diversified state economy.

⁴⁴⁴ [Periodic Labour Force Survey, Annual Report, January 2025- December 2025, Page 142.](#)

⁴⁴⁵ [Department For Promotion Of Industry And Internal Trade, July, 2026.](#)

⁴⁴⁶ [Startups In Chhattisgarh, Startup India.](#)

⁴⁴⁷ [PIB, April, 2026.](#)

⁴⁴⁸ [Economy India, February, 2026.](#)

⁴⁴⁹ [Chhattisgarh Anjor Vision @2047.](#)

IV. Uttar Pradesh

A. Smart Class Project For Primary Schools

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

1. On 15th September, 2026, the state cabinet allocated funds for setting up smart classrooms in primary schools across the state.
2. The project aims to equip selected primary schools with digital teaching infrastructure alongside conventional classroom instruction.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The project covers 14,429 primary schools, with selection based on higher student enrolment.
 - b. It provides for the establishment of smart classes and ICT labs alongside existing classroom teaching infrastructure.
 - c. It has an approved outlay of ₹ 300 crore, equivalent to approximately ₹ 2.07 lakh per school.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The project fits within the broader digital-education thrust of the Samagra Shiksha scheme⁴⁵⁰ and the National Education Policy 2020's⁴⁵¹ emphasis on technology-enabled learning.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States like Kerala⁴⁵² have implemented ICT-enabled hi-tech classrooms across government schools through Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE), while Delhi⁴⁵³ is upgrading 376 ICT labs and adding 31 digital labs.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Only 19.8% of schools in Uttar Pradesh had functional smart classrooms in 2024-25, compared with 30.6% nationally, indicating that technology-enabled teaching remains unevenly distributed across the state's school system.⁴⁵⁴ Expanding smart classrooms and ICT labs in primary schools can address this infrastructure deficit by embedding digital teaching capacity within Government schools rather than leaving access dependent on existing school-level facilities.
 - b. While 86.8% of rural children aged 14-16 in Uttar Pradesh had a smartphone at home, only 60.8% could bring one to perform digital tasks,⁴⁵⁵ indicating that household ownership does not translate into reliable individual access for learning. School-based smart classrooms and ICT labs can bridge this access gap by providing shared digital infrastructure that students can use for educational

⁴⁵⁰ [DSEL, Samagra Shiksha.](#)

⁴⁵¹ [PIB, NEP 2020.](#)

⁴⁵² [KITE Kerala.](#)

⁴⁵³ [The Hindu BusinessLine, April, 2026.](#)

⁴⁵⁴ [School Education System In India, NITI Aayog, 2026.](#)

⁴⁵⁵ [ASER Annual Status Of Education Report \(Rural\), January, 2025.](#)

A. Smart Class Project For Primary Schools

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

purposes without depending on the availability of a household device.

- c. Uttar Pradesh's 2.62 lakh schools serve 4.28 crore students, with an average enrolment of 163 students per school.⁴⁵⁶ By targeting 14,429 primary schools with higher enrolment, the ₹ 300 crore investment can concentrate digital infrastructure in schools where each installation has the potential to serve a larger student cohort, improving the reach of the intervention within a targeted rollout.
- d. Uttar Pradesh has an existing digital-infrastructure pipeline under Samagra Shiksha, with 8,291 elementary schools identified for ICT hardware support in 2025–26 based on enrollment and existing ICT-lab availability. Building the new intervention around this established school-level infrastructure framework can accelerate digital coverage while reducing duplication in the deployment of ICT equipment and facilities.
- e. Uttar Pradesh had 18,381 primary, composite and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) schools equipped with smart classrooms by December 2025,⁴⁵⁷ but the Government was already monitoring daily utilisation, equipment functionality and student practice time, indicating that infrastructure availability does not automatically translate into classroom use. The new intervention can therefore strengthen digital learning by pairing infrastructure expansion with structured classroom utilisation and monitoring mechanisms.

⁴⁵⁶ [State Profile, Ministry Of Education.](#)

⁴⁵⁷ [The Times Of India, December, 2025.](#)

B. Establishment Of 900 New Courts

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

1. On 15th September, 2026, the state cabinet approved a proposal to set up 900 new district and subordinate courts across the state.
2. The measure aims to expand judicial capacity and facilitate faster disposal of pending cases across the state.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The reform provides for 900 new courts, comprising 237 Higher Judicial Service courts, 391 Civil Judge (Senior Division) courts and 272 Civil Judge (Junior Division) courts.
 - b. It links the allocation of new courts across districts to case pendency, allowing judicial capacity to be expanded in proportion to the volume of pending cases.
 - c. It provides for the creation of 6,656 new posts to support the functioning of the additional courts.
 - d. It entails recurring expenditure of ₹ 693.59 crore annually, alongside a non-recurring expenditure of ₹ 8.72 crore.
 - e. Further, the 900 courts constitute the first phase of a larger expansion proposed by the Allahabad High Court, which has recommended 9,149 additional courts across the state.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The decision aligns with the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for Development of Infrastructure Facilities for Judiciary,⁴⁵⁸ under which the Union Government part-funds the construction of court halls and residential units for judicial officers in district and subordinate courts.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States/UTs such as Rajasthan,⁴⁵⁹ Delhi,⁴⁶⁰ Maharashtra⁴⁶¹ and Tamil Nadu⁴⁶² have undertaken initiatives to expand judicial capacity and establish specialised courts to reduce case pendency and expedite justice delivery. However, the scale of expansion proposed in Uttar Pradesh is considerably larger, making it one of the more extensive judicial-capacity expansion efforts among states.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Uttar Pradesh had 1.43 crore cases pending across its 75 districts,⁴⁶³ creating a substantial capacity constraint in the subordinate judiciary. The creation of 900 new courts, with district-wise allocation linked to pendency, can direct additional

⁴⁵⁸ [PIB, July, 2026.](#)

⁴⁵⁹ [Dev Discourse, July, 2023.](#)

⁴⁶⁰ [Times of India, September, 2026.](#)

⁴⁶¹ [The Statesman, July, 2026.](#)

⁴⁶² [PTI News, August, 2026.](#)

⁴⁶³ [National Judicial Data Grid.](#)

B. Establishment Of 900 New Courts

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

judicial capacity towards areas facing the greatest caseload pressure rather than applying a uniform distribution across the state.

- b. Uttar Pradesh had 2,618 judges against a sanctioned strength of 3,700, leaving 1,082 judicial vacancies in the existing subordinate judiciary.⁴⁶⁴ At the same time, the Government is creating 900 new courts with 6,656 posts, across judicial and support functions, expanding the sanctioned capacity beyond existing levels. The reform will therefore require both filling the existing judicial vacancies and staffing the new courts to ensure that the additional infrastructure translates into higher case disposal capacity.
- c. Further, the backlog pressures are highly uneven across districts. Jaunpur alone had 2.06 lakh pending civil and criminal cases as of March, 2026, alongside 8,289 matters pending across five family courts,⁴⁶⁵ highlighting the concentration of judicial demand in specific districts. Linking the allocation of new courts to district-level pendency can therefore ensure that additional capacity is directed towards locations where case congestion is most acute.
- d. Lastly, the first phase adds 237 Higher Judicial Service courts, 391 Civil Judge Senior Division courts and 272 Civil Judge Junior Division courts, expanding capacity across different levels of the subordinate judiciary. This multi-level expansion can ease congestion across the judicial hierarchy by adding capacity at the stages where different categories of civil and criminal cases are adjudicated.

⁴⁶⁴ [The Tribune, July, 2026.](#)

⁴⁶⁵ [Lok Sabha Replies, 2026, Page 139.](#)

V. Karnataka

A. Prajaseva Abhiyana, 2026

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

1. On 5th September, 2026, the Karnataka Government launched the Prajaseva Abhiyana to bring public grievance redressal closer to citizens through local-level meetings and an integrated digital system.
2. The Project aims to decentralise public grievance redressal by enabling citizens to raise issues relating to Government services and schemes at taluk and hobli levels⁴⁶⁶ and secure on-the-spot or time-bound resolution through physical meetings.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The grievance-hearing mechanism provides Saturday meetings at taluk and hobli levels on a rotational basis, allowing citizens to raise complaints directly with government representatives and officials.
 - b. The meeting schedule provides for taluk-level grievance meetings on the first and third Saturdays and taluk or hobli-level meetings on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month.
 - c. The citizen outreach mechanism uses door-to-door information and an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based call centre to inform residents at least 15 days in advance about the date, time and venue of grievance meetings.
 - d. The digital grievance system enables citizens to register complaints through helpline 1902 or the Integrated Public Grievance Redressal System (IPGRS), with grievances tracked through a paperless, data-driven platform.
 - e. Further, the redressal framework requires grievances to be resolved either on the spot or within a stipulated time frame, reducing repeated visits to government offices for accessing public services and schemes.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The initiative aligns with the Comprehensive Guidelines for Handling Public Grievances, 2024,⁴⁶⁷ which strengthen technology-enabled grievance redressal through integrated grievance platforms, time-bound resolution, designated grievance officers, escalation mechanisms and citizen-feedback systems.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Bihar⁴⁶⁸ implemented the Act providing citizens time-bound grievance hearings and redressal. Rajasthan⁴⁶⁹ implemented time-bound public hearings, and Madhya Pradesh⁴⁷⁰ introduced

⁴⁶⁶ A hobli, nad or mágani is a cluster of adjoining villages administered together for tax and land tenure purposes.

⁴⁶⁷ [Comprehensive Guidelines For Handling Public Grievances, 2024.](#)

⁴⁶⁸ [Bihar Right To Public Grievance Redressal Act, 2015.](#)

⁴⁶⁹ [Rajasthan Right To Hearing Act, 2012.](#)

⁴⁷⁰ [Madhya Pradesh Public Services Guarantee Act, 2010.](#)

A. Prajaseva Abhiyana, 2026

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

time-bound delivery of notified public services.

6. **Relevance** -

- a. In May 2026, the former Chief Minister flagged more than 1,800 delayed grievances under the existing Integrated Public Grievance Redressal System (IPGRS), even as over 3.2 lakh petitions had been filed through the platform.⁴⁷¹ The backlog highlighted the need to supplement digital grievance registration with stronger monitoring, follow-up and administrative accountability, which the new Prajaseva Department is designed to provide.
- b. Karnataka already has extensive digital citizen-service infrastructure, with the Sakala system covering 1,249 notified services across 107 institutions and the Panchamitra platform providing online applications, application-status tracking and grievance registration for Gram Panchayats.⁴⁷² The Prajaseva therefore adds a physical, doorstep grievance-redressal layer to an existing digital service architecture, allowing citizens to pursue issues through local meetings while retaining digital channels for service delivery and tracking.
- c. The Prajaseva framework requires district ministers to conduct public interaction and grievance-redressal meetings across all 224 Assembly constituencies, bringing senior political oversight into the local grievance-resolution process. This creates a direct accountability channel for issues that may otherwise require citizens to navigate multiple administrative levels before reaching the responsible department.
- d. Lastly, the new Prajaseva Department is intended to review petitions submitted to ministers, including those received directly by the Chief Minister, and coordinate their follow-up with the concerned departments. Bringing these representations under a dedicated administrative structure can create clearer responsibility for tracking grievances from receipt to resolution rather than treating petitions as standalone representations.

⁴⁷¹ [The Times Of India, May, 2026.](#)

⁴⁷² [National e-Governance Division \(NeGD\), The Government Of India.](#)

VI. Assam

A. AI Integration In School Education Initiative

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

1. On 4th September, 2026, the Assam Government signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with six organisations to introduce Artificial Intelligence (AI) and technology-enabled learning across government schools.
2. The initiative aims to integrate AI and digital technologies into schools via teacher training, personalised learning, foundational literacy, digital creativity, and adolescent enrollment measures.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Google AI partnership provides teachers with access to AI-powered educational tools, including Gemini and NotebookLM, along with training in AI literacy, lesson planning, pedagogy and administrative applications in Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Hindi and English.
 - b. The IIT Madras-Bodhan AI partnership targets training approximately 1 lakh teachers of Classes VI-XII by May 2027 in AI-enabled lesson planning, content creation and assessment, supported by a multilingual Teacher Assistant Bot.
 - c. The LEHS-Wadhwani AI partnership introduces an AI-enabled oral-reading-fluency assessment for students in Classes III-VIII, enabling systematic identification of foundational literacy gaps and targeted interventions.
 - d. The EkStep-AXL partnership enables personalised, AI-assisted learning in foundational literacy and numeracy, while the Canva Education partnership promotes digital literacy, design thinking, creativity and innovation among teachers and students.
 - e. Further, the Educate Girls partnership supports data-driven identification, enrolment and retention of out-of-school adolescents, particularly girls, expanding the initiative beyond classroom technology to improving access to school education.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The initiative aligns with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**,⁴⁷³ which promotes the use of emerging technologies, including AI, in education and requires teachers to undertake at least 50 hours of Continuous Professional Development annually.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Odisha⁴⁷⁴ provide AI courses or modules in school curricula, AI clubs and competitions, and teacher training in AI concepts and pedagogy. Tamil Nadu⁴⁷⁵ proposes updating school and college curricula

⁴⁷³ [National Education Policy \(NEP\) 2020, The Government Of India.](#)

⁴⁷⁴ [Odisha Artificial Intelligence Policy 2025.](#)

⁴⁷⁵ [Tamil Nadu Safe And Ethical Artificial Intelligence Policy 2020.](#)

A. AI Integration In School Education Initiative
Source: Link Impact: Medium
to incorporate Artificial Intelligence (AI), alongside education, awareness and capacity-building programs on AI. 6. Relevance - a. Assam recorded a 17.5% secondary-school dropout rate in 2024-25, compared with 11.5% nationally, leaving the state 6 percentage points above the national level.⁴⁷⁶ The AI initiative can directly address the learning and teaching side of this challenge through personalised learning, AI-assisted assessment and teacher support, although its impact on retention will need to be demonstrated through implementation data. b. Assam’s upper-primary dropout rate was 5.0% in 2024-25, compared with 3.5% nationally, while the State’s transition rate from secondary to higher secondary was only 61.4%.⁴⁷⁷ The Wadhvani AI partnership will introduce AI-enabled oral reading fluency assessment for Classes III–VIII, while EkStep-AXL will provide personalised support in foundational literacy and numeracy, allowing learning gaps to be identified and addressed before students reach the higher-risk secondary stage. c. Around one lakh teachers handling Classes VI–XII are proposed to receive AI training by May, 2027, beginning with 40 master trainers under a cascade model.⁴⁷⁸ This gives the initiative a substantial teacher-capacity component rather than limiting AI deployment to classroom software, with training covering lesson planning, content creation and assessment design. d. The Canva Education will initially cover 70 schools as part of Assam’s AI-enabled education rollout, while a separate IIT Madras AI platform will be piloted in 50 schools. Keeping the initial deployments at a limited scale provides the Government with an opportunity to assess teacher adoption, classroom use and implementation requirements before considering wider expansion.

⁴⁷⁶ [Report On Unified District Information System Plus, 2024-2025.](#)
⁴⁷⁷ [Report On Unified District Information System Plus, 2024-2025.](#)
⁴⁷⁸ [The Economic Times, September, 2026.](#)

VII. Andhra Pradesh

A. Energy Roadmap For 24×7 Quality Power Supply

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

1. On 8th September, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Government unveiled a comprehensive energy roadmap to ensure uninterrupted 24×7 power supply.
2. The roadmap aims to ensure reliable and economical 24×7 electricity supply by expanding firm generation capacity, securing fuel availability and deploying storage capacity to manage peak demand and renewable-energy variability.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The thermal procurement plan seeks to procure 1,600 MW of new capacity through tariff-based competitive bidding, with selected generators required to maintain 15 days of coal stock to mitigate fuel-supply disruptions.
 - b. The fuel-supply arrangement permits APGENCO to procure imported coal through competitive bidding, while Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) are required to prepare 12-month advance power-supply plans to anticipate demand and procurement requirements.
 - c. The battery-storage program provides 1,500 MW/6,000 MWh of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) at strategic locations to meet peak-demand requirements and minimise renewable-energy curtailment.
 - d. The storage pipeline includes an additional 500 MW/1,000 MWh BESS project under the Centre's Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme, along with evaluation of a 1,344 MW pumped-storage project and 500 MW of short-term pumped-storage capacity.
 - e. The demand-management plan accounts for a 20% year-on-year increase in average daily electricity consumption, which reached 269 million units in August, with peak consumption touching 286 million units and September demand projected at 14,150 MW.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The roadmap aligns with the **National Electricity Policy, 2005**,⁴⁷⁹ which provides for meeting electricity demand and supplying reliable and quality power at specified standards while strengthening energy security and power-sector infrastructure.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Rajasthan,⁴⁸⁰ Tamil Nadu⁴⁸¹ and Karnataka⁴⁸² are similarly promoting pumped storage and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) to support renewable-energy integration and peak-demand

⁴⁷⁹ [National Electricity Policy, 2005.](#)

⁴⁸⁰ [Rajasthan Integrated Clean Energy Policy, 2024.](#)

⁴⁸¹ [The Hindu, September, 2024.](#)

⁴⁸² [Karnataka Renewable Energy Policy, 2022-2027.](#)

A. Energy Roadmap For 24×7 Quality Power Supply

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

management.

6. Relevance -

- a. Andhra Pradesh has faced low availability of thermal power relative to its installed capacity, creating a need to strengthen firm generation capacity to meet rising electricity demand. The roadmap's proposed procurement of 1,600 MW of additional thermal capacity, alongside measures to strengthen fuel security, can improve the availability of dependable power and reduce reliance on short-term procurement during periods of high demand.⁴⁸³
- b. The power demand is already approaching levels that require additional firm capacity. Andhra Pradesh's peak demand was projected at 14,150 MW for September, 2026,⁴⁸⁴ while the state has now decided to procure 1,600 MW of additional thermal capacity. The procurement provides additional firm generation capacity as demand rises and helps reduce exposure to short-term power procurement during periods of tight supply.
- c. The proposed 1,500 MW / 6,000 MWh BESS, an additional 500 MW / 1,000 MWh project under the Central VGF scheme and evaluation of a 1,344 MW pumped-storage project indicate a broader shift towards storage-backed power supply.⁴⁸⁵ This is particularly relevant as renewable sources already accounted for 47% of Andhra Pradesh's installed power capacity in NITI Aayog's 2026 Energy Transition Blueprint, while the roadmap specifically links storage to meeting evening peaks and reducing solar power spillage.⁴⁸⁶
- d. Lastly, fuel security and advance procurement planning have also been built into the roadmap, with new thermal generators required to maintain 15 days of coal stock and DISCOMs directed to prepare 12-month advance power-supply plans. These measures can reduce exposure to fuel disruptions and demand shocks, particularly given the state's recent reliance on short-term procurement to maintain grid stability during periods of high demand.

⁴⁸³ [The New Indian Express, September, 2026.](#)

⁴⁸⁴ [The New Indian Express, September, 2026.](#)

⁴⁸⁵ [The Deccan Chronicle, September, 2026.](#)

⁴⁸⁶ [News On AIR, February, 2026.](#)

VIII. Gujarat

A. Dedicated Anti-Narcotics Wings

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

1. On 6th September, 2026, the Gujarat Police ordered the establishment of dedicated Anti-Narcotics Wings (ANWs) in every district and police commissionerate.
2. The move aims to give specialised teams exclusive responsibility for investigating offences under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act,⁴⁸⁷ strengthening enforcement against drug trafficking and peddling under the state's "Zero Tolerance" drug policy.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The dedicated Anti-Narcotics Wings (ANWs) will have eight personnel each, comprising one Police Inspector, one Police Sub-Inspector, two Assistant Sub-Inspectors/Head Constables and four Constables, along with a dedicated vehicle and driver.
 - b. Each ANW will be assigned exclusively to narcotics-related work under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, without being deployed for routine law-and-order duties.
 - c. The deployment will cover every district and police commissionerate, with two wings each in Ahmedabad and Surat and one each in Vadodara and Rajkot, in addition to the district-level units.
 - d. The wings will maintain surveillance over identified drug peddlers and narcotics hotspots and initiate proposals for preventive action against habitual offenders under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act.
 - e. The ANWs will function under district Superintendents of Police and senior city police officers, following the operational model of the state-level Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF), while existing Local Crime Branch and Special Operations Group units will continue handling investigations.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Andhra Pradesh⁴⁸⁸ has set up a similar district-level structure through its Elite Anti Narcotics Group for Law Enforcement (EAGLE), which established one narcotics control cell in each of the state's 26 districts alongside a dedicated narcotics police station. Maharashtra⁴⁸⁹ has also set up its own state-level Anti-Narcotics Task Forces (ANTF).
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Gujarat's coastline remains an important entry point for high-value narcotics

⁴⁸⁷ [DoR, Ministry Of Finance, 1985.](#)

⁴⁸⁸ [The Hindu, September, 2026.](#)

⁴⁸⁹ [Maharashtra CID, ANTF.](#)

A. Dedicated Anti-Narcotics Wings

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

consignments. In May 2026, the Indian Coast Guard and Gujarat ATS seized 115 kg of cocaine worth approximately ₹ 1,150 crore off the Mundra coast,⁴⁹⁰ their 15th successful joint anti-narcotics operation in five years. The district-level Anti-Narcotics Wings can complement maritime interdiction by extending specialised surveillance and enforcement into inland trafficking networks.

- b. Further, narcotics trafficking extends beyond ports into inland distribution networks. In June 2026, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized 2 kg of cocaine in Surat.⁴⁹¹ The dedicated Anti-Narcotics Wings in Surat and Ahmedabad can strengthen local intelligence and enforcement against distribution networks operating within the state.
- c. Moreover, Gujarat faces risks from both clandestine drug manufacturing and pharmaceutical diversion. DRI dismantled a mephedrone manufacturing facility in Ankleshwar in July 2026, recovering 1.349 kg of mephedrone and precursor chemicals.⁴⁹² The ANWs can strengthen enforcement against locally manufactured narcotics and illicit diversion of pharmaceutical products.
- d. Interstate trafficking also remains an active enforcement challenge. NCB Ahmedabad secured convictions in 2026 in cases involving 352.520 kg and 562.55 kg of ganja transported from Odisha to Gujarat, with the consignments intercepted in Surat.⁴⁹³ The district-level specialised teams can build sustained intelligence around interstate routes, repeat offenders and local distribution networks.

⁴⁹⁰ [PIB, May, 2026](#)

⁴⁹¹ [PIB, June, 2026](#)

⁴⁹² [The Indian Express, September, 2026.](#)

⁴⁹³ [PIB, July, 2026.](#)

B. Gujarat Gram And Nagar Panchayats Taxes And Fees (Amendment) Rules, 2026

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

1. On 11th September, 2026, the state Government notified the Gujarat Gram and Nagar Panchayats Taxes and Fees (Amendment) Rules, 2026.
2. The rules grant a complete panchayat property tax exemption on one residential home for serving defence personnel, their spouses, veterans, and widows of soldiers killed in service.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The tax exemption covers serving defence personnel and their spouses, former soldiers, and widows of soldiers who died in service, subject to the eligibility conditions under the amended rules.
 - b. The exemption applies to one residential house owned or occupied by an eligible beneficiary within the jurisdiction of a Gram Panchayat in Gujarat.
 - c. The amended rules provide a complete exemption from Panchayat Tax on the eligible residential property, rather than a partial reduction in the tax liability.
 - d. The amendment was made to the Gujarat Gram and Nagar Panchayats Taxes and Fees Rules, 1964,⁴⁹⁴ under the powers conferred by the Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1993.⁴⁹⁵
 - e. Further, the exemption has been incorporated through amendments to Gujarat's Panchayat tax rules, formalising the tax relief proposed through the draft rules issued in 2025.⁴⁹⁶
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. Gujarat had 33,773 registered ex-servicemen as of June 2024,⁴⁹⁷ up from 24,433 in 2010.⁴⁹⁸ The exemption therefore covers a substantial and growing veteran population, while limiting the benefit to one residential property keeps the concession targeted rather than creating a blanket property-tax waiver.
 - b. Further, Gujarat had 5,392 registered widows of ex-servicemen as of December 2024, providing a defined beneficiary base for the exemption.⁴⁹⁹ Extending the relief to eligible military widows reduces a recurring local property-tax liability for these households, complementing existing defence-welfare support.
 - c. Moreover, the Act places the collection of locally imposed taxes and fees with village panchayats, making the exemption a concession against a decentralised local revenue source. Restricting the relief to one residential property per eligible

⁴⁹⁴ [Gujarat Gram And Nagar Panchayats Taxes And Fees Rules, 1964.](#)

⁴⁹⁵ [Gujarat Panchayats Act, 1993.](#)

⁴⁹⁶ [Times Of India, September, 2026.](#)

⁴⁹⁷ [PIB, August, 2025.](#)

⁴⁹⁸ [PIB, July, 2010.](#)

⁴⁹⁹ [PIB, March, 2025.](#)

B. Gujarat Gram And Nagar Panchayats Taxes And Fees (Amendment) Rules, 2026**Source:** [Link](#) | **Impact:** Medium

beneficiary contains the potential revenue impact on Panchayats while preventing the exemption from extending to multiple properties.

- d. Lastly, ex-servicemen welfare at the national level is largely centred on pensions, rehabilitation, employment and resettlement programs administered through the Defence Ministry and Sainik Boards. Gujarat's property-tax exemption adds a distinct form of support by reducing a recurring local housing-related liability that is generally outside these central welfare instruments.

IX. Odisha

A. Shree Jagannath Temple Land Management Rules, 2026

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

1. On 7th September, 2026, the Odisha Cabinet approved the Shree Jagannath Temple Land Management Rules, 2026 under the Shri Jagannath Temple Act, 1955.⁵⁰⁰
2. The rules aim to streamline the settlement and management of Shree Jagannath Temple land through online processing, standardised valuation, digital land records and stronger safeguards against unauthorised occupation and fraudulent settlements.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The new rules replace the Uniform Policy, 2003 and its 2019 amendment with a revised framework for settling Shree Jagannath Temple land.
 - b. The settlement process will be fully digitised through an online portal, covering application, verification and disposal of land settlement cases.
 - c. The land valuation will be based on the higher of Benchmark Value (BMV)⁵⁰¹ and Average Land Sale Statistics (ALSS), with commercial land up to 0.25 decimal valued at four times the applicable higher benchmark.
 - d. Every settlement will require a No-Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Shree Jagannath Temple Managing Committee, with settled land records integrated with Bhulekh and Bhunaksha for real-time updates.
 - e. The Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping and a public digital dashboard will track temple land holdings, encroachments, unauthorised occupation and litigation, while fraudulent settlements can be cancelled and subjected to civil or criminal action.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. As of January 2025, Odisha had identified around 60,427 acres of Shree Jagannath Temple land across 24 districts, of which around 38,062 acres had final Records of Rights (RoR) in the deity's name.⁵⁰² The gap between identified land and recorded ownership highlights the need to reconcile temple ownership records, with the 2026 land-management framework providing for online verification and integration with Bhulekh and Bhunaksha.
 - b. Further, the State has continued to identify cases requiring correction of temple land records. In 2025, the Orissa High Court directed authorities to identify properties belonging to Lord Jagannath and ensure that the deity's name is entered in the Records of Rights wherever documentary evidence establishes

⁵⁰⁰ [The Shri Jagannath Temple Act, 1955.](#)

⁵⁰¹ Benchmark Value (BMV) refers to the Government-determined minimum reference value used for assessing the value of land for registration and related purposes.

⁵⁰² [The New Indian Express, January, 2025.](#)

A. Shree Jagannath Temple Land Management Rules, 2026
Source: Link Impact: High
temple ownership.⁵⁰³ The new rules can provide an administrative framework for implementing this mandate through systematic verification and record correction. c. Moreover, estimates in 2026 indicated that 25–30% of around 36,000 acres of identified Jagannath Temple land was under private occupation.⁵⁰⁴ The new rules introduce a defined valuation mechanism based on the higher of BMV and Average Land Sale Statistics, which can make eligible settlements more consistent and protect the financial interests of the temple when land is settled.

⁵⁰³ [Times Of India, May, 2025.](#)

⁵⁰⁴ [The New Indian Express, May, 2026.](#)

B. Buxi Jagabandhu Assured Water Supply To Habitations (BASUDHA) Scheme

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

1. On 7th September, 2026, the Odisha Cabinet approved the revised Buxi Jagabandhu Assured Water Supply to Habitations (BASUDHA) scheme.
2. The scheme aims to strengthen and expand sustainable rural drinking water supply by addressing coverage gaps, incomplete projects, water quality challenges, infrastructure deficiencies, source sustainability and climate-related risks.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The revised scheme provides funding for rural piped water supply projects beyond existing Central and State schemes, while covering left-out habitations and incomplete projects.
 - b. The scheme has an outlay of ₹ 5,045 crore and will be implemented from 2026-27 to 2028-29, with a focus on strengthening rural drinking water services.
 - c. It provides for augmentation and modernisation of existing water supply systems to improve service delivery and protect existing public investments.
 - d. Water quality monitoring will be strengthened through laboratories, Field Testing Kits, mobile laboratories and Internet of Things (IoT)-enabled systems.
 - e. It promotes climate-resilient and energy-efficient technologies, supported by technology-enabled monitoring, command and control centres, social audits and grievance redressal mechanisms.
 - f. It provides for completion and strengthening of incomplete water supply projects, including infrastructure requiring additional capacity or rehabilitation.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - It aligns with Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0 which aims to provide functional tap water connection to every rural household.⁵⁰⁵
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Telangana⁵⁰⁶ and Gujarat⁵⁰⁷ have similar programs which combine piped household supply with source sustainability, water-quality monitoring, and community-based operation and maintenance.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. As of September, 2026, Odisha had provided household tap connections to 68.95 lakh of its 88.59 lakh rural households in villages with piped water supply, leaving 19.64 lakh households, or 22.17%, without connections.⁵⁰⁸ The scale of this remaining gap indicates that rural water-supply expansion still requires substantial last-mile infrastructure, making BASUDHA's focus on extending and strengthening water-supply systems particularly relevant.

⁵⁰⁵ [PM India, March, 2026.](#)

⁵⁰⁶ [Mission Bhagiratha, Government Of Telangana.](#)

⁵⁰⁷ [WASMO, Water And Sanitation Management Organisation.](#)

⁵⁰⁸ [Department Of Drinking Water And Sanitation Ministry Of Jal Shakti.](#)

B. Buxi Jagabandhu Assured Water Supply To Habitations (BASUDHA) Scheme

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

- b. Odisha signed a JJM 2.0 reform-linked MoU with the Centre in March 2026, committing to stronger O&M, community participation, digital asset registration and monitoring through the Sujalam Bharat platform.⁵⁰⁹ BASUDHA complements this shift by financing augmentation and modernisation of schemes after construction, protecting earlier public investment from service deterioration.
- c. Further, Odisha conducted 3.82 lakh drinking-water tests through Field Testing Kits (FTKs) in 2025–26, alongside 2.43 lakh laboratory tests, indicating the scale of water-quality surveillance required across the state.⁵¹⁰ BASUDHA's provisions for water-quality monitoring can strengthen this testing and surveillance framework, enabling earlier identification of contamination and more timely corrective action.
- d. Moreover, water quality remains a persistent concern, with 14 fluoride-affected habitations identified in Odisha as of July 2025, all requiring community water-purification arrangements.⁵¹¹ The scheme's provisions for strengthening water-quality laboratories, field testing and monitoring can enhance routine surveillance and enable timely detection and remediation of contamination risks.
- e. Lastly, Odisha continues to have geographically concentrated gaps in rural water access, with 155 mining-affected habitations in Keonjhar, 160 in Sundargarh and 69 in Angul still lacking piped water supply.⁵¹² The provision for covering left-out habitations is therefore particularly relevant for addressing these concentrated infrastructure gaps and extending water-supply coverage to settlements that remain outside existing systems.

⁵⁰⁹ [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

⁵¹⁰ [PIB, August, 2026.](#)

⁵¹¹ [PIB, July, 2025.](#)

⁵¹² [GO Care, Government Of Odisha.](#)

X. Haryana

A. Haryana EV For Cargo Logistic Scheme

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

1. On 9th September, 2026, the Haryana Government notified the Haryana EV for Cargo Logistics Scheme.
2. The scheme aims to accelerate the adoption of electric cargo vehicles among MSMEs for their internal logistics operations.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme provides a 15% reimbursement on the ex-showroom price of a new commercial electric vehicle, capped at ₹ 5 lakh per vehicle.
 - b. It covers battery electric, plug-in hybrid and fuel-cell electric cargo trucks, along with three- and four-wheeler commercial cargo vehicles with carrying capacities of 700 kg to 10,000 kg.
 - c. It restricts the incentive to MSMEs using the vehicles for their own logistics requirements, excluding courier, freight and logistics enterprises whose primary business is transportation.
 - d. It covers vehicles purchased on or after 1st April 2026 from authorised dealerships in Haryana and registered in the applicant MSME's name.
 - e. Further, assistance is limited to the first 250 eligible applicants on a first-come, first-served basis, with priority given to micro enterprises.
 - f. The scheme will remain operational for three years, or until the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Program⁵¹³ remains valid or the target number of vehicles is reached, whichever is later.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The scheme aligns with Centre's RAMP Program, which supports MSME competitiveness, technology upgradation and green transition.⁵¹⁴ Haryana's approved RAMP interventions specifically include EV cargo logistics.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Rajasthan subsidises EV-based goods transport under its Investment Promotion Scheme,⁵¹⁵ while Maharashtra provides purchase incentives for electric goods carriers under its Electric Vehicle Policy, 2025.⁵¹⁶ However, Haryana's scheme is specifically targeted at MSMEs using EVs for their own logistics requirements, rather than providing a general purchase incentive to individual buyers.
6. **Relevance -**

⁵¹³ [MSME RAMP](#).

⁵¹⁴ [MSME RAMP](#).

⁵¹⁵ [Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme, 2024](#).

⁵¹⁶ [Maharashtra Electric Vehicle Policy, 2025](#).

A. Haryana EV For Cargo Logistic Scheme

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

- a. Haryana has 15.9 lakh Udyam-registered MSMEs,⁵¹⁷ yet the scheme covers only the first 250 eligible beneficiaries, equivalent to around 0.02% of the registered base. This deliberately narrow coverage allows the Government to concentrate the subsidy on an initial cohort of firms, generate evidence on MSME uptake of cargo EVs and assess the case for scaling the incentive without committing resources across the entire MSME base upfront.
- b. Haryana has nine Inland Container Depots (ICDs), three Container Freight Stations (CFSs) and over 270 warehousing and logistics units,⁵¹⁸ providing established nodes for the movement of goods into and out of the state. This network is also expanding through the planned development of Hisar as an integrated aviation hub focused on cargo and logistics,⁵¹⁹ creating additional freight nodes that MSME cargo vehicles can connect to. The subsidy therefore targets the road-based first-and-last-mile movements linking MSMEs with both existing freight infrastructure and emerging cargo facilities.
- c. Haryana was classified as a High Performer among landlocked states in LEADS 2025, with logistics infrastructure and first-and last-mile connectivity scoring above the respective landlocked-state and national averages. With 92 first-and last-mile connectivity projects also being accelerated,⁵²⁰ the cargo EV subsidy complements this infrastructure push by reducing the upfront cost of electrifying the vehicles that operate across these freight links.
- d. From 1st January 2026, aggregators, delivery service providers and e-commerce companies operating fleets in the National Capital Region (NCR) are required to induct only compressed natural gas (CNG), electric or other cleaner-fuel vehicles.⁵²¹ By subsidising electric cargo vehicles for MSMEs, Haryana is extending this clean-fleet transition beyond large organised operators to smaller firms using vehicles for their own logistics, reducing the upfront cost of meeting a progressively cleaner freight-mobility framework.

⁵¹⁷ [State Wise Udyam Registration.](#)

⁵¹⁸ [Haryana Enterprises Promotion Centre.](#)

⁵¹⁹ [Civil Aviation Department, Government Of Haryana.](#)

⁵²⁰ [LEADS, Ministry Of Commerce And Industry, 2026.](#)

⁵²¹ [Business Standard, August, 2026.](#)

XI. Himachal Pradesh

A. Attendance And Dress Code For CBSE Government Schools

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

1. On 1st September, 2026, the Himachal Pradesh Government announced that a **three-time attendance system and a mandatory dress code** for teachers will be introduced in the state's 150 CBSE-affiliated Government schools.
2. The measures aim to improve teacher **accountability and punctuality** through structured attendance checkpoints, and to **standardise** a formal, professional appearance for teaching staff in CBSE Government schools.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The attendance system introduces three-time attendance recording at morning arrival, lunch break and school departure across 150 CBSE-affiliated Government schools.
 - b. The school dress code mandates a prescribed uniform for students and a formal dress code for teachers, with the teachers' dress code to be implemented from October 1, 2026.
 - c. The Government provides a one-time assistance of ₹ 5,000 per teacher to support the purchase of the prescribed teacher dress.
 - d. The Education Department has appointed around 1,200 teachers in CBSE-affiliated Government schools and provides for further teacher recruitment to meet staffing requirements.
 - e. The Government allocates an additional ₹ 80 crore for infrastructure development and improvement of facilities in CBSE-affiliated Government schools.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Maharashtra⁵²² has implemented a mandatory dress code for school teachers across the state, while Chandigarh⁵²³ has introduced a once-a-week uniform attire requirement for school teachers.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. The measure responds to attendance-monitoring gaps in Himachal Pradesh's Government school system. The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024 recorded average teacher presence at 81.2% in surveyed rural Government schools in the state, indicating scope for stronger school-level attendance monitoring.⁵²⁴ The introduction of three-time attendance recording across 150 CBSE Government schools, covering morning arrival, lunch break and school departure, provides repeated checkpoints to track presence throughout the school day rather than relying on a single attendance record.

⁵²² [The Times Of India, March, 2024.](#)

⁵²³ [The Tribune, April, 2026.](#)

⁵²⁴ [Annual Status of Education Report \(ASER\) 2024, Page 127.](#)

A. Attendance And Dress Code For CBSE Government Schools

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

- b. The three-time attendance system strengthens the state's existing digital monitoring infrastructure. Himachal Pradesh had already mandated **VSK-based attendance** twice a day from May 2025, alongside biometric attendance, but compliance remained weak, with a June 2025 review finding that only 6% of primary teachers had marked attendance through the portal.⁵²⁵
- c. Further, the shift of around 24,000 students from private to Government schools in 2026, following the introduction of the CBSE curriculum in 150 Government schools, indicates growing parental demand for the upgraded public-school model.⁵²⁶ The three-time attendance system, alongside teacher dress standards and additional staffing, can help sustain this shift by strengthening day-to-day school discipline and service delivery as enrolment expands.
- d. Lastly, the intervention covers only around 150 CBSE-affiliated Government schools against a wider network of 14,725 Government schools in the state,⁵²⁷ limiting its immediate reach to about 1% of the network. If attendance and professional-discipline gaps extend beyond the CBSE cohort, restricting the measures to these schools could limit their system-wide impact.

⁵²⁵ [Directorate Of School Education, Himachal Pradesh.](#)

⁵²⁶ [The Times Of India, July, 2026.](#)

⁵²⁷ [Report On Unified District Information System For Education Plus UDISE+, 2024-25, Page 42.](#)

XII. West Bengal

A. Universities And Colleges (Administration And Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026

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

1. On 10th September, 2026, the state Assembly passed the West Bengal Universities and Colleges (Administration and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026.
2. The bill aims to create an inter-university transfer mechanism for deploying experienced teaching and non-teaching personnel to universities requiring additional institutional and academic capacity.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Bill, approved by the state cabinet on 8th September, 2026, inserts a new provision Section 14A after the Section 14 of West Bengal Universities and Colleges (Administration and Regulation) Act, 2017.⁵²⁸
 - b. It allows the Chancellor, in consultation with the state Government, to transfer an employee of one state university to another on grounds of “administrative necessity.”
 - c. The transferred employees will retain their seniority and service benefits, and will be entitled to a transfer grant and reimbursement for the cost of relocating their belongings.
 - d. The Government has framed the move as part of a “One State, One Education” policy, intended to let newer or smaller universities, such as those in Jhargram and Cooch Behar, draw on experienced faculty from older institutions.
 - e. Prior to this amendment, inter-institutional transfers were largely limited to colleges under the same university or to college teachers recruited through the state Public Service Commission; no such provision previously existed for state university employees.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Bihar,⁵²⁹ Uttar Pradesh⁵³⁰ and Karnataka⁵³¹ have similar provisions which allow inter-university transfers of the employees. In Bihar and Karnataka, the Chancellor can order such transfers in consultation with the State Government, while Uttar Pradesh provides for such transfers through its Centralised Service Rules.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Over 50% of faculty positions in West Bengal’s state universities were vacant as of June 2026, alongside reported gaps in infrastructure and research funding.⁵³² The

⁵²⁸ [West Bengal Universities And Colleges \(Administration And Regulation\) Act, 2017.](#)

⁵²⁹ [Bihar Lok Bhawan.](#)

⁵³⁰ [U.P. State Universities Act](#)

⁵³¹ [Lok Bhavan Karnataka.](#)

⁵³² [PTI News, June, 2026.](#)

A. Universities And Colleges (Administration And Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026

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

transfer framework provides an immediate mechanism to redistribute existing faculty across institutions, but cannot by itself increase the State's overall teaching capacity without parallel recruitment.

- b. The shortage is also acute in established institutions as Calcutta University had 59% of its 835 sanctioned teaching posts vacant in November, 2025, leaving only around 342 positions filled.⁵³³ Inter-university transfers could temporarily support institutions facing sharper shortages, but redeploying faculty from similarly understaffed universities risks shifting vacancies rather than resolving them unless recruitment proceeds in parallel.
- c. Further, staffing constraints extend beyond the major universities in Kolkata. In July 2026, representatives of 20 state-run universities raised shortages in academic resources, faculty and funding with the Chancellor.⁵³⁴ A common transfer mechanism can therefore provide the State with a way to respond to institution-specific shortages by moving experienced staff to universities facing immediate capacity constraints.
- d. Lastly, the State's own Higher Education Council identifies maintaining an optimum teacher-student ratio and filling vacant university and college positions with regular faculty as core priorities.⁵³⁵ This suggests that inter-university transfers are best viewed as a short-term deployment tool, while sustained improvement in teaching capacity will still require filling sanctioned posts through regular recruitment.

⁵³³ [The Telegraph, November, 2025.](#)

⁵³⁴ [The Telegraph, July, 2026.](#)

⁵³⁵ [West Bengal States Council Of Higher Education.](#)

B. Closure Of Unaided And Unrecognised Madrasas

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

1. On 13th September, 2026, the State's Minority Affairs and Madrasah Education Department ordered the closure of 252 unaided madrasas.
2. The exercise aims to bring unrecognised religious schools into compliance with state regulatory norms, forming part of the Government's broader "One State, One Education" policy.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Government has ordered closure of 252 unaided and unrecognised madrasas found to be operating without requisite approvals and minimum infrastructure.
 - b. Around 100 additional unaided madrasas have been placed under show-cause proceedings, requiring them to establish their lawful authority to operate before further action.
 - c. The regulatory exercise covers all madrasas operating across the state, with district administrations required to verify registration or affiliation, management, teaching staff, student enrolment, infrastructure and funding.
 - d. Madrasas with valid Government or board approval are permitted to continue functioning, while institutions operating without the required authorisation are subject to closure or further regulatory action.
 - e. Further, the Government has ordered continued verification and re-verification of madrasa records to establish an authenticated district-wise database of authorised and unauthorised institutions.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** – States like Uttar Pradesh⁵³⁶ conducted its own state-wide madrasa survey in 2022, identifying 8,441 unaffiliated madrasas, and Karnataka⁵³⁷ has separately issued closure notices to unauthorised unaided schools state-wide.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) estimates that around 1.25 crore children studying in madrasas are deprived of their basic education rights,⁵³⁸ highlighting gaps in their access to formal educational standards and oversight. West Bengal's survey identified 2,396 madrasas operating without the required registration or affiliation,⁵³⁹ providing the Government with a concrete basis to act against institutions outside the formal regulatory framework and enforce minimum standards for recognition, infrastructure and education.

⁵³⁶ [Hindustan Times, November, 2022.](#)

⁵³⁷ [The Hindu, August, 2023.](#)

⁵³⁸ [ANI News, October, 2024.](#)

⁵³⁹ [NDTV, September, 2026.](#)

B. Closure Of Unaided And Unrecognised Madrasas

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

- b. Nearly one in five of the 252 madrasas facing closure are concentrated in Nadia and Murshidabad, with 25 institutions in each district. Both districts fall within the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) operational footprint identified by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in its investigation into the 2014 Khagragarh blast, alongside Burdwan and Birbhum.⁵⁴⁰ The concentration is therefore material because the Government is imposing formal registration and infrastructure scrutiny on institutions located within a geography that has previously featured in a documented terror investigation.
- c. Further, the investigation established that selected madrasas in Murshidabad, Birbhum and Burdwan were used by JMB as terrorist training centres and bomb-making units.⁵⁴¹ The subsequent convictions in the Khagragarh case place this use of madrasa premises on judicial record. The Government's current exercise to identify and regulate unregistered madrasas therefore addresses a documented vulnerability in institutional oversight within the same geography.
- d. The survey identified 2,396 madrasas operating without the required registration or affiliation, compared with 2,132 functioning with some form of approval.⁵⁴² The Government's statewide verification therefore provides an evidence-based basis for distinguishing compliant institutions from those requiring corrective action, enabling more targeted and proportionate regulation.
- e. Lastly, formal affiliation provides students with a defined academic pathway through an identifiable curriculum and examination framework. The Government's verification and recognition process can therefore provide greater certainty over curriculum, certification and progression for students across the madrasa education system.

⁵⁴⁰ [The Hindu, March, 2015.](#)

⁵⁴¹ [The News Indian Express, October, 2014.](#)

⁵⁴² [NDTV, September, 2026.](#)

XIII. Madhya Pradesh

A. ADB Renewable Energy Transaction Advisory Partnership

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

1. On 7th September, 2026, the Madhya Pradesh Government signed an agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to mobilise \$ 1 billion for green energy projects.
2. The partnership aims to structure bankable renewable-energy projects through public-private partnerships (PPPs) and mobilise up to \$ 1 billion (₹ 9,590 crore) in private investment for clean-energy and storage infrastructure in Madhya Pradesh.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The transaction advisory framework appoints ADB as transaction advisor for three renewable-energy projects to be developed through the PPP model, covering project preparation, structuring and procurement.
 - b. The project pipeline includes a solar power generation and battery energy storage facility at Shajapur, designed to meet peak electricity demand and improve grid stability.
 - c. The financing framework targets mobilisation of up to \$ 1 billion (₹ 9,590 crore) in private investment by developing commercially viable and bankable project structures capable of attracting private-sector participation.
 - d. The projects are designed to improve peak-hour power supply and reliability during periods when solar generation is unavailable, integrating renewable generation with energy-storage capacity.
 - e. Further, the partnership supports the Madhya Pradesh Renewable Energy Policy, 2025, which targets renewable resources meeting 50% of the state's electricity demand by 2030.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The partnership supports India's target of achieving 500 GW of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030, by facilitating investment in renewable-energy generation and energy-storage infrastructure.⁵⁴³
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Madhya Pradesh has substantial renewable-energy potential but a significant gap between its resource base and existing large-scale generation capacity. The State estimates around 62 GW of solar and 11 GW of wind potential, while its five large solar plants currently total only 2.75 GW.⁵⁴⁴ The ADB-backed PPP model can help bridge this investment gap by bringing private capital into projects beyond what public financing alone can support.
 - b. Further, the expansion of intermittent renewable generation increases the need

⁵⁴³ [PIB, August, 2026.](#)

⁵⁴⁴ [MP Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.](#)

A. ADB Renewable Energy Transaction Advisory Partnership

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

for storage to match electricity supply with peak demand. The proposed Shajapur solar-plus-battery project is designed to meet peak electricity requirements, improve grid stability and supply stored solar power during periods when solar generation is unavailable.

- c. Moreover, Madhya Pradesh's clean-energy ambitions require sustained investment at substantial scale. The Renewable Energy Policy 2025 targets meeting 50% of the State's electricity demand from renewable sources by 2030,⁵⁴⁵ while the new ADB transaction-advisory mandate is expected to help mobilise up to \$ 1 billion (₹ 9,590 crore) in private investment through bankable PPP projects. This provides an additional financing channel for scaling renewable generation and storage capacity.
- d. Lastly, the new transaction-advisory mandate builds on an existing ADB-supported expansion of Madhya Pradesh's renewable-energy and transmission infrastructure. The Madhya Pradesh Renewable Energy Scaling Up Project includes a \$ 60 million (₹ 575 crore) ADB loan and \$ 10 million (₹ 96 crore) Clean Technology Fund financing, alongside technical assistance, to expand renewable-energy supply and strengthen transmission infrastructure.⁵⁴⁶ The new mandate adds project preparation, transaction structuring and private-investment mobilisation to this broader clean-energy build-out.

⁵⁴⁵ [Madhya Pradesh Renewable Energy Policy, 2025.](#)

⁵⁴⁶ [Madhya Pradesh Renewable Energy Scaling Up Project.](#)

XIV. Bihar

A. Direct Account Transfer System For Milk Producers

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

1. On 8th September, 2026, the state Government's Bihar State Milk Co-operative Federation (COMFED) began implementing a Direct Account Transfer (DAT) system to pay milk producers directly into their bank accounts.
2. This replaces the earlier multi-layered payment chain from COMFED's eight unions through primary milk producers' cooperative societies.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The DAT system covers over 7 lakh milk producers linked to 22,416 primary milk producer cooperative societies across Bihar.
 - b. The milk payments are transferred directly into individual producers' bank accounts, eliminating the intermediary payment route through primary cooperative societies.
 - c. The rollout begins with 50,000 milk producers across 5,000 cooperative societies, with the remaining producers to be brought under the system in phases.
 - d. The eight Bihar State Milk Co-operative Federation (COMFED) milk unions will implement the transfers, covering Patna, Barauni, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur, Ara, Bhagalpur, Gaya and Supaul.
 - e. Further, the milk unions will use producer lists and bank-account details obtained from primary cooperatives to process direct payments to individual milk producers.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The move toward direct-to-farmer digital payments aligns with the Centre's broader Direct Benefit Transfer architecture and the National program for Dairy Development (NPDD),⁵⁴⁷ which promotes transparent, technology-enabled payment systems in cooperative dairying nationally.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Gujarat,⁵⁴⁸ Jharkhand,⁵⁴⁹ Odisha⁵⁵⁰ and Tamil Nadu⁵⁵¹ have implemented direct bank-account payments for milk procured from producers through their cooperative dairy systems.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Bihar's milk production has grown nearly five-fold, from 2,664 thousand tonnes in 2000-01⁵⁵² to 13,397 thousand tonnes in 2024-25.⁵⁵³ As dairy production has

⁵⁴⁷ [National program for Dairy Development.](#)

⁵⁴⁸ [The Economic Times, November, 2016.](#)

⁵⁴⁹ [The Times Of India, June, 2025.](#)

⁵⁵⁰ [PIB, February, 2026.](#)

⁵⁵¹ [Centre For Digital Financial Inclusion, Tamil Nadu.](#)

⁵⁵² [National Dairy Development Board.](#)

⁵⁵³ [The Indian Express, December, 2025.](#)

A. Direct Account Transfer System For Milk Producers

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

become an increasingly significant source of rural income, routing payments directly to producers can strengthen the transmission of this expanding dairy activity into timely and traceable producer earnings.

- b. Moreover, Bihar's milk production grew by 4.24% in 2024-25, from 12,852.99 thousand tonnes to 13,397 thousand tonnes, compared with 3.58% growth nationally.⁵⁵⁴ As procurement volumes scale, extending DAT to around 7 lakh milk producers can reduce payment frictions, improve transaction-level traceability and ensure that dairy earnings reach producers directly.
- c. COMFED's cooperative network already collects around 22 lakh kg of milk daily on average, with peak procurement reaching 30 lakh kg, through village-level societies.⁵⁵⁵ The state is targeting a sharp expansion in milk production, with the Government directing COMFED to raise daily production from 40 lakh litres to 1.25 crore litres. Bringing payments directly into producers' accounts can strengthen the incentive structure as Bihar seeks to expand dairy participation.
- d. Lastly, Bihar's existing dairy-payment system routed milk payments through cooperative society secretaries, who subsequently distributed the money to farmers in cash, creating scope for manipulation.⁵⁵⁶ The shift to DAT directly into producers' bank accounts can remove this intermediary layer, strengthening payment traceability and reducing the scope for diversion or discrepancies in producer payments.

⁵⁵⁴ [Basic Animal Husbandry Statistics, 2025.](#)

⁵⁵⁵ [CM Bihar, December, 2025.](#)

⁵⁵⁶ [The Times Of India, May, 2025.](#)

B. Prior Consent Framework For CBI Probes Involving State Officials

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

1. On 3rd September, 2026, the state Home Department issued a notification requiring the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to obtain prior consent from the state Government before investigating officers or employees of the Bihar Government, its corporations, companies or banks.
2. The notification expands the CBI's standing consent in Bihar while retaining state approval for cases involving state government employees and entities.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The notification, issued under Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946,⁵⁵⁷ supersedes all previous notifications on the subject and grants general consent for CBI investigations into offences by Central Government/PSU employees and private individuals under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023,⁵⁵⁸ the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023,⁵⁵⁹ the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000,⁵⁶⁰ and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988⁵⁶¹.
 - b. At the same time, investigations involving Bihar government employees and state-controlled or aided entities will continue to require prior state consent on a case-by-case basis.
 - c. The revised consent framework incorporates the post-2024 criminal-law architecture, including the BNS, BNSS and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, alongside the IT Act, cybercrime cases and Prevention of Corruption Act.
 - d. For investigations involving state-owned or controlled corporations, companies, banks and state-aided institutions, the CBI will have to seek prior approval from the state government.
 - e. The notification supersedes all previous consent orders and provides for the state government to consider CBI investigation proposals individually.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The notification directly exercises Section 6 of the central Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946,⁵⁶² which itself requires state consent for CBI investigations.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States including West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Kerala, Jharkhand, Punjab and Mizoram have at various points restricted CBI investigations by withdrawing general consent, requiring case-specific approval

⁵⁵⁷ [CBI, DSPE Act, 1946.](#)

⁵⁵⁸ [MHA, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.](#)

⁵⁵⁹ [Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.](#)

⁵⁶⁰ [MeitY, IT Act, 2000.](#)

⁵⁶¹ [Prevention Of Corruption Act, 1988.](#)

⁵⁶² [Section 6, CBI, DSPE Act, 1946.](#)

B. Prior Consent Framework For CBI Probes Involving State Officials

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

from the state government.⁵⁶³

6. Relevance -

- a. Bihar recorded 122 corruption FIRs in 2025, the highest annual count in 25 years, above 68% above the long-term average of 72.7, with bribery accounting for 81% of cases.⁵⁶⁴ The notification establishes a defined consent framework for CBI investigations involving Bihar public servants, enabling greater coordination between central investigation and the state’s existing anti-corruption machinery.
- b. Further, the notification updates rather than replaces Bihar’s existing CBI consent framework. Bihar’s 1996 general-consent notification had already required prior state approval where Bihar public servants were involved, a provision expressly noted by the Supreme Court in *Kanwal Tanuj v. State of Bihar*.⁵⁶⁵ The consent notification brings this framework in line with the newer criminal laws while retaining the established jurisdictional distinction.
- c. Moreover, the distinction between state and Central employees gives effect to the federal structure of CBI jurisdiction under the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946.⁵⁶⁶ The Supreme Court reiterated in 2024 that the CBI ordinarily requires state consent to exercise jurisdiction within a state under Section 6.⁵⁶⁷ Bihar’s notification accordingly preserves standing consent for Central cases while establishing a defined consent mechanism for investigations involving state officials and institutions.
- d. Lastly, the framework preserves judicial oversight alongside the consent mechanism. The constitutional courts can direct the CBI to investigate cases without state consent, while standing consent continues for cases involving Central Government employees, Central PSUs and private persons. This provides a clearly delineated framework for CBI investigations across Central and state jurisdictions.

⁵⁶³ [PIB, March, 2021.](#)

⁵⁶⁴ [The Indian Express, June, 2026.](#)

⁵⁶⁵ [Kanwal Tanuj v. State of Bihar, 2020.](#)

⁵⁶⁶ [CBI, DSPE Act, 1946.](#)

⁵⁶⁷ [State of West Bengal v. Union of India, 2024.](#)



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