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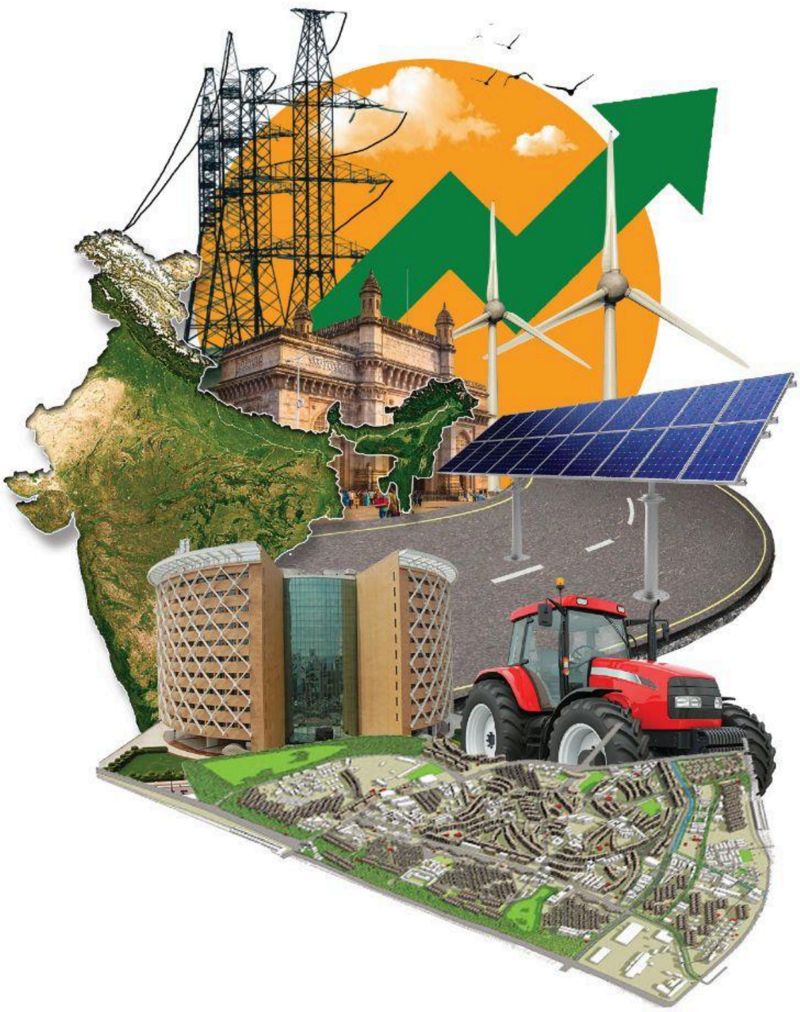

1st July - 15th July

JULY 2026 | VOLUME I

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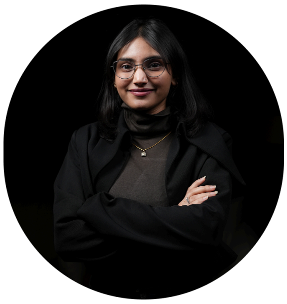

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Key Announcements

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

Reform Decisions

I. **Delhi**

A. **Delhi (Right Of Citizen To Time Bound And Ease Of Delivery Of Services) Bill, 2026**: The Delhi Cabinet approved the Delhi (Right of Citizen to Time Bound and Ease of Delivery of Services) Bill, 2026, replacing the erstwhile law with a modern framework that guarantees citizens a legal right to time-bound Government services. The Bill introduces end-to-end digital service delivery and automatic escalation for delayed applications.

II. **Chhattisgarh**

A. **Ease Of Doing Business (Exemption And Facilitation) Bill, 2026**: The Chhattisgarh Cabinet approved the Ease of Doing Business (Exemption and Facilitation) Bill, 2026, establishing a statutory framework for time-bound business approvals and regulatory facilitation. The Bill introduces self-certification, third-party verification, risk-based inspections, deemed approvals, and digital single-window service delivery.

III. **Tamil Nadu**

A. **Paperless Anywhere Registration System, 2026:** The Tamil Nadu Government announced the rollout of the Paperless Anywhere Registration System, 2026, introducing end-to-end digital registration for specified property transactions from 17th August, 2026. The reform aims to modernise property registration by enabling eligible transactions to be completed online, reducing physical visits to Sub-Registrar Offices, and improving efficiency, transparency, and accessibility.

IV. **Maharashtra**

A. **Maharashtra Clinical Establishments (Registration And Regulation) Bill, 2026:** The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly introduced the Maharashtra Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Bill, 2026, establishing a unified regulatory framework for all clinical establishments across the state. The Bill aims to improve healthcare quality, transparency, and patient safety by mandating registration, prescribing minimum service standards, strengthening inspections and enforcement, and replacing the Bombay Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1949.

Policy Level Announcements

I. **Uttar Pradesh**

A. **Startup Policy, 2026**: The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the Uttar Pradesh Startup Policy, 2026, establishing a dedicated Startup Mission Directorate and expanding

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financial support for startups. The policy provides prototype grants of up to ₹ 10 lakh, seed capital of up to ₹ 50 lakh, and matching grants of up to ₹ 5 crore.

B. **Data Centre Policy, 2026**: The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the Uttar Pradesh Data Centre Policy, 2026, targeting over ₹ 2 lakh crore in investments and 2 GW of additional AI-ready data centre capacity. The policy introduces dedicated incentives for GPU infrastructure, AI Compute Booster facilities, green data centres, and projects in Bundelkhand and Purvanchal.

II. Gujarat

A. **Viksit Gujarat Data Centre Policy, 2026–29:** The Gujarat Government unveiled the Viksit Gujarat Data Centre Policy, 2026–29, to promote AI-ready and hyperscale data centres. The policy mandates a minimum 150 MW IT load and 51% renewable energy sourcing, while providing long-term fiscal incentives and dedicated power infrastructure for eligible projects.

III. Odisha

A. **Deep Sea Fishing Mission (2026–2036):** The Odisha Cabinet approved the Odisha Deep Sea Fishing Mission (2026–2036), a ₹ 2,295.45 crore initiative to expand deep-sea fishing capacity. The mission aims to add 2 lakh metric tonnes of annual marine fish production while strengthening seafood value chains through modern infrastructure, digital governance, and the Blue Economy Hub (B-Hub).

IV. Jharkhand

A. **Draft Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy, 2026–2031**: The Government of Jharkhand proposed the Draft Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy, 2026–2031, envisaging ₹ 1,150 crore in investments over five years. The policy proposes a State AI Mission, a Chief Minister Data Intelligence Platform, and sector-specific AI systems to strengthen governance and public service delivery.

Social Sector Schemes

I. Odisha

A. **Gyanodaya-Shiksharu Samruddhi Scheme, 2026**: The Odisha Cabinet approved the Gyanodaya-Shiksharu Samruddhi Scheme, completing the state's KG-to-PG free education framework. Backed by ₹ 5,467.55 crore over five years, the scheme extends free education from Classes IX–XII to postgraduate programs in Government and Government-aided institutions.

II. Maharashtra

A. **Maharashtra Women Farmers Empowerment Bill, 2026**: The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly unanimously passed the Maharashtra Women Farmers Empowerment Bill, 2026, granting women engaged in agriculture official recognition as farmers irrespective of land ownership. The Bill aims to improve women's access to

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agricultural welfare schemes, institutional credit, crop insurance, and other government benefits by formally integrating them into the state's agricultural support framework.

B. **Expansion Of The Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Farm Loan Waiver Scheme:** The Maharashtra Government rolled out the Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Farm Loan Waiver Scheme by increasing the maximum loan waiver from ₹ 50,000 to ₹ 2 lakh, removing the ₹ 2 lakh crop loan eligibility ceiling, and extending the overdue loan cut-off to FY 2026–27. The expansion aims to provide broader debt relief to distressed farmers by relaxing eligibility conditions, widening scheme coverage, and strengthening their access to institutional agricultural credit.

Investment Announcements

I. Andhra Pradesh

A. **State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) Investment Approvals, 2026:** The Andhra SIPB approved 11 investment proposals worth ₹ 9,076.11 crore, spanning biofuels, renewable energy, food processing, logistics, MSMEs, and tourism. The approvals aim to accelerate industrialisation, attract private investment, strengthen the rural economy, expand clean energy and value-added manufacturing, and enhance the state's logistics and tourism infrastructure.

Other Decisions

I. Delhi

A. **Delhi Winter Pollution Master Plan, 2026**: The Government of NCT Delhi notified the Winter Pollution Master Plan, 2026, establishing a permanent annual framework that automatically enforces winter pollution-control measures from 1st November to 28th February every year. The plan also mandates PUCC-linked fuel purchases and tighter controls on vehicle emissions and construction activities.

II. Ladakh

A. **Autonomous Hill Development Councils Expansion**: The Ladakh Administration announced the expansion of the Autonomous Hill Development Council framework, extending elected district-level governance to all seven districts following the Union Territory's administrative reorganisation. The reform creates new Hill Councils for five districts and requires constituency delimitation before elections.

III. Gujarat

A. **Silicon And Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing Research And Training Hub (SAMARTH), 2026:** The Gujarat Government announced the ₹ 190 crore SAMARTH initiative to strengthen the state's semiconductor ecosystem. The hub will establish

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advanced research facilities, develop indigenous semiconductor technologies, and train nearly 10,000 students, technicians and professionals over five years.

प्रमुख घोषणाएँ

यह दस्तावेज **1 जुलाई, 2026 से 15 जुलाई, 2026** के बीच राज्य सरकारों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों द्वारा लिए गए विभिन्न प्रमुख नीति और सुधार संबंधी निर्णयों को ट्रैक करता है।

सुधार संबंधी निर्णय

I. **दिल्ली**

A. **दिल्ली (नागरिकों को समयबद्ध और सुगम सेवा वितरण का अधिकार) विधेयक, 2026**: दिल्ली मंत्रिमंडल ने दिल्ली (नागरिकों को समयबद्ध और सुगम सेवा वितरण का अधिकार) विधेयक, 2026 को स्वीकृति दी है। जिसने पूर्ववर्ती कानून को एक आधुनिक ढांचे से प्रतिस्थापित कर दिया है जो नागरिकों को समयबद्ध सरकारी सेवाओं के लिए कानूनी अधिकार की गारंटी देता है। यह विधेयक शुरू से अंत तक डिजिटल सेवा वितरण और विलंबित आवेदनों के लिए स्वचालित एस्केलेशन शुरू करता है।

II. **छत्तीसगढ़**

A. **ईज़ ऑफ डूइंग बिज़नेस (छूट और सुविधा) विधेयक, 2026**: छत्तीसगढ़ मंत्रिमंडल ने ईज़ ऑफ डूइंग बिज़नेस (छूट और सुविधा) विधेयक, 2026 को स्वीकृति दी है, जो समयबद्ध व्यावसायिक अनुमोदनों और नियामक सुविधा के लिए एक वैधानिक ढाँचा स्थापित करता है। यह विधेयक स्व-प्रमाणन, तीसरे पक्ष द्वारा सत्यापन, जोखिम-आधारित निरीक्षण, मानद अनुमोदन और डिजिटल सिंगल-विंडो सेवा वितरण का प्रावधान करता है।

III. **तमिलनाडु**

A. **कागज़ रहित कहीं भी पंजीकरण प्रणाली, 2026:** तमिलनाडु सरकार ने कागज़ रहित कहीं भी पंजीकरण प्रणाली, 2026 को लागू करने की घोषणा की है, जिसमें 17 अगस्त, 2026 से निर्दिष्ट संपत्ति लेनदेन के लिए शुरू से अंत तक डिजिटल पंजीकरण शुरू किया जाएगा। इस सुधार का उद्देश्य पात्र लेन-देन को ऑनलाइन पूरा करने, उप-पंजीयक कार्यालयों के भौतिक दौरों को कम करने और दक्षता, पारदर्शिता तथा पहुंच में सुधार करके संपत्ति पंजीकरण का आधुनिकीकरण करना है।

IV. **महाराष्ट्र**

A. **महाराष्ट्र क्लिनिकल एस्टेब्लिशमेंट्स (पंजीकरण और विनियमन) विधेयक, 2026:** महाराष्ट्र विधान सभा ने महाराष्ट्र क्लिनिकल एस्टेब्लिशमेंट्स (पंजीकरण और विनियमन) विधेयक, 2026 को प्रस्तुत किया है, जो राज्य भर के सभी क्लिनिकल प्रतिष्ठानों के लिए एक एकीकृत नियामक ढाँचा स्थापित करता है। इस विधेयक का उद्देश्य पंजीकरण अनिवार्य करके, न्यूनतम सेवा मानकों को निर्धारित करके, निरीक्षण और प्रवर्तन को मजबूत करके, और बॉम्बे नर्सिंग

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होम्स रजिस्ट्रेशन एक्ट, 1949 को प्रतिस्थापित करके स्वास्थ्य सेवा की गुणवत्ता, पारदर्शिता और रोगी सुरक्षा में सुधार करना है।

नीतिगत घोषणाएँ

I. उत्तर प्रदेश

A. **स्टार्टअप नीति, 2026**: उत्तर प्रदेश मंत्रिमंडल ने उत्तर प्रदेश स्टार्टअप नीति, 2026 को स्वीकृति दी है, जिसमें एक समर्पित स्टार्टअप मिशन निदेशालय की स्थापना की गई है और स्टार्टअप के लिए वित्तीय सहायता का विस्तार किया गया है। यह नीति ₹10 लाख तक के प्रोटोटाइप अनुदान, ₹50 लाख तक की प्रारंभिक पूंजी (सीड कैपिटल), और ₹5 करोड़ तक के समतुल्य अनुदान (मैचिंग ग्रांट) का प्रावधान करती है।

B. **डेटा सेंटर नीति, 2026**: उत्तर प्रदेश मंत्रिमंडल ने उत्तर प्रदेश डेटा सेंटर नीति, 2026 को मंज़ूरी दी है, जिसका लक्ष्य ₹2 लाख करोड़ से अधिक का निवेश और 2 GW अतिरिक्त ए.आई-तैयार डेटा सेंटर क्षमता है। यह नीति जी.पी.यू बुनियादी ढांचे, ए.आई कंप्यूट बूस्टर सुविधाओं, हरित डेटा केंद्रों, और बुंदेलखंड तथा पूर्वांचल में परियोजनाओं के लिए समर्पित प्रोत्साहन प्रदान करती है।

II. गुजरात

A. **विकसित गुजरात डेटा सेंटर नीति, 2026–29:** गुजरात सरकार ने विकसित गुजरात डेटा सेंटर नीति, 2026–29 का अनावरण किया है, जिसका उद्देश्य ए.आई-तैयार और हाइपरस्केल डेटा केंद्रों को बढ़ावा देना है। यह नीति न्यूनतम 150 मेगावाट आई.टी लोड और 51% नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा सोर्सिंग को अनिवार्य करती है, जबकि पात्र परियोजनाओं के लिए दीर्घकालिक राजकोषीय प्रोत्साहन और समर्पित बिजली बुनियादी ढाँचा प्रदान करती है।

III. ओडिशा

A. **गहरे समुद्र में मछली पकड़ने का मिशन (2026–2036):** ओडिशा मंत्रिमंडल ने ओडिशा गहरे समुद्र में मछली पकड़ने के मिशन (2026–2036) को मंज़ूरी दी है, जो गहरे समुद्र में मछली पकड़ने की क्षमता के विस्तार के लिए ₹2,295.45 करोड़ की पहल है। इस मिशन का उद्देश्य आधुनिक बुनियादी ढांचे, डिजिटल शासन और ब्लू इकोनॉमी हब (बी-हब) के माध्यम से समुद्री खाद्य मूल्य श्रृंखलाओं को मजबूत करते हुए वार्षिक समुद्री मछली उत्पादन में 2 लाख मीट्रिक टन की वृद्धि करना है।

IV. झारखंड

A. **प्रारूप ए.आई नीति, 2026–2031**: झारखंड सरकार ने प्रारूप ए.आई नीति, 2026–2031 का प्रस्ताव रखा है, जिसमें पाँच वर्षों में ₹1,150 करोड़ के निवेश की परिकल्पना की गई है। यह नीति, शासन और सार्वजनिक सेवा

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वितरण को मजबूत करने के लिए एक राज्य ए.आई मिशन, एक मुख्यमंत्री डेटा इंटेलिजेंस प्लेटफॉर्म, और क्षेत्र-विशिष्ट ए.आई प्रणालियों का प्रस्ताव करती है।

सामाजिक क्षेत्र की योजनाएँ

I. **ओडिशा**

A. **ज्ञानोदय-शिक्षा समृद्धि योजना, 2026:** ओडिशा मंत्रिमंडल ने ज्ञानोदय-शिक्षा समृद्धि योजना को मंज़ूरी दी है, जो राज्य के केजी-से-पीजी निःशुल्क शिक्षा ढांचे को पूरा करती है। पाँच वर्षों में ₹5,467.55 करोड़ के समर्थन से, यह योजना सरकारी और सरकारी सहायता प्राप्त संस्थानों में कक्षा IX-XII से स्नातकोत्तर कार्यक्रमों तक मुफ्त शिक्षा का विस्तार करती है।

II. **महाराष्ट्र**

A. **महाराष्ट्र महिला किसान सशक्तीकरण विधेयक, 2026:** महाराष्ट्र विधान सभा ने सर्वसम्मति से महाराष्ट्र महिला किसान सशक्तीकरण विधेयक, 2026 को पारित किया है, जो भूमि स्वामित्व की परवाह किए बिना कृषि में शामिल महिलाओं को किसान के रूप में आधिकारिक मान्यता प्रदान करता है। इस विधेयक का उद्देश्य महिलाओं को राज्य के कृषि समर्थन ढांचे में औपचारिक रूप से एकीकृत करके कृषि कल्याण योजनाओं, संस्थागत ऋण, फसल बीमा और अन्य सरकारी लाभों तक उनकी पहुँच में सुधार करना है।

B. **पुण्यश्लोक अहिल्यादेवी होल्कर कृषि ऋण माफी योजना का विस्तार:** महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने पुण्यश्लोक अहिल्यादेवी होल्कर कृषि ऋण माफी योजना को लागू किया है, जिसमें अधिकतम ऋण माफी को ₹50,000 से बढ़ाकर ₹2 लाख कर दिया गया है, ₹2 लाख की फसल ऋण पात्रता सीमा को हटा दिया गया है। साथ ही अतिदेय ऋण कट-ऑफ को वित्त वर्ष 2026–27 तक बढ़ा दिया गया है। इस विस्तार का उद्देश्य पात्रता शर्तों में ढील देकर, योजना कवरेज को व्यापक बनाकर और संस्थागत कृषि ऋण तक उनकी पहुँच को मजबूत करके संकटग्रस्त किसानों को व्यापक ऋण राहत प्रदान करना है।

निवेश संबंधी घोषणाएँ

I. **आंध्र प्रदेश**

A. **राज्य निवेश संवर्धन बोर्ड (एस.आई.पी.बी) निवेश अनुमोदन, 2026:** आंध्र एस.आई.पी.बी ने जैव ईंधन, नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा, खाद्य प्रसंस्करण, लॉजिस्टिक्स, एम.एस.एम.ई और पर्यटन तक फैले ₹9,076.11 करोड़ मूल्य के 11 निवेश प्रस्तावों को स्वीकृति दी हैं। इन अनुमोदनों का उद्देश्य औद्योगीकरण में तेज़ी लाना, निजी निवेश आकर्षित

प्रमुख घोषणाएँ

करना, ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था को मजबूत करना, स्वच्छ ऊर्जा और मूल्य वर्धित विनिर्माण का विस्तार करना, और राज्य के लॉजिस्टिक्स और पर्यटन बुनियादी ढांचे को बढ़ाना है।

अन्य निर्णय

I. **दिल्ली**

A. **दिल्ली शीतकालीन प्रदूषण मास्टर प्लान, 2026**: राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र दिल्ली सरकार ने शीतकालीन प्रदूषण मास्टर प्लान, 2026 को अधिसूचित किया है, जो एक स्थायी वार्षिक ढाँचा स्थापित करता है जो हर साल 1 नवंबर से 28 फरवरी तक शीतकालीन प्रदूषण-नियंत्रण उपायों को स्वचालित रूप से लागू करता है। यह योजना पी.यू.सी.सी-लिंक्ड ईंधन खरीद और वाहन उत्सर्जन तथा निर्माण गतिविधियों पर कड़े नियंत्रण को भी अनिवार्य करती है।

II. **लद्दाख**

A. **स्वायत्त पहाड़ी विकास परिषदों का विस्तार**: लद्दाख प्रशासन ने स्वायत्त पहाड़ी विकास परिषद ढांचे के विस्तार की घोषणा की है, जिसमें केंद्र शासित प्रदेश के प्रशासनिक पुनर्गठन के बाद सभी सात ज़िलों तक निर्वाचित ज़िलास्तरीय शासन का विस्तार किया गया है। इस सुधार के तहत पाँच ज़िलों के लिए नई हिल काउंसिल बनाई जाएँगी और चुनावों से पहले निर्वाचन क्षेत्रों का परिसीमन करना ज़रूरी होगा।

III. **गुजरात**

A. **सिलिकॉन और उन्नत सेमीकंडक्टर विनिर्माण अनुसंधान और प्रशिक्षण हब (समर्थ), 2026:** गुजरात सरकार ने राज्य के सेमीकंडक्टर पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को मजबूत करने के लिए ₹ 190 करोड़ की समर्थ पहल की घोषणा की है। यह हब उन्नत अनुसंधान सुविधाओं की स्थापना करेगा, स्वदेशी सेमीकंडक्टर प्रौद्योगिकियों का विकास करेगा, और पाँच वर्षों में लगभग 10,000 छात्रों, तकनीशियनों तथा पेशेवरों को प्रशिक्षित करेगा।

Reform Decisions

I. Delhi

A. Delhi (Right Of Citizen To Time Bound And Ease Of Delivery Of Services) Bill, 2026
Source: The Hindu Businessline | **Impact:** High

1. On 15th July, 2026, the Delhi Cabinet approved the Delhi (Right of Citizen to Time Bound and Ease of Delivery of Services) Bill, 2026.
2. The Bill aims to guarantee citizens a **legal right** to time-bound Government services through a technology-enabled and accountable public service delivery framework.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The Bill proposes repeal and replacement of the Delhi (Right of Citizen to Time Bound Delivery of Services) Act, 2011[1] with a modern legal framework for citizen-centric governance.
   b. It provides time-bound delivery of notified Government services as a legally enforceable right for every citizen of Delhi.
   c. The Bill introduces end-to-end digital delivery of public services to minimise physical interfaces and improve administrative efficiency.
   d. It mandates an automatic escalation mechanism when notified services are not delivered within the prescribed timeline.
   e. It seeks to strengthen transparency, accountability and ease of governance through a technology-enabled public service delivery system.
   f. It establishes a Right to Service Commission to monitor implementation, adjudicate complaints and strengthen enforcement of time-bound public service delivery.
   g. It empowers the Right to Service Commission to impose monetary penalties on defaulting officials for delays or deficiencies in delivering notified services, strengthening departmental accountability.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Bill aligns with the Digital India Program[2] by expanding digitally enabled, citizen-centric delivery of public services with defined service timelines.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka and Punjab have enacted statutory frameworks guaranteeing the time-bound delivery of public services through the Lok Sewa Guarantee Adhiniyam, 2010,[3] Bihar Right to Public Services Act, 2011,[4] Sakala Services Act, 2011,[5] and the Punjab Right To Service

[1] Delhi (Right Of Citizen To Time Bound Delivery Of Services) Act, 2011.
[2] PIB, June, 2026.
[3] Lok Sewa Guarantee Adhiniyam, 2010.
[4] Bihar Right To Public Services Act, 2011.
[5] The Karnataka Sakala Services Act, 2011.

A. Delhi (Right Of Citizen To Time Bound And Ease Of Delivery Of Services) Bill, 2026
Source: The Hindu Businessline | **Impact:** High
(Amendment) Act, 2016,[6] respectively. 6. **Relevance -** a. In June 2026, 23 additional citizen and business services were brought under the Delhi Right of Citizen to Time Bound Delivery of Services Act, 2011,[7] extending statutory delivery timelines to previously uncovered services. The Bill builds on this expansion by modernising the institutional architecture through a legal right to time-bound services, a dedicated Right to Service Commission, and stronger enforcement and accountability mechanisms. b. The Delhi Right of Citizen to Time Bound Delivery of Services Act, 2011 imposed a penalty of only ₹ 10 per day, capped at ₹ 200 per application,[8] for delays in service delivery. The Bill increases this to ₹ 250 per day, capped at ₹ 5,000, substantially strengthening the financial deterrent against non-compliance and reinforcing accountability for timely public service delivery. c. The Bill advances Delhi's alignment with the Centre's Ease of Doing Business reform agenda by establishing a legal right to time-bound public services, strengthening enforcement and improving institutional accountability. By expanding time-bound service delivery, the reform strengthens Delhi's performance against DPIIT's Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP), which evaluates states on regulatory simplification and timely delivery of Government services.[9]

[6] The Punjab Right To Service (Amendment) Act, 2016.
[7] Hindustan Times, June, 2026.
[8] Delhi (Right Of Citizen To Time Bound Delivery Of Services) Act, 2011.
[9] PIB, December, 2025.

II. Chhattisgarh

A. Cabinet Approval To The Ease Of Doing Business (Exemption And Facilitation) Bill, 2026

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

1. On 8th July, 2026, the Chhattisgarh Cabinet approved the Chhattisgarh Ease of Doing Business (Exemption and Facilitation) Bill, 2026.
2. The Bill aims to improve the business environment through **reduced regulatory compliance**, digital approvals, and time-bound service delivery under a statutory framework.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. It introduces a statutory framework for time-bound, transparent and predictable delivery of Government approvals and business-related services.
   b. The Bill provides for exemptions from specified regulatory requirements and compliance obligations to reduce procedural burden on industries and enterprises.
   c. It enables simplified, digital and single-window processing for establishing and operating industrial and commercial units.
   d. It introduces self-certification mechanisms, third-party verification, risk-based inspections and deemed approvals to minimise physical interface with regulators.
   e. The Bill seeks to strengthen investor confidence by creating a legally backed facilitation framework instead of relying solely on executive or departmental reforms.
   f. It eliminates duplicate licensing requirements by rationalising overlapping regulatory approvals across Government departments.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Bill aligns with DPIIT's BRAP,[10] which promotes regulatory simplification, digital approvals and investment facilitation across states.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Gujarat and Telangana operate statutory single-window clearance frameworks through the Gujarat Single Window Clearance Act, 2017[11] and Telangana State Industrial Project Approval and Self-Certification System (TG-iPASS) Act,[12] respectively.
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Chhattisgarh was recognised as an 'Emerging Startup Ecosystem' in the States' Startup Ranking 5.0 (2026)[13] and the state's expanding tech and micro-enterprise sectors require protection from shifting administrative rules. The Bill

[10] PIB, September, 2024.
[11] Gujarat Single Window Clearances Act, 2017.
[12] Telangana Industrial Project Approval And Self-Certification System (TG-iPASS) Act, 2014.
[13] DPIIT States' Startup Ranking, 2026.

A. Cabinet Approval To The Ease Of Doing Business (Exemption And Facilitation) Bill, 2026
Source: The Indian Express | **Impact:** High
institutionalises business facilitation measures such as deemed approvals, self-certification and time-bound service delivery, reducing dependence on executive discretion and providing businesses with legally enforceable regulatory certainty. b. Chhattisgarh attracted only ₹ 1,877 crore in cumulative FDI between October 2019 and March 2026,[14] despite recording a GSDP of ₹ 6.31 lakh crore in FY26.[15] The Bill addresses approval-related regulatory friction through deemed permissions and third-party verification, improving investment predictability and strengthening the state's ability to attract private capital. c. Furthermore, Chhattisgarh accounted for 13.5% of India's mineral production by value between April 2025 and December 2025.[16] The draft Industrial Investment Promotion (Amendment) Bill, 2026[17] complements the Bill by promoting investment in manufacturing and other non-mineral sectors, reducing dependence on extractive industries and broadening the state's industrial base.

[14] Department For Promotion Of Industry And Internal Trade, March, 2026.
[15] Chhattisgarh Budget Analysis 2026-27, NFPRC.
[16] Monthly Statistics Of Mineral Production, Indian Bureau Of Mines, December, 2025.
[17] The Times Of India, July, 2026.

III. Tamil Nadu

A. Paperless Anywhere Registration System, 2026
Source: The Hindu Businessline | **Impact:** High
1. On 7th July, 2026, the Tamil Nadu Government announced the rollout of a Paperless Anywhere Registration system for specified property transactions, to be implemented from 17th August, 2026. 2. The reform aims to **digitise property registration** by enabling eligible transactions to be completed through an end-to-end online process, reducing physical visits to Sub-Registrar Offices and improving the efficiency and transparency of registration services. 3. **Key Features -** a. The reform introduces paperless, presence-less registration for eligible property transactions through Aadhaar-based biometric authentication and an end-to-end digital workflow. b. It mandates the use of the Anywhere Registration system for the first sale of plots and flats by builders and developers from 17th August, 2026, while also covering specified housing board and mortgage-related transactions. c. It enables builders and developers to complete eligible registrations digitally, allowing first-time buyers to register at the builder's or promoter's office. d. It also provides for same-day return of registered documents through the online system, including eligible resale apartments under specified conditions. e. Lastly, it streamlines property registration, reduces footfall at Sub-Registrar Offices, and supports digital service delivery through the citizen portal, the TNREGINET mobile app, and WhatsApp updates. 4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The reform aligns with the objectives of the Digital India Land Records Modernisation program (DILRMP)[18] by promoting digital land administration, paperless registration and technology-enabled delivery of registration services. 5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Maharashtra has implemented electronic registration for specified property transactions through its e-registration framework,[19] while Madhya Pradesh has implemented a presenceless property registration system known as Sampada 2.0.[20] 6. **Relevance -** a. Tamil Nadu's property registration system handles high transaction volumes of over 33.59 lakh documents registered in 2024–25, generating ₹ 21,968.24 crore in

[18] Digital India Land Records Modernisation program.
[19] E-Registration 2.0.
[20] Sampada 2.0.

A. Paperless Anywhere Registration System, 2026
Source: The Hindu Businessline | **Impact:** High
revenue through 587 Sub-Registrar Offices organised into 56 registration districts under 11 registration zones.[21] On 10th February, 2025, the Registration Department processed a record 27,000 documents and generated over ₹ 200 crore in revenue in a single day, highlighting the pressure placed on physical registration infrastructure.[22] The reform targets congestion created by demand concentrated at physical registration offices on peak "auspicious" registration days.[23] b. Traditionally, buyers, sellers and witnesses have had to visit the concerned Sub-Registrar Office with original documents for biometric verification, creating delays, travel burdens and long queues. Mandatory online registration for first-sale plots and apartments will allow Aadhaar-based biometric verification remotely, with the Government estimating a 30% reduction in physical crowds at registration offices. c. Tamil Nadu's Registration Department is one of the state's largest revenue sources, collecting ₹ 21,968 crore in FY2024-25,[24] while monthly collections reached a record ₹ 1,984.02 crore in November 2024.[25] For FY2025-26, stamp duty and registration fees are budgeted at ₹ 26,109 crore, making them Tamil Nadu's third-largest own-tax revenue source.[26] d. Because property registration is both a high-volume public service and a major revenue channel, delays, inefficiencies and lack of transparency directly affect citizens and state finances. The "Anywhere Registration" system aims to address this by enabling citizens to submit and register property documents online 24/7 from any location without visiting a Sub-Registrar Office.[27] e. Tamil Nadu's existing framework requires registration within the state, making physical attendance a challenge for distant buyers. The state Government has identified reducing in-person interactions as part of its effort to "completely eradicate bribery in the registration department.[28] The reform thus addresses accessibility and corruption concerns linked to physical presence requirements.

[21] Government Of Tamil Nadu, Commercial Taxes And Registration Department, Policy Note 2025–26 (Demand No. 11 – Stamps And Registration).
[22] The Times Of India, January, 2024.
[23] Deccan Chronicle, December, 2024.
[24] Government Of Tamil Nadu, Commercial Taxes And Registration Department, Policy Note 2025–26 (Demand No. 11 – Stamps And Registration).
[25] Deccan Chronicle, December, 2024.
[26] The South First, March 2025.
[27] Deccan Herald, July, 2026.
[28] Deccan Chronicle, July, 2026.

IV. Kerala

A. Kerala Finance (No. 3) Bill, 2026

Source: The Government Of Kerala, The Hindu | **Impact:** High

1. On 1st July, 2026, the Kerala Legislative Assembly passed the Kerala Finance (No. 3) Bill, 2026, giving effect to the state Government's financial proposals for the financial year 2026–27 through amendments to various state taxation laws.
2. The Bill aims to implement the state Government's fiscal proposals for 2026–27 by mobilising additional revenue, introducing settlement mechanisms for legacy tax arrears, and revising taxation relating to motor vehicles, stamp duty and alcoholic beverages.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. It introduces the Small Arrear Waiver Scheme, 2026, waiving specified pre-GST tax arrears above ₹ 50,000 but not exceeding ₹ 2 lakh relating to financial years up to 2017–18.
   b. It establishes the Flood Cess Arrears Settlement Scheme, 2026, providing a waiver of interest and penalties for taxpayers who clear outstanding Kerala Flood Cess principal dues by 31st March, 2027.
   c. It revises the one-time motor vehicle tax applicable to electric vehicles by prescribing differential tax rates based on vehicle value.
   d. It amends the Kerala Stamp Act by levying 1% monthly interest on deficient stamp duty remaining unpaid after the prescribed period and creating a statutory charge on the property until the dues are discharged.
   e. It introduces a separate tax structure for low-alcohol beverages under the Kerala General Sales Tax Act, 1963[29], prescribing a 120% sales tax for beverages containing more than 0.5% and up to 10%, Alcohol By Volume (ABV) and 175% for beverages containing more than 10% and up to 20% ABV.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Maharashtra implemented the Maharashtra Settlement of Arrears of Tax, Interest, Penalty or Late Fee Act, 2019[30] to resolve legacy tax disputes and recover outstanding pre-GST dues. Kerala's Small Arrear Waiver Scheme and Flood Cess Arrears Settlement Scheme[31] similarly seek to reduce litigation and improve recovery of pending tax revenues.
5. **Relevance -**
   a. Kerala's Revised Budget 2026–27 projects a revenue deficit of ₹ 35,355.30 crore, total state debt exceeding ₹ 5 lakh crore, and committed expenditure accounting for 77.59% of revenue receipts, alongside substantial pending Dearness Allowance

[29] The Kerala General Sales Tax Act, 1963.
[30] The Maharashtra Settlement Of Arrears Of Tax, Interest, Penalty Or Late Fee Act, 2019.
[31] The Kerala Finance (No. 3) Bill, 2026.

A. Kerala Finance (No. 3) Bill, 2026
Source: The Government Of Kerala, The Hindu | **Impact:** High

and Dearness Relief arrears.[32] Against this constrained fiscal backdrop, the state has limited scope to mobilise significant additional revenue through broad-based tax increases. The Bill primarily focuses on recovering long-pending dues while introducing only limited new revenue measures, such as levying sales tax on previously untaxed low-alcohol beverages and revising one-time tax rates for higher-value electric vehicles.[33]

b. The Bill introduces the Small Arrear Waiver Scheme, 2026, which grants a complete waiver of pre-GST tax, interest and penalty arrears between ₹ 50,000 and ₹ 2 lakh relating to assessment orders up to FY 2017–18 issued on or before 31st March, 2027, covering specified state tax laws while excluding liquor-related arrears.[34] Since a substantial number of such low-value legacy disputes continue to remain pending, often costing more to pursue than the likely recovery, the scheme enables the department of taxes to clear longstanding litigation and redirect administrative resources towards current tax administration.

c. The Bill also seeks to recover significant outstanding statutory dues through targeted settlement schemes. Although the 1% Kerala Flood Cess was discontinued in July 2021, significant arrears remain outstanding. To facilitate recovery of these dues, the Flood Cess Arrears Settlement Scheme, 2026 provides a waiver of interest and penalties for taxpayers who pay the full principal amount by 31st March, 2027.

d. Similarly, the Registration Department has over 1.46 lakh pending stamp duty undervaluation cases involving approximately ₹ 703 crore in deficient duty.[35] To facilitate recovery, the Bill introduces a One-Time Settlement Scheme while simultaneously amending the Kerala Stamp Act, 1959,[36] to impose interest at 1% per month on unpaid deficient duty after a final order.[37] Together, these measures combine incentives to settle old disputes with stronger deterrence against future payment delays.

[32] NFPRC Foundation, March, 2026.
[33] Business Standard, June, 2026.
[34] Kerala Finance (No. 3) Bill, 2026,Statement Of Objects and Reasons.
[35] Business Standard, June, 2026.
[36] Kerala Stamp Act, 1959.
[37] Kerala Finance (No. 3) Bill, 2026, Section 2.

V. Bihar

A. Cabinet Approval To Road User Fee (Determination And Collection Of Rates) Rules, 2026
Source: The Times Of India | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 1st July, 2026, the Bihar Cabinet approved the Bihar Road User Fee (Determination and Collection of Rates) Rules, 2026.
2. The rules aim to establish a **dedicated user fee framework** for selected state highways to finance road development, maintenance and upgradation, while reducing dependence on budgetary allocations.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The rules prescribe base user fees of:
      i. ₹ 1.25/km for cars, jeeps, vans and other light motor vehicles;
      ii. ₹ 2/km for light commercial vehicles;
      iii. ₹ 4.25/km for buses and trucks; and
      iv. ₹ 6.65/km to ₹ 8.10/km for heavy multi-axle vehicles depending on the configuration of the axle.
   b. The rules provide for higher user charges for non-FASTag vehicles and additional fees for overloaded vehicles, encouraging electronic toll collection and discouraging overloading.
   c. It mandates the installation of FASTag and sanctioned electronic devices to ensure automated and seamless toll collection.
   d. It authorises the levy of user fees on notified state highways, bridges, bypasses and tunnels developed or upgraded by the state Government to finance their development, operation and maintenance.
   e. The rules provide specific exemptions for designated users and offer discounted passes for frequent commuters.
   f. It has been clarified subsequently that only commercial vehicles will ultimately be charged.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Maharashtra[38] levies user fees through the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation, while Karnataka[39] uses public-private partnership tolling on selected state highways.
5. **Relevance -**
   a. Bihar's Road Master Plan estimates a road infrastructure requirement of $ 15.8 billion (around ₹ 1.3 lakh crore) through 2035, against available budgetary resources of $ 3.7 billion (around ₹ 0.3 lakh crore), leaving a financing gap of over $

[38] Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Ltd.
[39] World Bank Group, October, 2019.

A. Cabinet Approval To Road User Fee (Determination And Collection Of Rates) Rules, 2026
Source: The Times Of India | **Impact:** Medium
12 billion (around ₹ 1 lakh crore).[40] The rules address this by creating a dedicated user fee mechanism to generate recurring revenue for road development and maintenance. b. Motor vehicle registrations in Bihar increased from 9 lakh in 2017 to 15 lakh in 2025,[41] placing growing pressure on the state's road network and accelerating pavement deterioration. The rules ensure that maintenance costs are borne by road users through a dedicated user fee, rather than entirely through general taxation, creating a sustainable, recurring funding mechanism for road repairs. c. Further, Bihar's road fatality rate stands at 8.9 per 10,000 vehicles, well above the national average of 5.8, despite recording fewer accidents overall.[42] By creating a dedicated revenue source for road maintenance, the rules support safer road infrastructure and complement the state's technology-enabled road maintenance program.[43]

[40] Asian Development Bank.
[41] VAHAN.
[42] Asian Development Bank.
[43] Deccan Herald, September, 2025.

VI. Odisha

A. Cabinet Approval To Agricultural Produce And Livestock Marketing Bill, 2026

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

1. On 14th July, 2026, the Odisha Cabinet approved the Odisha Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing Bill, 2026, to replace the Odisha Agricultural Produce Markets (OAPM) Act, 1956.[44]
2. The Bill aims to **liberalise agricultural marketing** by expanding farmers' marketing choices, promoting private investment, reducing transaction costs and integrating agricultural trade with state and national markets.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. It proposes the removal of all geographical restrictions on the sale and purchase of agricultural produce and livestock to establish a unified statewide market.
   b. The Bill provides for a single-point levy of market fees and a single trading licence valid across the state to facilitate seamless commercial activity.
   c. It introduces provisions for direct marketing, electronic trading, and e-auctions to improve price discovery and expand market access.
   d. It seeks to facilitate private sector participation by permitting the establishment of private market yards and allowing direct procurement by processors, exporters, and bulk buyers.
   e. It also enables inter-state trade of agricultural commodities to integrate the state's producers with broader national markets.
   f. It recognises warehouses, cold storages and silos as market sub-yards, strengthening post-harvest infrastructure, improving supply chain integration and reducing post-harvest losses.
4. **Legal Alignment -** The Bill aligns with the Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017,[45] which promotes competitive agricultural markets, barrier-free trade and private sector participation in agricultural marketing.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Karnataka introduced the unified Rashtriya e-Market Services (ReMS) platform[46] to enable electronic trading across agricultural markets, Maharashtra reformed its APMC framework by permitting direct markets, private markets, and a single trade licence,[47] while Tamil Nadu has expanded direct farmer-to-consumer marketing through its Uzhavar Sandhai network.[48]
6. **Relevance -**

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[44] Odisha Agricultural Produce Markets (OAPM) Act, 1956.
[45] Model Agricultural Produce And Livestock Marketing (Promotion And Facilitation) Act, 2017.
[46] Rashtriya e-Market Services (ReMS).
[47] Market Reforms, Directorate Of Marketing, The Government Of Maharashtra.
[48] Department Of Agriculture Marketing And Agri Business, Tamil Nadu.

A. Cabinet Approval To Agricultural Produce And Livestock Marketing Bill, 2026
Source: The New Indian Express | **Impact:** Medium
a. Odisha's agriculture employs 48.6% of the workforce but contributes only 19.6% of GSVA (2025–26).[49] The disparity reflects the relatively low productivity of agricultural employment. By expanding marketing channels, farmer aggregation, storage-linked trade and private investment in market infrastructure, the Bill seeks to address one part of this broader structural challenge. b. While state-backed public procurement infrastructure successfully covered a record 78% of Odisha's paddy crop in the latest harvesting season,[50] it left nearly 22% of production dependent on open-market dynamics. Opening up private market options and direct trade lines provides farmers with alternative selling channels for this surplus, helping stabilise local prices during peak harvest windows. c. The Central Government has approved ₹ 1,428.31 crore for minimum support price (MSP)[51] procurement across five non-paddy crops in Odisha in 2026,[52] signalling a shift towards crop diversification. The Bill complements this transition by liberalising agricultural marketing, improving market access for crops that do not yet have paddy's extensive procurement and marketing infrastructure.

[49] Odisha Economic Survey 2025-26.
[50] Odisha Economic Survey 2025-26.
[51] Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a Government-set price floor for select agricultural crops, designed to protect farmers against sharp declines in market prices and ensure a minimum return on investment.
[52] PIB, April, 2026.

VII. Goa

A. The Goa Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026
Source: The Government Of Goa, The Goan | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 6th July, 2026, the Governor of Goa promulgated the Goa Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026.
2. The Ordinance aims to **modernise the co-operative sector** by reforming housing society governance, facilitating deemed conveyance under Mhajo Flat,[53] strengthening dispute resolution, enabling digital administration, and aligning banking provisions with RBI directions.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The Ordinance expands the scope of co-operative housing societies, simplifies their registration, and recognises virtual meetings while retaining physical voting for board elections.
   b. It strengthens governance through stricter eligibility norms for directors, mandatory disclosures and training, electronic filing of returns, time-bound audits, and enhanced accountability of boards and auditors.
   c. It also provides a statutory framework for redevelopment of co-operative housing societies and introduces unilateral deemed conveyance to facilitate transfer of land titles where builders or landowners fail to execute conveyance deeds.
   d. The Ordinance mandates that the entire unilateral deemed conveyance process be completed within 1 year. Promoters or builders who obstruct the title transfer will face strict penalties of up to ₹ 10 lakh, plus an additional ₹ 5,000 per day for continuing default.
   e. It permits apartment owners in buildings constructed prior to the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 with 3 or more dwelling units to register a co-operative housing society through a designated Chief Promoter using notarised sale agreements, occupancy certificates, or title deeds.
   f. It establishes the Society's Advisory Harmony and Redressal Authority (SAHARA) as a dedicated grievance redressal mechanism for co-operative housing societies.
   g. Lastly, the Ordinance rationalises registration fees and stamp duty for deemed conveyance and provides stamp duty relief for specified transfers involving co-operative housing societies.
4. **Legal Alignment -** The Ordinance aligns with the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA),[54] which mandates transparency in property transactions and protection of homebuyers' rights.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Maharashtra has implemented a deemed

[53] Times Of India, July, 2026.
[54] The Real Estate (Regulation And Development) Act, 2016.

A. The Goa Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026
Source: The Government Of Goa, The Goan | **Impact:** Medium

conveyance framework under the Maharashtra Ownership Flats Act, 1963,[55] while Gujarat has adopted the Gujarat Ownership Flats Act, 1973[56] to facilitate the transfer of land titles to cooperative housing societies and resolve long-pending ownership disputes.

6. **Relevance -**
   a. A large share of Goa's 2,500 housing societies were developed before RERA, leaving many flat owners without legal title despite decades of occupancy. This essentially created a legacy property rights crisis as the developers had failed to execute conveyance deeds.[57] Many flat owners in Goa have essentially lived in their homes for 30–40 years without legal land ownership.[58]
   b. Notably, the problem extended beyond existing societies. Many pre-RERA buildings with three or more dwelling units were also unable to form co-operative housing societies under the existing legal framework. The Ordinance addresses both issues by enabling such buildings to register as co-operative societies and by simplifying the mechanism for obtaining deemed conveyance with nominal fees.
   c. Developers have had an economic incentive to delay conveyance, retaining scope to exploit additional Floor Space Index (FSI)[59]/Transferable Development Rights (TDR)[60] accruing on the land post-construction. The Bombay High Court's Darshan Mandir ruling identified this as the precise mischief that the deemed conveyance provisions under the Maharashtra Ownership Flats Act, 1963 were enacted to remedy.[61] The same rationale underlies this Ordinance.
   d. The Bombay High Court essentially held that denying deemed conveyance impedes redevelopment and undermines flat owners' statutory property rights, which cannot be indefinitely withheld.[62] The Ordinance addresses this through unilateral deemed conveyance, authorising a designated Co-operative Officer from the Cooperative Department to transfer ownership directly to cooperative housing societies when builders fail to do so.

55 The Maharashtra Ownership Flats Act, 1963.
56 The Gujarat Ownership Flats Act, 1973.
57 Digital Goa, July, 2026.
58 Goa News Hub, July, 2026.
59 FSI (also known as Floor Area Ratio or FAR) defines the maximum permissible built-up area on a specific plot.
60 TDR allows landowners to transfer unused development rights from a restricted or surrendered plot to a different "receiving" zone. This mechanism enables developers to construct beyond the standard FSI limit in designated areas.
61 Livelaw Biz, June, 2026.
62 Verdictium, June, 2026.

VIII. Maharashtra

A. Maharashtra Clinical Establishments (Registration And Regulation) Bill, 2026
Source: The Government Of Maharashtra, The Economic Times | **Impact:** High

1. On 3rd July, 2026, the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly introduced the Maharashtra Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Bill, 2026, which was subsequently sent to a Joint Select Committee of both Houses of the state legislature for consultation.[63]
2. The Bill aims to establish a **unified regulatory framework** for all clinical establishments in Maharashtra by prescribing minimum standards of facilities and services, mandating registration, ensuring transparency and accountability, and replacing the Bombay Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1949.[64]
3. **Key Features -**
    a. The Bill mandates the registration of all clinical establishments operating under recognised systems of medicine across the state, with specified exemptions.
    b. It establishes a State Council for Clinical Establishments to prescribe minimum standards, classify establishments, and specify services for each category.
    c. It also constitutes Regional Registering Authorities to oversee registration, renewal, suspension, cancellation, and appeals relating to clinical establishments.
    d. The Bill requires establishments to display registration certificates and prescribed rates, issue itemised bills, and restrict charges to displayed rates.
    e. It mandates a Charter of Patients' Rights covering informed consent, access to records, privacy, non-discrimination, second opinions, and cost transparency.
    f. It requires clinical establishments to provide emergency stabilisation and basic life support irrespective of a patient's ability to pay.
    g. The Bill provides for inspections, action against unregistered establishments, and maintenance of a state-wide digital register.
    h. Lastly, it prescribes graded penalties for non-compliance and establishes a dedicated fund to support the functioning of the regulatory framework.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Bill aligns with the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010,[65] which provides a national framework for registration, regulation and prescription of minimum standards for healthcare facilities across states and Union Territories.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** The Act has been adopted by 19 States and

[63] The Times Of India, July, 2026.
[64] The Bombay Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1949.
[65] The Clinical Establishments (Registration And Regulation) Act, 2010, Page 3.

A. Maharashtra Clinical Establishments (Registration And Regulation) Bill, 2026
Source: The Government Of Maharashtra, The Economic Times | **Impact:** High

UTs[66], while Gujarat,[67] Karnataka[68] and Telangana[69] have established or amended regulatory frameworks for the registration and regulation of clinical and healthcare establishments.

6. **Relevance -**
   a. A 2024 report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) highlighted serious regulatory gaps arising from Maharashtra's non-adoption of the Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010.[70] In a sample of nine districts, 1,383 of 5,679 registered nursing homes were never inspected despite the mandatory biannual inspection requirement, while 884 of 2,947 establishments (i.e., 30%) were operating with expired registrations.[71] The Bill addresses these regulatory gaps by mandating the registration of all clinical establishments, prescribing uniform minimum standards through a State Council for Clinical Establishments, and empowering Regional Registering Authorities to conduct inspections, enforce compliance, and suspend or cancel registrations for violations.
   b. It has also been highlighted that there are significant regulatory gaps in Maharashtra's healthcare sector, such as Government hospitals operating without Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) authorisation for biomedical waste management, hospitals using X-ray equipment without valid Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) licences.[72]
   c. The above-mentioned gaps persisted because the Bombay Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1949 regulated only nursing and maternity homes, leaving many categories of clinical establishments outside the regulatory framework.
   d. By extending a common regulatory framework to all clinical establishments, it seeks to bring biomedical waste management, radiation safety, laboratory quality, and other patient safety standards under systematic oversight for the first time.[73]

66 Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
67 Gujarat Clinical Establishments (Registration And Regulation) (Amendment) Act, 2026.
68 Karnataka Private Medical Establishments Act, 2007.
69 Telangana Clinical Establishments (Registration And Regulation) Rules, 2022.
70 Times Of India, 2024.
71 Public Health Infrastructure And Management Of Health Services In Maharashtra, Report No. 2, The Comptroller And Auditor General Of India, 2024.
72 Public Health Infrastructure And Management Of Health Services In Maharashtra, Report No. 2, The Comptroller And Auditor General Of India, 2024.
73 Free Press Journal, 2026.

IX. Telangana

A. Draft Core Urban Region (Integrated Governance) Bill, 2026 (CURE Bill)
Source: The Times Of India | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 5th July, 2026, the Telangana Government unveiled the draft Core Urban Region (Integrated Governance) Bill, 2026.
2. The CURE Bill aims to replace the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Act, 1955, and establish an **integrated governance framework** for the Core Urban Region by harmonising laws, institutions and service delivery mechanisms across the Greater Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Malkajgiri municipal corporations.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The CURE Bill proposes a unified governance framework across the region's three municipal corporations while retaining decentralised administration at the corporation level, keeping existing structures such as standing committees, commissioners and ward committees.
   b. It shifts property taxation from the Annual Rental Value (ARV)[74] system to a Capital Value System ("CVS")[75] and provides rebates for timely payment of taxes.
   c. It establishes a CURE Apex Governance Council and an Executive Committee chaired by the Chief Minister for metropolitan-level coordination.
   d. It creates dedicated authorities and committees for disaster management, traffic and road safety, climate action, heritage conservation, food safety and nutrition, gender inclusion, and labour welfare.
   e. To improve ease of doing business, the CURE Bill introduces a single integrated trade licence replacing multiple departmental approvals, a Night Economy framework permitting round-the-clock operations in designated zones, a deemed approval mechanism for building permissions, and the decriminalisation of minor violations through graded civil penalties.
   f. It also provides a CURE SMART Governance Centre, an integrated digital portal, a single consolidated utility bill and a CURE Appellate Authority for grievance redressal.
4. **Relevance -**
   a. The state had earlier merged 27 surrounding Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) into the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), expanding its jurisdiction to nearly 2,000 sq km and increasing the number of wards from 150 to 177.[76] Further

[74] Annual Rental Value (ARV) is the estimated yearly amount your property could earn on the open rental market. Local municipal bodies use ARV to calculate your annual property taxes.
[75] The Capital Value System (CVS) is a method local Governments use to calculate property taxes. It charges property owners a small percentage of their property's current market value. This value is based on official Government guidelines rather than the actual price you paid.
[76] Deccan Chronicle, November, 2025.

A. Draft Core Urban Region (Integrated Governance) Bill, 2026 (CURE Bill)
Source: The Times Of India | **Impact:** Medium
the expanded GHMC was trifurcated into three independent municipal corporations-GHMC, Cyberabad, and Malkajgiri-each constituted as a separate body corporate. This created coordination issues between the ULBs and other bodies of public services. The CURE Bill serves as the institutional coordination framework that integrates and streamlines governance across these newly created urban bodies.[77] b. The primary factor determining the long-term success of the CURE framework is the exact legal weight granted to the Apex Governance Council. If the council operates merely in an advisory capacity, it runs the risk of repeating the political gridlocks observed across Delhi's multi-board divisions. Granting the CM-chaired council binding statutory, fiscal, and adjudicative authority across all three corporations ensures the state can rapidly execute regional transport grids and manage cohesive zoning laws without local department friction.[78] c. Lastly, while migrating to the Capital Value System successfully modernises urban revenues, it introduces a significant spatial tax equity imbalance across the metropolitan footprint. Zonal market values in high-density, speculative real estate corridors are significantly higher than historic rental indices, which will abruptly increase property tax burdens across the non-core municipalities previously merged into the GHMC. [79]

[77] South First, February, 2026.
[78] Times Of India, July, 2026.
[79] Deccan Chronicle, July, 2026.

Policy Level Announcements

I. Uttar Pradesh

A. Startup Policy, 2026
Source: [The Government Of Uttar Pradesh](), [Hindustan Times]() | **Impact:** High

1. On 6th July, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the Uttar Pradesh Startup Policy, 2026.
2. The policy aims to strengthen Uttar Pradesh's **startup ecosystem** by providing institutional support, expanding access to finance, promoting innovation, and positioning the state as a leading destination for technology-driven entrepreneurship.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The policy establishes the Uttar Pradesh Startup Mission Directorate as a dedicated Government-registered society headed by a Chief Executive Officer to coordinate startup promotion, incubators and Centres of Excellence.
   b. The policy provides a monthly sustenance allowance of ₹ 20,000 for two years to selected startups.
   c. The policy essentially offers a:
      i. Prototype grant of up to ₹ 10 lakh,
      ii. Seed capital support of ₹ 15 lakh, and up to ₹ 50 lakh in exceptional cases.
   d. It provides a matching grant of up to ₹ 5 crore for eligible startups and increases financial assistance for Centres of Excellence from ₹ 10 crore to ₹ 12 crore.
   e. It also strengthens collaboration among incubators, Centres of Excellence, academic institutions and industry through the newly created Startup Mission Directorate.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the Startup India Initiative[80] by strengthening startup financing, incubation, innovation, and entrepreneurship while supporting emerging technology sectors.
5. **Relevance -**
   a. Uttar Pradesh has 63 Government-recognised incubators across just 23 of its 75 districts,[81] leaving much of the state without local incubation support. The policy creates a dedicated institutional framework to expand incubation infrastructure and strengthen the startup ecosystem across all districts.
   b. Uttar Pradesh advanced from the Leader to the Top Performer category in the States' Startup Ranking,[82] but remains one tier below the Best Performer category. The policy strengthens institutional support and startup financing to further

[80] Startup India Initiative.
[81] Invest UP.
[82] DPIIT States' Startup Ranking, 2026.

A. Startup Policy, 2026
Source: The Government Of Uttar Pradesh, Hindustan Times | **Impact:** High
improve the state's startup ecosystem and competitiveness. c. Access to early-stage funding in Uttar Pradesh remains concentrated around Noida, leaving startups in cities such as Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi and Gorakhpur with comparatively limited access to venture capital.[83] The policy addresses this through capital assistance of up to ₹ 20 lakh under a ₹ 1,000 crore startup fund. d. Incorporating the new Navratna Incubator evaluation model represents an exceptional administrative design. Historically, public incubator support functioned as a passive subsidy, where facilities secured state grants based on size rather than actual startup outcomes.[84] By linking operational funding of up to ₹ 40 lakh annually directly to the external venture capital secured by startups, the policy introduces a performance-based funding model that strengthens accountability and ensures public resources are directed towards ventures demonstrating market validation and economic potential.

[83] The State Of Uttar Pradesh Startup Ecosystem, Inc42, 2025.
[84] MeitY Startup Hub, IIT Bombay, December, 2025.

B. Data Centre Policy, 2026
Source: The Government Of Uttar Pradesh, The Times Of India | **Impact:** High

1. On 7th July, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the Uttar Pradesh Data Centre Policy, 2026, replacing the erstwhile Data Centre Policy, 2021.[85]
2. The policy aims to strengthen Uttar Pradesh's digital infrastructure, accelerate innovation and make the state a globally **competitive technology destination**.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. It proposes to attract investments exceeding ₹ 2 lakh crore for the development of AI-ready data centre infrastructure.
   b. The policy provides for the creation of over 2 Gigawatt (GW) of additional data centre capacity across the state.
   c. It provides land concessions, capital subsidy, interest subsidy, stamp duty exemption, and electricity duty incentives for Data Centre Parks, Data Centre Units, and Edge Data Centres.
   d. The policy introduces dedicated incentives for GPU-based infrastructure, AI Compute Booster facilities, and green data centres to support AI and high-performance computing infrastructure.
   e. It enables higher incentives for projects established in Bundelkhand and Purvanchal, while extending benefits to Tier III and Tier IV data centre projects.
   f. It introduces financial benefits including capital and interest subsidies, concessions on land and stamp duty, and specialised rebates on electricity charges.
   g. The policy also seeks to generate approximately 7,500 direct long-term jobs and 50,000 construction-phase jobs through new data centre investments.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the IndiaAI Mission[86] by expanding AI-ready data centre and GPU infrastructure, supporting the compute capacity required for AI development.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Gujarat has notified the Gujarat Data Centre Policy 2026-29[87] to promote AI-ready, hyperscale, and green data centres through fiscal incentives, while Telangana's Data Centres Policy, 2016[88] promotes hyperscale data centre investments through dedicated infrastructure and fiscal incentives.
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Uttar Pradesh's economic activity remains highly concentrated. In 2023–24, 10

[85] Uttar Pradesh Data Centre Policy, 2021.
[86] PIB, March, 2024.
[87] Viksit Gujarat Data Centre Policy, 2026-29.
[88] Telangana Data Centres Policy, 2016.

B. Data Centre Policy, 2026
Source: The Government Of Uttar Pradesh, The Times Of India | **Impact:** High
districts, including Gautam Buddha Nagar, Ghaziabad, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Agra and Kanpur, contributed 38% of the state's GSDP, while Gautam Buddha Nagar's per capita income of ₹ 10.17 lakh was over 10 times the state average and 23 times that of Pratapgarh.[89] The policy addresses these disparities by offering enhanced incentives for data centre projects in Bundelkhand, Purvanchal, and Tier III and Tier IV cities to attract investment beyond established economic hubs. b. Additionally, Uttar Pradesh consumed 1,61,858.1 MU electricity in 2025-26 making the estimated per capita electricity consumption is approximately 647.43 units per year,[90] less than half the national average of 1,460 kWh in 2025-26.[91] The policy addresses this by incentivising green and energy-efficient data centres, reducing the incremental power demand of compute-intensive infrastructure while supporting the expansion of AI and cloud computing capacity. c. Lastly, under the earlier policy, projects worth ₹ 21,343 crore (representing 644 MW of capacity) became operational, primarily in the Noida/Greater Noida cluster.[92] Scaling up to a ₹ 2 lakh crore target will require large, contiguous parcels of industrial land with dual-source high-voltage power grid connections. Offering enhanced land and stamp duty concessions in Tier II/III cities like Lucknow, Varanasi, Jhansi, and Gorakhpur helps spread real estate development and tech employment beyond the saturated NCR.

[89] The Daily Jagran, May, 2025.
[90] Hindustan Times, May, 2026.
[91] PIB, January, 2026.
[92] The Economic Times, June, 2022.

II. Gujarat

A. Viksit Gujarat Data Centre Policy, 2026–29
Source: The Government Of Gujarat, The Hindu | **Impact:** High
1. On 9th July, 2026, the Gujarat Government unveiled the Viksit Gujarat Data Centre Policy, 2026–29. 2. The policy aims to position Gujarat as a global hub for hyperscale data centres, cloud infrastructure, and AI-driven services by strengthening state digital infrastructure and leveraging **operational cable landing stations** to enhance international connectivity for global operators. 3. **Key Features -** a. It mandates a minimum approved IT load of 150 MW and requires projects to source at least 51% of their operational electricity from renewable energy. b. It enables the development of AI-ready and hyperscale data centres through dedicated digital and power infrastructure, including dual power supply via independent transmission feeders. c. It introduces non-fiscal support through additional Floor Space Index (FSI),[93] relaxed building norms, and 20% capital expenditure support for captive desalination plants. d. It grants "Essential Service" status to eligible data centres under the Gujarat Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1972[94] to ensure uninterrupted operations. e. It provides tax incentives comprising 100% exemption from stamp duty and registration charges, along with full reimbursement of electricity duty for 20 years. f. It also provides the following fiscal incentives: i. 2.5% capital subsidy for projects established in Dholera. ii. Interest subsidy of up to 4% for 10 years, subject to a ceiling of ₹ 25 crore per annum. iii. ₹ 1 per unit power tariff subsidy for 20 years. 4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the IndiaAI Mission[95] by promoting AI-ready digital infrastructure, cloud computing, renewable-powered data centres, and secure data localisation to strengthen India's digital ecosystem. 5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Uttar Pradesh has approved the Uttar Pradesh Data Centre Policy, 2026[96] to promote AI-ready data centres, while Telangana's Data

[93] The Gujarat Essential Services Maintenance Act is a state law that ensures the uninterrupted operation of services declared essential by prohibiting disruptions such as strikes.
[94] Gujarat Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1972.
[95] PIB, March, 2024.
[96] Uttar Pradesh Data Centre Policy, 2026.

A. Viksit Gujarat Data Centre Policy, 2026–29
Source: The Government Of Gujarat, The Hindu | **Impact:** High
Centres Policy, 2016[97] supports hyperscale data centre development through dedicated infrastructure and fiscal incentives. 6. **Relevance -** a. GIFT City, India's only International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), hosts 225 companies, 10,000 professionals, and has attracted $1.57 billion (₹ 1.31 lakh crore) in committed investments.[98] The policy leverages this existing financial services cluster by enabling data centres to co-locate through fast-track approvals, assured utilities and essential service status, supporting low-latency digital infrastructure for financial institutions. b. Northern Gujarat's groundwater resources remain under severe stress, with extraction rates of 115% in Banaskantha, 108% in Mehsana, and 99% in Patan in 2023.[99] To prevent data centres from increasing pressure on freshwater resources, the policy provides financial assistance for captive desalination plants, encouraging alternative water sources for large-scale digital infrastructure. c. Moreover, Gujarat's semiconductor ecosystem has attracted nearly ₹ 1.2 lakh crore in investments, led by Tata Electronics, Micron and CG Power.[100] The policy strengthens this cluster by incentivising AI-ready data centres in the Dholera–Sanand corridor, providing the compute infrastructure required for semiconductor design, manufacturing and advanced R&D. d. India currently generates nearly 20% of global data, yet accounts for only 2% to 3% of worldwide data centre capacity.[101] Expanding Gujarat's capacity to 7.5–8 GW addresses this imbalance, helping keep domestic data processing within national boundaries while supporting cloud services, digital payments, and AI model training.

[97] Telangana Data Centres Policy, 2016.
[98] PIB, November, 2025.
[99] The Times Of India, September, 2024.
[100] Financial Express, July, 2026.
[101] Moneycontrol, July, 2026.

III. Odisha

A. Deep Sea Fishing Mission (2026–2036)
Source: The Government Of Odisha | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 9th July, 2026, the Odisha Cabinet launched the Odisha Deep Sea Fishing Mission (2026–2036).
2. The mission aims to expand **deep-sea fishing capacity** by developing modern marine infrastructure, promoting technology adoption and strengthening seafood value chains.
3. **Key Features -**
    a. It provides an investment of ₹ 2,295.45 crore over 2026–2036, to be implemented in phases through convergence of Government schemes, institutional finance, beneficiary participation and Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).
    b. It targets an additional 2 lakh metric tonnes of marine fish production annually.
    c. The mission is expected to generate over 50,000 employment opportunities and increase annual marine exports to around ₹ 5,000 crore by 2036.
    d. It establishes modern deep-sea fishing vessels, mechanised boats, mother vessels, fishing harbours, landing centres, seafood parks, cold-chain and fish processing infrastructure.
    e. It introduces a dedicated Blue Economy Hub (B-Hub) to function as the state's knowledge, innovation and coordination centre for marine fisheries, technology adoption and investment facilitation.
    f. The mission enables digital fisheries governance through vessel monitoring systems, traceability mechanisms, marine resource assessment, ecosystem-based fisheries management, sea ranching and artificial reefs.
    g. It introduces a Letter of Authorisation (LoA) regime for Indian-flagged deep-sea fishing vessels, replacing ad hoc permissions with a standardised, digitally verifiable authorisation framework.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Mission aligns with the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)[102] by promoting sustainable marine fisheries, value addition and coastal livelihoods.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Andhra Pradesh has promoted deep-sea fishing vessels and marine infrastructure under PMMSY,[103] while Gujarat and Kerala have invested in modern fishing harbours, seafood processing and export-oriented marine fisheries infrastructure.[104] Odisha's Mission uniquely combines these interventions under a ten-year fisheries strategy.

[102] Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.
[103] PIB, March, 2026.
[104] PIB, March, 2025.

A. Deep Sea Fishing Mission (2026–2036)
Source: The Government Of Odisha | **Impact:** Medium

6. **Relevance -**
   a. Odisha's baseline performance highlights a significant output gap relative to its geographical asset base. Marine fish landings tracked an 18% volume expansion, moving from 1.30 lakh tonnes up to 1.54 lakh tonnes over recent cycles, yet remained severely outpaced by maritime peers like West Bengal (2.33 lakh MT), Tamil Nadu (6.79 lakh MT), and Gujarat (7.54 lakh MT).[105] This minor expansion was highly vulnerable, driven almost exclusively by seasonal sardine catches around Puri and Ganjam. Deploying a structured 10-year framework provides the capital depth needed to stabilise yields across all six coastal districts.
   b. Odisha's marine catch remains dominated by low-value near-shore pelagic species, which accounted for 60.9% of total landings in 2024. Croakers, lesser sardines, anchovies and white sardines alone contributed 26% of the total catch, while higher-value shrimp landings declined by 23% to 8,093 tonnes.[106] The mission seeks to diversify marine production by expanding deep-sea fishing for higher-value offshore species, improving the value of the state's marine fisheries.
   c. Further, Odisha's increase in marine fish landings in 2024 was driven largely by higher catches of lesser sardines using ring seine and gillnet operations in Puri and Ganjam, indicating localised rather than broad-based growth.[107] The mission adopts a 10-year mission-mode approach to expand deep-sea fishing capacity and sustain growth across the state's marine fisheries.
   d. Long-range deep-sea navigation requires advanced technical skills that traditional near-shore fishers do not naturally possess. Operating the B-Hub as a single-window incubator ensures the state successfully coordinates international technical transfers, trains local crews in deep-water pelagic long-lining, and pairs private capital developers with community cooperatives to lower initial venture deployment risks.
   e. However, standard deep-sea vessels and heavy mother ships demand specialised drafts exceeding 5 to 6 meters to navigate safely.[108] Odisha's riverine fish landing mouths suffer from continuous monsoonal siltation that creates dangerous sandbars. The Mission supports the development and modernisation of marine infrastructure, including fishing harbours and landing centres, improving access for deep-sea vessels and helping overcome operational constraints caused by shallow, silted river mouths.

[105] Marine Fish Landings In India, 2024.
[106] Marine Fish Landings In India, 2024.
[107] Marine Fish Landings In India, 2024.
[108] GOTEC (Shandong) Equipment Technology Co. Ltd.

IV. Jammu And Kashmir

A. Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Policy, 2026
Source: The Government Of Jammu And Kashmir, Greater Kashmir | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 15th July, 2026, the Jammu And Kashmir Government approved amendments to its Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Policy, 2026, which were published in the Gazette on 16th July, 2026.
2. The policy aims to promote **high-density, mixed-use development** around transit corridors, strengthen the viability of mass transit systems, and reduce private vehicle dependence through integrated land use and transport planning.
3. **Key features -**
   a. The policy applies to Urban and Regional Development Authorities, Urban Agglomerations and Urban Local Bodies with a population of 1 lakh and above, covering areas within an 800-metre radius of transit stations.
   b. It permits a maximum Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of 500 in TOD zones, subject to Airports Authority of India height restrictions.
   c. It mandates active street frontages by requiring 75% active frontage and 90% built-to-edge development along roads with a Right of Way of 15 metres or more.
   d. The policy promotes affordable housing by reserving an additional 15% EWS FAR and requiring 15% of residential FAR for dwelling units of up to 45 sq. m.
   e. It strengthens sustainable urban development by mandating 100% wastewater treatment and reuse, 100% green waste reuse, 10% renewable energy, and 20% green public space.
   f. It caps parking provision at 0.5 Equivalent Car Space (ECS)[109] per 100 sq. m. of built-up area to discourage private vehicle use and encourage public transport.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the National Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Policy, 2017[110] by promoting compact, high-density, mixed-use development around mass transit corridors.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** The policy aligns Jammu and Kashmir with states such as Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh as well as Delhi, which have adopted TOD frameworks to promote compact, high-density, mixed-use development around mass transit corridors.[111]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Jammu and Kashmir's registered vehicle count nearly doubled from 13.6 lakh in 2016 to over 25.6 lakh by 2025, with over 3.75 lakh vehicles moving daily within

[109] Equivalent Car Space (ECS) is a standard planning measurement used to estimate total parking needs. It combines the actual space a car takes up with the necessary room for driveways and turning.
[110] National Transit-Oriented Development Policy, 2017
[111] Standing Committee On Housing And Urban Affairs.

A. Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Policy, 2026
Source: The Government Of Jammu And Kashmir, Greater Kashmir | **Impact:** Medium
Srinagar, increasing pressure on limited road capacity.[112] The policy responds to the above statistic by capping parking at 0.5 ECS per 100 sq. m., requiring 20% EV charging spaces and reserving 50% of parking for public use, structurally discouraging private vehicle dependence while promoting a shift towards public transport. b. Jammu and Kashmir received 1.77 crore tourists in 2025,[113] while Kashmir recorded over 5.21 lakh visitors by mid-May 2026, including 2.95 lakh via the Jammu-Srinagar highway and 1.47 lakh through Srinagar Airport.[114] Since the policy concentrates development around major transit nodes and caps parking at 0.5 ECS per 100 sq. m., its planning norms could potentially account for seasonal tourist surges that can sharply increase transport and parking demand beyond regular resident and commuter loads. c. Further, Jammu and Kashmir generates around 445.6 MLD of sewage, against a treatment capacity of 229 MLD, of which only 137.06 MLD is currently utilised, while untreated wastewater continues to enter rivers and streams.[115] As the policy permits higher-density development with FAR of up to 500, mandating 100% wastewater treatment and reuse for projects of 0.2 hectares and above helps prevent new high-density developments from adding to the existing sewage treatment burden. d. However, India's experience with TOD shows that policy notification alone has rarely translated into transit-oriented urban form, as conventional FAR, height, setback and parking regulations continue to constrain compact, mixed-use development around transit nodes.[116] Jammu and Kashmir's relaxation of these development controls addresses this regulatory mismatch, but higher development intensity must be matched by walkable street networks, feeder connectivity and adequate civic infrastructure to avoid TOD becoming merely a mechanism for real-estate densification.

[112] Kashmir Vision, August, 2025.
[113] The Economic Times, February, 2026.
[114] Rising Kashmir, May, 2026.
[115] Kashmir Observer, June, 2026.
[116] Hindustan Times, April, 2026.

V. Himachal Pradesh

A. State Innovation Policy For Technical Education Institutions, 2026
Source: The Government Of Himachal Pradesh, ANI News | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 5th July, 2026, the Himachal Pradesh Government approved the State Innovation Policy for Technical Education Institutions.
2. The policy aims to institutionalise innovation and entrepreneurship across technical education institutions by supporting student-led research, startup creation, technology commercialisation and industry-academia collaboration.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. It proposes the establishment of a State Innovation Fund with a total outlay of ₹ 2 crore for the 2026–2028 period to provide micro-grants for prototype development and seed funding for startups.
   b. The policy mandates the creation of institutional-level Cluster Innovation Committees and a State Innovation Advisory Group to oversee project selection and fund utilisation.
   c. It introduces a uniform framework for Intellectual Property (IP) ownership, ensuring that innovations remain the property of the innovators while institutions retain non-exclusive rights for academic use.
   d. The policy provides financial assistance for strengthening incubation centres, innovation competitions, faculty development Program, and student innovation initiatives.
   e. It enables collaboration between technical education institutions, industry, research organisations, startups, and Government agencies for joint innovation, technology transfer, and commercialisation.
   f. Lastly, the policy lays emphasis on inclusive innovation by encouraging greater participation of women, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and rural youth in the technical education and startup ecosystem.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the National Innovation and Startup Policy (NISP) for Higher Education Institutions, 2019,[117] by promoting innovation, incubation, entrepreneurship, and intellectual property creation within higher education institutions.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Gujarat has implemented the Student Startup and Innovation Policy (SSIP 2.0)[118] to promote innovation, entrepreneurship, incubation, and startup development across higher educational institutions.
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Himachal Pradesh has underutilised technical education infrastructure, with seven

[117] National Innovation and Startup Policy, 2019
[118] Student Startup and Innovation Policy

A. State Innovation Policy For Technical Education Institutions, 2026
Source: The Government Of Himachal Pradesh, ANI News | **Impact:** Medium
institutional buildings worth ₹ 126.45 crore, constructed between 2018 and 2023, remaining vacant.[119] The policy addresses this by establishing Cluster Innovation Committees to convert existing campuses into innovation, incubation and prototyping hubs, reducing the need for additional capital expenditure. b. Himachal Pradesh was recognised as a Top Performer in the DPIIT States' Startup Ecosystem Ranking 2026,[120] reflecting a well-established institutional support system for startups. The policy now shifts the focus from ecosystem development to outcomes, with its success depending on whether institutional support translates into commercially viable startups, IP, technology transfer and private investment. c. Himachal Pradesh's ₹ 2 crore State Innovation Fund is limited to prototype development, seed funding and incubation support, with no dedicated mechanism for growth-stage financing. The policy therefore addresses early-stage innovation but leaves startups dependent on external investors or central schemes to scale beyond the prototype stage. d. The policy focuses on the research, proof-of-concept and prototype stages of the innovation lifecycle. However, the critical TRL 4–6 "Valley of Death", where technologies transition from laboratory validation to commercial deployment, remains outside the policy framework. In the absence of dedicated mechanisms for translational funding, technology transfer and industry collaboration, innovations may struggle to progress from prototype to market.

[119] The Economic Times, November, 2025.
[120] DPIIT States' Startup Ranking, 2026.

VI. Punjab

A. Amendments To Land Pooling Policy, 2026
Source: The Tribune | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 1st July, 2026, the Punjab Cabinet approved amendments to the Punjab Land Pooling Policy, 2025.
2. The policy aims to increase **residential and commercial entitlements** for landowners and introduce relief measures to address practical difficulties and grievances faced by stakeholders during the land acquisition process.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The policy increases landowner development entitlements by providing:
      i. 210 square yards of commercial plot per acre under the mixed residential-commercial category, up from 200 square yards.
      ii. 1,630 square yards of residential plot per acre under the purely residential category, up from 1,600 square yards.
      iii. 840 square yards of commercial plot per acre under the purely commercial category, up from 800 square yards.
   b. It introduces a Special Letter of Intent (LOI) for small farmers and extends the validity of the Sahuliyat Certificate from 2 years to 4 years.
   c. It enables a 100% exemption on stamp duty and registration charges for original landowners registering developed plots or purchasing alternative land in Punjab up to the value of the acquired property.
   d. It specifies that individuals contributing one acre or more of land are permitted to purchase plots at the reserve price without participating in an auction.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Delhi has implemented the Land Pooling Policy, 2018,[121] enabling voluntary land aggregation and readjustment for planned urban development, while Gujarat's Town Planning Scheme[122] enables land pooling and readjustment to support planned urban development and infrastructure creation.
5. **Relevance -**
   a. Land acquisition delays have historically stalled major urban infrastructure projects across the Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) region.[123] Enhancing commercial and residential plot entitlements increases the post-notification land value for participating farmers, providing a strong financial incentive to pool land voluntarily and reducing the likelihood of costly litigation.
   b. Punjab recorded the highest groundwater extraction rate in India at 156.87%, with

[121] Land Pooling Policy, Delhi Development Authority, 2018
[122] Gujarat Town Planning Consultancy Ltd.
[123] The Indian Express, August, 2024.

A. Amendments To Land Pooling Policy, 2026
Source: The Tribune | **Impact:** Medium
over 75% of its assessment blocks classified as overexploited.[124] As the policy facilitates the conversion of peri-urban agricultural land into urban estates, it does not explicitly address the phased decommissioning or sustainable management of existing groundwater extraction infrastructure on pooled land. c. Punjab's Land Pooling Policy has undergone three iterations,[125] with the government revising the framework following landowner protests and judicial scrutiny. The latest amendments enhance plot entitlements, compensation flexibility and transaction-related provisions, reflecting a more consultative approach to land policy design and improving the policy's acceptability among participating landowners. d. Farmer opposition to land acquisition, highlighted by the April 2026 Aerotropolis protests, exposed concerns over consent and compensation.[126] The amended policy addresses this by making landowner consent mandatory before acquisition proceeds in the remaining Aerotropolis blocks and by referring compensation disputes, including orchard and structure valuation, to the reference court, strengthening procedural safeguards and reducing the scope for administrative discretion. e. Lastly, introducing tradable Special LOIs provides liquidity for smallholders, but it also creates potential risks for secondary market speculation. Unregulated trading of fractional LOIs could lead to price manipulation by private real estate intermediaries before physical plot allotment.

[124] The Times Of India, June, 2025.
[125] The Tribune, July, 2026.
[126] The Tribune, April, 2026.

B. Oustee Policy, 2026
Source: [The Tribune] | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 1st July, 2026, the Punjab Cabinet approved amendments to the Oustee Policy. It aims to provide **tiered residential relief and rehabilitation support** for landowners whose primary land is acquired for state-led development projects.
2. **Key Features -**
   a. The policy revises residential plot entitlements based on the extent of land acquired:
      i. 200 square yard plot for acquisition of up to one acre.
      ii. 300 square yard plot for acquisition of more than one acre and up to 2.5 acres.
      iii. 500 square yard plot for acquisition of more than 2.5 acres.
   b. It extends the policy to all land acquired for public purposes, irrespective of whether the acquisition is undertaken directly by the state Government or its agencies.
   c. It expands eligibility to landowners opting for statutory cash compensation, ensuring they also remain entitled to developed residential plots.
   d. It grants priority tubewell connections to eligible landowners to support agricultural activities on their remaining land.
   e. It expands rehabilitation benefits by enhancing residential plot entitlements for project-affected landowners under the revised policy.
3. **Legal Alignment -** The policy aligns with the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act, 2013[127] by strengthening rehabilitation and resettlement measures for landowners affected by land acquisition through enhanced residential entitlements and post-acquisition support.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Haryana's Rehabilitation and Resettlement Policy, 2010[128] provides a uniform rehabilitation framework for land acquisition-affected families, while Andhra Pradesh's Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation for Project Affected Families and Project Displaced Families, 2005[129] offers resettlement, livelihood assistance and rehabilitation support for project-affected households.
5. **Relevance -**
   a. Punjab's land acquisition challenges have stalled over 30 National Highway

[127] Right To Fair Compensation And Transparency In Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation And Resettlement Act, 2013, Page 1.
[128] HSIIDC Rehabilitation And Resettlement Policy.
[129] Resettlement And Rehabilitation Policy, 2005.

B. Oustee Policy, 2026
Source: The Tribune | **Impact:** Medium
projects,[130] leading to the termination of three projects worth over ₹ 3,000 crore.[131] The policy addresses this by complementing monetary compensation with developed residential plot entitlements, creating a long-term asset for oustees and reducing resistance to strategic infrastructure acquisition. b. The land acquisition compensation in Punjab has varied significantly even within the same project corridor. During acquisition for the Amritsar–Bathinda–Jamnagar Expressway, compensation ranged from ₹ 21.01 lakh to ₹ 68.61 lakh per acre across adjoining villages.[132] The policy seeks to reduce such disparities by providing uniform, acreage-based developed plot entitlements, ensuring all eligible oustees receive a standard rehabilitation benefit irrespective of local compensation rates. c. Cash compensation alone has not resolved land acquisition disputes in Punjab. During the 2024 Bathinda expressway acquisition, farmers continued to seek higher compensation.[133] The policy addresses this by complementing monetary compensation with developed plot entitlements and waivers on stamp duty and conveyance charges, providing oustees with a long-term asset beyond a one-time payment. d. Additionally, pure cash compensation can leave agricultural households vulnerable if funds are mismanaged or depleted by short-term consumption rather than reinvested in income-generating assets. Granting a 200 to 500 sq. yard residential plot in a planned township gives displaced families an appreciating asset that can generate rental income, serve as collateral for business loans, or provide family housing.

[130] The Times Of India, February, 2026.
[131] The Tribune, July, 2024.
[132] The Tribune, January, 2022.
[133] The Times Of India, November, 2024.

VII. Jharkhand

A. Draft Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy, 2026–2031

Source: The Government Of Jharkhand , The Indian Express | **Impact:** High

1. On 8th July, 2026, the Government of Jharkhand proposed the Jharkhand Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy, 2026–2031.
2. The policy aims to mainstream artificial intelligence across governance to improve public service delivery, strengthen digital infrastructure, and promote AI-led innovation and investment.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. It proposes a total estimated investment of ₹ 1,150 crore over the next five years to build common AI infrastructure, strengthen digital capabilities, and accelerate departmental adoption.
   b. The state provides for the establishment of the Chief Minister Data Intelligence Platform (CM-DIP), an AI-enabled system designed to facilitate real-time monitoring and predictive analytics for government programs.
   c. It introduces sector-specific intelligent systems including the Health and Nutrition Vigilance System (HNVS) and the Critical Minerals Administration System (CMAS) to automate mineral exploration and disease surveillance.
   d. The policy mandates the creation of the State AI Mission under the Department of Information Technology and e-Governance to serve as the apex agency for strategic planning, project appraisal, and inter-departmental coordination.
   e. It enables fiscal incentives for eligible AI units, including a capital subsidy of 30–50% on fixed capital investment and power tariff reimbursements of ₹ 2–3 per unit for up to five years.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the IndiaAI Mission[134] by strengthening AI infrastructure, enabling public-sector AI adoption, and promoting AI innovation across priority sectors.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Odisha, Maharashtra and Rajasthan have also announced dedicated AI policies, reflecting a broader shift towards institutionalising AI for governance, public service delivery and innovation-led economic growth.[135]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Jharkhand's mineral royalty revenue has declined despite continued mining activity. The revenue from minor minerals fell from ₹ 1,082.44 crore in 2017–18 to ₹ 697.73 crore in 2021–22, highlighting weak monitoring and revenue leakages.[136] The

[134] PIB, March, 2024.
[135] Business Standard, May, 2026.
[136] The Times Of India, December, 2025.

A. Draft Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy, 2026–2031
Source: The Government Of Jharkhand , The Indian Express | **Impact:** High
policy seeks to address this through the Critical Minerals Administration System (CMAS), which will use AI-based mine monitoring and real-time data analytics to strengthen oversight, improve compliance, and reduce revenue leakages. b. Jharkhand's mineral transport monitoring has significant compliance gaps. The 85% of mineral transport trips lacked valid challans, while none of the state's 72,449 registered mineral-transport vehicles had the mandated Global Positioning System (GPS) or Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tracking systems.[137] The policy addresses this through CMAS, which introduces AI-enabled GPS vehicle tracking to strengthen real-time monitoring, improve compliance, and reduce illegal mineral transport. c. Notably, Jharkhand continues to report high levels of child malnutrition. NFHS-6 (2023–24) found that 22.3% of children under five are wasted and 41.1% are underweight.[138] The policy tackles this through the Health and Nutrition Vigilance System (HNVS), which uses AI-driven nutrition surveillance and early screening to identify at-risk children and enable timely interventions.

[137] Report Of The Comptroller And Auditor General Of India On Management Of Minor Minerals In Jharkhand, October, 2025.
[138] The Times Of India, May, 2026.

Social Sector Schemes

I. Maharashtra

A. Maharashtra Women Farmers Empowerment Bill, 2026
Source: The Government Of Maharashtra, ANI News | **Impact:** High

1. On 7th July, 2026, the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly unanimously passed the Maharashtra Women Farmers Empowerment Bill, 2026.
2. The Bill aims to formally empower women within the agricultural sector by granting them **official recognition as farmers** and ensuring their direct access to state agricultural welfare schemes.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The Bill provides statutory recognition to women engaged in agriculture as Women Farmers through a Woman Farmer Certificate, covering cultivators irrespective of land ownership, including tenant farmers, sharecroppers, landless cultivators, agricultural labourers, livestock rearers, pastoralists, and women engaged in allied agricultural activities.
   b. It also includes women who engage in agriculture in the state for at least one agricultural season in a year, even if they migrate within or outside the state.
   c. It provides for issuance of the certificate by a Designated Officer based on a resolution of the Gram Sabha or Nagar Panchayat, with a defined appellate mechanism and prescribed timelines.
   d. The certificate serves as conclusive proof of farmer status, enabling access to government schemes, subsidies, services, institutional credit, and special benefits for single women farmers.
   e. It establishes a Women Farmers Database and a Maharashtra State Fund for Women Farmers to support their welfare and empowerment.
   f. Lastly, it creates a three-tier institutional framework comprising a Women Farmers Empowerment Council, a State Monitoring Committee, and a Women Farmers Empowerment Cell, supported by Women Farmers Assistance Officers at the block and district levels.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the central Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP)[139] is a dedicated sub-component of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) aimed at empowering women in agriculture, providing the necessary state-level administrative recognition to successfully implement national objectives regarding women's agrarian empowerment.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Odisha has promoted women's participation in

[139] Assistance To Women Farmers Under Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana.

A. Maharashtra Women Farmers Empowerment Bill, 2026
Source: The Government Of Maharashtra, ANI News | **Impact:** High

agriculture through Mission Shakti,[140] while Uttar Pradesh has supported women-led agricultural enterprises through the Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission and women farmer producer organisations.[141] Maharashtra's Bill is structurally different because it creates an individual statutory recognition and certification mechanism for women farmers irrespective of land ownership.

6. **Relevance -**
   a. The definition of a "farmer" in India is primarily based on land ownership rather than the agricultural labour performed. Consequently, many women, particularly widows and those actively engaged in farming and allied activities, cultivate land that is legally registered in the names of their husbands or other male family members. As a result, they lack formal recognition as farmers and are excluded from institutional credit, crop insurance, subsidies, and other agricultural welfare schemes.[142]
   b. The Bill addresses the above-mentioned gap by creating a legal framework to recognise eligible women engaged in agriculture as "women farmers" irrespective of land ownership.
   c. Without formal recognition, women farmers had limited their access to crop insurance, Kisan Credit Cards, and other agricultural subsidies and welfare benefits.[143] The Bill enables them to access agricultural welfare schemes, institutional credit, crop insurance, and other Government benefits in their own right.
   d. Women accounted for 14.1% of operational holders in Maharashtra, with an average holding of 1.22 hectares.[144] This Bill ensures women cultivators are fully integrated into the agricultural welfare and support network.
   e. This is also a milestone in delinking the legal status of "farmer," an occupation, from title to land, a barrier that has kept socioeconomic schemes from reaching landless farmers, including women.[145] MS Swaminathan had introduced a Private Member's Bill, The Women Farmers' Entitlements Bill, 2011, to the same pan nation effect, which lapsed in 2013.[146] Maharashtra is the first state to enact such delinking through this Bill.

[140] "Mission Shakti" The Self-Help Mission For Empowering Women.
[141] Women-Led Farmer Producer Organisations.
[142] India Today, July, 2026.
[143] The Free Press Journal, July, 2026.
[144] Agricultural Census Of 2015, Economic Survey Of Maharashtra 2021-22.
[145] Swaminathan Report: National Commission On Farmers.
[146] The Women Farmers' Entitlements Bill, 2011.

B. Expansion Of The Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Farm Loan Waiver Scheme
Source: NDTV | **Impact:** High
1. On 10th July, 2026, the Maharashtra Government expanded the scheme in Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Farm Loan Waiver Scheme by raising the waiver limit to ₹ 2 lakh, and extending the overdue loan cut-off to FY 2026–27, thereby bringing more farmers within its ambit. 2. The expansion aims to widen the coverage of the state's farm loan waiver program by providing greater debt relief, easing eligibility conditions and strengthening the financial resilience of distressed farmers. 3. **Key Features -** a. The expansion comprises three components, i.e., a loan waiver, a one-time settlement (OTS) for larger dues, and incentive benefits for farmers who repaid loans on time, with no landholding criterion for eligibility. b. It enhances the loan waiver ceiling from ₹ 50,000 to ₹ 2 lakh for outstanding short-term crop loans, including principal and interest. c. It also relaxes eligibility by removing the requirement to have repaid crop loans during FY 2026–27 and extends the overdue loan cut-off to include dues up to FY 2026–27. d. It expands coverage by removing the earlier ₹ 2 lakh eligibility cap that excluded farmers whose outstanding dues marginally exceeded the threshold. e. Around 56 lakh farmers are expected to benefit, with an estimated state expenditure of about ₹ 36,585 crore. f. The scheme continues to be implemented under the Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Shetkari Karjamukti Yojana, with revised benefit limits and waivers credited directly to farmers' loan accounts. 4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Telangana's Rythu Runa Mafi (Crop Loan Waiver)[147] Scheme, Karnataka's Farm Loan Waiver Scheme (2018)[148], Punjab's Farm Loan Waiver Scheme[149] and Rajasthan's Crop Loan Waiver Scheme (2018)[150] similarly provide state-funded debt relief by waiving eligible institutional crop loans to reduce farmers' indebtedness and strengthen agricultural credit access. 5. **Relevance -** a. Maharashtra, which recorded 767 farmer suicides in the first quarter of 2025, with Vidarbha and Marathwada among the worst-affected regions crop losses caused by extreme weather events, including unseasonal rainfall and floods, further

[147] Rythu Runa Mafi.
[148] Karnataka Farm Loan Waiver Scheme.
[149] Punjab's Farm Loan Waiver Scheme.
[150] Rajasthan's Crop Loan Waiver Scheme.

B. Expansion Of The Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Farm Loan Waiver Scheme
Source: NDTV | **Impact:** High
worsened repayment pressures on farm households.[151] Repeated episodes of unseasonal rainfall, hailstorms, and pest infestations severely damaged soybean, cotton, and pulse crops, leading to widespread crop losses and loan defaults. b. Expanding the farm loan waiver limit to ₹ 2 lakh thus provides immediate debt relief to distressed farmers, helps reduce non-performing assets (NPAs) in rural credit portfolios, and restores access to formal institutional credit. c. The farmers earlier covered under the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule scheme's regular repayment incentive had benefits capped at ₹ 50,000. Maharashtra's revised Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Farm Loan Waiver Scheme expands debt relief to around 56 lakh farmers with assistance worth ₹ 36,585 crore, increasing the relief limit from the earlier ₹ 50,000 cap to ₹ 2 lakh for eligible borrowers with estimated cost of ₹ 4,000–5,000 crore on the state exchequer.[152] d. Further, unpaid crop loans create severe liquidity bottlenecks for District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) and Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS). By directly reimbursing ₹ 36,585 crore to participating commercial, regional rural, and cooperative banks, the state Government injects fresh liquidity into the rural banking ecosystem, allowing financial institutions to issue new short-term crop loans for upcoming cropping seasons. e. The Government's challenge could be balancing immediate relief with maintaining repayment discipline in the cooperative banking system, as repeated waivers can encourage delayed repayments and weaken bank finances.

151 Down To Earth, July, 2025.

152 Business Standard, July, 2026.

II. Goa

A. Deen Dayal Swasthya Seva Yojana (DDSSY) Enhancement
Source: Prudent Media| **Impact:** Medium

1. On 2nd July, 2026, the Government of Goa enhanced the annual health insurance coverage under the Deen Dayal Swasthya Seva Yojana (DDSSY) with immediate effect.
2. The enhancement aims to strengthen financial protection against healthcare costs by increasing insurance coverage for eligible resident families under Goa's flagship cashless health insurance scheme.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The enhancement increases annual health insurance coverage from ₹ 2.5 lakh to ₹ 4 lakh for families with up to three members.
   b. It increases annual health insurance coverage from ₹ 4 lakh to ₹ 6 lakh for families with four or more members.
   c. It limits the maximum annual claim to ₹ 6 lakh per family.
   d. It continues to provide cashless treatment through the network of empanelled hospitals under the DDSSY scheme.
   e. It retains the existing eligibility criteria for resident families covered under the scheme.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The enhancement complements the objectives of Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)[153] by strengthening financial protection and expanding access to cashless secondary and tertiary healthcare through a state-funded health insurance program.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS)[154] and Gujarat's Mukhyamantri Amrutam (MA) Yojana provides state-funded cashless health insurance with higher coverage for eligible beneficiaries.
6. **Relevance -**
   a. The Deen Dayal Swasthya Seva Yojana (DDSSY) covers around 1.80 lakh active cardholders. During FY 2025–26 (up to December 2025), 9,689 beneficiaries availed benefits under the scheme, with the State incurring an expenditure of ₹37.26 crore.[155] The scheme is available to residents who have lived in Goa for at least five years, with the state Government fully financing the insurance premiums on an annual basis through the National Health Mission.[156] Only a small proportion of registered families claim benefits each year. The higher coverage limit primarily

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[153] Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
[154] Highlights Of Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme.
[155] Goa Economic Survey 2025-26.
[156] National Health Mission Goa, DDSSY Scheme.

A. Deen Dayal Swasthya Seva Yojana (DDSSY) Enhancement
Source: Prudent Media| **Impact:** Medium
increases support for those facing major medical expenses rather than raising costs uniformly across all enrolled households. b. The revision comes amid rising healthcare costs, with medical inflation in India estimated at 12–13% annually in 2024–25, significantly above general inflation.[157] At the same time, out-of-pocket health expenditure remains a major burden, accounting for 43.4% of total health spending in 2022-23.[158] The earlier DDSSY limits were increasingly insufficient for serious hospitalisations, forcing families to bear additional expenses after exhausting coverage. Increasing the cap provides immediate relief, though continued medical inflation means periodic revisions will remain necessary to maintain the scheme's real value. c. Maintaining a strict 5-year continuous state residence requirement (verified via Aadhaar, Electoral IDs, or long-standing Residence Certificates) potentially helps preserve scheme resources. Given Goa's transient migrant population and high tourism influx, requiring residency proof ensures state-funded insurance benefits remain dedicated to permanent Goan families. d. Under the revised DDSSY, families of up to three members will receive annual cashless health cover of ₹ 4 lakh, up from ₹ 2.5 lakh, while families of four or more will receive ₹ 6 lakh, up from ₹ 4 lakh, with total claims capped at ₹ 6 lakh per family.[159] The increase addresses the erosion in value of the previous limits, which had remained unchanged for years despite rising medical costs. By raising both coverage slabs while retaining a ₹ 6 lakh maximum ceiling, the government expands protection for high-cost treatments while keeping its financial exposure predictable.

[157] Milliman, April, 2026.
[158] PIB, May, 2026.
[159] Prudent Media, July, 2026

III. Odisha

A. Gyanodaya-Shiksharu Samruddhi Scheme, 2026
Source: Business Standard | **Impact:** High

1. On 1st July, 2026, the Odisha Cabinet approved the Gyanodaya-Shiksharu Samruddhi Scheme.
2. The scheme aims to provide **universal free education** from kindergarten to postgraduate levels in all Government and Government-aided institutions.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The scheme provides free education to students enrolled in Classes IX–XII, undergraduate and postgraduate programs in Government and Government-aided institutions, completing Odisha's KG-to-PG free education framework.
   b. The scheme allocates ₹ 5,467.55 crore over five years, with an expenditure of ₹ 895.57 crore in the first year from the 2026–27 academic session.
   c. The scheme benefits more than 32 lakh students annually through universal fee support in eligible institutions.
   d. It covers free education to Classes IX–XII in Government and Government-aided schools, extending free education beyond the existing coverage up to Class VIII.
   e. It limits eligibility to regular UG and PG programs offered by State Public Universities, Government Colleges and Government-aided Colleges, excluding self-financing and professional courses.
   f. The eligibility framework under the scheme excludes students pursuing self-financing courses, unaided institutions, Public-Private Partnership mode institutions, and professional or technical programs.
   g. It prescribes a minimum 75% attendance as a mandatory eligibility condition for availing benefits under the Scheme.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The scheme aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020[160] by promoting equitable access, higher enrolment and expanded participation in higher education.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Tamil Nadu,[161] Madhya Pradesh,[162] Karnataka,[163] West Bengal[164] and Bihar[165] primarily support higher education through scholarships and student assistance schemes, while Odisha adopts a lifecycle approach by providing free education from KG to PG under a unified state framework.
6. **Relevance -**

[160] National Education Policy, 2020.
[161] Social Welfare And Women Empowerment Department, Government Of Tamil Nadu.
[162] Department Of Higher Education, Government Of Madhya Pradesh.
[163] Vidyasiri-Food And Accommodation Scholarship Scheme.
[164] Department Of Higher Education, Government Of West Bengal.
[165] Bihar Student Credit Card Scheme.

A. Gyanodaya-Shiksharu Samruddhi Scheme, 2026
Source: Business Standard | **Impact:** High
a. Although Odisha reduced secondary dropout rates over the past decade, about 15% of students in Classes IX–X, still leave school before completion.[166] The scheme extends free education from Class IX onwards, targeting the transition stage where dropout rates remain the highest. b. Odisha's Gross Enrolment Ratio declines from 72.3% at the secondary level to 22.1% at the higher secondary level,[167] indicating that a significant share of students do not continue beyond Class X. The scheme addresses this transition gap by providing free education across Classes IX–XII, reducing financial barriers to continued schooling. c. Notably, rising child malnutrition continues to undermine educational outcomes in Odisha, with wasting increasing from 18.1% to 22.1% and underweight prevalence from 29.7% to 31.6% since NFHS-5.[168] By simultaneously approving the KG-to-PG Free Education Scheme and extending the Mukhyamantri Poshan Yojana to Classes IX–X.[169] The Cabinet integrates financial and nutritional support within a single policy package, addressing two key barriers to secondary-school retention which are education costs and nutritional support—through a complementary policy response. d. The scheme adopts a calibrated eligibility framework by excluding self-financing courses, unaided private institutions, public-private partnership institutions, and high-cost professional and technical programs. This limits the scheme's fiscal exposure while ensuring that public expenditure is concentrated on Government and Government-aided institutions, where it can support a larger number of students within the approved budgetary allocation. e. Nonetheless, Government-aided colleges depend heavily on student term fees to pay temporary staff wages, maintain libraries, and fund laboratory utilities. If the Higher Education Department fails to deliver bulk reimbursement payments quickly to these institutions ahead of each academic session, participating colleges could face severe operational cash-flow crises, inadvertently lowering the quality of instruction.

[166] The Times Of India, May, 2026.
[167] Economic Survey 2025-26.
[168] Odisha Connect, May, 2026.
[169] Odisha TV, July, 2026.

IV. Uttar Pradesh

B. Chief Minister Risk Management And Livestock Insurance Scheme, 2026
Source: The Government Of Uttar Pradesh, The Times Of India | **Impact:** Medium

7. On 6th July, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the Chief Minister Risk Management and Livestock Insurance Scheme, 2026.
8. The scheme aims to provide financial protection to farmers, livestock owners, and dairy operators against losses arising from the **death or accidental injury** of livestock, thereby strengthening income security and reducing livelihood risks.
9. **Key Features -**
   g. It proposes a total budget provision of ₹ 60 crore for the 2026–27 financial year to facilitate the insurance of 2.28 lakh animals across the state.
   h. The state provides for the payment of 85% of the insurance premium, with the Central Government contributing 51% and the state Government contributing 34%.
   i. It enables eligible livestock owners to claim up to 75% of the sum insured in case an animal suffers permanent disability or becomes unfit for work.
   j. The scheme mandates that insurance companies must ensure the final payment of the claim amount within one month of the filing date.
   k. It introduces a prioritised mechanism for animals that have already benefited from existing state-run animal husbandry and dairy development programs.
10. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The scheme aligns with the Livestock Insurance Scheme (LIS)[170] by providing subsidized livestock insurance, reducing the financial risks associated with livestock mortality, and strengthening income security for livestock owners.
11. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Rajasthan implements the Mukhyamantri Mangla Pashu Bima Yojana[171] to provide livestock insurance against animal mortality.
12. **Relevance -**
   e. India's livestock insurance coverage remains extremely low, with less than 2% of livestock insured despite over 100 million households depending on livestock for their livelihoods.[172] The scheme addresses this gap by providing insurance coverage for 2.28 lakh animals, with the Centre and state jointly subsidising 85% of the premium, making livestock insurance more accessible to farmers.
   f. Uttar Pradesh shelters around 13.5 lakh stray cattle across 7,500 cow protection centres, imposing an estimated ₹ 8 crore daily maintenance cost on the state.[173] By providing insurance against livestock death and accidental losses, the scheme

[170] PIB, February, 2006.
[171] Mukhyamantri Mangla Pashu Bima Yojana.
[172] The Hindu Businessline, November, 2025.
[173] The Hindustan Times, September, 2025.

B. Chief Minister Risk Management And Livestock Insurance Scheme, 2026
Source: The Government Of Uttar Pradesh, The Times Of India | **Impact:** Medium
reduces the financial burden on owners and may lower the incentive to abandon unproductive or diseased animals. g. Uttar Pradesh's dairy farmers operate on negligible profit margins, limiting their ability to absorb livestock losses.[174] By subsidising 85% of the insurance premium, the scheme lowers the cost of risk protection, making livestock insurance financially viable for households that lack the income cushion to self-insure against the death of an animal. h. As India's largest milk-producing state, contributing 16.2% of national milk output,[175] Uttar Pradesh's dairy sector depends on millions of small, marginal and landless farmers operating with one to three animals. By subsidising 85% of the insurance premium, the scheme converts the loss of a high-yield dairy animal from a major capital shock into a manageable financial risk for livestock-dependent households.

174 Cost Of Milk Production In India, Institute Of Development Studies Jaipur.
175 PIB, May, 2025.

Investment Announcements

I. Odisha

A. Adani–International Resources Holding Integrated Aluminium Project MoU
Source: The Hindu | **Impact:** High

1. On 2nd July, 2026, the Government of Odisha signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Adani Enterprises Limited and International Resources Holding (IRH), for the Adani–IRH Integrated Aluminium Project, 2026.
2. The project aims to build an integrated ecosystem, transitioning Odisha from a mineral producer into a **global hub for aluminium** and value-added manufacturing.
3. **Key Features:**
   a. The project provides an investment of ₹ 1.08 lakh crore through a 50:50 joint venture between Adani Enterprises and International Resources Holding (IRH).
   b. It mandates the construction of a 4 MMTPA alumina refinery in Rayagada, a 2 MMTPA aluminium smelter, a 4,000 MW captive power plant, and a 1 MMTPA downstream manufacturing park in Sundargarh.
   c. The project is expected to generate approximately 53,500 jobs, including 35,000 during construction and 18,500 during operations, while supporting ancillary industries and MSMEs.
   d. The implementation follows a two-phase investment plan over 5 years, allocating ₹ 66,000 crore for Phase I and ₹ 44,000 crore for Phase II.
   e. The project seeks to strengthen domestic aluminium production, expand value-added manufacturing, and position Odisha as a global aluminium manufacturing hub.
4. **Relevance -**
   a. Odisha accounts for 76.3% of India's bauxite production,[176] yet a significant share of value addition has historically occurred outside the state through refining, smelting and downstream manufacturing. The project addresses this gap by establishing the entire aluminium value chain, from alumina refining to downstream manufacturing within Odisha.
   b. The global aluminium industry is projected to surge by nearly 40% by 2030, demanding an additional 33.3 million tonnes of primary production capacity to support international electric vehicle (EV) structural frames, lightweight aerospace engineering, and expanding solar tracking grids.[177] Adding 4 MMTPA of native refining and 2 MMTPA of smelting capacity ensures India moves past basic self-sufficiency, building an aggressive export engine capable of capturing massive

[176] Orissa Post, April, 2022.
[177] World Economic Forum, November, 2023.

A. Adani–International Resources Holding Integrated Aluminium Project MoU
Source: The Hindu | **Impact:** High
international market shares. c. Although Odisha contributed 47.2% of India's mineral production value in 2021–22,[178] large-scale foreign investment in value-added mineral manufacturing has remained limited. The proposed 50:50 joint venture between Adani Enterprises and Abu Dhabi's sovereign wealth-backed International Resources Holding (IRH) brings long-term international capital into an integrated aluminium manufacturing ecosystem, strengthening downstream value addition and expanding the financing base for large-scale industrial investment. d. Notably, Odisha's aluminium industry has historically been concentrated in bauxite mining, alumina refining and primary metal production, with relatively limited downstream manufacturing.[179] By establishing a 1 MMTPA downstream manufacturing park, the project expands the state's industrial base into value-added aluminium products and supports the growth of ancillary manufacturing.

[178] Department Of Steel And Mines, The Government Of Odisha.
[179] The New India Express, July, 2026.

B. ACME–IHI Green Energy Investment MoU, 2026

Source: The Times Of India | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 3rd July, 2026, the Government of Odisha signed the Odisha–ACME–IHI Green Energy Investment MoU with ACME Group and Japan's IHI Corporation.
2. The MoU aims to establish **large-scale green hydrogen** and green ammonia production through strategic industrial collaboration, strengthening Odisha as a hub for clean energy manufacturing and exports.
3. **Key Features:**
    a. The MoU provides for an investment of ₹ 67,000 crore to develop integrated green hydrogen, green ammonia and clean energy projects in Odisha.
    b. The MoU establishes a strategic collaboration between ACME Group, IHI Corporation (Japan) and the Government of Odisha to facilitate technology transfer and green industrialisation.
    c. The projects will be developed at:
        i. Paradip, where a 0.8 MMTPA green ammonia plant will be established with an investment of ₹ 34,000 crore.
        ii. Gopalpur–Tata SEZ, where a 0.4 MMTPA green ammonia plant will be developed with an investment of ₹ 20,000 crore, supported by a ₹ 1,000 crore jetty-less floating terminal.
        iii. A dedicated green methanol project, with an investment of ₹ 12,000 crore.
    d. The MoU targets large-scale production of green hydrogen and green ammonia, supporting domestic industrial demand and exports to international markets, particularly Japan.
    e. The projects are expected to create around 7,000 employment opportunities while strengthening Odisha's clean energy manufacturing ecosystem.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The MoU aligns with the National Green Hydrogen Mission[180] by expanding green hydrogen and green ammonia production capacity and supporting India's clean energy transition and export ambitions.
5. **Relevance -**
    a. India's National Green Hydrogen Mission targets 5 MMTPA of green hydrogen production by 2030, but only around 8,000 tonnes per annum had been commissioned by February 2026,[181] indicating a significant implementation gap. The MoU addresses this by combining production capacity with a 25-year offtake commitment under Japan's Contract for Difference (CfD) program,[182] improving

[180] PIB, November, 2025.
[181] PIB, March, 2026.
[182] Japan's CfD program provides long-term Government support to bridge the price gap between low-carbon ammonia and conventional fuels, ensuring commercially viable offtake for approved projects.

B. ACME–IHI Green Energy Investment MoU, 2026
Source: The Times Of India | **Impact:** Medium
project bankability and execution. b. Odisha's installed solar power capacity stands at 706.34 MW, with 486.66 MW under implementation, indicating the need for significant renewable energy expansion to support green industrialisation.[183] The state's 11 GW renewable energy target by 2030[184] underpins the MoU by providing the clean electricity needed for large-scale green hydrogen, green ammonia and green methanol production. c. The Renewable Energy Policy, 2022 essentially recognises Odisha's port infrastructure as a key enabler of green hydrogen exports.[185] By locating the proposed green ammonia and green methanol projects at Paradip, the MoU integrates production with established maritime infrastructure, improving export readiness and enhancing Odisha's competitiveness in global green fuel markets.

[183] Ministry Of New And Renewable Energy, August, 2025.
[184] Business Standard, June, 2026.
[185] Mongabay, December, 2022.

II. Andhra Pradesh

A. State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) Investment Approvals, 2026
Source: The Economic Times| **Impact:** High
1. On 8th July, 2026, the 19th State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB), approved 11 investment proposals worth ₹ 9,076.11 crore and outlined strategic directions for industrial development across biofuels, renewable energy, food processing, MSMEs, logistics and tourism 2. The approvals aim to accelerate industrialisation, attract private investment, strengthen the rural economy, promote clean energy and value-added manufacturing, and improve logistics and tourism infrastructure through coordinated sectoral interventions. 3. **Key Features -** a. The approvals promote investments in ethanol manufacturing, food processing, solar cell manufacturing, methane and sustainable aviation fuel to strengthen the rural economy and clean energy ecosystem. b. They propose a comprehensive policy for ethanol, methane and sustainable aviation fuel to leverage rising biofuel demand and support agricultural value addition. c. They prioritise completion of the remaining 38 MSME Parks, their integration with railway terminals, and the establishment of a Logistics University and Skill Development Centres. d. They advance tourism development through 100 Experience Centres, the Suryalanka Master Plan, and the upgradation of destinations such as Polavaram, Dindi, Gandikota, Kambham Cheruvu and Lambasingi. e. They encourage adoption of green energy, promotion of traditional handicrafts and cultural heritage, and faster implementation of strategic industrial projects to support sustainable economic growth. 4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Tamil Nadu facilitates major industrial investments through the Tamil Nadu Business Facilitation Act, 2018,[186] while Karnataka approves large industrial projects through the State High Level Clearance Committee (SHLCC) under the Karnataka Industries (Facilitation) Act 2002,[187] Uttar Pradesh has implemented the Uttar Pradesh State Bio-Energy Policy, 2022[188] to promote bio-ethanol and other bio-energy projects through fiscal incentives. Maharashtra[189] has expanded ethanol production by permitting distilleries to use

[186] Tamil Nadu Business Facilitation Act, 2018.
[187] The Karnataka Industries (Facilitation) Act, 2002.
[188] Uttar Pradesh State Bio-Energy Policy, 2022.
[189] Maharashtra's Single Feed Distilleries.

A. State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) Investment Approvals, 2026
Source: The Economic Times| **Impact:** High

grain-based feedstocks, including maize, alongside sugarcane-based raw materials, to support the state's ethanol industry.

5. **Relevance -**
   a. The current Government in Andhra Pradesh has approved 339 projects worth ₹ 11.86 lakh crore with potential employment of 10.41 lakh people across 19 SIPB meetings.[190] The approvals have the potential to generate 10,531 jobs.[191] However, execution remains critical for converting proposals into operational businesses.
   b. To address this challenge, investment announcements need to translate into **actual industrial capacity**, employment and regional development. The latest approvals attempt to address this by spreading investments across manufacturing, renewable energy, logistics, food processing and tourism rather than concentrating growth in a single sector.
   c. Andhra Pradesh is also positioning itself in the ethanol economy, with the Chief Minister linking higher ethanol blending targets to increased income opportunities for maize farmers.[192] India achieved its 20% ethanol blending target (E20) in 2025, five years ahead of the original 2030 deadline. The Government is now considering higher blending targets, which will increase demand for feedstocks such as maize, sugarcane and grains.[193]
   d. However, Andhra Pradesh currently lacks a dedicated policy framework and large-scale ecosystem for ethanol, methane and sustainable aviation fuel production, limiting its ability to capture future biofuel investments. The aim of the reform is to create a comprehensive state biofuels policy by creating a market linkage between agricultural production and industrial demand.[194]
   e. Andhra Pradesh's industrial growth has faced infrastructure bottlenecks, including incomplete MSME parks, gaps in logistics connectivity and the need for stronger freight infrastructure. These constraints can limit the ability of new industries to scale even after investment approvals.[195]
   f. The approvals aim to strengthen Andhra Pradesh's industrial ecosystem by adding capacity across manufacturing, clean energy, logistics and related sectors. These investments are intended to address existing gaps in industrial infrastructure, improve supply-chain capabilities and support broader economic diversification.

[190] The Hans India, July, 2026.
[191] Deccan Chronicle, July, 2026.
[192] IANS/AP7AM, July, 2026.
[193] PIB, October, 2024.
[194] Deccan Chronicle, July, 2026.
[195] The New Indian Express, July, 2026.

B. Andhra Pradesh Electronics Policy (4.0) – EPACK Mega Investment Approval
Source: The Economic Times| **Impact:** Medium

1. On 1st July, 2026, the Government of Andhra Pradesh approved a tailor-made incentive package under the Mega Category of the Andhra Pradesh Electronics Manufacturing Policy (4.0)[196] for the proposed ₹ 1,084.31 crore investment by EPACK Durable Limited and its wholly owned subsidiary, EPACK Manufacturing Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (EMTPL).
2. The incentive package aims to accelerate **electronics manufacturing** in Andhra Pradesh by supporting large-scale investments, expanding domestic production capacity and strengthening the state's electronics manufacturing ecosystem.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The incentive package covers a combined proposed investment of ₹ 1,084.31 crore, comprising ₹ 314.31 crore by EPACK Durable and ₹ 770 crore by EPACK Manufacturing Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (EMTPL).
   b. The package provides a tailor-made incentive package under the Mega Category of the Andhra Pradesh Electronics Manufacturing Policy (4.0).
   c. The proposed expansion will enhance manufacturing capacity for room air conditioners, components, small domestic appliances, washing machines, televisions and other home appliances.
   d. The incentive package includes the allotment of 36.41 acres of land and a 50% capital subsidy on eligible fixed capital investment.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The approval complements the Government of India's National Electronics Policy, 2019[197] and the Make in India[198] initiative by promoting domestic electronics manufacturing, investment and capacity expansion through state-level incentives.
5. **Relevance -**
   a. India's room air-conditioner (RAC) manufacturing capacity is expected to rise 40–50% over the next two years from the current 24–26 million units, supported by industry-wide investments of ₹ 4,500–5,000 crore by OEMs and contract manufacturers. However, household AC penetration remains only 7.8%, compared with 36% in Indonesia and 80% in China, indicating a large unmet demand opportunity.[199] EPACK's expansion targets this demand gap by increasing domestic production capacity in a segment expected to see long-term growth.

[196] Andhra Pradesh Electronics Policy (4.0).
[197] National Policy On Electronics, 2019 (NPE 2019).
[198] Make In India.
[199] ICRA, September, 2025.

B. Andhra Pradesh Electronics Policy (4.0) – EPACK Mega Investment Approval
Source: The Economic Times| **Impact:** Medium
b. The RAC industry is also facing stricter localisation requirements, with revised energy-efficiency standards and phased Quality Control Order (QCO) implementation requiring manufacturers to strengthen domestic component sourcing[200] Companies without deeper local supply chains may face higher compliance costs and import dependence. c. In light of the above, by including component manufacturing alongside finished appliances, EPACK's Andhra Pradesh expansion directly supports greater domestic value addition and supply-chain integration. d. The project, beyond immediate direct employment which is projected at 1,600 jobs in the state,[201] also establishes a component-heavy manufacturing plant and creates a localised supplier network. Local small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) gain opportunities to supply packaging, injection-molded plastics, copper piping, and logistics services, driving a regional economic multiplier effect across the Sri City industrial zone.

[200] ICRA, September, 2025.
[201] Business Standard, July, 2026.

III. Tripura

A. Tripura Destination Business Conclave, 2026
Source: India Today North East| **Impact:** High

1. On 10th July, 2026, the Government of Tripura concluded the Tripura Destination Business Conclave, 2026, securing investment commitments worth ₹ 1.21 lakh crore through the signing of 342 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) across multiple sectors.
2. **Key Features -**
   a. The Government of Tripura secured 342 MoUs worth ₹ 1.21 lakh crore across sectors including power, industries, information technology, tourism, urban development, healthcare, agriculture and higher education.
   b. Out of the ₹ 1.21 lakh crore investment:
      i. The power sector recorded the largest investment commitments (₹ 31,080 crore);
      ii. Industries and commerce (₹ 30,000 crore);
      iii. Urban development (₹ 16,700 crore); and
      iv. Information technology (₹ 13,248 crore) and tourism (₹ 12,303 crore).
   c. The participation was around 2,000 delegates representing 1,200 organisations, including investors from India, Dubai and Canada, as well as representatives from 10 countries.
   d. It witnessed participation from major companies including Google, ITC, L&T, MRF and Salesforce, alongside approximately 300 startups and entrepreneurs from Tripura.
   e. It builds upon the state's ongoing investment promotion efforts, with the Government highlighting reforms to improve the ease of doing business and facilitate industrial growth.
3. **Relevance -**
   a. Tripura is essentially a landlocked Northeastern state, bordering Bangladesh, historically starved of large-scale private capital. Between October, 2019 and June, 2025, in nearly six years, total FDI inflow into the state stood at just ₹ 9.75 crore.[202] Merchandise exports from the state totalled only ₹ 105 crore in FY25.[203] The ₹ 1,21,303 crore committed across 342 MoUs is described by state officials as the largest investment outreach initiative in Tripura's history, and dwarfs the roughly ₹ 40,000 crore secured through around 470 agreements over the previous four years combined.[204]

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[202] IBEF, 2026.
[203] IBEF, 2026.
[204] Deccan Chronicle, July, 2026.

A. Tripura Destination Business Conclave, 2026
Source: India Today North East| **Impact:** High
b. The proposals span across power (₹ 18,100 crore via TSCCL), renewable energy (₹ 12,980 crore via TREDA), tourism (₹ 12,303 crore), industries and commerce (₹ 30,000 crore), healthcare (₹ 4,000 crore), and agriculture/horticulture (₹ 1,675 crore), among other sectors focusing on diversification.[205] c. Tripura's credit-deposit ratio remains roughly 30 percentage points below the national average, and its credit-to-GSDP gap with the national average exceeds 33 points, signalling a financial system that has historically underserved private investment.[206] The conclave was attended by around 2,000 investors and representatives of over 1,200 organisations, including diplomats from other countries,[207] making the estimated foreign investment to potentially account for ₹ 18,000–20,000 crore.[208] d. Tripura's unemployment rate has already fallen sharply from 10% in 2018-19 to 1.7% in 2023-24, below the national average of 3.2% for that period.[209] Despite recent improvement, the state's services sector still contributes a smaller share to output (44.4%) than the all-state average (51%), reflecting an underdeveloped industrial and services base relative to peers.[210] e. The IT-sector MoUs alone (~ ₹ 13,000 crore) are aimed at this young, increasingly employable population.[211] The operationalisation of the Maitri Setu Bridge at Sabroom, the Agartala–Akhaura rail link, and inland waterway route has the potential to transform the state into a primary logistical gateway connecting East India with ASEAN markets. Securing ₹ 30,000 crore in industrial MoUs directly capitalises on this new transit access.[212]

[205] Tripura Times, July, 2026.
[206] NITI Aayog, 2025.
[207] SocialNews., July, 2026.
[208] North East Live TV, July, 2026.
[209] Northeast Today, September, 2025.
[210] NITI Aayog, 2025.
[211] Northeast Live TV, July, 2026.
[212] India Today NE, July, 2026.

Other Decisions

I. Delhi

A. Winter Pollution Master Plan, 2026
Source: The Economic Times | **Impact:** High

1. On 1st July, 2026, the Delhi Government notified the Winter Pollution Master Plan, aiming to **reduce winter air pollution** through seasonal control measures, stricter vehicle emission norms, and stronger enforcement of pollution-control regulations.
2. **Key Features -**
   a. It introduces automatic implementation of winter pollution-control measures every year from 1st November to 28th February, enforcing a 50% work-from-home office policy and doubling parking charges.
   b. It mandates year-round supply of petrol, diesel, CNG and LPG only to vehicles possessing a valid Pollution Under Control Certificate (PUCC), with verification through physical certificates, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) systems and the VAHAN database.[213]
   c. It imposes stricter restrictions on construction and demolition activities during winter, with only emergency and strategically important Government projects permitted between 10th December and 20th January.
   d. It enables enforcement through the Transport Department, Delhi Traffic Police, fuel retailers and other agencies, while incorporating revised Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) provisions wherever stricter measures are invoked.
3. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The plan aligns with the National Clean Air program (NCAP),[214] which mandates that non-attainment cities implement long-term action plans to achieve significant reductions in particulate matter concentration.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Haryana launched the Haryana Clean Air Project with World Bank assistance aimed at controlling air pollution across all districts until 2031.[215]
5. **Relevance -**
   a. Vehicular emissions contribute 20–25% of Delhi's winter PM2.5 directly, with vehicle-origin secondary nitrate increasing the average contribution to around 28%.[216] The plan addresses this by linking fuel purchase to a valid PUCC through continuous digital verification using ANPR cameras and the VAHAN database.
   b. Delhi's median Air Quality Index ranged between 312 and 342 during the past three

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[213] VAHAN.
[214] National Clean Air program.
[215] Haryana Clean Air Project For Sustainable Development Operation.
[216] Department Of Environment Government Of NCT Of Delhi, Page 12.

A. Winter Pollution Master Plan, 2026
Source: The Economic Times | **Impact:** High
winters, with peak levels reaching 461–494.[217] The plan replaces ad hoc annual notifications with a permanent, calendar-based framework that automatically enforces winter pollution-control measures from 1st November to 28th February each year. c. Delhi remained among the 131 non-attainment cities after failing to achieve the NCAP's original target of reducing particulate matter by 20–30% by 2024, leading the Central Government to revise the target to 40% by 2025–26.[218] The plan addresses this by replacing annual notifications with a permanent framework for implementing seasonal pollution-control measures. Since pollution levels can vary across years depending on meteorological conditions, the framework can be supplemented with real-time interventions to ensure measures remain aligned with prevailing air quality. d. Further, implementing a mandatory 50% work-from-home rule across all Government and private corporate offices represents an efficient administrative intervention. Rather than relying on expensive, asset-heavy infrastructure projects, this strategy uses simple operational adjustments to flatten peak traffic congestion. Staggering municipal work hours (shifting MCD centre to an early 8:30 AM start while moving Delhi Government offices to 10:00 AM) minimises the volume of idling vehicles at major junctions, directly reducing cold-start exhaust emissions. e. The primary implementation challenge threatening the execution of the "No PUCC, No Fuel" mandate is the high risk of logjams and non-compliance at retail filling stations. Expecting independent fuel dealers to manage automated plate scanning and manually turn away uncertified drivers introduces high transaction friction, running the risk of public pushback and safety hazards at the pumps.

[217] Business Standard, July, 2026.
[218] PIB, December, 2023.

II. Ladakh

A. Autonomous Hill Development Councils Expansion

Source: Business Standard | **Impact:** High

1. On 13th July, 2026, the Ladakh Administration announced its decision to extend the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council framework to all seven districts of the Union Territory, following the creation of five new districts in April 2026.[219]
2. **Key Features -**
   a. It introduces elected Hill Development Councils for the five newly created districts of Sham, Nubra, Changthang, Zanskar and Drass through amendments to the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Act and constituency delimitation.
   b. It mandates amendments to the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council Act and fresh constituency delimitation before elections are conducted in the new councils.
   c. It retains district-level elected councils as the primary institutions for local planning, development, implementation of Government schemes and supervision of line departments.
   d. It enables institutional representation for all seven districts following Ladakh's administrative reorganisation, ensuring each district has an elected decentralised governance body.
   e. It retains the existing Panchayati Raj Institutions alongside the Autonomous Hill Development Councils.
3. **Relevance -**
   a. Ladakh expanded from two to seven districts in April 2026,[220] but elected Hill Councils remained limited to Leh and Kargil, leaving the five new districts without representative local governance. The expansion extends the Hill Council framework to all seven districts, aligning political institutions with the new administrative structure.
   b. Scheduled Tribes notably constitute 66.8% of Leh, 73.35% of Nubra, 83.49% of Kargil, 89.96% of Sanku and 99.16% of Zanskar, while the overall tribal population exceeds 97% in Ladakh.[221] Despite this, Autonomous Hill Development Councils remained limited to Leh and Kargil after the creation of five new districts. The reform extends autonomous local governance to all seven districts, aligning Ladakh's institutional architecture with its predominantly tribal administrative landscape.

[219] Administration Of Union Territory Of Ladakh, April, 2026.
[220] Administration Of Union Territory Of Ladakh, April, 2026.
[221] PIB, September, 2019.

A. Autonomous Hill Development Councils Expansion
Source: Business Standard | **Impact:** High
c. Following the reorganisation of Ladakh as a Union Territory, demands for stronger local representation gained prominence alongside the creation of new administrative districts.[222] The expansion of Autonomous Hill Development Councils to all seven districts strengthens elected district-level institutions and broadens the institutional architecture for local governance while retaining the existing constitutional framework. d. The decision reflects the Centre's efforts to advance dialogue with Ladakh's representative bodies, the Leh Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance, under the Ministry of Home Affairs-led High Powered Committee. While discussions on broader constitutional issues, including Sixth Schedule status, statehood, and safeguards for land and employment, continue, recent talks have reached consensus on strengthening elected governance.[223] The expansion of Autonomous Hill Development Councils to all seven districts marks an early outcome of this consultative process, highlighting the Centre's commitment to democratic decentralisation and responsive governance.

[222] The Deccan Herald, July, 2026.
[223] The Hindu, July, 2026.

B. Livestock Development Incentive Program, 2026
Source: The Hindu Businessline | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 5th July, 2026, the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh approved the Livestock Development Incentive program, 2026.
2. The program aims to increase **raw Pashmina production** by incentivising scientific breeding, livestock improvement and productivity enhancement among Changpa pastoralists.
3. **Key Features -**
    a. The program introduces a 25% production-linked incentive over the Government procurement price of raw Pashmina for eligible Changpa herders through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
    b. The Ladakh Pashmina Development Board seeks to increase the Pashmina goat population from 2 lakh to 4 lakh within three years.
    c. The program targets increasing the average raw Pashmina yield from 200 grams to at least 350 grams per goat through scientific husbandry and advanced combing techniques.
    d. It provides Aadhaar-linked digital payments to beneficiaries to improve transparency and reduce payment leakages.
    e. Financial incentives under the program include -
        i. The program mandates utilisation of the incentive in a 60:20:20 ratio;
        ii. The 60% is for livestock improvement and scientific breeding;
        iii. The 20% is for combing equipment and production infrastructure;
        iv. The other 20% for household expenditure.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The program aligns with the National Livestock Mission by promoting livestock productivity and breed improvement and with the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Mission through Aadhaar-enabled benefit transfers.[224]
5. **Similar Initiatives in Other States -** Jammu & Kashmir supports GI-certified Pashmina production through sheep husbandry interventions,[225] while Himachal Pradesh[226] operates livestock productivity and breeder incentive programs to improve wool production and pastoral incomes.
6. **Relevance -**
    a. Ladakh contributes the majority of India's raw Pashmina production, yet average fibre yield remains limited to around 200 grams per goat,[227] constraining overall

[224] National Livestock Mission.
[225] Integrated Sheep Development Scheme, Jammu And Kashmir.
[226] Department Of Animal Husbandry, Himachal Pradesh.
[227] The Hindu Businessline, July, 2026.

B. Livestock Development Incentive Program, 2026
Source: The Hindu Businessline | **Impact:** Medium
production growth. The program addresses this by mandating that 60% of the Production-Linked Incentive be reinvested in scientific breeding, genetic improvement and livestock development to improve herd productivity and Pashmina yield. b. Ladakh is recognised for producing some of the world's finest Pashmina, but contributes only around 1% of the global cashmere market, while China and Mongolia account for 75% and 19%, respectively.[228] The program seeks to bridge this gap by improving fibre productivity, quality and value addition, enabling Ladakh to capture a larger share of the premium global Pashmina market. c. Ladakh processes only around 30% of its raw Pashmina locally, with less than 1,200 kg converted into finished products within the Union Territory.[229] This limits the income earned from one of Ladakh's most valuable natural products, as a significant share of value addition takes place elsewhere. The program addresses this by earmarking 20% of the Production-Linked Incentive for production infrastructure and modern combing equipment to expand local processing capacity.

[228] Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Page 2.
[229] Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Page 5.

III. Gujarat

A. Silicon And Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing Research And Training Hub (SAMARTH), 2026
Source: The Hindu Businessline | **Impact:** High
1. On 3rd July, 2026, the Gujarat Government's Department of Science and Technology announced the Silicon and Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing Research and Training Hub (SAMARTH). 2. The SAMARTH initiative aims to build an **integrated semiconductor ecosystem**, transitioning Gujarat into a global hub for "fab-ready" talent and value-added manufacturing research. 3. **Key Features -** a. The facility provides a total funding of ₹ 190 crore, jointly contributed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the Gujarat Government's DST, and IIT Gandhinagar. b. It targets the training of nearly 10,000 individuals over five years, including 5,600 students, 1,500 technicians, 460 faculty and industry professionals, and 2,700 additional students through summer schools and exposure programs. c. The hub mandates the establishment of advanced laboratories for nano-fabrication, Complementary Metal-Oxide-Semiconductor (CMOS) process technology,[230] semiconductor device characterisation, process and device modelling, and Integrated Circuit (IC) design. d. It enables statewide reach by signing Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with engineering colleges to provide specialised training at nominal costs and awareness programs for school students. e. It seeks to create an integrated platform for innovation and research through collaborations with national and international institutions to develop indigenous manufacturing technologies and licensable intellectual property. 4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative aligns with the India Semiconductor Mission 2.0[231] by developing a skilled semiconductor workforce and strengthening domestic research and manufacturing capabilities. 5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Tamil Nadu,[232] Karnataka[233] and Uttar Pradesh,[234] which have established dedicated semiconductor skill development,

[230] CMOS process technology is the standard semiconductor manufacturing process used to produce energy-efficient computer chips that power devices such as smartphones, computers, automobiles, and industrial electronics.
[231] PIB, February, 2026.
[232] Tamil Nadu Semiconductor And Advanced Electronics Policy, 2024.
[233] K-VLSI Design Skill Program (Karnataka Digital Economy Mission).
[234] Uttar Pradesh Semiconductor Policy, 2024.

A. Silicon And Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing Research And Training Hub (SAMARTH), 2026

Source: The Hindu Businessline | **Impact:** High

research and workforce training initiatives to support the growth of domestic semiconductor manufacturing ecosystems.

6. **Relevance -**
   a. India produces around 6 lakh electronics-related engineering graduates annually, yet only about 1% are considered fab-ready for semiconductor manufacturing.[235] At the same time, the industry is projected to face a shortage of 2.5–3 lakh skilled professionals by 2027.[236] The SAMARTH initiative addresses this gap through specialised, industry-oriented training in semiconductor fabrication, nano-fabrication and integrated circuit design.
   b. Gujarat has attracted ₹ 1.24 lakh crore in semiconductor investments across six projects (Tata Electronics and Crystal Matrix in Dholera, Micron Technology along with Kaynes Semicon and CG Power and Industrial Solutions in Sanad, Suchi Semicon in Surat),[237] expected to generate over 50,000 direct and indirect jobs,[238] including India's first commercial semiconductor foundry at Dholera. Because these complex facilities are projected to generate direct and indirect jobs, setting up a native talent hub protects companies from costly, cross-border workforce poaching shocks.
   c. In light of the above, the SAMARTH initiative addresses the resulting skilled workforce requirement by establishing a dedicated research and training hub to develop industry-ready talent within the state.
   d. Access to specialised semiconductor fabrication training has been limited for students outside Gujarat's premier institutions. The SAMARTH initiative expands this access by partnering with engineering colleges across the state, allowing students to receive advanced semiconductor training at IIT Gandhinagar through affordable, industry-oriented programs.
   e. Nonetheless, the primary structural challenge threatening the long-term viability of the SAMARTH initiative could be the intense operational expense required to maintain active sub-micron cleanrooms. Advanced nanofabrication lines require continuous, high-volume inputs of specialised ultra-pure water, constant climate-controlled air-filtration cycling, and expensive chemical supplies.

[235] India Briefing, April, 2025.
[236] Business Standard, June, 2024.
[237] The Secretariat, July, 2026.
[238] ANI News, July, 2026.

IV. Goa

A. Financial Assistance For Setting Up Of Crab Farming Unit In Goa Scheme, 2026
Source: The Times Of India | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 6th July, 2026, the Goa Department of Fisheries introduced the revised Financial Assistance for Setting up of Crab Farming Unit in Goa Scheme, 2026.
2. The scheme aims to promote commercial mud crab farming of Scylla Serrata across Goa's coastal and mangrove areas, through **direct capital subsidy** for unit setup and operational cost.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. Two farming models are supported under the scheme:
      i. Pen Culture - an enclosure-based method in water bodies.
      ii. Vertical Box Crab Culture - a space-efficient stacked unit system suitable for smaller landholders.
   b. The scheme provides capital subsidy for Pen Culture by:
      i. Providing 50% subsidy of up to ₹ 1 lakh for General beneficiaries against a unit cost of ₹ 2 lakh per 0.1 hectare.
      ii. Providing 60% subsidy of up to ₹ 1.2 lakh for SC/ST/Women beneficiaries against the same unit cost.
   c. The scheme provides capital subsidy for Box Culture by:
      i. Providing 50% subsidy for General beneficiaries, with project costs of ₹ 4 lakh per 1,000 horizontal boxes and ₹ 8 lakh per 1,000 vertical (RAS) boxes, subject to the prescribed subsidy ceilings.
      ii. Providing 60% subsidy for SC/ST/Women beneficiaries under both horizontal and vertical box culture models, subject to the prescribed subsidy ceilings.
   d. Further, eligible applicants must be Goa residents for a minimum of 15 years and must complete a crab farming training program conducted by the Department of Fisheries and other recognised institutes before availing assistance.
   e. Disbursement will follow a two-tranche structure, 60% of approved assistance is released upon project approval and the remaining 40% is released upon registration of the unit.
   f. The scheme is valid for three years and registered units are subject to periodic Government inspection and must renew registration every three years to remain eligible.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Kerala (the Matsyafed Crab Farming Scheme)[239] and West Bengal (the State Fisheries Department mangrove crab culture support

[239] Government Of Kerala, Department Of Fisheries.

A. Financial Assistance For Setting Up Of Crab Farming Unit In Goa Scheme, 2026
Source: The Times Of India | **Impact:** Medium

program)[240] have operationalised targeted financial assistance schemes for Scylla Serrata farming in coastal and brackishwater zones, covering unit setup costs and seed-feed procurement subsidies.

5. **Relevance -**
   a. Goa's annual average marine and inland fish production stood at 86,027 and 3,669 tonnes respectively in 2021, yet traditional fishermen's annual catch has fallen from 15-20 tonnes to 3-4 tonnes per fisherman, a decline attributed to competition and overfishing by large trawlers[241] from within Goa and other states.[242] Rising diesel prices have further squeezed input costs and profit margins.[243] Crab culture offers these fishermen an income source that does not depend solely on marine catch and helps smooth earnings across the year.
   b. There has been a noticeable decline in the mud crab populations in the natural habitat throughout Indian coastal waters due to over exploitation and indiscriminate fishing of juvenile crabs by artisanal fishermen.[244] This scheme through mandatory training from the department of fisheries will create a responsible ecosystem of sustainably maintaining the population of mud crabs. Periodic inspection and renewal of registration ensures accountability.
   c. Industry guides list Goa among the Indian coastal states picking up mud crab culture, noting that mud crab is specifically suited to the estuarine and mangrove ecosystems found along India's coastal belt, ecosystems that map closely onto Goa's khazan land system.[245] The scheme aims to promote commercial Scylla serrata farming by providing capital subsidies of up to ₹ 4 lakh for general beneficiaries and ₹ 4.8 lakh for SC/ST applicants and women beneficiaries.
   d. Notably, Goa's unique khazan land system, i.e., centuries-old reclaimed estuarine agricultural and aquacultural ecosystems protected by dykes, provides an ideal habitat for Scylla serrata. Because giant mud crabs command premium pricing in local Goan tourism markets and international export destinations (selling for ₹ 1,200–₹ 2,000 per kg), converting under-utilised brackish plots into structured crab units yields significantly higher per-acre returns than traditional low-yield paddy crops.

[240] Government Of West Bengal Department Of Fisheries, Aquaculture, Aquatic Resources And Fishing Harbour.
[241] Trawlers are commercial vessels designed to catch fish or seafood by dragging massive, cone-shaped nets (trawls) through the water.
[242] Gomantak Times, December, 2023.
[243] Herald Goa, March, 2025.
[244] Conversationalist, December, 2025.
[245] Agri Farming, December, 2023.

V. Uttarakhand

A. River Rafting/Kayaking (Amendment) Rules, 2026
Source: ETV Bharat | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 10th July, 2026, the Uttarakhand Cabinet approved the Uttarakhand River Rafting/Kayaking (Amendment) Rules, 2026.
2. The rules aim to enhance **tourist safety**, strengthen regulatory oversight of rafting and kayaking operations, create employment opportunities, and support the sustainable growth of adventure tourism.
3. **Key Features -**
    a. The rules increase the maximum age for river rafting guide licences from 50 years to 60 years, subject to prescribed fitness requirements.
    b. They mandate Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and first-aid certification for all rafting guides to improve emergency response capabilities.
    c. They introduce stricter penalties, including licence cancellation and blacklisting, for operators violating safety and operational norms.
    d. The rules also require an accompanying rescue raft to follow tourist rafts to enable rapid response during accidents.
    e. They strengthen the regulatory framework governing river rafting and kayaking operations to improve safety and service standards across notified rivers.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The rules support the objectives of the National Strategy for Adventure Tourism, 2022,[246] by strengthening safety standards, professional certification, and quality regulation in adventure tourism activities.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Himachal Pradesh[247] regulates river rafting through licensing, safety standards and operational guidelines, while Arunachal Pradesh's Tourism Policy, 2025–30[248] promotes white-water rafting circuits alongside water-rescue protocols and adventure tourism training and certification.
6. **Relevance -**
    a. Rishikesh is India's one of the largest rafting hubs, with the industry generating over ₹ 200 crore annually and supporting rafting operators, guides, hotels and local livelihoods.[249] By tightening licensing, safety requirements and penalties for non-compliant operators, the 2026 amendment can improve safety and operational standards, providing a stronger regulatory foundation for the sector's continued growth.
    b. At least 26 drowning deaths were reported along the Haridwar-Rishikesh stretch

[246] National Strategy For Adventure Tourism, 2022.
[247] Himachal Pradesh Water Sports And Allied Activities Rules, 2021.
[248] Arunachal Pradesh Tourism Policy, 2025-30.
[249] The Times Of India, June, 2026.

A. River Rafting/Kayaking (Amendment) Rules, 2026
Source: ETV Bharat | **Impact:** Medium
of the Ganga within 45 days in May-June 2026, highlighting persistent safety risks posed by strong river currents in the region.[250] The rules strengthen safety within regulated river activities by mandating CPR and first-aid certification for guides, dedicated rescue rafts, and stricter operator accountability. c. Uttarakhand's official rafting circuit between Kaudiyala and Rishikesh includes 13 rapids, with sections reaching Grade III and IV difficulty,[251] requiring significant technical expertise to navigate safely. The rules respond to these operational risks by mandating CPR and first-aid certification, dedicated rescue arrangements, and stricter eligibility requirements for guides, strengthening professional safety standards on technically demanding rafting stretches. d. Uttarakhand has trained 1,816 local youth in adventure activities, reflecting its efforts to expand the state's skilled adventure tourism workforce.[252] Raising the maximum age for river guides and safety kayakers from 50 to 60 years, subject to annual medical fitness certification after 50, complements this investment by retaining experienced professionals alongside newly trained entrants while maintaining safety standards. e. With rafting activity on the Ganga already capped at 576 rafts based on a carrying-capacity assessment,[253] managing pressure at key rafting access points such as Shivpuri, Brahmapuri, Club House and Marine Drive is a regulatory concern. The new minimum deployment requirement could reduce fragmented raft movements, but may concentrate departures at these points unless backed by staggered scheduling and adequate access infrastructure.

[250] The Times Of India, June, 2026.
[251] Uttarakhand Tourism.
[252] The Times Of India, November, 2024.
[253] The Times Of India, November, 2025.

VI. Sikkim

A. Mission: Million Oak Trees

Source: Nagaland Post, Aakashwani News| **Impact:** Medium

1. On 7th July, 2026, the Government of Sikkim launched the "Mission: Million Oak Trees by 2047," a statewide ecological restoration initiative to revive native Himalayan oak forests and strengthen water security, biodiversity and climate resilience.
2. The mission aims to **restore native Himalayan oak forests** through large-scale afforestation, improve groundwater recharge and watershed health, conserve biodiversity, and enhance climate resilience as part of Sikkim's long-term sustainable development vision.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. It targets the plantation of one million native oak trees by 2047 across the state.
   b. It released the Oak Forest Restoration Manual to guide scientific restoration and management of native oak forests.
   c. It promotes participation by Government departments, educational institutions, local bodies, NGOs and citizens in afforestation and conservation activities.
   d. It directs Sub-Divisional Officers to utilise vacant Government land for plantations and kitchen gardens through community participation.
   e. It strengthens forest protection by launching the 'Connect to Forest' toll-free helpline (1926) and deploying additional patrol and safari vehicles for forest management.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The mission aligns with the objectives of the Green India Mission under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC),[254] which seeks to increase forest and tree cover, restore degraded ecosystems and enhance ecosystem services and climate resilience.
5. **Similar initiatives In Other States -** Telangana's Haritha Haram[255] and Andhra Pradesh's Vanam–Manam[256] program similarly promotes large-scale afforestation through community participation to improve forest cover, ecological restoration and environmental sustainability.
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Sikkim currently has 47.33% forest cover, with 33.77% of its area under protected areas and wildlife sanctuaries.[257] The initiative to restore degraded forest land aiming to plant one million native oak trees, targets a wider ecological challenge because forest health directly affects rural water availability, livelihoods, and

[254] National Action Plan On Climate Change (NAPCC).
[255] Telangana ku Haritha Haram.
[256] Andhra Pradesh Vanam-Manam.
[257] Akashvani News, July, 2026.

A. Mission: Million Oak Trees
Source: Nagaland Post, Aakashwani News| **Impact:** Medium

ecosystem stability in a mountain state where communities depend heavily on natural resources. By making oak restoration a long-term, state-wide mission involving government departments, schools, local bodies, NGOs, and citizens, the Government is treating forest restoration as essential public infrastructure rather than a routine plantation drive.[258]

b. Around 94.2% of villages in Sikkim rely on springs as their primary water source, but spring discharge has declined by about 50% in drought-sensitive areas and 35% elsewhere during lean seasons.[259] A key reason behind this challenge is the declining health of oak forests, which act as natural groundwater recharge systems. Natural regeneration has declined due to poor oak seed survival caused by insect damage, leaving ageing forests with limited replacement growth.[260]

c. The mission responds to the above by replacing failed natural regeneration with planned restoration guided by an Oak Forest Restoration Manual, addressing the ecological cause behind declining spring systems rather than only managing water shortages after they occur.[261]

d. Viewing native broad-leaf oak forests as essential public infrastructure represents a notable shift in mountain development economics. In high-altitude environments, engineering-based water transport schemes (such as long-distance pipelines and pumping stations) face high maintenance costs and vulnerability to landslides. Restoring native oak forests provides a natural, cost-effective water recharge system that protects mountain water security over the long term.

e. Requiring Sub-Divisional Officers (SDOs) to utilise vacant Government land, school compounds, and roadside corridors for community-led plantations ensures broad public involvement. Pairing this initiative with the Mero Bato Mero Bot (My Road, My Tree)[262] and Sikkim Shishu Samruddhi Yojana (SSSY)[263] schemes, where 108 saplings are planted to celebrate the birth of every child, integrates ecological restoration into local cultural practices.

[258] News Arena India, July, 2026.
[259] NITI Aayog, 2018.
[260] EastMojo, July, 2026.
[261] Akashvani News, July, 2026.
[262] Government Of Sikkim.
[263] Government Of Sikkim.

VII. Assam

A. Assam Police Emergency Response Service Modernisation Project, 2026
Source: ANI News| **Impact:** Medium

1. On 5th July, 2026, the Assam Cabinet approved the Assam Police 112 Emergency Response Service Modernisation Project, 2026 at a total outlay of ₹ 97.90 crore.
2. The project aims to overhaul Assam's 112 emergency response system by deploying a fleet of mobile police stations, establishing a centralised command and control centre, and recruiting dedicated operational staff.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The Cabinet has approved ₹ 97.90 crore for the implementation of the project. Notably, the vehicles for the fleet had already been procured prior to the Cabinet's approval, enabling their immediate deployment.
   b. Under the project, two hundred police vans have been deployed across the state as mobile police stations. Each vehicle functions as a fully equipped field unit, capable of providing first response, conducting patrols, registering complaints, and undertaking on-site law enforcement activities.
   c. A state-of-the-art command and control centre has been established at the Lachit Barphukan Police Academy to monitor, coordinate, and manage all 200 mobile police stations in real time. The centre serves as the central command hub for the 112 Emergency Response Support System (ERSS), ensuring seamless communication and rapid deployment.
   d. Lastly, to ensure uninterrupted 24×7 operations, the Government will recruit approximately 1,000 drivers exclusively for the mobile police station fleet, creating a dedicated workforce to support sustained round-the-clock emergency response and policing services.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The project aligns with the Ministry of Home Affairs' Assistance to States for Modernisation of Police (ASUMP) scheme, under which ₹ 227.42 crore was allocated to states and Union Territories in 2025–26 for technology upgrades and infrastructure modernisation.[264] The project operationalises the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) framework of the Ministry of Home Affairs, which mandates a unified 112 platform integrating police, fire, and ambulance response across all states.[265]
5. **Similar Initiatives in Other States -** Similarly, Uttar Pradesh[266] and Telangana[267] have operationalised advanced 112 emergency response systems with mobile police station

[264] Assistance To States And Union Territories For Modernisation Of Police (ASUMP).
[265] Ministry Of Home Affairs.
[266] Uttar Pradesh Police.
[267] Telangana Emergency Services.

A. Assam Police Emergency Response Service Modernisation Project, 2026
Source: ANI News| **Impact:** Medium
fleets, centralised command centres, and dedicated driver cadres, making Assam the third state to deploy this model at comparable scale. 6. **Relevance -** a. Traditional police deployment systems face high structural inefficiency by remaining tied to static, brick-and-mortar municipal stations. Geographically diverse territories[268] generates slow deployment speeds, leaving remote villages underserved. Moving to a decentralised grid populated by 200 highly mobile, round-the-clock patrol units drastically alters regional security dynamics, converting empty travel times into active, visible deterrence lines. b. Notably, Assam's conviction rate stands at just 22.3%, well below the national average of 53.3%, highlighting weaknesses in early-stage investigation and evidence collection.[269] Emergency response in Assam has historically been distributed across more than 10 separate emergency helplines, including those for police, fire, ambulance and disaster management. The project addresses this by integrating these services through a single Dial 112 platform, enabling faster and better-coordinated emergency response.[270] c. The primary operational risk threatening the long-term success of the project's tight 24x7 deployment mandate is the challenge of managing a newly recruited 1,000-person dedicated driver pool. Continuous, round-the-clock mobile patrolling across challenging terrain accelerates mechanical wear, running the risk of high vehicle downtime if maintenance schedules lag.

[268] The Hindu, June, 2026.
[269] Times Of India, May, 2026.
[270] Indian Express, June, 2026.

VIII. Bihar

A. Approval For ₹ 25,000 Crore Borrowing For Industrial Infrastructure
Source: The Times Of India | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 1st July, 2026, the Bihar Cabinet approved the Infrastructure Development Authority Market Borrowing.
2. The approval aims to strengthen **long-term financing** for industrial infrastructure by enabling the Infrastructure Development Authority (IDA) to mobilise market borrowings for land acquisition and infrastructure development across industrial areas in Bihar.
3. **Key Features -**
    a. The approval permits the IDA to raise ₹ 25,000 crore through long-term market borrowings from financial institutions with a state Government guarantee.
    b. The borrowed funds will be utilised for land acquisition and the creation of infrastructure for industrial areas across the state.
    c. The approval provides for borrowing on long-term repayment terms, improving access to patient capital for infrastructure development.
    d. The Cabinet also approved market borrowings of ₹ 21,000 crore by the Bihar State Road Development Corporation Limited (BSRDCL) and Bihar Rajya Pul Nirman Nigam Limited (BRPNNL), backed by a state Government guarantee, for implementing road infrastructure projects.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Maharashtra has expanded the borrowing powers of the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC),[271] while Gujarat has partnered with HUDCO to mobilise ₹ 1 lakh crore for infrastructure financing.[272]
5. **Relevance -**
    a. Only 5.7% of Bihar's workforce was employed in manufacturing, compared with 49.6% in agriculture in 2022–23, contributing to the state's per capita income remaining at only around 30% of the national average.[273] The ₹ 25,000 crore borrowing plan seeks to bridge this gap by financing industrial land and infrastructure needed to attract manufacturing investment and expand higher-productivity employment.
    b. Bihar's per capita income remains around 30% of the national average,[274] highlighting the state's limited industrialisation and formal employment base. By financing industrial land acquisition and infrastructure, the approval seeks to attract manufacturing investment and create higher-productivity jobs that can

[271] The Times Of India, June, 2026.
[272] The Economic Times, June, 2026.
[273] NITI Aayog, July, 2025.
[274] NITI Aayog, July, 2025.

A. Approval For ₹ 25,000 Crore Borrowing For Industrial Infrastructure
Source: The Times Of India | **Impact:** Medium
gradually narrow this income gap. c. Around one in every four working-age adults from Bihar is employed outside the state, with an estimated 3 crore Biharis working elsewhere due to limited local employment opportunities.[275] By financing pre-cleared industrial land banks with supporting infrastructure and utilities, the approval seeks to attract manufacturing investments in sectors such as electronics, textiles and food processing, creating local employment and reducing dependence on out-migration. d. Moreover, Bihar expanded its industrial areas from 46 in 2005 to 94 in 2025, while industrial units increased from 1,674 to 3,500 over the same period, reflecting the gradual pace of industrial expansion.[276] The approval builds on the momentum of the Integrated Manufacturing Cluster (IMC), Gaya, along the Amritsar–Kolkata Industrial Corridor (AKIC) by financing plug-and-play industrial sheds, investment-ready industrial parks, trunk infrastructure and new industrial areas, enabling faster project implementation and attracting large-scale manufacturing investment.

[275] India Today, October, 2025.
[276] ETV Bharat, December, 2025.

IX. Punjab

A. Illegal Colony Regularisation, 2026
Source: The Government Of Punjab, ETV Bharat | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 1st July, 2026, the Punjab Cabinet approved an amendment to Rule 31 of the Punjab Apartment and Property Regulation Rules to reopen and simplify the regularisation process for eligible unauthorised colonies across the state.
2. **Key Features -**
    a. It proposes a framework to regularise illegal colonies provided that a minimum of 25% of the total construction has already been completed.
    b. The state provides for a fiscal mechanism where applicants must deposit 5% of the collector rate for residential areas to obtain a provisional certificate.
    c. It introduces a higher regularisation fee of 10% of the collector rate for commercial areas within unauthorised colonies.
    d. The reform mandates that once the prescribed fee is paid, residents no longer require a No Objection Certificate (NOC) for property-related transactions.
    e. It enables the Government to issue provisional certificates and immediately commence infrastructure development works within the regularised colonies.
    f. It extends eligibility for regularisation to unauthorised colonies located both within notified planning areas and on agricultural land earmarked under approved Master Plans, while excluding colonies falling under the Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) regional plan.
3. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Delhi implements the PM-UDAY Scheme to confer property rights on residents of unauthorised colonies and facilitate their redevelopment,[277] while Haryana has introduced the Management of Civic Amenities and Infrastructure Deficient Outside Municipal Area (Special Provisions) Act, 2021[278] to regularise unauthorised colonies and facilitate infrastructure development.
4. **Relevance -**
    a. Punjab's previous colony regularisation schemes created a growing backlog of unresolved unauthorised colonies. The applications rejected under regularisation policies that were introduced in 2013, 2016 and 2018 had no provision for reconsideration.[279] The reform addresses this by permitting previously rejected colonies to reapply under the amended framework, bringing a cumulative pool of excluded settlements back into the formal planning process.
    b. Punjab's 2018 regularisation policy excluded all colonies developed after 19th

[277] DDA-PM-UDAY Scheme
[278] Management Of Civic Amenities And Infrastructure Deficient Areas Outside Municipal Area (Special Provisions) Act, 2025
[279] The Hindustan Times, July, 2026.

A. Illegal Colony Regularisation, 2026
Source: The Government Of Punjab, ETV Bharat | **Impact:** Medium
March, 2018, irrespective of their level of development.[280] The reform replaces this fixed cut-off with a 25% built-up criterion, allowing post-2018 colonies that have reached a minimum level of construction to become eligible for regularisation. c. Furthermore, unregistered properties in unauthorised colonies restrict plot holders from accessing formal bank mortgages, securing legal building permits, or executing clear property transfers. Removing the property-level NOC requirement upon payment of the compounding deposit unlocks property values for thousands of homeowners, expanding the local property tax base for urban local bodies (ULBs). d. Collecting compounding fees (5% to 10% of collector rates) generates dedicated revenue for ULBs. This revenue can be directed toward extending basic civic infrastructure, such as paved roads, water supply lines, sewerage networks, and street lighting, to newly regularised colonies. e. The long-term implementation of the reform may face legal scrutiny where unauthorised colonies were developed without valid Change of Land Use (CLU)[281] approvals. In February 2026, the Supreme Court held that an illegal CLU permission under the Punjab Regional and Town Planning and Development Act, 1995[282] cannot be retrospectively validated through administrative action.[283] As the reform allows certain unauthorised colonies to be regularised through a compounding mechanism, its implementation in cases involving invalid CLU approvals may require careful legal compliance.

[280] The Hindustan Times, July, 2026.
[281] Change of Land Use (CLU) is the approval to change the permitted use of a piece of land from one purpose to another, such as from agricultural to residential or industrial use.
[282] Punjab Regional and Town Planning and Development Act, 1995.
[283] Live Law, February, 2026.

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