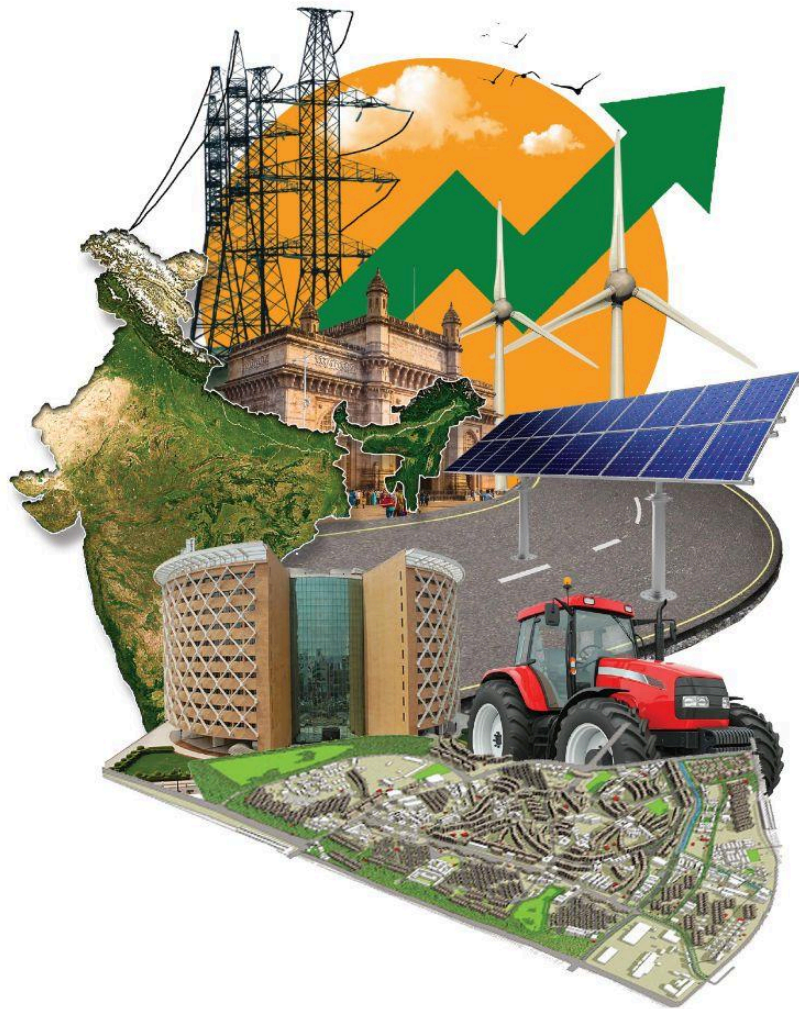




# STATES IN MOTION

What's Happening In Indian States



16<sup>th</sup> April - 30<sup>th</sup> April

APRIL 2026 | VOLUME II

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## Key Announcements

This document tracks the various key policy and reform decisions taken by State Governments and UTs between **16<sup>th</sup> April, 2026 and 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2026**.

### Reform Decisions

#### I. Delhi

- A. **Delhi Jan Vishwas (Amendment Of Provisions) Act, 2026:** The Government of NCT Delhi notified the Delhi Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026, replacing criminal penalties with civil adjudication mechanisms across multiple state laws, introducing structured penalty frameworks and aligning Delhi's compliance regime with the Centre's decriminalisation and ease of doing business reforms.

#### II. Madhya Pradesh

- A. **Rural Land Acquisition Compensation Enhancement, 2026:** The Madhya Pradesh Cabinet approved doubling the multiplication factor for rural land acquisition from 1.0 to 2.0 under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Rules, 2015, increasing compensation to up to four times the market value and enabling faster, dispute-reduced land procurement for infrastructure and public projects.

#### III. Maharashtra

- A. **Draft Agricultural Lands (Ceiling On Holdings) (Conversion Of Occupant Class-II To Class-I) Rules, 2026:** The Maharashtra Cabinet approved rules for conversion of Occupant Class-II land into Class-I ownership, introducing a uniform premium framework linked to ready reckoner rates, easing transfer restrictions, and granting full ownership rights to beneficiaries of ceiling-surplus land distribution.

#### IV. Ladakh

- A. **Ladakh District Reorganisation Order, 2026:** The Administration of Ladakh approved the creation of five new districts to expand and restructure the district-level administrative boundaries and governance arrangements to improve administrative efficiency, service delivery, and regional management across strategically important areas of the Union Territory.

### Policy Level Announcements

#### I. Maharashtra

- A. **Maharashtra State Compressed Biogas (CBG) Policy, 2026:** The Maharashtra Cabinet approved the Maharashtra State Compressed Biogas (CBG) Policy, 2026, promoting conversion of municipal and agricultural waste into compressed biogas through viability gap funding, PPP-based project implementation, and integration of waste management systems with clean energy generation.

#### II. Odisha

## Key Announcements

- A. **Odisha State Data Policy 2.0:** The Odisha Cabinet approved the Odisha State Data Policy 2.0, establishing a comprehensive data governance framework with a State Data Authority, multi-tier oversight mechanisms, and standardised protocols for secure data sharing, interoperability, and privacy-compliant digital governance across departments.
- B. **City Gas Distribution Policy, 2026:** The Odisha Cabinet approved the City Gas Distribution Policy, 2026, creating a unified approval framework for PNG and CNG infrastructure expansion through single-window coordination, fee moratoriums, and district-level monitoring mechanisms to accelerate clean energy adoption and private investment.
- C. **B-MAAN Aviation Expansion Scheme, 2026:** The Odisha Government approved 10 new flight routes under the Building and Management of Aviation Assets and Network (B-MAAN) Scheme 2025–30, backed by a ₹ 4,182 crore outlay to expand regional connectivity, upgrade airstrip infrastructure, and develop aviation-linked training and ecosystem capacity across the state.

### III. Uttarakhand

- A. **Uttarakhand Road Connectivity And Tourism Infrastructure Plan, 2026:** The Uttarakhand Government unveiled a ₹ 74,100 crore five-year master plan to upgrade 5,735 km of rural road into all-weather routes, invest ₹ 12,000 crore in urban decongestion projects, modernise 1,200 bridges and strengthen landslide resilience, and improve access to tourism and industrial corridors across the state.

### Social Sector Announcements

#### I. Karnataka

- A. **Scheduled Castes Sub-Classification And Internal Reservation:** The Karnataka Cabinet approved sub-classification within the existing 15% Scheduled Caste reservation, introducing category-wise internal quotas, to ensure equitable distribution of reservation benefits among different Scheduled Castes sub-groups.

#### II. Chhattisgarh

- A. **Reduction In Property Registration Charges For Women And Defense Personnel:** The Chhattisgarh Cabinet approved a 50% reduction in property registration charges for women and a 25% stamp duty concession for serving soldiers, ex-servicemen, and widows on property purchases up to ₹ 25 lakh to promote women-led asset ownership and support housing access for defence personnel.

### Investment Announcement

#### I. Andhra Pradesh

- A. **Andhra Pradesh NPSPL Cathode Material Manufacturing Project, 2026:** The Andhra Pradesh Government approved the NPSPL Cathode Material Manufacturing

## Key Announcements

Project, 2026, establishing large-scale battery material manufacturing infrastructure to strengthen the electric vehicle supply chain, attract industrial investment, and position the state as a strategic hub for advanced energy manufacturing.

### II. Uttar Pradesh

A. **Investment Of ₹ 2,000 Crore To Boost Medicine Manufacturing:** The Uttar Pradesh Government approved investments worth ₹ 2,000 crore to expand medicine manufacturing infrastructure, strengthening pharmaceutical production capacity, promoting industrial growth, and enhancing the state's position in bulk drug and healthcare manufacturing ecosystems.

### III. Odisha

A. **Industrial Investment Approvals Proposal, 2026:** The Odisha Government approved 18 industrial projects worth ₹ 3,877.14 crore through the State Level Single Window Clearance Authority, enabling sectoral diversification, capacity expansion in core industries, and generation of over 7,500 jobs across multiple districts.

## Other Decisions

### I. Uttar Pradesh

A. **Navayug Palika Yojana (2026):** The Uttar Pradesh Government launched the ₹ 2,915 crore Navayug Palika Yojana (2026), a five-year urban infrastructure roadmap targeting Tier II and III towns across 58 district headquarters through development of 100 planned townships, population-based infrastructure planning, and expanded municipal modernisation beyond major urban corporations.

### II. Nagaland

A. **Nagaland Doyang Wildlife Division Initiative, 2026:** The Government of Nagaland launched the Doyang Wildlife Division Initiative, 2026, creating a dedicated wildlife administration framework to strengthen biodiversity conservation, improve ecological monitoring, and enhance protection of wildlife habitats and migratory bird ecosystems in the Doyang region.

## मुख्य घोषणाएं

यह दस्तावेज़ 16 अप्रैल, 2026 से 30 अप्रैल, 2026 के बीच राज्य सरकारों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों द्वारा लिए गए विभिन्न प्रमुख नीति और सुधार निर्णयों को दर्शाता है।

### सुधार निर्णय

#### I. दिल्ली

- A. **दिल्ली जन विश्वास (प्रावधानों का संशोधन) अधिनियम, 2026:** राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र (NCT) दिल्ली सरकार ने 'दिल्ली जन विश्वास (प्रावधानों का संशोधन) अधिनियम, 2026' को अधिसूचित किया है। यह कई राज्य कानूनों में आपराधिक दंडों की जगह नागरिक न्यायनिर्णयन तंत्र लाया है। इसमें एक संरचित जुर्माना ढाँचा प्रस्तुत किया गया है। यह दिल्ली के अनुपालन तंत्र को केंद्र के गैर-अपराधीकरण और व्यापार सुगमता सुधारों के साथ जोड़ता है।

#### II. मध्य प्रदेश

- A. **ग्रामीण भूमि अधिग्रहण क्षतिपूर्ति वृद्धि, 2026:** मध्य प्रदेश कैबिनेट ने ग्रामीण भूमि अधिग्रहण के लिए गुणांक (मल्टीप्लिकेशन फैक्टर) को 1.0 से दोगुना कर 2.0 करने की स्वीकृति प्रदान कर दी है। यह 'भूमि अधिग्रहण, पुनर्वास और पुनर्स्थापन में उचित क्षतिपूर्ति और पारदर्शिता का अधिकार नियम, 2015' के अंतर्गत किया गया है। इससे क्षतिपूर्ति बाज़ार मूल्य से चार गुना तक बढ़ जाएगा। यह बुनियादी ढाँचे और सार्वजनिक परियोजनाओं के लिए तेज़ और विवाद-मुक्त भूमि खरीद को संभव बनाएगा।

#### III. महाराष्ट्र

- A. **कृषि भूमि (जोत पर सीलिंग) (अधिभोगी वर्ग-II को वर्ग-I में बदलना) नियम, 2026 का प्रारूप :** महाराष्ट्र कैबिनेट ने अधिभोगी वर्ग-II की भूमि को वर्ग-I स्वामित्व में बदलने के नियमों को स्वीकृति दी है। इसमें रेडी रेकनर दरों से जुड़ा एक समान प्रीमियम ढाँचा लागू किया गया है, हस्तांतरण संबंधी प्रतिबंधों को आसान बनाया गया है, तथा लाभार्थियों को पूर्ण स्वामित्व अधिकार प्रदान किए गए हैं।

#### IV. लद्दाख

- A. **लद्दाख ज़िला पुनर्गठन आदेश, 2026:** लद्दाख प्रशासन ने पाँच नए ज़िलों के निर्माण को स्वीकृति दी है। इसका उद्देश्य ज़िला-स्तरीय प्रशासनिक सीमाओं और शासन व्यवस्था का विस्तार और पुनर्गठन करना है। इससे केंद्र शासित प्रदेश के रणनीतिक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्रों में प्रशासनिक दक्षता, सेवा वितरण, और क्षेत्रीय प्रबंधन में सुधार होगा।

### नीतिगत घोषणाएं

## मुख्य घोषणाएं

### I. महाराष्ट्र

- A. **महाराष्ट्र राज्य संपीड़ित बायोगैस (CBG) नीति, 2026:** महाराष्ट्र कैबिनेट ने 'महाराष्ट्र राज्य संपीड़ित बायोगैस (CBG) नीति, 2026' को स्वीकृति दी है। यह व्यवहार अंतराल वित्तपोषण (वायुबिलिटी गैप फंडिंग) के माध्यम से नगरपालिका और कृषि कचरे को संपीड़ित बायोगैस में बदलने को बढ़ावा देती है। इसमें सार्वजनिक-निजी भागीदारी (PPP) आधारित परियोजना कार्यान्वयन और स्वच्छ ऊर्जा उत्पादन के साथ अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन प्रणालियों का एकीकरण शामिल है।

### II. ओडिशा

- A. **ओडिशा राज्य डेटा नीति 2.0:** ओडिशा कैबिनेट ने 'ओडिशा राज्य डेटा नीति 2.0' को स्वीकृति दी है। यह एक राज्य डेटा प्राधिकरण और बहु-स्तरीय निगरानी तंत्र के साथ एक व्यापक डेटा शासन ढाँचा स्थापित करती है। यह विभागों में सुरक्षित डेटा साझाकरण, अंतर-संचालनीयता और गोपनीयता-अनुरूप डिजिटल शासन के लिए मानकीकृत प्रोटोकॉल भी स्थापित करती है।
- B. **सिटी गैस वितरण नीति, 2026:** ओडिशा कैबिनेट ने 'सिटी गैस वितरण नीति, 2026' को स्वीकृति दी है। यह सिंगल-विंडो समन्वय, शुल्क स्थगन, और ज़िला-स्तरीय निगरानी तंत्र के माध्यम से PNG और CNG बुनियादी ढाँचे के विस्तार के लिए एक एकीकृत अनुमोदन ढाँचा बनाती है। इससे स्वच्छ ऊर्जा को अपनाने और निजी निवेश को गति मिलेगी।
- C. **बी-मान (B-MAAN) विमानन विस्तार योजना, 2026:** ओडिशा सरकार ने 'बिल्डिंग एंड मैनेजमेंट ऑफ एविएशन एसेट्स एंड नेटवर्क (B-MAAN) योजना 2025-30' के अंतर्गत 10 नए उड़ान मार्गों को स्वीकृति दी है। क्षेत्रीय कनेक्टिविटी का विस्तार करने, हवाई पट्टी के बुनियादी ढाँचे को उन्नत करने, और विमानन-संबंधी प्रशिक्षण क्षमता विकसित करने के लिए ₹4,182 करोड़ का परिव्यय समर्थित है।

### III. उत्तराखंड

- A. **उत्तराखंड सड़क कनेक्टिविटी और पर्यटन बुनियादी ढाँचा योजना, 2026:** उत्तराखंड सरकार ने ₹74,100 करोड़ की पाँच वर्षीय मास्टर प्लान का उद्घाटन किया है। इस योजना में 5,735 किलोमीटर ग्रामीण सड़कों को बारहमासी मार्गों में अपग्रेड करना शामिल है। इसमें शहरी भीड़भाड़ कम करने की परियोजनाओं में ₹12,000 करोड़ का निवेश, 1,200 पुलों का आधुनिकीकरण, और भूस्खलन से बचाव को मजबूत करना शामिल है। इसका उद्देश्य राज्य भर में पर्यटन और औद्योगिक कॉरिडोर तक पहुँच में सुधार करना है।

## सामाजिक क्षेत्र की घोषणाएं

### I. कर्नाटक

## मुख्य घोषणाएं

- A. **अनुसूचित जातियों का उप-वर्गीकरण और आंतरिक आरक्षण:** कर्नाटक कैबिनेट ने मौजूदा 15% अनुसूचित जाति आरक्षण के भीतर उप-वर्गीकरण को स्वीकृति दी है। विभिन्न अनुसूचित जाति उप-समूहों के बीच आरक्षण लाभों का न्यायसंगत वितरण सुनिश्चित करने के लिए श्रेणी-वार आंतरिक कोटा शुरू किया गया है।

### II. छत्तीसगढ़

- A. **महिलाओं और रक्षा कर्मियों के लिए संपत्ति पंजीकरण शुल्क में कमी:** छत्तीसगढ़ कैबिनेट ने महिलाओं के लिए संपत्ति पंजीकरण शुल्क में 50% की कमी को स्वीकृति दी है। सेवारत सैनिकों, पूर्व सैनिकों, और विधवाओं को ₹25 लाख तक की संपत्ति खरीद पर स्टाम्प शुल्क में 25% की छूट दी गई है। इसका उद्देश्य महिलाओं के नेतृत्व वाले संपत्ति स्वामित्व को बढ़ावा देना और रक्षा कर्मियों के लिए आवास तक पहुँच का समर्थन करना है।

## निवेश घोषणा

### I. आंध्र प्रदेश

- A. **आंध्र प्रदेश NPSPL कैथोड सामग्री विनिर्माण परियोजना, 2026:** आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार ने 'एन.पी.एस.पी.एल कैथोड सामग्री विनिर्माण परियोजना, 2026' को स्वीकृति दी है। यह बड़े पैमाने पर बैटरी सामग्री विनिर्माण बुनियादी ढाँचा स्थापित करती है। इसका उद्देश्य इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन आपूर्ति श्रृंखला को मजबूत करना, औद्योगिक निवेश आकर्षित करना, और राज्य को उन्नत ऊर्जा विनिर्माण के लिए एक रणनीतिक केंद्र के रूप में स्थापित करना है।

### II. उत्तर प्रदेश

- A. **दवा विनिर्माण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए ₹2,000 करोड़ का निवेश:** उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने दवा विनिर्माण बुनियादी ढाँचे के विस्तार के लिए ₹2,000 करोड़ के निवेश को स्वीकृति दी है। इससे फार्मास्युटिकल उत्पादन क्षमता मजबूत होगी, औद्योगिक विकास को बढ़ावा मिलेगा, और थोक दवा और स्वास्थ्य सेवा विनिर्माण पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र में राज्य की स्थिति मजबूत होगी।

### III. ओडिशा

- A. **औद्योगिक निवेश अनुमोदन प्रस्ताव, 2026:** ओडिशा सरकार ने राज्य स्तरीय सिंगल विंडो क्लीयरेंस अथॉरिटी के माध्यम से ₹3,877.14 करोड़ की 18 औद्योगिक परियोजनाओं को स्वीकृति दी है। यह क्षेत्रीय विविधीकरण, मुख्य उद्योगों में क्षमता विस्तार, और कई जिलों में 7,500 से अधिक नौकरियों के सृजन को सक्षम करेगा।

## अन्य निर्णय

### I. उत्तर प्रदेश

- A. **नवयुग पालिका योजना (2026):** उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने ₹2,915 करोड़ की 'नवयुग पालिका योजना (2026)' शुरू

## मुख्य घोषणाएं

की है। यह पाँच वर्षीय शहरी बुनियादी ढाँचा रोडमैप है। इसका लक्ष्य 58 ज़िला मुख्यालयों के टीयर II और III कस्बों को लक्षित करना है। इसमें 100 नियोजित टाउनशिप का विकास, जनसंख्या-आधारित बुनियादी ढाँचा योजना, और बड़े शहरी निगमों से परे नगरपालिका आधुनिकीकरण का विस्तार शामिल है।

### II. नागालैंड

- A. **नागालैंड दोंयांग वन्यजीव प्रभाग पहल, 2026:** नागालैंड सरकार ने 'दोंयांग वन्यजीव प्रभाग पहल, 2026' शुरू की है। यह जैव विविधता संरक्षण को मजबूत करने, पारिस्थितिक निगरानी में सुधार करने, और दोंयांग क्षेत्र में वन्यजीव आवासों और प्रवासी पक्षी पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र की सुरक्षा बढ़ाने के लिए एक समर्पित वन्यजीव प्रशासन ढाँचा बनाती है।

## Reform Decisions

### I. Delhi

#### A. Delhi Jan Vishwas (Amendment Of Provisions) Act, 2026

Source: [The Government Of Delhi](#) | Impact: High

1. On 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2026, the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi published the Delhi Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026.
2. This legislation overhauls the penalty structures for eight significant enactments, shifting from criminal imprisonment and fines to a civil penalty-based framework.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The legislation amends eight major state enactments, including the Delhi Shops and Establishments Act (1954), the Delhi Water Board Act (1998), and the Delhi Electricity Reform Act (2000), to replace criminal punishments with civil penalties.
  - b. The legislation also introduces a mandatory escalation mechanism under which the minimum fines and penalties will increase by 10% every three years from the date of the Act's commencement.
  - c. It establishes a structured adjudication and appeal process, appointing Adjudicating Officers (typically not below the rank of Executive Director or equivalent) to conduct inquiries and impose penalties.
  - d. It replaces all references to the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) with the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023,<sup>1</sup> Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023,<sup>2</sup> and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA), 2023.<sup>3</sup>
  - e. Under the new framework, the Chief Inspector of Shops is designated as the Adjudicating Officer for retail sector violations, while the Secretary of the Marketing Committee handles agricultural produce disputes.
  - f. For industrial areas, the Act targets civil penalties toward the person in charge of company business operations to ensure direct accountability.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - It directly aligns the legal framework of the Union Territory with the Central Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023,<sup>4</sup> and Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026.<sup>5</sup>
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Delhi has joined 10 other states/UTs such as

<sup>1</sup> [The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita \(BNSS\), 2023.](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam \(BSA\), 2023.](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2023.](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Bill, 2026.](#)

## A. Delhi Jan Vishwas (Amendment Of Provisions) Act, 2026

Source: [The Government Of Delhi](#) | Impact: High

Puducherry,<sup>6</sup> Maharashtra,<sup>7</sup> Haryana,<sup>8</sup> Odisha,<sup>9</sup> Madhya Pradesh,<sup>10</sup> Tripura,<sup>11</sup> Gujarat,<sup>12</sup> Chhattisgarh,<sup>13</sup> Uttarakhand,<sup>14</sup> and Jammu and Kashmir<sup>15</sup> which have undertaken similar reforms, strengthening India's broader compliance-reduction agenda.

### 6. Relevance -

- a. The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) reports over 14 lakh pending criminal cases in Delhi's district courts.<sup>16</sup> By moving thousands of "technical defaults" such as shop registration delays or water line encroachments to administrative Adjudicating Officers, the Act significantly reduces the burden on criminal courts.
- b. Delhi has historically been categorised in the "Aspirers" list<sup>17</sup> (securing scores below 80%) in the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP)<sup>18</sup> rankings.<sup>19</sup> The systemic decriminalisation under the Act is a critical enabler for reducing the "compliance burden," which is a primary metric for moving Delhi toward the "Fast Mover" or "Achiever"<sup>20</sup> categories.
- c. The recovery of civil penalties as arrears of land revenue<sup>21</sup> ensures that the state can effectively collect fines without the delays inherent in judicial trials, improving non-tax revenue efficiency.
- d. The Act also updates outdated fine amounts in the Delhi Shops and Establishments Act, 1954<sup>22</sup> (e.g., from ₹ 250 to ₹ 25,000) to ensure penalties remain

<sup>6</sup> [The Puducherry Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Bill, 2025.](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Maharashtra Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2025.](#)

<sup>8</sup> [The Haryana Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Bill, 2025.](#)

<sup>9</sup> [The Odisha Jan Vishwas Act, 2025.](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Madhya Pradesh Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2024.](#)

<sup>11</sup> [The Tripura Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2025.](#)

<sup>12</sup> [The Gujarat Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2025.](#)

<sup>13</sup> [The Chhattisgarh Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2025.](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Ordinance, 2025.](#)

<sup>15</sup> [Jammu And Kashmir Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Bill, 2026.](#)

<sup>16</sup> [National Judicial Data Grid.](#)

<sup>17</sup> Aspirers refers to states/UTs scoring below 80% in the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) assessment, indicating partial implementation of prescribed reforms and relatively higher regulatory and compliance burdens.

<sup>18</sup> BRAP 2024 is set to establish a seamless business regulatory framework across the country, enhancing the ease of doing business. States are categorized as "Top Achievers" (above 95%), "Achievers" (90–95%), "Fast Movers" (80–90%), and "Aspirers" (below 80%) based on their compliance with the action plan, reflecting the Government's commitment to creating a business-friendly environment.

<sup>19</sup> [PIB, February, 2026.](#)

<sup>20</sup> A "Fast Mover" or "Achiever" refers to a state or entity that demonstrates rapid and consistent progress across key reform indicators within a defined assessment period, often reflecting strong implementation capacity, policy prioritisation, and measurable improvements in performance metrics relative to peers.

<sup>21</sup> Arrears of land revenue are unpaid government dues on land, recoverable through methods like demand notices or attachment/sale of property (movable or immovable).

<sup>22</sup> [The Delhi Shops And Establishments Act, 1954.](#)

**A. Delhi Jan Vishwas (Amendment Of Provisions) Act, 2026****Source:** [The Government Of Delhi](#) | **Impact:** High

a relevant deterrent against planning violations.

- e. Lastly, by targeting civil penalties at the **person in charge** of business operations, the Act prevents corporate entities from hiding behind legal personality. It creates a direct personal-financial liability for the decision-makers, which is often a more effective deterrent than a corporate fine.

## II. Madhya Pradesh

### A. Rural Land Acquisition Compensation Enhancement, 2026

Source: [India Today](#) | Impact: High

1. On 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2026, the Madhya Pradesh Cabinet approved the doubling of the multiplication factor for rural agricultural land acquisition from 1.0 to 2.0 under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Rules, 2015,<sup>23</sup> effectively raising total compensation from double to **four times the market value**.
2. The decision comes into effect immediately and applies to all development projects in rural areas, including those undertaken by the Central and state Governments for key projects such as **railway lines and dam construction**. However, the Urban compensation norms remain unchanged.
3. **Key Features** -
  - a. The Implementation of a Factor-Based System under the Land Acquisition Act, 2015, facilitates a re-determination of land prices, utilising an increased multiplier to ensure significantly higher payouts for landowners.
  - b. Equitable Land Acquisition is a primary objective of the new framework, which seeks to mitigate farmer resistance and minimise the grievances typically associated with Government land procurement.
  - c. Acceleration of Infrastructure Development is targeted by encouraging landowners to part with their property more willingly, thereby preventing the delays that frequently stall road, industrial, and public utility projects.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The initiative aligns with the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (RFCTLARR) Act, 2013,<sup>24</sup> which provides a 1.0 to 2.0 multiplier to rural land market values, to reach the 4x compensation threshold.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Jharkhand, and Bihar have adopted higher multiplication factors for land acquired under Central infrastructure projects, particularly National Highway projects, using compensation multipliers of up to 2.0 under the RFCTLARR Act framework to improve landowner compensation and reduce acquisition disputes.<sup>25</sup>
6. **Relevance** -
  - a. Land acquisition is the single largest cause of infrastructure project delays nationally, exceeding environment and forest clearance delays, with 35% of all

<sup>23</sup> [Madhya Pradesh Right To Fair Compensation And Transparency In Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation And Resettlement Rules, 2015.](#)

<sup>24</sup> [Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement \(RFCTLARR\) Act, 2013.](#)

<sup>25</sup> [A Manual of Guidelines on Land Acquisition for National Highways.](#)

### A. Rural Land Acquisition Compensation Enhancement, 2026

Source: [India Today](#) | Impact: High

highway project delays directly attributed to protracted compensation disputes<sup>26</sup>  
This enhanced multiplier directly addresses such a structural bottleneck.

- b. The state has attracted over ₹ 26.6 lakh crore in investment proposals at Global Investors Summit (GIS) 2025, expected to create 17.34 lakh jobs, with the Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion Department alone receiving over ₹ 8.6 lakh crore in proposals.<sup>27</sup> Inadequate compensation fuelling farmer resistance was one of the key friction points between the state's investment ambitions and actual project operationalisation.
- c. Further, the state's GSDP was estimated at ₹ 16.69 lakh crore for FY 2025-26.<sup>28</sup> The target to reach **₹ 248.6 lakh crore by 2047-48**<sup>29</sup> is infrastructure-dependent. With the Ahilya Path project in Indore already stalled over land acquisition<sup>30</sup> and multiple expressway and industrial corridor projects facing similar friction, the compensation revision is a direct enabler of this growth agenda.
- d. Madhya Pradesh's cabinet approved ₹ 33,985 crore for irrigation and road projects, including four large dams under Chhindwara Irrigation Complex Project.<sup>31</sup> Large-scale submergence projects<sup>32</sup> like the Ken-Betwa Link<sup>33</sup> and the Chhindwara irrigation complex require displacing farmers from productive agricultural land on a massive scale.
- e. By offering up to four times compensation, the state turns a likely conflict into a negotiable deal, making large-scale irrigation expansion more feasible.

<sup>26</sup> [The Print, March, 2025.](#)

<sup>27</sup> [Outlook, February, 2025.](#)

<sup>28</sup> [Economic Survey 2025-26.](#)

<sup>29</sup> [MP Info, February 2025.](#)

<sup>30</sup> [The Free Press Journal, February, 2025.](#)

<sup>31</sup> [MP Info, April 2026](#)

<sup>32</sup> Submergence projects refers to large irrigation or river-linking projects, such as dams and reservoirs, that require deliberately flooding land to store or redirect water.

<sup>33</sup> [Ken-Betwa Link Project.](#)

### III. Maharashtra

#### A. Agricultural Lands (Ceiling On Holdings) (Conversion Of Occupant Class-II To Class-I) Rules, 2026

Source: [Pudhari News](#) | Impact: High

1. On 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2026, the Maharashtra Cabinet approved the Maharashtra Agricultural Lands (Ceiling on Holdings) (Conversion of Occupant Class-II to Class-I) Rules, 2026.
2. The Rules aim to operationalise a uniform and simplified framework for converting Occupant Class-II land tenure, where Government-allotted land carries transfer restrictions, into Class-I ownership, which provides full and unrestricted ownership rights, by rationalising premium rates, easing transfer restrictions, and enabling full ownership rights for beneficiaries of land distributed under ceiling laws.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. It provides for the conversion of Occupant Class-II<sup>34</sup> land to Class-I<sup>35</sup> tenure, benefiting over 1.09 lakh landholders covering nearly 1.73 lakh hectares.
  - b. It proposes a **revised premium structure** linked to ready reckoner values, including 30% in urban areas and 25% in rural areas for non-transferred land.
  - c. It introduces differentiated premium rates based on land use and transfer status, including lower rates for non-agricultural use in rural areas.
  - d. It mandates a decentralised approval mechanism, allowing district collectors to clear cases up to ₹ 50 lakh, with higher-value cases requiring state approval.
  - e. It enables the removal of restrictions on transfer, mortgage, and land use post conversion, granting full ownership rights.
4. **Relevance -**
  - a. The land distributed under the Maharashtra Agricultural Lands (Ceiling on Holdings) Act, 1961,<sup>36</sup> remained under Class II occupancy for decades, requiring Government permission and payment of charges for any transfer or use change,<sup>37</sup> effectively limiting ownership rights of intended beneficiaries. The Rules enable conversion to full ownership (Class I), benefiting over 1.09 lakh landholders across 1.73 lakh hectares and restoring economic agency over redistributed land.
  - b. Earlier, conversion of Class II land attracted an unearned income charge of 75% of the ready reckoner value under executive orders,<sup>38</sup> a legally contested basis that led to prolonged litigation and extreme delays, including cases pending over two

<sup>34</sup> These are restricted tenure lands granted by the government for specific purposes (e.g., farming, residential) to specific beneficiaries (e.g., Freedom Fighters, SC/ST, ex-servicemen) that cannot be easily sold, gifted, or mortgaged.

<sup>35</sup> An Occupant Class-I is a holder of unalienated land (land not restricted by government ownership conditions) who holds the land in perpetuity without restrictions on transfer.

<sup>36</sup> [Maharashtra Agricultural Lands \(Ceiling On Holdings\) Act, 1961](#).

<sup>37</sup> [The Economic Times, April, 2026](#).

<sup>38</sup> *M/S. Niketan Land And Estate Pvt. Ltd. v. State Of Maharashtra*, Writ Petition No. 6747 of 2016.

**A. Agricultural Lands (Ceiling On Holdings) (Conversion Of Occupant Class-II To Class-I) Rules, 2026****Source:** [Pudhari News](#) | **Impact:** High

decades. The Rules replace this with a codified, lower premium structure linked to ready reckoner rates, establishing a single, transparent valuation basis and eliminating dispute-driven delays.

- c. In land markets, “Restricted Tenure” creates high transaction costs (like legal fees, bribes, delays). By codifying the premium at 25-30%, the state creates price certainty. A farmer now knows exactly what it costs to own their land fully, preventing middleman exploitation during the conversion process.
- d. Earlier, the absence of a uniform conversion mechanism created legal uncertainty, high transaction costs, and prolonged disputes. By codifying premium rates and procedures, the reform can reduce delays and provide predictable costs for landholders.
- e. The decision is significant because it converts redistributive land reform from a limited-use entitlement into a fuller property right. By enabling Class I ownership, it restores economic agency for beneficiaries of ceiling-surplus land and improves transparency and liquidity within the rural land market.

## IV. Ladakh

### A. Ladakh District Reorganisation Order, 2026

Source: [The Hindu](#) | Impact: High

1. On 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2026, the Ladakh Administration approved the creation of five new districts in Ladakh.
2. The policy aims to strengthen administrative decentralisation in Ladakh by creating new districts to improve governance access, enhance public service delivery, reduce administrative distances in remote regions, and enable more effective implementation of development programmes across geographically dispersed populations.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The order proposes creation of five new districts:
    - i. Nubra (Headquarters: Diskit)
    - ii. Sham (Headquarters: Khaltse)
    - iii. Changthang from Leh (Headquarters: Nyoma)
    - iv. Zaskar (Headquarters: Padum)
    - v. Drass (Headquarters: Drass-Ranbirpura)
  - b. The order introduces defined territorial limits for all seven districts, with revenue village allocations: Leh (44), Nubra (30), Changthang (24), Kargil (80), Sham (27), Zaskar (26), and Drass (19).
  - c. It further mandates reallocation of administrative resources, personnel, and infrastructure across newly created districts and enables targeted implementation of development schemes through smaller administrative units.
7. **Relevance -**
  - a. The creation of new districts in Ladakh has been a persistent public aspiration, particularly in regions like Zaskar, Nubra, Drass and Sham, where people have long complained of geographic remoteness and lack of administrative architecture. Residents of these areas had to face arduous travel merely to access basic administrative services, obtain documents, or resolve land and revenue matters.
  - b. The order directly addresses the access deficit by reducing the administrative catchment area of each district, with 33 new sub-units (six tehsils, nine niabats, eighteen Patwari circles) creating last-mile governance nodes. The simultaneous appointment of DCs and SPs, combined with a 4,359-post recruitment drive via UPSC and the Ladakh Subordinate Services Staff Selection Board, reflects operationalisation within a single administrative cycle, avoiding the typical gap between notification and functional governance seen in prior district reorganisations.
  - c. The increase from two to seven districts directly reduces administrative load per

**A. Ladakh District Reorganisation Order, 2026****Source:** [The Hindu](#) | **Impact:** High

district and shortens service delivery distances, enabling closer proximity of governance institutions to local populations. Smaller jurisdictions improve monitoring efficiency, administrative responsiveness, and implementation capacity for central and UT-level schemes.

- d. Administrative decentralisation in low-density, high-altitude regions improves targeting of welfare delivery and infrastructure planning. Enhanced district-level governance is expected to strengthen border area administration, reduce service access delays, and improve utilisation of public expenditure through more localised planning and execution.

## V. Andhra Pradesh

### A. Andhra Pradesh Municipal Laws (Second Amendment) Act, 2026

**Source:** [The Government Of Andhra Pradesh](#), [The New Indian Express](#) | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2026, the Government of Andhra Pradesh issued orders operationalising the Andhra Pradesh Municipal Laws (Second Amendment) Act, 2026 (the Amendment).
2. The reform aims to incentivise **faster construction activity** on vacant urban land by reducing the tax burden during the construction phase, thereby accelerating housing supply, improving land utilisation efficiency, and supporting real estate sector recovery.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The Amendment provides for collection of only 50% of Vacant Land Tax (VLT)<sup>39</sup> during the building construction period.
  - b. It defines the concession period from grant of building permission until occupancy certificate issuance, construction completion, or expiry of permission validity, whichever occurs earlier.
  - c. The Government mandates applicability of the concession across municipalities, municipal corporations, and nagar panchayats for legally approved constructions.
  - d. The reform excludes unauthorised constructions and projects from availing the tax concession.
  - e. The implementation framework enables automatic application of the concession through municipal administration systems and related Gazette notifications.
4. **Relevance -**
  - a. Earlier, developers in Andhra Pradesh paid full VLT even after construction had begun, creating no distinction between active projects and idle landholding.<sup>40</sup> The Amendment corrects this by reducing VLT by 50% during construction across all Urban Local Bodies (ULB), lowering carrying costs and incentivising faster project completion.
  - b. The Amendment resolves a key tension between ULB revenue dependence on VLT and developer demands for relief during construction. Instead of a full exemption, the state introduced a 50% concession, preserving municipal revenue while reducing project carrying costs.<sup>41</sup> The relief is also automatically applicable for approved projects, removing **discretionary, case-by-case approvals** at the ULB level.
  - c. Further, Andhra Pradesh's ULBs carry over ₹ 2,400 crore in property and VLT

<sup>39</sup> Vacant Land Tax (VLT) is a municipal tax levied on undeveloped urban land to discourage holding vacant property and encourage development.

<sup>40</sup> [Deccan Chronicle, April, 2026.](#)

<sup>41</sup> [Municipal Administration And Urban Development Department, Andhra Pradesh.](#)

### A. Andhra Pradesh Municipal Laws (Second Amendment) Act, 2026

**Source:** [The Government Of Andhra Pradesh](#), [The New Indian Express](#) | **Impact:** Medium

arrears, with average collection efficiency at just 45%, causing most ULBs to miss 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission performance benchmarks.<sup>42</sup> The Amendment's automatic 50% VLT concession reduces compliance friction during construction, encouraging formal building approvals and declaration of project commencement, thereby improving the taxable base for ULB revenues.

- d. In real estate economics, taxes form part of the **Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC)**,<sup>43</sup> and full VLT during a typical three-year construction cycle can raise project costs by 2–3% on large developments. The 50% concession therefore acts as an **indirect supply-side subsidy** for housing and commercial construction without requiring direct fiscal expenditure from the state.
- e. By making the VLT concession automatically applicable through municipal administration systems, Andhra Pradesh reduces discretionary approvals and removes human touchpoints in the taxation process. This strengthens the state's Ease of Doing Business framework and aligns with the requirements of institutional investors.

<sup>42</sup> [The South First, March, 2026.](#)

<sup>43</sup> [The World Bank, June, 2011.](#)

## VI. Bihar

### A. Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Upgradation And Research Park Development Initiative, 2026

Source: [Patna Press](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2026, the Bihar Government sanctioned a comprehensive investment of ₹ 1,562 crore to overhaul the state's technical education and startup ecosystem.
2. The reform focuses on **two primary anchors**: the modernisation of 75 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) under the PM-SETU scheme and the establishment of a state-of-the-art Research Park and incubation hub at IIT Patna.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. It provides for upgrading 75 ITIs into modern skill training centers with a total project outlay of ₹ 3,615 crore, of which the state cabinet approved ₹ 1,192.95 crore as its 33% share.
  - b. Introduction of advanced curriculum in emerging sectors including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Semiconductors, Retail, and Sales to enhance the employability of roughly 70,000 youth by 2030.
  - c. It sanctioned ₹ 305 crore for an 11-acre Research Park at IIT Patna, targeting innovation in life sciences, healthcare, advanced manufacturing, and data analytics.
  - d. It provides long-term leases to approximately 100 companies within the Research Park to foster industry-academia collaboration.
  - e. Approval of ₹ 39 crore for Phase 2 of the IIT Patna incubation center and ₹ 25 crore for a specialized Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) facility.
  - f. It establishes a Seed Fund initiative to support 80 deep-tech ventures over five years, including infrastructure for startup professional housing.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The ITI upgrade is a direct execution of the Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation Through Upgraded ITI mission (PM-SETU),<sup>44</sup> which aims to bridge the gap between vocational training and industrial demand.
5. **Relevance -**
  - a. During the last three decades, Bihar's share, in nominal terms, in the national GDP has decreased from 3.6 percent in 1990-91 to 2.8 percent in 2021-22. Its nominal per capita income was only 30 percent of the national per capita income in 2021-22.<sup>45</sup>
  - b. Upgrading 75 ITIs to train 70,000 youth in AI, semiconductors, and ESDM-linked trades directly addresses the skill-side constraint on Bihar's structural inability to attract secondary sector investment.

<sup>44</sup> [PM-SETU](#).

<sup>45</sup> [Macro And Fiscal Landscape Of The State Of Bihar, NITI Aayog, 2025](#).

### A. Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Upgradation And Research Park Development Initiative, 2026

Source: [Patna Press](#) | Impact: Medium

- c. As per the e-SHRAM portal<sup>46</sup> maintained by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, more than 3.2 crore workers from Bihar had registered as unorganised workers as of April 2023.<sup>47</sup> More than 90% migrant workers from rural Bihar go to other states within India,<sup>48</sup> with high population density and limited livelihood choices cited as the principal drivers of distress migration.
- d. The ITI modernisation thus creates industry-aligned credentials for a workforce that currently migrates to other states for semi-skilled factory employment.
- e. Further, the Research Park's focus on life sciences, advanced manufacturing, and data analytics at IIT Patna establishes a state-level anchor for technology commercialisation and industry-academia linkage, addressing the absence of a **structured innovation ecosystem**. This is reflected in Bihar's limited investment inflows, with the state attracting only ₹ 1.19 crore in FDI in FY 2024-25,<sup>49</sup> indicating weak integration with high-value technology and manufacturing sectors.

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<sup>46</sup> The e-Shram portal is a Ministry of Labour & Employment initiative that creates a national, Aadhaar-seeded database of unorganized workers.

<sup>47</sup> [e-Shram Dashboard](#).

<sup>48</sup> [PubMed Central, 2020](#).

<sup>49</sup> [State-Wise Fdi Equity Inflow During Financial Year 2024-25](#).

## VII. Odisha

### A. Odisha State Tax On Professions, Trades, Callings And Employments (Repeal) Ordinance, 2026

Source: [The Government Of Odisha](#), [SCC Times](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2026, the Government of Odisha notified the Odisha State Tax on Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments (Repeal) Ordinance, 2026.
2. The Ordinance officially abolishes the “**Professional Tax**”<sup>50</sup> previously levied on individuals engaged in various trades and employments within the state. The repeal is effective retrospectively from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2026, signaling a major shift in the state’s fiscal policy toward individual taxpayers and businesses.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. Salaried employees in both the public and private sectors will no longer see Professional Tax deductions from their paychecks starting from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2026.
  - b. Employers are completely relieved of the statutory burden to deduct, collect, or remit Professional Tax for any employment period beginning on or after the repeal date.
  - c. The Ordinance includes a “savings clause” which ensures that the repeal does not affect taxes already paid or payable before the 1<sup>st</sup> April deadline.
  - d. Any legal proceedings, assessments, or recovery actions concerning tax liabilities incurred prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2026, will continue as if the original Act had not been repealed.
  - e. The statutory framework that mandated monthly or annual payments based on professional categories is entirely dismantled for all future periods.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The repeal directly supports the Union Government’s **Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP)**<sup>51</sup> by removing redundant compliance provision and streamlining the regulatory framework.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States like Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh and Goa do not levy a professional tax.<sup>52</sup>
6. **Relevance -**
  - a. The repeal removes a small but recurring compliance layer for employers, salaried employees, professionals and small businesses in Odisha. While Professional Tax was constitutionally permitted under Article 276 of the Constitution of India<sup>53</sup> and capped at ₹ 2,500 per person annually, its administrative value was limited when compared with the compliance effort required for registration, deduction, return filing, assessment and recovery.

<sup>50</sup> Professional Tax is a state-level direct tax on income from employment, profession, trade, or calling, levied under Article 276 of the Constitution.

<sup>51</sup> [Business Reform Action Plan \(BRAP\)](#).

<sup>52</sup> [Futurex, April, 2026](#).

<sup>53</sup> [Indian Kanoon](#).

**A. Odisha State Tax On Professions, Trades, Callings And Employments (Repeal) Ordinance, 2026**

**Source:** [The Government Of Odisha](#), [SCC Times](#) | **Impact:** Medium

- b. The reform is fiscally manageable in the state's broader revenue context. Odisha's GSDP is estimated at ₹ 9.88 lakh crore<sup>54</sup> in FY 2025-26, while own tax revenue is budgeted at ₹ 66,000 crore,<sup>55</sup> led mainly by State GST, Sales Tax and State Excise. Repealing Professional Tax therefore represents a targeted fiscal clean-up rather than a major revenue sacrifice.
- c. The Ordinance also strengthens Odisha's broader ease-of-doing-business positioning by reducing payroll compliance for employers and removing a minor deduction from salaried workers' income. Its main significance lies in simplification, compliance reduction and improving the state's taxpayer-facing regulatory environment. The state already achieved a 98% implementation rate under the BRAP 2024, completing 425 out of 434 reforms.<sup>56</sup>

<sup>54</sup> [Odisha Economic Survey 2025-26, Page 6.](#)

<sup>55</sup> [Odisha Economic Survey 2025-26, Page 75.](#)

<sup>56</sup> [Odisha Economic Survey 2025-26, Page 179.](#)

## Policy Level Announcements

### I. Maharashtra

#### A. Maharashtra State Compressed Biogas (CBG) Policy, 2026

Source: [The Economic Times](#) | Impact: High

1. On 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2026, the Maharashtra Cabinet approved the Maharashtra State Compressed Biogas (CBG) Policy, 2026.
2. The policy aims to promote scientific waste management by converting municipal and agricultural waste into **compressed biogas**, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and developing a clean energy ecosystem while lowering dependence on fossil fuels.
3. **Key Features** -
  - a. It provides an outlay of ₹ 500 crore for 2026–27, including viability gap funding and project-level financial support.
  - b. It mandates the implementation of CBG projects through public-private partnership and hybrid annuity models with district-level coordination committees.
  - c. It introduces a minimum project capacity threshold of 200 tonnes per day with provisions for greenfield, brownfield, and cluster-based models.
  - d. It enables integration of solid waste management systems with biogas production, including segregation, collection, and processing by local bodies.
  - e. It provides financial incentives, including subsidies up to ₹ 10 crore per project and supports participation of private developers, Public Sector Undertakings, and oil and gas companies.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - It aligns with the GOBARdhan initiative<sup>57</sup> and the SATAT scheme<sup>58</sup> of the Government of India, which promotes compressed biogas production and waste-to-energy conversion.
5. **Similar Initiatives in Other States** - Gujarat has implemented waste-to-energy projects integrating municipal solid waste systems and providing lands at a token lease rent of ₹ 1 to the waste-to-energy plants.<sup>59</sup>
6. **Relevance** -
  - a. Maharashtra generates about 24,500 MT of municipal waste daily, with around 50%-60% organic fraction still routed to landfills, where it decomposes anaerobically,<sup>60</sup> releasing high-intensity methane and contaminating groundwater through leachate. The Policy addresses this by mandating source segregation across 423 ULBs and linking organic waste streams to biogas production, converting a pollution source into an energy input.

<sup>57</sup> [PIB, February, 2026.](#)

<sup>58</sup> [PIB, December, 2022.](#)

<sup>59</sup> [Gujarat Waste To Energy Policy, 2022.](#)

<sup>60</sup> [Deccan Chronicle, April, 2026.](#)

### A. Maharashtra State Compressed Biogas (CBG) Policy, 2026

Source: [The Economic Times](#) | Impact: High

- b. Maharashtra generates 46 million MT of crop residue annually, with over 20 million MT burned or wasted, releasing significant pollutants.<sup>61</sup> This creates both an environmental and a resource loss. The Policy converts this residue into feedstock for biogas projects, creating incentives for farmers to supply rather than burn it.
- c. The SATAT initiative targeted 5,000 CBG plants<sup>62</sup> but had only about 204 commissioned as of now,<sup>63</sup> with output under 1% of potential, reflecting a clear execution gap. Maharashtra, already leading with 27 projects,<sup>64</sup> addresses this through the Policy by adding ₹ 500 crore Viability Gap Funding (VGF) and creating district and state-level coordination bodies, bridging the gap between the project's goal and commissioning.
- d. The Centre has mandated phased CBG blending in Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for transport and Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for domestic consumption, from 1% in FY 2025-26 to 5% from FY 2028-29 for all City Gas Distribution entities.<sup>65</sup> Maharashtra's large gas distribution network gives it one of the country's biggest compliance obligations under this framework. The mandate creates guaranteed demand for CBG, addressing the offtake uncertainty that had stalled projects under SATAT and giving the Maharashtra CBG Policy 2026 a clear demand-side anchor.
- e. Lastly, by promoting cluster-based projects, the state is enabling a regional gas grid. In areas where one city does not have enough waste, the policy allows for 3-4 cities to pool their organic waste at a central CBG plant, making the project technically viable in Tier-2 and Tier-3 districts.

<sup>61</sup> [Indian Data Insights, August, 2022.](#)

<sup>62</sup> [PIB, December, 2022.](#)

<sup>63</sup> [GOBARDhan.](#)

<sup>64</sup> [Reglobal, July, 2025.](#)

<sup>65</sup> [PIB, November 2023.](#)

## B. Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB) Reformed Advertisement Policy, 2026

Source: [The Economic Times](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2026, the MMB introduced a reformed advertisement policy to regulate and expand advertising activities across coastal and maritime zones in Maharashtra.
2. The policy aims to **generate additional non-tax revenue**, create a transparent and structured advertising ecosystem, and position MMB as an active player in the outdoor advertising sector.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. This introduces a comprehensive regulatory framework governing advertisements on MMB-controlled coastal and maritime areas.
  - b. It expands the permissible formats to include hoardings on coastal land, advertisements on vessels, barges, and floatels.
  - c. It approves diverse formats such as digital displays (LED/LCD), banners, posters, neon signs, laser shows, and even hot air balloon advertising.
  - d. It allows mobile and innovative advertising formats, including vehicle-based and floating advertisements.
  - e. It allocates advertising rights through a transparent competitive bidding process, with bidders quoting a premium over base license fees.
  - f. The MMB will identify specific zones and formats allowed in each area, ensuring planned and regulated development.
  - g. The policy also covers leasing of land and spaces under MMB jurisdiction for advertising and related commercial use.
4. **Relevance -**
  - a. The MMB, governing 720 km of coastline and 48 non-major ports,<sup>66</sup> lacked a statutory framework for advertising, resulting in ad-hoc permissions and revenue under-realisation. The policy mandates competitive bidding, premium-based licence fees, and long-term contracts, creating a transparent, market-linked revenue stream aligned with capital commitments.
  - b. It, therefore, opens a new revenue stream for the MMB while also ensuring planned and regulated advertisement spaces.
  - c. The unregulated hoarding installations in Maharashtra have led to serious public safety failures. A high-level inquiry found that structures exceeded permissible limits by over three times,<sup>67</sup> attributing the collapse to enforcement failure and collusion between private parties and civic officials.
  - d. The policy mandates prior approvals, certified structural design with load calculations, and compulsory NOCs, shifting the framework to verifiable

<sup>66</sup> [SagarMala, Ministry Of Ports, Shipping, And Waterways.](#)

<sup>67</sup> [Hindustan Times, March, 2026.](#)

**B. Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB) Reformed Advertisement Policy, 2026**

**Source:** [The Economic Times](#) | **Impact:** Medium

compliance and accountability.

- e. Further, India's Out-of-Home (OOH) market reached USD 568 million (₹ 4,700 crore) in 2024, growing 13.4% YoY, with Digital Out-of-Home (DOOH) projected to reach 44.1% by 2029 at 16.5% CAGR.<sup>68</sup>
- f. Premium sites like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport command a major share of it, while coastal corridors remain unstructured. The policy formalises MMB coastal inventory through standardised formats and ₹ 1,000 per sq. metre pricing, creating a market-linked asset class.
- g. Lastly, while airports and malls are saturated, the sea-facing and maritime corridors represent high-dwell time zones (commuters on the Atal Setu or visitors at Gateways). By formalising this, the MMB is creating an economic rent on a public resource that was previously being exploited by illegal operators at zero benefit to the treasury.<sup>69</sup>

<sup>68</sup> [Media4Growth, December, 2025.](#)

<sup>69</sup> [The Economic Times, April, 2026.](#)

### C. Mahavitaran Restructuring And Agricultural Feeder Separation Policy, 2026

**Source:** [The Government Of Maharashtra, Mid-Day](#) | **Impact:** High

1. On 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2026, the Maharashtra Government approved the Mahavitaran Restructuring and Agricultural Feeder Separation Policy, 2026.
2. The policy aims to restructure Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL) by separating **agricultural and non-agricultural power supply**, improving operational efficiency, reducing cross-subsidisation burdens, and enabling financial restructuring through a phased Initial Public Offering (IPO) roadmap.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The restructuring plan proposes bifurcation of MSEDCL into Mahavitaran for non-agricultural consumers and MSED Solar Agro Power Ltd (MSAPL) for agricultural power distribution.
  - b. The State Government provides for takeover of ₹ 32,679 crore MSEDCL debt through 15 year state-backed bonds with phased repayment provisions.
  - c. The reform package introduces an IPO roadmap for the non-agricultural distribution entity within 6–9 months through fresh equity issuance and offer for sale.
  - d. The Government mandates an escrow-based mechanism for timely agricultural subsidy disbursement and cash flow stabilisation.
  - e. The framework enables ₹ 2,500 crore capital support for MSAPL and seeks investments in smart metering, feeder solarisation, and grid modernisation.
4. **Similar Initiatives in Other States -** States such as Gujarat implemented large-scale feeder separation through the Jyotigram Yojana,<sup>70</sup> while Haryana and Rajasthan have undertaken DISCOM restructuring and targeted Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) loss-reduction reforms under state-led and centrally supported schemes.<sup>71</sup>
5. **Relevance -**
  - a. MSEDCL's debt stands at about ₹ 90,000 crore, with agricultural arrears alone exceeding ₹ 75,000 crore.<sup>72</sup> The AT&C losses rose from 16.9% in 2018–19 to 20.73% in 2020–21 due to weak recovery from farm consumers and Government departments, despite allocation of ₹ 4,960 crore under Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY).<sup>73</sup>
  - b. The bifurcation of MSEDCL and transfer of ₹ 32,679 crore in farm-linked borrowings to the state directly addresses the abovementioned structural recovery burden.

<sup>70</sup> [PIB, July, 2014.](#)

<sup>71</sup> [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

<sup>72</sup> [Hindustan Times, December, 2025.](#)

<sup>73</sup> [Business Standard, August, 2023](#)

### C. Mahavitaran Restructuring And Agricultural Feeder Separation Policy, 2026

**Source:** [The Government Of Maharashtra, Mid-Day](#) | **Impact:** High

- c. MSEDCL recovered only ₹ 0.63 per unit from agricultural consumers in FY20, against ₹ 8.34 from industrial and ₹ 7.42 from domestic users, creating a structural revenue gap that **cross-subsidy limits could not offset**.<sup>74</sup> The new MSEB Solar Agro Power Limited separates this loss-making agricultural load from the commercially viable business and shifts farm supply toward cheaper solar power, enabling restructuring of the remaining discom for a future IPO.
- d. MSEDCL is India's largest state-owned discom by revenue, recording ₹ 1.26 lakh crore in FY25 and 139.47 billion (i.e., 13,947 crore) units in energy sales, yet its debt burden has blocked capital market access.<sup>75</sup>
- e. The proposed IPO of the non-agricultural entity would make Mahavitaran the **first state-owned discom** to be publicly listed, unlocking equity funding for grid modernisation and energy transition investments. The restructuring also combines state-backed debt relief with capital market financing, unlike earlier discom bailout models such as UDAY.

<sup>74</sup> [The Institute Of Rural Management Anand.](#)

<sup>75</sup> [Powerline, July, 2025.](#)

## II. Odisha

### A. Odisha State Data Policy 2.0

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

1. On 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2026, Odisha State Cabinet approved the Odisha State Data Policy 2.0, representing a significant advancement in data-driven governance and digital transformation.
2. The policy is designed to institutionalise a robust framework governing the entire **lifecycle of data generated** by the State Government departments and associated organisations.
3. **Key Features** -
  - a. A Comprehensive Data Governance Framework has been established to oversee the entire data lifecycle, ensuring the systematic management and use of data generated by all State Government departments.
  - b. A Multi-Tier Governance Structure was approved to ensure effective execution, featuring State Data Steering and Governance Committees for strategic oversight and Department-Level Committees for local compliance.
  - c. The State Data Authority has been constituted to provide specialized guidance on data protection, interoperability, and state-wide capacity building.
  - d. Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC) as the Nodal Agency will act as the primary coordinator, providing the necessary monitoring and technical support to various departments during the policy's implementation.
  - e. Standardised Protocols and Privacy Compliance are mandated to facilitate secure data sharing and responsible stakeholder collaboration in line with transparent governance principles.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - This policy aligns with the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023,<sup>76</sup> ensuring that all state data handling practices meet national privacy and security standards.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States like Karnataka,<sup>77</sup> Tamil Nadu<sup>78</sup> and Telangana,<sup>79</sup> have policies to facilitate data-sharing between departments while maintaining strict privacy controls.
6. **Relevance** -
  - a. Poor data interoperability<sup>80</sup> across Government departments makes it hard to share data properly, along with issues of cybersecurity, data quality, and limited capacity. The establishment of a **State Data Authority** provides the technical

<sup>76</sup> [Digital Personal Data Protection \(DPDP\) Act, 2023.](#)

<sup>77</sup> [Karnataka Open Data Policy, 2021.](#)

<sup>78</sup> [Tamil Nadu Data Policy, 2022.](#)

<sup>79</sup> [Telangana State Open Data Policy, 2016.](#)

<sup>80</sup> Data interoperability is the ability of different information systems, devices, and applications to access, exchange, integrate, and cooperatively use data in a coordinated manner.

**A. Odisha State Data Policy 2.0****Source:** [Pragativadi](#) | **Impact:** High

framework necessary for seamless data exchange between different departments, eliminating redundant data collection and reducing administrative costs.

- b. Notably, “Bad Data”<sup>81</sup> systems impose disproportionate transaction costs on low-income citizens, who are required to repeatedly visit multiple offices to obtain certificates and verify records. OSDP 2.0 lowers this “citizen friction cost,”<sup>82</sup> through interoperable data sharing across departments, improving service delivery efficiency and enhancing the effectiveness of the state’s ₹2.65 lakh crore annual expenditure.
- c. With multiple Odisha Government departments handling citizen data, the absence of a structured framework posed significant legal and financial risks. OSDP 2.0 addresses this by establishing a State Data Authority and mandating departmental compliance mechanisms.

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<sup>81</sup> Bad Data refers to fragmented, outdated, or non-shared government information that forces citizens to repeatedly prove the same facts, imposing hidden time and monetary costs.

<sup>82</sup> Citizen Friction Cost refers to the time, effort, and out-of-pocket expenses citizens incur due to inefficient, fragmented, or redundant government processes.

## B. City Gas Distribution Policy, 2026

Source: [Hindustan Times](#) | Impact: High

1. On 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2026, the Odisha Cabinet approved a policy to expedite City Gas Distribution (CGD) projects across the state.
2. This policy is designed to accelerate the expansion of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) infrastructure, aligning the state with national objectives for clean energy and sustainable development.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. A Unified Framework for Approvals has been established to address the challenge of multi-agency interference, replacing fragmented processes with a streamlined, faster project implementation system.
  - b. The Housing and Urban Development Department (H&UDD)<sup>83</sup> is designated as the nodal agency, supported by a state-level high-powered committee and district-level monitoring panels for oversight.
  - c. A One-time Moratorium on Approval Fees has been granted until March 2027 to incentivise gas distribution companies to rapidly deploy infrastructure.
  - d. Private Investment Attraction is a primary goal, as the policy imposes no financial burden on the State Government while creating employment and enhancing industrial efficiency.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** It aligns with the Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Distribution Order, 2026,<sup>84</sup> which aims to accelerate piped natural gas (PNG) expansion and establish a gas-based economy.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States/UTs like Assam,<sup>85</sup> Tripura,<sup>86</sup> Tamil Nadu,<sup>87</sup> Puducherry,<sup>88</sup> Karnataka,<sup>89</sup> Madhya Pradesh,<sup>90</sup> and Rajasthan<sup>91</sup> have comprehensive CGD policies for the promotion and use of natural gas.
6. **Relevance -**
  - a. The India CGD market was estimated at ~₹ 1.20 lakh crore in 2026 and is projected to reach ~₹ 2.20 lakh crore by 2031 at a CAGR of 12.84%, with the CGD sector expected to surpass fertilisers as the largest consumer of natural gas in India by

<sup>83</sup> The Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) of Odisha is the primary body responsible for urban governance, housing, and infrastructure across the state's Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

<sup>84</sup> [The Natural Gas And Petroleum Products Distribution Order, 2026.](#)

<sup>85</sup> [Assam City Gas Distribution Policy, 2022.](#)

<sup>86</sup> [Tripura City Gas Distribution Policy, 2022.](#)

<sup>87</sup> [Tamil Nadu City Gas Distribution Policy, 2023.](#)

<sup>88</sup> [Puducherry City Gas Distribution Policy, 2023.](#)

<sup>89</sup> [Karnataka City Gas Distribution Policy, 2024.](#)

<sup>90</sup> [Madhya Pradesh City Gas Distribution Network Development And Expansion Policy, 2025.](#)

<sup>91</sup> [Rajasthan City Gas Distribution \(CGD\) Policy, 2025.](#)

## B. City Gas Distribution Policy, 2026

Source: [Hindustan Times](#) | Impact: High

2030.<sup>92</sup> The policy's zero-exchequer model relying entirely on private sector deployment with state facilitation captures this investment momentum without fiscal outlay.

- b. Global geopolitical disruptions have made Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) supply chains fragile. PNG's pipeline-based delivery model eliminates the last-mile cylinder logistics risk of LPG cylinders like hoarding and diversion. The policy addresses this by enabling a pipeline-based PNG network, which ensures **uninterrupted, real-time supply** directly to end users, eliminating dependency on bulk cylinder transport logistics and reducing systemic supply chain vulnerabilities.
- c. Odisha is a major hub for mineral-based industries, producing over 50% of India's iron ore and large shares of aluminium, where cleaner fuels like natural gas can help meet decarbonisation targets.<sup>93</sup> The policy supports this transition by enabling substitution of carbon-intensive fuels with natural gas, aligning industrial clusters with cleaner fuel adoption pathways and supporting emission reduction targets under national climate commitments.
- d. Additionally, while LPG is formally subsidised, households incur significant indirect costs such as delivery delays, booking constraints, leakage losses, and time costs associated with refill cycles, which disproportionately impact low-income urban consumers.<sup>94</sup>
- e. In contrast, PNG provides a continuous pipeline-based supply with volumetric billing, enabling smoother cash-flow management through pay-for-consumption rather than lump-sum cylinder refill payments, thereby improving affordability for urban and peri-urban households.

<sup>92</sup> [India City Gas Distribution \(CGD\) Market Report.](#)

<sup>93</sup> A decarbonisation target is a specific, time-bound goal set by Governments or companies to reduce or eliminate human-caused greenhouse gas emissions primarily to fight climate change.

<sup>94</sup> [Economic Times, August, 2023.](#)

### C. B-MAAN Aviation Expansion Scheme, 2026

Source: [Kalinga TV](#) | Impact: High

1. On 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2026, the Odisha Government approved 10 new flight routes linking Bhubaneswar and Jharsuguda with cities including Ahmedabad, Pune, Jaipur, Bhopal, Shirdi, Tirupati, Surat, Kolkata, and Ujjain.
2. The routes are backed by the Building and Management of Aviation Assets and Network (B-MAAN) Scheme for 2025–30, with a total outlay of ₹ 4,182 crore, of which over ₹ 500 crore has already been earmarked for upgrades to **regional airstrips** including Satibhata, Jamadarpalli, Raisuan, Amarda Road, and Gotma.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. New heliports will be developed in underserved districts including Nabarangpur and Phulbani, which currently have no air access, along with a dedicated heliport at the Taratarini shrine to support religious tourism.
  - b. The committee directed that all land transfers for Jharsuguda and Rourkela airport expansions be completed by May 2026, and engaged with the Centre to accelerate work on the proposed Shree Jagannath International Airport in Puri. Malkangiri airport is being readied for full operationalisation.
  - c. The Biju Patnaik Aviation Centre in Birasal, Dhenkanal, is being developed as an aviation training hub, with cadet pilot programmes for tribal youth and UAV operations to build local aviation expertise.
  - d. The committee resolved to revise the Odisha Civil Aviation Policy, 2022<sup>95</sup> and prepare a proposal to reduce VAT on aviation turbine fuel, with the revised policy to be placed before Cabinet for approval.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The B-MAAN scheme and the new route approvals align closely with the Modified UDAN (Regional Connectivity Scheme),<sup>96</sup> for FY 2026–27 to FY 2035–36, which aims to develop 100 airports from existing unserved airstrips, provide O&M support for regional aerodromes, and develop 200 modern helipads in priority and aspirational districts.
5. **Relevance -**
  - a. Jharsuguda's Veer Surendra Sai Airport recorded a 33.7% year-on-year increase in passengers in FY 2024–25, driven by demand from business travellers serving the state's steel, coal, and power sectors. Routing new flights through Jharsuguda to cities like Ahmedabad, Pune, and Surat extends its utility beyond the current executive-travel base, embedding western Odisha's industrial belt more firmly into national supply chains.
  - b. As of 28th February, 2026, 663 routes have been operationalised under UDAN across 95 airports, heliports, and water aerodromes, carrying 162.47 lakh

<sup>95</sup> [Odisha Civil Aviation Policy, 2022.](#)

<sup>96</sup> [Regional Connectivity Scheme.](#)

### C. B-MAAN Aviation Expansion Scheme, 2026

Source: [Kalinga TV](#) | Impact: High

passengers since inception.<sup>97</sup> Odisha's approach of combining route expansion with ₹ 500 crore in airstrip upgrades strengthens airport infrastructure capacity, while B-MAAN expands the scope beyond connectivity to include pilot training, UAV operations, aero-sports, and aviation-linked skilling, thereby building a comprehensive ecosystem to support regional aviation growth.

- c. Further, "Aviation Turbine Fuel" (ATF) costs account for approximately 40% of total airline expenses in India,<sup>98</sup> against a global average of 28.7%,<sup>99</sup> making **VAT rationalisation** a direct lever for sustaining thin regional routes of the kind. Odisha's proposed VAT review is consistent with the Ministry of Civil Aviation's ongoing advocacy for state-level ATF concessions as a precondition for route viability.
- d. Tourism contributes an estimated 13% to Odisha's GSDP (2023-24).<sup>100</sup> Religious landmarks such as Jagannath Temple, Lingaraj Temple, and Konark Sun Temple draw heavy pilgrim and tourist traffic, while many scenic areas beyond the Bhubaneswar-Puri-Konark circuit remain underexplored due to weak connectivity.

<sup>97</sup> [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

<sup>98</sup> [Economic Times, April, 2026.](#)

<sup>99</sup> [IATA, 2024.](#)

<sup>100</sup> [Odisha Economic Survey, 2025-26.](#)

### III. Uttarakhand

#### A. Uttarakhand Road Connectivity And Tourism Infrastructure Plan, 2026

Source: [Elets Technomedia](#) | Impact: High

1. On 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2026, the Uttarakhand Government unveiled a massive ₹ 74,100 crore five-year master plan designed to overhaul the state's connectivity infrastructure.
2. This initiative aims to bridge the gap between **remote hilly regions and urban centers**, focusing on all-weather accessibility, landslide protection, and the promotion of religious and scenic tourism.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. **Rural Infrastructure Transformation -**
    - i. The major share of the budget, ₹ 55,000 crore, is dedicated to upgrading 5,735 km of unpaved rural roads into all-weather paved routes.
    - ii. This conversion is projected to directly benefit approximately 8 lakh residents, providing year-round access to healthcare, education, and markets in remote hilly areas.
    - iii. The focus is on ensuring that extreme weather conditions no longer isolate high-altitude villages from the state's economic mainstream.
  - b. **Urban Congestion And Traffic Management -**
    - i. ₹ 12,000 crore has been earmarked for high-density urban infrastructure, specifically targeting traffic bottlenecks in growing cities like Dehradun.
    - ii. Planned interventions include elevated corridors, ring roads, and a sophisticated tunnel-based bypass system in the Rispana-Bindal region.
    - iii. These projects are designed to significantly reduce daily commute times and facilitate smoother transit for both residents and the floating tourist population.
  - c. **Strategic Tourism And Industrial Corridors -**
    - i. The plan allocates ₹ 1,350 crore to develop specialised circuits, such as the Manaskhand Temple Circuit in Kumaon, to diversify tourism beyond the traditional Char Dham routes.
    - ii. A scenic ring road around Tehri Lake will be constructed to transform the reservoir into a world-class water sports and leisure destination.
    - iii. Industrial connectivity will be strengthened via improved links to hubs in Udham Singh Nagar, facilitating faster freight movement and business activity.
  - d. **Bridge Modernisation And Road Safety -**
    - i. The Government will invest ₹ 1,500 crore to upgrade 1,200 bridges, replacing aging structures and phasing out temporary trolley systems with permanent bridges by 2030.
    - ii. A dedicated safety fund of ₹ 4,250 crore is set aside for landslide protection and

## A. Uttarakhand Road Connectivity And Tourism Infrastructure Plan, 2026

Source: [Elets Technomedia](#) | Impact: High

modern safety systems to mitigate the risks inherent in Himalayan terrain.

- iii. Execution will involve phased implementation using modern surveying and engineering technologies to ensure durability against natural disasters.

### 4. Relevance -

- a. Uttarakhand's road network is highly vulnerable to rainfall, landslides and extreme weather events. In 2025, heavy rainfall and landslides left over 150 rural roads blocked<sup>101</sup> in one reported episode, while another situation report recorded 163 blocked roads, including five national highways.<sup>102</sup> The plan's focus on all-weather rural roads, bridge strengthening and landslide protection directly addresses this recurring connectivity risk.<sup>103</sup>
- b. The plan allocates ₹ 55,000 crore to upgrade 5,735 km of rural roads, directly addressing recurrent disconnections evidenced by 150+ blocked rural routes and enabling continuous access across seasons.<sup>104</sup> Comparable highway resilience interventions in Himalayan corridors (₹ 825 crore for 44 landslide-prone stretches) demonstrate targeted engineering reduces disruption frequency and improves route reliability.<sup>105</sup>
- c. Uttarakhand recorded 6.03 crore tourists and pilgrims in 2025, the highest since the state's formation.<sup>106</sup> However, tourist flows remain heavily concentrated along established pilgrimage and hill-station routes. Investments in the Manaskhand circuit and Tehri Lake connectivity can help diversify tourism towards Kumaon and emerging leisure destinations, reducing pressure on traditional Char Dham corridors.
- d. The ₹ 1,350 crore Manaskhand Temple Circuit allocation seeks to distribute this load across Kumaon, directly reducing seasonal bottlenecks on existing corridors. Tourism contributes approximately 14.57% to Uttarakhand's GDP,<sup>107</sup> and the state targets 70 million tourist arrivals by 2030,<sup>108</sup> a threshold that requires a commensurate expansion of road access beyond the traditional pilgrimage routes.

<sup>101</sup> [Times Of India, August, 2025.](#)

<sup>102</sup> [India Today, August 2025.](#)

<sup>103</sup> [Akashvani News, September, 2025.](#)

<sup>104</sup> [Akashvani News, September, 2025.](#)

<sup>105</sup> [Times Of India, April, 2026.](#)

<sup>106</sup> [ETV Bharat, February, 2026.](#)

<sup>107</sup> [Growth Of Tourism Industry In Uttarakhand.](#)

<sup>108</sup> [Growth Of Tourism Industry In Uttarakhand.](#)

## IV. Himachal Pradesh

### A. Check Post Operation And Infrastructure Fee Policy, 2026

Source: [The News Himachal](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2026, the Himachal Pradesh Government issued the Check Post Operation and Infrastructure Fee Policy, 2026 which aims to regulate the movement of minor mineral-carrying vehicles entering Himachal Pradesh.
2. It introduces a fee-based check post verification system to curb illegal mining, improve transport traceability, and strengthen enforcement under state mining regulations.
3. The policy, issued by the Department of Industries, states that the decision of new Check Post Operation And Infrastructure Fee Policy, 2026 has been taken under Rule 80(1) of the Himachal Pradesh Minor Minerals (Concession) and Prevention of Illegal Mining, Transportation and Storage Rules, 2015,<sup>109</sup> along with other enabling provisions under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.<sup>110</sup>
4. **Key Features -**
  - a. The policy introduces specific levies based on vehicle type, such as ₹ 1,000 for tractor-trolleys and small vehicles, ₹ 1,500 for single-axle vehicles, and ₹ 3,000 for multi-axle vehicles.
  - b. Drivers are mandated to obtain confirmation receipts at state check posts, which must be carried as proof of compliance at all times during transit within the state.
  - c. The policy establishes a comprehensive record of all incoming mineral-laden vehicles to bridge existing data gaps and improve tracking at entry points.
  - d. The orders have been implemented with immediate effect, bypassing a transition period to target persistent concerns regarding unauthorised mineral transport.
5. **Central Initiative Alignment -** This action aligns with the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957,<sup>111</sup> which empowers state Governments to frame rules for preventing illegal mining and managing transportation.
6. **Relevance -**
  - a. Himachal Pradesh has reported persistent illegal mining and transport due to weak border monitoring, with the state recording over 40,757 cases of illegal mining between 2018-19 to 2022-23 and revenue losses linked to unverified mineral inflows.<sup>112</sup>
  - b. Further evidence indicates structural inefficiencies in the existing check post network under Rule 80, with ₹ 105.87 lakh invested in six check posts (2020-21)

<sup>109</sup> [Indian Kanoon](#).

<sup>110</sup> [Mines and Minerals \(Development and Regulation\) Act, 1957](#).

<sup>111</sup> [Mines And Minerals \(Development And Regulation\) Act, 1957](#).

<sup>112</sup> [Report No. 4 of 2025 \(Compliance Audit Report\), Page 37](#).

### A. Check Post Operation And Infrastructure Fee Policy, 2026

Source: [The News Himachal](#) | Impact: Medium

and total expenditure reaching ₹ 267.20 lakh, yet enforcement outcomes were limited.<sup>113</sup>

- c. In the Una district, only 84 challans were issued from 35,679 inspected vehicles (0.23% detection rate), yielding ₹ 10.10 lakh in fines, showcasing weak deterrence Coverage gaps that persist, with only 5 of 15 interstate routes (33%) monitored and no check post in Bilaspur despite high traffic corridors.<sup>114</sup>
- d. The policy introduces mandatory fee-linked verification at check posts, directly addressing unmonitored entry by requiring **physical validation and documented receipts** for each vehicle. The tiered fee structure (₹ 1,000–₹ 3,000) creates a standardised compliance mechanism while enabling traceable entry records aligned with Rule 80(1) enforcement provisions.
- e. Additionally, strengthened entry-point regulation combined with standardized compliance mechanisms is expected to reduce evasion rates, improve cost-recovery against ₹ 267.20 lakh operational expenditure,<sup>115</sup> and enhance administrative efficiency in mineral transport governance.
- f. The mining sector contributed approximately ₹ 286 crore to Himachal Pradesh's non-tax revenue in 2022–23 (~10% share).<sup>116</sup> The fee mechanism enables recovery against the ₹267.20 lakh operational base while establishing a verifiable entry database for future reforms such as e-auctioning and geo-tagged tracking systems. Strengthened entry-point regulation is expected to reduce evasion, improve revenue realisation efficiency, and enhance governance capacity in mineral transport monitoring systems .

<sup>113</sup> [Report No. 4 of 2025 \(Compliance Audit Report\), Page 43.](#)

<sup>114</sup> [Report No. 4 of 2025 \(Compliance Audit Report\), Page 43.](#)

<sup>115</sup> [Report No. 4 of 2025 \(Compliance Audit Report\), Page 44.](#)

<sup>116</sup> [Rediff, March, 2026.](#)

## V. Haryana

### A. Haryana Pneumoconiosis Rehabilitation Policy

Source: [The Tribune](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2026, the Government of Haryana notified the Haryana Pneumoconiosis Rehabilitation Policy, superseding the Haryana Silicosis Rehabilitation Policy, 2017.<sup>117</sup>
2. The policy is applicable to workers employed in relevant factories and at construction sites who have worked continuously in Haryana for **at least five years** since the date of notification.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The new policy expands coverage from silicosis alone to **four occupational lung diseases**: silicosis, asbestosis, byssinosis, and bagassosis, all categorised as types of pneumoconiosis.
  - b. Upon confirmation of disease by the Pneumoconiosis Diagnosis Board, workers registered under the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Act, 1948,<sup>118</sup> will receive treatment at ESI hospitals.
  - c. Workers not covered under ESI will receive free treatment, investigations, and medicines at all district hospitals and medical colleges across the state.
  - d. A one-time financial assistance of ₹ 5 lakh will be provided to the affected worker for the rehabilitation.
  - e. In case of death, ₹ 1 lakh will be given to the widow, widower, or living parents, along with ₹ 15,000 for funeral expenses.
  - f. A monthly pension of ₹4,000 will be paid to the affected worker (categorised as A, B, or C per International Labour Organization classification) for life.
  - g. After the worker's death, a family pension of ₹ 3,500 per month will be provided to the surviving spouse or parents.
  - h. Education assistance ranging from ₹ 5,000 to ₹ 12,000 annually depending on the class, marriage assistance of ₹ 51,000 for daughters and ₹ 11,000 for sons, will also be provided.
  - i. A dedicated corpus fund will be created, financed through a 70% contribution by the Haryana Labour Welfare Board and 30% by the Haryana Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board, with the final amount to be determined by the Labour Commissioner with administrative approval.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code (OSHWC Code) 2020,<sup>119</sup> which consolidates provisions for social security benefits, health surveillance, hazard identification, and medical examination of workers.

<sup>117</sup> [Haryana Silicosis Rehabilitation Policy, 2017.](#)

<sup>118</sup> [Employees' State Insurance \(ESI\) Act, 1948.](#)

<sup>119</sup> [Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code \(OSHWC Code\), 2020.](#)

### A. Haryana Pneumoconiosis Rehabilitation Policy

Source: [The Tribune](#) | Impact: Medium

5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Rajasthan has similar policy aimed at detecting, preventing, and controlling lung diseases like silicosis, and providing rehabilitation and financial relief to affected workers.<sup>120</sup>
6. **Relevance** -
- The Haryana Silicosis Rehabilitation Policy 2017,<sup>121</sup> was limited to silicosis, excluding workers exposed to other occupational lung diseases such as byssinosis (textile) and asbestos-related conditions (construction). The revised policy corrects this by expanding coverage to multiple forms of pneumoconiosis, aligning eligibility with actual occupational exposure across Haryana's industrial base.
  - Occupational lung diseases show high prevalence in India, with byssinosis affecting 28–47% of textile workers and silicosis affecting 30–55% in mining and construction sectors. Given Haryana's industrial profile, including Panipat's textile hub and its sugar industry, inclusion of byssinosis and bagassosis directly reflects sector-specific risk distribution.<sup>122</sup>
  - The 5-year residency condition balances fiscal prudence with labour protection by ensuring long-term migrant workers, central to construction and industrial activity remain eligible while preventing short-term inflow-based fiscal burden. Funding through Labour Welfare Boards creates a closed-loop system where industry cess finances worker rehabilitation.
  - These diseases cause irreversible lung damage and premature workforce exit, often in the 31–40 age group,<sup>123</sup> leading to income loss at peak earning years. The ₹4,000 monthly pension along with education and social assistance provisions functions as long-term income stabilisation for affected households.

<sup>120</sup> [Rajasthan - Policy On Pneumoconiosis.](#)

<sup>121</sup> [Haryana Silicosis Rehabilitation Policy, 2017.](#)

<sup>122</sup> [PubMed Central, 2018.](#)

<sup>123</sup> [Sishodiya, Prahlad. \(2022\). Silicosis Detection And Relief Programme: A Case Study Of Rajasthan.](#)

## VI. Goa

### A. Goa State Library Policy, 2024–34

Source: [The Times Of India](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2026, the Government of Goa approved the Goa State Library Policy 2024–34.
2. The State Library Policy aims to promote reading culture, improve access to library infrastructure, and modernise public libraries through digitisation and expansion of services across urban and rural areas.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. It proposes the modernisation of existing public libraries through digital cataloguing, e-resources, and improved infrastructure.
  - b. It provides for the establishment of new libraries in underserved and rural areas to expand geographical access.
  - c. It introduces reading promotion initiatives, including community programmes, school linkages, and literary events.
  - d. It mandates capacity building and training for library staff to improve service delivery and resource management.
  - e. It enables integration of technology-driven services such as online membership systems and digital lending platforms.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** The Kerala Government also operates a decentralised public library network with state support, focusing on rural access, reading promotion, and community libraries.<sup>124</sup>
5. **Relevance -**
  - a. Goa has a literacy rate of 93.60% and has been declared fully functionally literate,<sup>125</sup> Yet foundational learning gaps remain, especially at Grade 3 and in State Government schools.<sup>126</sup> This reveals a gap between formal literacy and actual learning levels. The State Library Policy addresses this by strengthening 151 village libraries with competitive exam resources and e-library infrastructure, creating an out-of-school learning ecosystem to improve foundational outcomes.
  - b. Goa's library network of 1 central library at the state level, 1 district, 7 taluka, and 151 village libraries lacked a unified framework for standards and staffing. The Krishnadas Shama Goa State Central Library had no formal coordinating role.<sup>127</sup> The State Library Policy designates it as the nodal body and mandates **training and e-library integration**, standardising the system.
  - c. Further, Goa recorded a 19.1% unemployment rate in 2023–24, driven by educated

<sup>124</sup> [State Central Library Kerala.](#)

<sup>125</sup> [PIB, May, 2025.](#)

<sup>126</sup> [PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan, 2024.](#)

<sup>127</sup> [Krishnadas Shama Goa State Central Library.](#)

**A. Goa State Library Policy, 2024–34****Source:** [The Times Of India](#) | **Impact:** Medium

youth, with graduate unemployment above 14%.<sup>128</sup> The State Library Policy addresses this by mandating competitive exam preparation materials in 151 village libraries, expanding preparation access statewide beyond urban centres.

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<sup>128</sup> [Ministry Of Statistics And Programme Implementation, September, 2024.](#)

## Social Sector Announcements

### I. Karnataka

#### A. Scheduled Castes Sub-Classification And Internal Reservation

Source: [The Hindu](#) | Impact: High

1. On 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2026, the Karnataka Cabinet approved internal reservation within the existing 15% Scheduled Caste (SC) quota through a revised sub-classification framework.
2. The Policy aims to introduce sub-classification within the **15% reservation for Scheduled Castes** to ensure equitable distribution of reservation benefits among different Scheduled Castes sub-groups, addressing historical disparities in access to education, employment, and welfare schemes within the category.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. This policy proposes internal categorisation of Scheduled Castes into distinct sub-groups based on socio-economic backwardness and historical deprivation.
  - b. The category-wise reservation announced is as follows:
    - i. 5.25% Category 1 (Madigas and allied castes/Dalit left<sup>129</sup>);
    - ii. 5.25% Category 2 (Holeyas and allied castes/Dalit right<sup>130</sup>);
    - iii. 4.5% to Category 3 (Bhovi, Lambani, Korama, Koracha and 59 nomadic communities).
  - c. This framework provides for allocation of the existing 15% Scheduled Castes reservation across these sub-groups using quantifiable data and commission recommendations.
  - d. This mechanism introduces a data-driven approach, incorporating reports of state-appointed commissions, to determine intra-category quotas.
  - e. It mandates periodic review of sub-classification to recalibrate allocations based on evolving socio-economic indicators.
  - f. It seeks to ensure targeted access to education, public employment, and welfare schemes for the most underrepresented Scheduled Caste communities.
4. **Relevance -**
  - a. Karnataka's 15% Scheduled Caste reservation covered 101 sub-castes without internal differentiation. The H. N. Nagamohan Das Commission found severe disparities within the category with the overall representation of Scheduled Castes in State government departments stood at only 10.65%.<sup>131</sup> Dozens of castes

<sup>129</sup> Dalit Left in Karnataka mainly comprises communities such as Madiga that are considered more socially and economically marginalised and have long demanded internal reservation for equitable access to jobs, education, and political representation.

<sup>130</sup> Dalit Right in Karnataka largely includes communities such as Holeyas/Adi Karnataka and Bhovi that are perceived to have received a relatively larger share of reservation benefits, government jobs, and political representation within the Scheduled Caste category.

<sup>131</sup> [Justice H.N. Nagamohandas Commission, July, 2020.](#)

### A. Scheduled Castes Sub-Classification And Internal Reservation

Source: [The Hindu](#) | Impact: High

had no technical graduates, PhDs, MBBS holders, or Government employees. Scheduled Caste representation in state jobs also remained below quota levels, with a backlog of 1,032 reserved posts.<sup>132</sup>

- b. In essence, the cabinet decision introducing a 5.25% for Category 1 and 2 and 4.5% for category 3 within the 15% reservation directly addresses these inequities.
- c. The Karnataka cabinet's decision follows the Supreme Court's 2024 ruling in *State of Punjab v. Davinder Singh*, which overturned the earlier *E.V. Chinnaiah*<sup>133</sup> judgment<sup>134</sup> that had blocked Scheduled Caste sub-classification for two decades.<sup>135</sup> The Court held that states can create internal Scheduled Caste quotas if backed by empirical data and structured fairly. Karnataka's formula is based on the Nagamohan Das Commission survey of all 101 SC castes, aligning the policy with the constitutional conditions laid down by the Court.
- d. Further, the cabinet decision clears recruitment to 56,432 pending Government posts stalled by litigation over Karnataka's earlier attempt to breach the 50% reservation ceiling. By retaining the 15% Scheduled Caste quota and applying internal sub-classification under the *Davinder Singh* framework, the state restores constitutional compliance and resumes recruitment.

<sup>132</sup> [The South First, August, 2024.](#)

<sup>133</sup> *The State Of Punjab v. Davinder Singh*, 2024 INSC 562.

<sup>134</sup> *E.V. Chinnaiah v. State Of Andhra Pradesh And Ors*, (2005) 1 SCC 394.

<sup>135</sup> *The State Of Punjab v. Davinder Singh*, 2024 INSC 562.

## II. Chhattisgarh

### A. Reduction In Property Registration Charges For Women And Defense Personnel

Source: [The Government Of Chhattisgarh](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2026, the Chhattisgarh cabinet approved a landmark reduction in property registration charges for women and stamp duty concessions for defense personnel.
2. The initiative aims to reduce the financial barrier to property ownership for women by providing a **50% concession** on land registration charges for properties registered solely in a woman's name, thereby incentivising families to register assets under female ownership and strengthening women's economic security and legal title over immovable property across the state.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The fee applicable for land and property registrations in the name of women has been reduced by 50%.
  - b. Serving soldiers, ex-servicemen, and their widows are now eligible for a 25% concession on stamp duty for property purchases (land or building) valued up to ₹ 25 lakh.
  - c. The stamp duty concession for defense personnel is a once-in-a-lifetime benefit, specifically designed to assist those seeking permanent residence after service.
  - d. The fee cuts apply to all property types registered in a woman's name across the state, aimed at simplifying the cost of legal ownership transfer.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** In Maharashtra, women receive a 1% concession on residential property transactions.<sup>136</sup> Delhi maintains a differential rate structure, charging 6% for men and 4% for women.<sup>137</sup> Similarly, Haryana levies stamp duty at 7% for men and 5% for women in urban areas.<sup>138</sup> In Uttar Pradesh, a 1% rebate is provided to women on properties valued up to ₹ 1 crore.<sup>139</sup>
5. **Relevance -**
  - a. Despite over two decades of gender-differentiated stamp duty policy across Indian states, women's property ownership has remained structurally low. The initiative seeks to address this gap by reducing transaction costs, incentivising property registration in women's names, and strengthening their asset ownership, financial security, and access to formal credit.<sup>140</sup>
  - b. Prior to this initiative, the registration fee in Chhattisgarh was a flat 4% of the property value for all buyers.<sup>141</sup> For women, this now drops to 2%, significantly

<sup>136</sup> [ABIL Group](#).

<sup>137</sup> [Department of Revenue, Delhi](#).

<sup>138</sup> [No Broker Times, December, 2025](#).

<sup>139</sup> [Times Of India, July, 2025](#).

<sup>140</sup> [Times Of India, November, 2021](#).

<sup>141</sup> [Magic Bricks, April, 2026](#).

**A. Reduction In Property Registration Charges For Women And Defense Personnel**

**Source:** [The Government Of Chhattisgarh](#) | **Impact:** Medium

lowering the upfront capital required for home acquisition. By incentivising joint or sole ownership, the initiative policy expands the formal asset base of women and increases the number of registered transactions within the system.

- c. Further, increased female asset ownership is associated with improved credit uptake, as property ownership enhances collateral availability, critical in a context where women's access to formal credit remains below 30% of total borrowers.<sup>142</sup> Higher registration volumes can also improve **state revenue buoyancy** despite lower per-transaction fees through volume effects.

<sup>142</sup> [Economic Times, April, 2026.](#)

## Investment Announcements

### I. Andhra Pradesh

#### A. Andhra Pradesh NPSPL Cathode Material Manufacturing Project, 2026

Source: [The New Indian Express](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2026, the Government of Andhra Pradesh approved a ₹ 2,550 crore investment by Narbheram Power and Steel Private Limited (NPSPL) Speciality Chemicals Private Limited to set up a cathode material manufacturing facility in Chittoor district.
2. The initiative aims to localise critical battery components, strengthen India's electronics and EV supply chains, and position Andhra Pradesh as a hub for advanced manufacturing and clean energy technologies.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. It establishes a cathode material manufacturing plant in Gudupalle mandal, Chittoor district, spread over about 105 acres.
  - b. The cathode materials, which are key components of lithium-ion batteries, will be produced, supporting sectors like electric vehicles, consumer electronics, and energy storage systems.
  - c. The project is approved under the Andhra Pradesh Electronics Component Manufacturing Policy (4.0) 2025–30<sup>143</sup> and is among the first 10 projects under the policy.
  - d. The state has offered a customised incentive package, including capital subsidies, 100% electricity duty exemption for 10 years, and power cost reimbursements.
  - e. The facility is expected to generate around 400 direct jobs and support a broader ecosystem of battery manufacturing, EV supply chains, and electronics industries.
  - f. The project is classified under the supply chain of sub-assemblies and components, highlighting its foundational role in the electronics ecosystem.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** – The project aligns with the Centre's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, namely National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC),<sup>144</sup> which aims to build domestic lithium-ion battery manufacturing capacity.
5. **Relevance -**
  - a. India's lithium-ion battery market is highly import-dependent, with imports rising from USD 384.6 million (₹ 3,200 crore) to USD 2.8 billion (₹ 23,000 crore) by 2023,<sup>145</sup> 75% sourced from China,<sup>146</sup> exposing concentrated supply risk. The

<sup>143</sup> [Andhra Pradesh Electronics Component Manufacturing Policy 4.0 \(2025–30\)](#).

<sup>144</sup> [PIB, February, 2026](#).

<sup>145</sup> [International Institute For Sustainable Development, September, 2023](#).

<sup>146</sup> [Shanghai Metals Market, April, 2025](#).

### A. Andhra Pradesh NPSPL Cathode Material Manufacturing Project, 2026

Source: [The New Indian Express](#) | Impact: Medium

cathode materials, accounting for 50–60% of cell cost,<sup>147</sup> are dominated by China, with over 90% global capacity, and now face export controls.<sup>148</sup> The NPSPL facility addresses this by building domestic cathode production, **reducing upstream dependence** on a single supplier country.

- b. The project is among the first ten approvals under the Andhra Pradesh Electronics Component Manufacturing Policy 4.0 (2025–30).<sup>149</sup> As an early-mover, NPSPL qualifies for up to 50% capital subsidy, 10-year electricity duty exemption, and power cost reimbursement. For a ₹ 14.39 lakh crore GSDP economy, this ₹ 2,550 crore investment adds a high-value manufacturing layer beyond ports and services.
- c. Further, in the EV value chain, the “Assembly” of a battery pack adds only 3% value, with cell assembly adding 30%.<sup>150</sup> The Material Processing (Cathode) adds over 50%. By securing this plant, Andhra Pradesh is capturing the **highest margin segment** of the energy transition.
- d. Notably, manufacturing cathodes requires high heat and precision. Without the state’s **₹ 2/unit power subsidy**, the cost of domestic cathode materials would be significantly higher than global standards. This intervention essentially offsets the structural disability of Indian power costs.
- e. Cathode production requires high-purity precursors like Lithium Hydroxide and Cobalt Sulfate.<sup>151</sup> The ₹ 2,550 crore NPSPL plant will act as an **anchor unit**, naturally attracting a second layer of MSMEs to supply these chemicals, thereby multiplying the 400 direct jobs by a factor of 5 in the local economy in sectors like battery manufacturing, EV supply chains, electronics hardware production and ancillary chemical industries.<sup>152</sup>

<sup>147</sup> [KIJOBattery](#).

<sup>148</sup> [International Energy Agency, October, 2025](#).

<sup>149</sup> [Andhra Pradesh Electronics Component Manufacturing Policy 4.0 \(2025–30\)](#).

<sup>150</sup> [NITI Aayog, April, 2022](#).

<sup>151</sup> [S&P Global](#).

<sup>152</sup> [Deccan Chronicle, April, 2026](#).

## II. Chhattisgarh

### A. Power Utilities Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) Approval, 2026

Source: [Power Peak Digest](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2026, the Chhattisgarh State Electricity Regulatory Commission (CSERC) approved Capital Investment Plans (CIPs) exceeding ₹ 16,247 crore for the control period of FY 2026-27 to FY 2029-30.
2. These orders empower three major state entities CSPGCL (Generation), CSPTCL (Transmission), and CSLDC (Grid Management) to execute massive upgrades across the energy value chain.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. Approval of ₹ 714.17 crore for renovation and modernisation of thermal and hydro power assets, provides ₹ 258.64 crore for a dedicated railway line at Gare Pelma III coal mine to streamline coal evacuation.
  - b. The order sanctions ₹ 15,367.95 crore to strengthen the transmission network; seeks to increase capacity from 11,280 MVA to 18,240 MVA and expand substations to 195 by 2030.
  - c. It allocates ₹ 165.02 crore to the State Load Dispatch Centre for implementation of the Simplified Assessment and Management System for Assets and Taxation (SAMAST). It enables upgrades to SCADA and Energy Management Systems for scheduling, metering, and settlement.
  - d. It introduces investments in cybersecurity infrastructure through establishment of a Security Operation Centre (SOC) and Network Operation Centre (NOC) and provides for deployment of Data Diodes and Anti-DDoS systems.
  - e. Furthermore, it implements revised evacuation planning for the Korba West project using LILO arrangements and approves development of a shared head office complex at Nava Raipur Atal Nagar. It also mandates a normative debt-equity ratio of 70:30 for transmission and grid projects subject to regulatory approval.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** It aligns with the **National Electricity Plan (Transmission) 2022-2032**, prepared by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), which plans the addition of over 1,91,000 circuit kilometres of transmission lines and 1,270 Giga Volt Ampere (GVA) of transformation capacity from 2022-23 to 2031-32.<sup>153</sup>
5. **Relevance -**
  - a. Chhattisgarh has a total installed power generation capacity of 15,036.40 MW as of September 2025.<sup>154</sup> Yet the transmission network at 11,280 MVA has not kept pace with this generation base. A 62% rise in transmission capacity to 18,240 MVA by FY

<sup>153</sup> [PIB, October, 2024.](#)

<sup>154</sup> [IBEF, October, 2025.](#)

**A. Power Utilities Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) Approval, 2026****Source:** [Power Peak Digest](#) | **Impact:** Medium

2030 addresses this bottleneck, preventing stranded generation and enabling reliable supply.

- b. Chhattisgarh aims to increase steel production from 28 to 45 million tonnes by 2030.<sup>155</sup> Energy-intensive industries are acutely sensitive to voltage instability as unplanned outages at a steel plant or aluminium smelter can cause losses of crores per hour. The transmission expansion, combined with CSLDC's SCADA and SAMAST upgrades, **directly improves supply reliability**, strengthening the state's competitive proposition as an industrial destination.
- c. The CSLDC's ₹ 165 crore grid management investment addresses rising demand, with India's per capita electricity consumption increasing from 957 kWh in 2013–14 to 1,460 kWh in 2024–25 (up 52.6%),<sup>156</sup> putting greater pressure on dispatch and balancing systems.
- d. For Chhattisgarh, whose grid supports multi-state exports and heavy industrial loads, SCADA modernisation and cyber security upgrades, like Data Diodes, Anti-DDoS systems, and a Disaster Recovery facility at Bhilai, reduce technical and cyber risks to critical infrastructure.

<sup>155</sup> [ET, July, 2025.](#)

<sup>156</sup> [PIB, January, 2026.](#)

### III. Uttar Pradesh

#### A. Dairy Development And Poultry Investment Promotion Initiative, 2026

Source: [Business Standard](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2026, the Government of Uttar Pradesh secured investment commitments under the Uttar Pradesh Dairy Development and Poultry Investment Promotion Initiative, 2026.
2. The initiative aims to strengthen Uttar Pradesh's dairy and poultry value chains by attracting **private investment**, enhancing processing capacity, and improving supply-side infrastructure to achieve self-sufficiency and export readiness in animal husbandry products.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. This initiative aims to secure a total of ₹ 7,267 crore in dairy and poultry investments, with ₹ 5,000 crore in the dairy segment and ₹ 2,267 crore in poultry through high-level MoUs with leading private sector investors.
  - b. Under Nand Baba Milk Mission, ₹ 84 crore have been allocated in subsidies distributed via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to over 10,000 beneficiaries to promote indigenous cattle rearing.
  - c. Formation of over 4,000 primary dairy cooperative societies, directly integrating 150,000 milk producers into the formal economy.
  - d. The dairy department's total 796 MoUs (worth ₹ 25,000 crore to date) are projected to generate more than 60,000 direct and indirect jobs.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** This initiative aligns with the National Livestock Mission<sup>157</sup> and Rashtriya Gokul Mission<sup>158</sup> by promoting productivity enhancement, value addition, and private investment in livestock-based sectors.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States like Gujarat<sup>159</sup> and Andhra Pradesh<sup>160</sup> have similar MoU with private players and promotion of cooperatives to promote the dairy sector.
6. **Relevance -**
  - a. Livestock contribution to GSDP is 7% in Uttar Pradesh as compared to 5.2% for the country,<sup>161</sup> acting as the primary buffer against agrarian distress in rural districts.
  - b. Despite being a major consumer, the state imports a significant percentage of eggs. As per a Government report published in 2022, the state imported around 90 lakh eggs daily.<sup>162</sup> In this vein, the ₹ 2,267 crore poultry push aims to achieve

<sup>157</sup> [National Livestock Mission, February, 2026.](#)

<sup>158</sup> [Rashtriya Gokul Mission, December, 2024.](#)

<sup>159</sup> [Indian Express, January, 2017.](#)

<sup>160</sup> [Andhra Pradesh Dairy Development Cooperative Federation Limited.](#)

<sup>161</sup> [Invest UP.](#)

<sup>162</sup> [Invest UP.](#)

### A. Dairy Development And Poultry Investment Promotion Initiative, 2026

Source: [Business Standard](#) | Impact: Medium

self-sufficiency and export-readiness.

- c. The state's low processing levels of 10% vis-à-vis the Indian average of 17% presents immense opportunity for investment.<sup>163</sup> The transition from raw milk production to value-added processing using cooperatives allows the state to capture higher margins in the **Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG)** sector, transforming rural Uttar Pradesh into a hub for dairy derivatives.
- d. In the dairy world, raw milk has the thinnest margins. The real profit lies in Value-Added Products (VAP) like Ghee, Paneer, and Cheese. By providing a 50% subsidy for units manufacturing these derivatives, the state is forcing a shift into the FMCG sector, where margins are **2-3x higher than liquid milk**.<sup>164</sup>
- e. Additionally, women constitute the backbone of dairy operations in rural Uttar Pradesh,<sup>165</sup> yet much of their labour remains informal and under-recognised. The provision of a higher 90% subsidy for solar-powered chilling infrastructure when owned or operated by women acts as a targeted gender incentive, formalising women's participation into structured, female-led cooperatives such as those emerging in Bundelkhand (e.g., Balinee).
- f. Furthermore, the ₹ 7,200 crore investment directly addresses these gaps by expanding processing capacity, strengthening cold chain infrastructure, and scaling poultry production through cluster-based development. Private sector participation helps fill gaps in capital and technology, while integrated infrastructure reduces inefficiencies across the value chain.

<sup>163</sup> [Invest UP.](#)

<sup>164</sup> [Smallcase, November, 2025.](#)

<sup>165</sup> [The Free Press Journal, March, 2026.](#)

## B. Investment Of ₹ 2,000 Crore To Boost Medicine Manufacturing

Source: [The Economic Times](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Government distributed Letters of Comfort (LOC)<sup>166</sup> to representatives of 17 companies that have collectively pledged approximately ₹ 2,000 crore in fresh investments.
2. The investment will generate employment for more than **10,000 skilled and unskilled youth** in the state, and contribute to medicine manufacturing, medical device production, and research and development.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. A total investment of approximately ₹ 2,000 crore has been sanctioned to bolster both medicine manufacturing and medical device production across the state.
  - b. The major companies that received LOC include Biozenta Lifesciences (Barabanki) - ₹ 1250 crore, Romans Medworld (Noida) - ₹ 136.89 crore, Hygelance Laboratories (Noida) - ₹ 120 crore and others.
  - c. The Government utilised a LOC distribution mechanism to provide financial and regulatory assurance to participating investors.
  - d. The approved projects also focus on advancing Research and Development (R&D) to help the state reach new heights in specialised healthcare innovation.
  - e. The investment is projected to generate large-scale employment for the youth, assisting more than 10,000 skilled and unskilled workers in joining the workforce.
4. **Relevance -**
  - a. India still imports 70% of its medical device requirements.<sup>167</sup> These investments directly target this import dependence, with companies like IV Tech Healthcare (Aligarh) and RAP Med Surgical (Hathras) manufacturing locally.
  - b. North India accounts for 30% of India's pharmaceutical market in 2025,<sup>168</sup> and Uttar Pradesh's combination of the largest consumer base (i.e., 25 crore people), extensive distribution infrastructure, and now dedicated pharma parks in Lalitpur and Noida creates a vertically integrated manufacturing-to-market advantage.
  - c. India's pharmaceutical market, valued at ₹ 6.43 lakh crore in 2025 and projected to reach ₹ 16.43 lakh crore by 2034 at a CAGR of 10.98%,<sup>169</sup> creates a durable demand foundation for Uttar Pradesh's manufacturing expansion and the R&D component of the LOC investments positions the state to participate in higher-value segments of this growth.

<sup>166</sup> A Letter of Comfort (LoC) from the Government is a non-binding assurance document issued to investors, indicating support for a project, without constituting a formal legal guarantee.

<sup>167</sup> [Survey Of Medical Devices Clusters, Department Of Pharmaceuticals, Government Of India.](#)

<sup>168</sup> [India Pharmaceutical Market Report, IMARC.](#)

<sup>169</sup> [India Pharmaceutical Market Report, IMARC.](#)

## IV. Odisha

### A. Investment Industrial Approval Proposal, 2026

Source: [Ommcom News](#) | Impact: High

1. On 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2026, the Odisha Government, led by the State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA), approved 18 major industrial projects totalling ₹ 3,877.14 crore
2. These investments focus on diversifying the state's industrial footprint **beyond traditional sectors** to accelerate economic growth and large-scale employment.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. **Investment, Employment And Core Sector Expansion -**
    - i. A total of 18 industrial projects, with an investment of ₹ 3,877.14 crore, were approved across 11 districts, including Balasore, Jharsuguda, and Koraput.
    - ii. These projects are expected to generate 7,565 employment opportunities, particularly in advanced manufacturing, green industries, and the services sector.
    - iii. The state approved capacity expansion in steel, iron, and ferro-alloy segments for companies such as Scan Steels, Jay Jagannath Steel & Power, and SS Alufoils.
  - b. **Sectoral Diversification And Strategic Initiatives -**
    - i. It introduces shipbuilding and repair facilities in Balasore, along with an Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) unit by Envair Electrodyne and pharmaceutical units by Harman Finochem and Ambitech Healthcare.
    - ii. It also supports sustainability and strategic manufacturing through the approval of a plastic and metal recycling facility and an explosives manufacturing unit in Jharsuguda.
4. **Relevance -**
  - a. Odisha's industrial sector is largely dominated by iron, steel, mining, and aluminium which accounts for ~ 43% of its GSDP,<sup>170</sup> with mining alone contributing 12.9% to GSDP in FY2025,<sup>171</sup> reflecting a structurally narrow economic base heavily exposed to commodity cycles.
  - b. Despite such industrial weight, Odisha's per capita income at ₹ 1.61 lakh remained below the national average of ₹ 1.86 lakh in FY24, and districts beyond the traditional mineral belt like Koraput and Balasore remained largely bypassed by formal industrial investment.<sup>172</sup>
  - c. The SLSWCA's approval of 18 projects worth ₹ 3,877.14 crore across 11 districts and 6 distinct sectors averaging ₹ 215 crore per project and 420 jobs per project

<sup>170</sup> [Emerging Odisha: India's Potential Growth Engine.](#)

<sup>171</sup> [Business Standard, March, 2026.](#)

<sup>172</sup> [Emerging Odisha: India's Potential Growth Engine.](#)

**A. Investment Industrial Approval Proposal, 2026****Source:** [Ommcom News](#) | **Impact:** High

directly breaks this structural concentration. Anchor investments in shipbuilding (i.e., the Baleshwar Shipyard), Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (EDSM) (i.e., Envair Electrodyne), and circular economy infrastructure (like South Block Marketing) create **first-mover industrial clusters** in sectors with near-zero prior presence in Odisha, capable of attracting ancillary units and supply chain partners.

- d. Mining is capital-intensive but low on direct labor absorption.<sup>173</sup> The 7,565 projected jobs in this package are in sectors with higher skill-value addition. A worker in a shipyard or pharma unit generally earns more and requires more training than a manual laborer in a mine, directly contributing to the state's goal of raising its **per capita income**.

<sup>173</sup> [Economic Times, August, 2025](#).

## Other Decisions

### I. Jharkhand

#### A. Draft State Grid Code Regulations, 2026

**Source:** [The Government Of Jharkhand](#), [Mercom India](#) | **Impact:** High

1. On 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2026, the Jharkhand State Electricity Regulatory Commission (JSERC) issued the Draft State Grid Code Regulations, 2026.
2. This framework establishes a comprehensive regulatory framework governing the **planning, operation, maintenance, and commercial** management of Jharkhand's electricity grid.
3. By defining the roles of all stakeholders including the State Load Dispatch Center (SLDC) and State Transmission Utility (STU) the regulations aim to ensure a secure, reliable, and economically efficient power system that aligns with national standards.
4. **Key Features -**
  - a. **Governance, Compliance, And Institutional Structure -**
    - i. All grid-connected entities are mandated to enter into formal connection agreements and maintain detailed technical documentation.
    - ii. The SLDC is established as the central authority for real-time grid supervision and system security.
    - iii. The SLDC possesses the power to issue binding instructions, with non-compliance potentially resulting in financial penalties or disconnection.
    - iv. A Grid Coordination Committee (GCC), chaired by the State Transmission Utility (STU), will coordinate outages and review transmission plans.
  - b. **Transmission Planning -**
    - i. The STU is the designated nodal agency responsible for preparing a rolling five-year plan, which must be updated annually.
    - ii. Transmission systems must be designed to withstand significant contingencies, such as line outages in the 110 kV to 400 kV range, without causing load shedding.
    - iii. Connection applications must be processed within a non-discriminatory 30-day timeline.
    - iv. Technical standards require fault clearance within 100 milliseconds for 400 kV systems and 160 milliseconds for 220/132 kV systems.
  - c. **Grid Operation -**
    - i. System frequency will be managed within a strict band of 49.9 to 50.05 Hz.
    - ii. Scheduling and dispatch are organised into 96 blocks of 15 minutes each.
    - iii. Day-ahead scheduling follows merit order principles, with a specific priority mandate given to renewable energy.
    - iv. Protection systems require primary and backup installations, with mandatory annual audits for generators.

### A. Draft State Grid Code Regulations, 2026

**Source:** [The Government Of Jharkhand](#), [Mercom India](#) | **Impact:** High

#### d. Commercial Framework -

- i. The code introduces structured transmission charges and a weekly deviation-settlement mechanism (DSM).<sup>174</sup>
- ii. Payments for grid usage must be settled within 10 days, or a daily penalty of 0.04% will be applied.
- iii. Energy accounting is conducted monthly by the SLDC, while reactive power charges are linked to actual grid voltage conditions.
- iv. A dedicated cybersecurity code mandates robust frameworks, regular audits, and immediate incident reporting to protect against hacking and malware.

5. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The draft framework aligns Jharkhand's grid operations with the Indian Electricity Grid Code (IEGC)<sup>175</sup> and the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) which aims at bringing down the Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses<sup>176</sup> to pan-India level of 12-15% and ACS-ARR<sup>177</sup> gap to zero.<sup>178</sup>

#### 6. Relevance -

- a. Jharkhand's AT&C losses stand at **31.17%** for FY 2023-24<sup>179</sup> which is among the highest nationally against the RDSS target of 12-15%. The Grid Code's DSM, structured energy accounting, and penalty framework directly target the commercial indiscipline that drives this gap.
- b. Jharkhand's per-capita power consumption is for FY 2023-24 was 1015 kWh,<sup>180</sup> well under the national average of 1,395 kWh in 2023-24, limiting the state's industrial competitiveness. Reliable grid performance is a prerequisite for attracting manufacturing investment particularly for Jharkhand's steel and mining industries, which require uninterrupted, stable supply. A **grid code** mandating fault clearance within 100-160 milliseconds and frequency control within 49.9-50.05 Hz directly addresses the reliability deficit that deters industrial investors.

<sup>174</sup> The Deviation Settlement Mechanism (DSM) is a regulatory framework that ensures grid stability by penalizing or rewarding grid participants (generators, consumers, distribution companies) for deviating from their scheduled electricity injection or drawal. It uses grid frequency and market prices to determine charges for deviations.

<sup>175</sup> [Indian Electricity Grid Code](#).

<sup>176</sup> Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses represent the sum of energy lost due to technical inefficiencies (heat, transmission) and commercial issues (theft, poor billing/collection) in power distribution. High AT&C losses directly reduce revenue and hurt financial viability.

<sup>177</sup> The ACS-ARR gap is the difference between the Average Cost of Supply (ACS) per unit of electricity (cost to buy and distribute) and the Average Revenue Realized (ARR) per unit (revenue collected from consumers). It represents the financial loss per unit for power distribution companies (DISCOMs).

<sup>178</sup> [PIB, December, 2025](#).

<sup>179</sup> [Loksabha Unstarred Question No. 3410, March, 2025](#).

<sup>180</sup> [India Climate And Energy Dashboard](#).

### A. Draft State Grid Code Regulations, 2026

**Source:** [The Government Of Jharkhand](#), [Mercom India](#) | **Impact:** High

- c. Fifteen state utilities nationally posted generator payment delays averaging 120 days in 2024.<sup>181</sup> The Grid Code's 10-day payment ceiling with 0.04% daily penalties directly addresses a structural problem that has deterred renewable energy developers from **investing in states with weak commercial discipline**.
- d. The dedicated cybersecurity mandate requiring regular audits and immediate incident reporting addresses a nationally recognised gap: India's power sector has been the target of **repeated state-sponsored cyberattacks**, with critical grid infrastructure identified as a high-risk target.<sup>182</sup>
- e. A formal cybersecurity code mandated under these regulations, instead of ad hoc IT policies, institutionalises incident response and strengthens regulatory accountability for grid operators, moving Jharkhand's grid framework in line with the **CERC's national cybersecurity guidelines**<sup>183</sup> for power sector entities.

<sup>181</sup> [India Power Market Report](#).

<sup>182</sup> [NDTV, June, 2025](#).

<sup>183</sup> [CEA \(Cyber Security In Power Sector\) Guidelines, 2021](#).

## II. Uttar Pradesh

### A. Navayug Palika Yojana (2026)

Source: [Business Standard](#) | Impact: High

1. On 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Government unveiled a ₹ 2,915 crore blueprint titled the “Navayug Palika Yojana” to replicate the success of the “Smart City Mission” in the state’s smaller urban settlements.
2. This five-year roadmap (extending to 2029-30) shifts the focus of high-end urban infrastructure from the 17 major municipal corporations to **Tier II and III towns** managed by smaller urban local bodies.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. It commits a total investment of ₹ 2,915 crore over five years, with an annual projected expenditure of ₹ 583 crore.
  - b. It targets the modernisation of Tier II and III towns across 58 district headquarters that currently fall outside the jurisdiction of major municipal corporations.
  - c. It aims for the development of 100 new townships across 75 districts to provide planned housing and reduce the proliferation of unregulated colonies.
  - d. It establishes a population-based prioritisation system, dividing urban bodies into categories of above 1.5 lakh and below 1.5 lakh to tailor infrastructure needs.
  - e. Institutes a state-level technical committee to evaluate and vet all project proposals before final approval by the competent authority.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the Union Government’s plan to allocate ₹ 5,000 crore per City Economic Region (CER) to amplify the economic potential of Tier II and III cities.<sup>184</sup>
5. **Relevance -**
  - a. The urban population of the state has risen from **24% in 2017 to 30% in 2024** and is expected to reach 40% in five years.<sup>185</sup> The scale of this urbanisation means that the 58 district headquarters outside major corporations, where Navayug Palika Yojana is targeted, are absorbing population growth without equivalent infrastructure investment, making the scheme’s timing directly responsive to a documented and widening gap.
  - b. The Blueprint addresses these gaps through a ₹ 2,900 crore investment, including ₹ 583 crore annually directed toward Tier-II/III towns, enabling spatial redistribution of capital toward underdeveloped urban centres.
  - c. Development of 100 planned townships directly targets unregulated peri-urban expansion by formalising land use and infrastructure provisioning, aligning with MoHUA-identified planning deficits.<sup>186</sup> This structured investment approach

<sup>184</sup> [PIB, February, 2026.](#)

<sup>185</sup> [The Statesman, March, 2024.](#)

<sup>186</sup> [Times Of India, December, 2022.](#)

**A. Navayug Palika Yojana (2026)****Source:** [Business Standard](#) | **Impact:** High

reduces metropolitan bias by improving infrastructure readiness for SMEs and Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance sector expansion in smaller towns.

- d. Further, the development of 100 planned townships is expected to generate strong **construction-led multiplier effects**, as public investment in infrastructure in India has an estimated output multiplier of 2.5 - 3.5x over the medium term, indicating that each ₹ 1 spent can generate multiple times economic activity.<sup>187</sup>
- e. Infrastructure expansion also drives real estate demand by making peripheral and underdeveloped areas investment-ready, enabling formalisation of land markets and increased private participation.<sup>188</sup> This aligns with Uttar Pradesh's target of becoming a \$ 1 trillion economy by accelerating construction activity, expanding formal real estate markets, and increasing capital formation in non-metro regions.

<sup>187</sup> [India Budget](#).

<sup>188</sup> [Economic Times, February, 2026](#).

## B. The New Tourism Startup Units Scheme, 2026

Source: [Indian Masterminds](#), [The Times Of India](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Government launched the 'New Tourism Startup Units Scheme' to modernise the state's tourism landscape through entrepreneurship and innovation.
2. The scheme aims to promote entrepreneurship-driven, experience-based tourism models, expanding private investment, and diversifying tourism offerings beyond conventional destination-centric formats.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The scheme supports innovative stay formats, including Japanese-style capsule pods, high-tech caravan units, theme-based Habitat Houses, and open-air "Star Bed" experiences.
  - b. A tiered subsidy structure provides -
    - i. 25% (up to ₹ 2 crore) for investments between ₹ 10 lakh and ₹ 10 crore.
    - ii. 20% (up to ₹ 7.5 crore) for investments up to ₹ 50 crore.
    - iii. 10% (up to ₹ 40 crore) for large-scale investments exceeding ₹ 500 crore.
  - c. Inclusive incentives include an additional 5% subsidy for women, Scheduled Caste (SC), and Scheduled Tribe (ST) entrepreneurs to promote diverse participation.
  - d. Regulatory relief is provided through a **100% exemption on stamp duty** and **total waivers on land conversion** and development charges for registered startup units.
  - e. All project proposals are evaluated by the State Level Special Tourism Committee (SLSTC) to ensure viability and environmental impact.
4. **Relevance -**
  - a. The state's per capita income stands at ₹ 1,07,468 in 2024-25,<sup>189</sup> well below the national average and 22.93% of its population remains multidimensionally poor,<sup>190</sup> even as the state hosts India's highest tourist numbers. Tourism entrepreneurship is one of few sectors where low-capital entry and geographically distributed economic activity can simultaneously generate employment and income in non-industrial districts.
  - b. The **100% stamp duty exemption** and **waiver of land conversion** and development charges directly tackle one of the highest entry-cost barriers for small tourism enterprises, where stamp duty rates are among the highest in the country and land-use conversion for hospitality projects routinely runs into administrative and financial obstacles.
  - c. India's travel services market is transitioning from a volume-based model to a

<sup>189</sup> [Economy Of Uttar Pradesh.](#)

<sup>190</sup> [National Multidimensional Poverty Index, NITI Aayog 2023.](#)

## B. The New Tourism Startup Units Scheme, 2026

Source: [Indian Masterminds](#), [The Times Of India](#) | Impact: Medium

highly **personalised, experience-led economy**,<sup>191</sup> driven by rising middle-class discretionary spending and the industrialisation of experiential and premium travel services. Formats like Themed Habitat Houses<sup>192</sup> and Open-air Star Beds<sup>193</sup> are experiential products that command higher per-night rates than standard hotel rooms, improve stay duration, and increase ancillary spending.

- d. The state's biggest challenge is that tourists often only visit the major tourist destinations and leave the same day. By offering Star Beds or Hobbit Houses, the state is creating the "destination is the stay" demand, which mathematically increases the Average Length of Stay (ALoS)<sup>194</sup> and local ancillary spending on food and crafts.
- e. Lastly, India's tourism and hospitality sector poised to reach nearly \$ 60 billion ( $\approx$  ₹ 5.70 lakh crore) by 2028, driven by domestic and international traveler spending expected to triple by 2034,<sup>195</sup> highlighting the scale of growth in specialised tourism segments.
- f. The scheme supports this growth trajectory by investing in specialised tourism circuits and infrastructure, enabling destination diversification, increasing tourist footfall in non-core regions, and strengthening revenue generation from emerging tourism clusters.

<sup>191</sup> [Technavio, March, 2026.](#)

<sup>192</sup> Themed Habitat Houses refers to specialized, environmentally integrated, or culturally designed accommodation that immerses travelers in a specific natural or local cultural setting.

<sup>193</sup> Open-air Star Beds are outdoor sleeping arrangements where guests sleep under the open sky, often for stargazing.

<sup>194</sup> Average Length of Stay (ALoS) is a tourism metric that shows the average number of nights guests stay, calculated by dividing total occupied room nights by total bookings. Higher ALOS is usually linked to more revenue and better sustainability.

<sup>195</sup> [IBEF, November, 2025.](#)

### C. New Operations And Maintenance (O&M) Framework

Source: [The Statesman](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2026, the Government of Uttar Pradesh mandated a compulsory **10-year** Operation and Maintenance (O&M) framework for all rural water supply schemes.
2. This initiative aims to ensure the long-term sustainability of the **Jal Jeevan Mission** assets. The plan focuses on long-term upkeep, solar-powered schemes, and stronger quality monitoring.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. A 10-Year Maintenance Mandate has been established, contractually binding construction agencies to manage the upkeep, performance, and repairs of water infrastructure for a full decade after installation.
  - b. The Jal Arpan Initiative<sup>196</sup> facilitates the formal transfer of scheme ownership to Gram Panchayats, while ensuring that the original building agencies work in close coordination with village bodies for technical maintenance.
  - c. Widespread Solar Integration has been implemented across 33,157 water schemes, utilising renewable energy to mitigate the financial burden of high electricity costs.
  - d. State-wide Quality Monitoring is supported by a robust infrastructure including 75 district-level laboratories, one state-level lab, five mobile National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)-accredited units, and 72 in-house treatment plant labs.
  - e. Statutory Service Guarantees are provided through a new Citizen Charter<sup>197</sup> under the Public Service Guarantee Act,<sup>198</sup> which legally protects the rights of rural residents regarding water quantity, quality, and service delivery.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy directly aligns with the **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)**, under which all states and UTs have been advised to put a comprehensive O&M Policy in place.<sup>199</sup>
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** State of Odisha has a dedicated O&M policy<sup>200</sup>

<sup>196</sup> The Jal Arpan initiative is a key, community-focused program launched under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) 2.0 aimed at transitioning rural water supply schemes from government management to community ownership.

<sup>197</sup> A Citizen Charter is a voluntary, written document outlining a public organization's commitment to delivering quality, time-bound services, ensuring transparency, accountability, and citizen-friendly governance.

<sup>198</sup> [The Uttar Pradesh Janhit Guarantee Adhiniyam, 2011.](#)

<sup>199</sup> [PIB, December, 2025.](#)

<sup>200</sup> [TOI, April, 2026.](#)

### C. New Operations And Maintenance (O&M) Framework

Source: [The Statesman](#) | Impact: Medium

and States like Andhra Pradesh,<sup>201</sup> Haryana,<sup>202</sup> Himachal Pradesh,<sup>203</sup> Chhattisgarh,<sup>204</sup> Goa<sup>205</sup> and Gujarat<sup>206</sup> have signed “Reform-Linked MoUs” related to O&M of infrastructure and to ensure safe, sustainable, and community-led water supply.

#### 6. Relevance -

- a. While 95.9% of rural Uttar Pradesh households have tap connections under JJM, only 72.6% are functional,<sup>207</sup> with failures driven by pump issues (29.6%), pipeline damage (31.9%), and source constraints (4.6%).<sup>208</sup> This indicates a gap between asset creation and service delivery outcomes.
- b. The 10-year O&M mandate addresses this by institutionalising lifecycle maintenance, enabling preventive repairs, structured maintenance budgeting, and faster restoration of non-functional schemes, thereby improving system uptime and protecting infrastructure investments exceeding ₹3.60 lakh crore under JJM.
- c. With only 55.6% villages having skilled O&M manpower, the formal transfer of responsibilities to Gram Panchayats strengthens accountability and local maintenance capacity.<sup>209</sup> Improved reliability reduces dependence on alternative water sources, lowering out-of-pocket expenditure for rural households and stabilising last-mile service delivery.

<sup>201</sup> [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

<sup>202</sup> [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

<sup>203</sup> [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

<sup>204</sup> [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

<sup>205</sup> [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

<sup>206</sup> [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

<sup>207</sup> [Functionality Assessment Of Household Tap Connection, National Report, 2024.](#)

<sup>208</sup> [Functionality Assessment Of Household Tap Connection, National Report, 2024.](#)

<sup>209</sup> [Functionality Assessment Of Household Tap Connection, National Report, 2024.](#)

### III. Nagaland

#### A. Doyang Wildlife Division Initiative, 2026

Source: [India Today North East](#) | Impact: High

1. On 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2026, the Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of Nagaland inaugurated the Doyang Wildlife Division in Wokha district, along with a dedicated control room to address rising human-elephant conflict.
2. The initiative aims to mitigate human-elephant conflict (HEC), ensure rapid response and redressal of wildlife-related incidents, and promote coexistence between local communities and wildlife.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. It establishes a dedicated Wildlife Division in Wokha, carved out from the earlier Doyang Plantation Division.
  - b. It creates a specialised control room for human-elephant conflict management, enabling quicker response mechanisms.
  - c. The division's jurisdiction covers Wokha, Mokokchung, and Zunheboto forest divisions, ensuring regional coordination.
  - d. It focuses on immediate intervention and citizen support systems for wildlife-related issues.
  - e. It emphasises community participation and awareness-building to promote coexistence and reduce conflict.
  - f. It plans for long-term solutions through externally aided projects and conservation strategies.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** In Andhra Pradesh, the Government has launched Project HANUMAN (Healing and Nurturing Units for Monitoring, Aid and Nursing of Wildlife) to address rising human-wildlife conflict.<sup>210</sup> Similarly, Assam launched the Gajaah Mitra scheme to focus on sustainable habitats for elephants in 80 conflict-prone areas.<sup>211</sup>
5. **Relevance -**
  - a. Nagaland is home to approximately 440 elephants, with nearly 200 concentrated in Wokha, making it the state's highest human-elephant conflict zone, where 89 villages were affected.<sup>212</sup> Since 2018, conflict incidents have led to 15 elephant and 5 human deaths, highlighting sustained risk.<sup>213</sup>
  - b. The Doyang Wildlife Division, carved out to cover Wokha, Mokokchung, and Zunheboto, establishes a dedicated administrative unit with a co-located control room, enabling faster response in the most affected districts.

<sup>210</sup> [The Hindu, March, 2026.](#)

<sup>211</sup> [NDTV, July, 2025.](#)

<sup>212</sup> [Morung Express, June, 2025.](#)

<sup>213</sup> [Department Of Information And Public Relations, Government Of Nagaland.](#)

**A. Doyang Wildlife Division Initiative, 2026****Source:** [India Today North East](#) | **Impact:** High

- c. Nagaland's forest enforcement remains understaffed, with 115–130 forest guard vacancies and over half of the sanctioned posts lying vacant, alongside shortages across Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF), Ranger, and Forester ranks.<sup>214</sup> The Doyang Wildlife Division addresses this by creating a dedicated unit for wildlife conflict management, strengthening focused enforcement capacity.
- d. Agriculture is the primary livelihood in this belt, with around 80% of the total working population engaged in cultivation,<sup>215</sup> where elephant incursions have caused season-ending losses. It includes cases of entire annual incomes wiped out in a single raid.<sup>216</sup> In the absence of structured compensation or rapid response, farmers have largely depended on ad hoc relief, with stopgaps like Wildlife Trust of India supporting affected households.<sup>217</sup> The Doyang Wildlife Division addresses this gap by establishing a dedicated control room, enabling real-time government response to conflict incidents.

<sup>214</sup> [Eastern Mirror, September, 2023.](#)

<sup>215</sup> [District Export Action Plan Wokha, Nagaland.](#)

<sup>216</sup> [Nagaland Post, December, 2025.](#)

<sup>217</sup> [Wildlife Trust Of India.](#)

## IV. Odisha

### A. New transfer And Posting Policy For OAS And ORS Officers

**Source:** [The Government Of Odisha](#), [Odisha TV](#) | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2026, the Odisha Government issued the “Transfer and Posting policy” for Odisha Administrative Service (OAS) Group-A (Junior Branch) and Odisha Revenue Service (ORS) officers.
2. The policy aims to eliminate arbitrary transfers and ensure that all junior officers gain mandatory field-level experience in the state’s most underserved regions.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. **Field Posting And Regional Deployment -**
    - i. The Policy mandates compulsory field postings for all officers as Tehsildar, Block Development Officer (BDO), Land Acquisition Officer (LAO), or District Sub-Registrar (DSR) during the first six years of service.
    - ii. It prioritises initial postings and counselling to fill vacancies in KBK districts (Kalahandi-Balangir-Koraput), Gajapati, Kandhamal, and other scheduled areas.
  - b. **Transfer Regulation And Tenure Norms -**
    - i. It establishes an annual transfer window from 15 April to 15 June, with off-cycle transfers requiring higher authority approval
    - ii. It fixes tenure at a station between a minimum of two years and a maximum of three years, subject to administrative review
    - iii. It also restricts continuous stay in a single district to a maximum of six years and ten years cumulatively over the entire career.
  - c. **Governance Safeguards And Compliance Mechanisms -**
    - i. Prohibits postings in an officer’s home district, with limited exceptions in the final two years before retirement.
    - ii. Imposes a complete ban on direct or indirect lobbying or recommendations for transfers.
    - iii. Mandates relieving within seven days of transfer orders, with automatic relief on the eighth day and compulsory joining within seven days.
  - d. **Special Provisions And Welfare Measures -**
    - i. **Provides** for sympathetic consideration of transfer requests for officers with 40% or more disability.
    - ii. **Enables** spousal postings in proximity, subject to administrative feasibility.
4. **Relevance -**
  - a. According to NITI Aayog’s National Multidimensional Poverty Index<sup>218</sup> (based on

<sup>218</sup> Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) measures poverty by looking at simultaneous, non-monetary deprivations across health, education, and standard of living, rather than just income.

### A. New transfer And Posting Policy For OAS And ORS Officers

**Source:** [The Government Of Odisha](#), [Odisha TV](#) | **Impact:** Medium

NFHS-5 data)<sup>219</sup> Odisha's share of multidimensionally poor declined from 29.34% in 2015-16 to 15.68% in 2019-21, yet district-level gaps remain acute. The 2023 Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) data shows that Malkangiri (45%), Rayagada (34%), Koraput (33.5%), Nabarangapur (33.4%), Gajapati (28.1%), and Kandhamal (25.3%) account for the bulk of multidimensional poverty in the state.<sup>220</sup>

- b. Further, by mandating early-career OAS and ORS officers to fill vacancies in these districts, the Odisha Government institutionalises administrative capacity where the poverty gap is most pronounced.
- c. Ten of Odisha's districts, i.e., Balangir, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangapur, Nuapada, and Rayagada<sup>221</sup> are listed in NITI Aayog's list of 112 Aspirational Districts under the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP).<sup>222</sup> The ADP's framework is premised on district-level administrative effectiveness.
- d. In light of the above, the policy's fixed tenure and compulsory field posting provisions directly reinforce the continuity of district leadership that the ADP requires for sustained indicator improvement.

<sup>219</sup> The National Family Health Survey (NFHS) is a large-scale, multi-round survey conducted across India to provide comprehensive data on health, family welfare, nutrition, and related indicators. NFHS-5 (2019-21) is the latest completed survey.

<sup>220</sup> [National Multidimensional Poverty Index \(MPI\), NITI Aayog, Page 226.](#)

<sup>221</sup> [List Of 112 Aspirational Districts, NITI Aayog.](#)

<sup>222</sup> The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) is an initiative by NITI Aayog which aims to quickly and effectively transform 112 most under-developed districts across the country.

## V. Jharkhand

### A. Jharkhand Regularisation Of Unauthorisedly Constructed Building Rules, 2025

Source: [The Times Of India](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026, The Jharkhand state cabinet officially approved the **Jharkhand Regularisation of Unauthorisedly Constructed Building Rules, 2025**, aimed at granting legal status to thousands of structures built without sanctioned plans.
2. The Rules are designed to provide relief to homeowners while ensuring that urban development remains within the bounds of safety and structural norms.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The Rules apply to Ground plus two floors (G+2) structures<sup>223</sup> up to 10 metres in height, covering both commercial and non-commercial buildings constructed on plots up to 300 square metres, provided no other construction norms are violated.
  - b. A regularisation fee is mandated at a minimum of ₹ 10,000 for residential buildings and ₹ 20,000 for non-residential buildings.
  - c. Once an application is submitted, the concerned department conducts a scrutiny to verify compliance with all other applicable construction norms before conferring legal status on the building.
  - d. The Rules explicitly exclude buildings that violate other prevailing construction norms, ensuring that regularisation functions as a compliance pathway and not a blanket amnesty.
  - e. Lastly, the Rules enable applicants to apply online, reducing administrative friction and improving access for residents across Jharkhand's 50 urban local bodies.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Rules align with the **Pradhan Mantri - Unauthorised Colonies in Delhi Awas Adhikar Yojana (PM-UDAY), 2019**,<sup>224</sup> which confers legal ownership or transfer/mortgage rights to residents of unauthorised colonies in Delhi.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Telangana,<sup>225</sup> Tamil Nadu<sup>226</sup> and Andhra Pradesh<sup>227</sup> also have similar initiatives to grant legal status to buildings not conforming to sanctioned plans.
6. **Relevance -**

<sup>223</sup> Ground plus Two Floors (G+2) Structures refers to a building configuration comprising a ground floor and two additional upper floors, commonly used to regulate building height, density, and permissible floor area under local urban planning norms.

<sup>224</sup> [PM-UDAY 2019](#).

<sup>225</sup> [Telangana Regularisation Of Unauthorisedly Constructed Buildings And Buildings Constructed In Deviation Of The Sanctioned Plan Rules, 2015](#).

<sup>226</sup> [Tamil Nadu Assessment And Collection Of Amount For Exemption Of Buildings Rules, 2017](#).

<sup>227</sup> [Andhra Pradesh Regulation And Penalisation Of Buildings Constructed Unauthorisedly And In Deviation To The Sanctioned Plan Rules, 2025](#).

### A. Jharkhand Regularisation Of Unauthorisedly Constructed Building Rules, 2025

Source: [The Times Of India](#) | Impact: Medium

- a. The Federation of Jharkhand Chamber of Commerce's (FJCCI)<sup>228</sup> estimate of **5 lakh affected households**<sup>229</sup> points to a substantial ownership gap in Jharkhand's urban areas. The residents have long been unable to use their primary asset, their home, as formal collateral for housing loans or credit. Regularisation converts physical occupancy into documented ownership, directly enabling access to formal financial services and enabling investment in home improvement.
- b. Unauthorised buildings, by definition, fall outside the property tax base of Urban Local Bodies.<sup>230</sup> Regularising five lakh structures, even at conservative assessed values, expands the urban local body tax base. The **16<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission (2026-31)**<sup>231</sup> has highlighted the need to improve property tax collections by urban local bodies to enhance their financial health.<sup>232</sup>
- c. In contrast to the above, regularisation enables the state to effectively expand the formal housing stock by recognising already-constructed units, thereby leveraging private investment and reducing the need for large upfront capital outlays, while still incurring administrative and infrastructure augmentation costs.

<sup>228</sup> The Federation of Jharkhand Chamber of Commerce & Industries (FJCCI) is the apex business organization in Jharkhand, representing trade, commerce, and industry since 1960.

<sup>229</sup> [Times Of India, April, 2026.](#)

<sup>230</sup> [CAG Report, Chapter V, Pg 81.](#)

<sup>231</sup> The Finance Commission (FC) of India is a constitutional body (Article 280) constituted by the President every five years to recommend the distribution of financial resources between the Union and the states.

<sup>232</sup> [Sixteenth Finance Commission \(2026-2031\).](#)

## VI. Goa

### A. Goa Tenant Verification Rules, 2026

**Source:** [The Government Of Goa, The Goan](#) | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2026, the Goa Government notified the Goa Tenant Verification Rules, 2026.
2. The Rules aim to mandate **standardised police verification of tenants** to enhance security, ensure resident traceability, and formalise landlord obligations through integration with police records.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. It mandates landlords to submit tenant details to the local police station within a specified time frame before occupancy.
  - b. It introduces a standardised tenant verification form capturing identity, employment, and previous residence details.
  - c. It provides for police background checks and record maintenance at the jurisdictional police station level.
  - d. It mandates penalties, including fines, for non-compliance by landlords or property owners.
  - e. It enables digital or physical submission mechanisms to streamline verification and record-keeping.
  - f. It mandates inspection of tenant records by authorised police officers of Head Constable rank and above, along with maintenance of inspection records.
4. **Relevance -**
  - a. Goa records over 1 crore annual tourists<sup>233</sup> against a 15.98 lakh population,<sup>234</sup> with a significant share of the migrant population, creating a high-transience environment with low traceability of occupants. The Rules mandate time-bound verification, tenant registers, and penalties, directly addressing this gap by enabling systematic identity tracking and strengthening law enforcement response.
  - b. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) 2022 data recorded 67 crimes by foreign nationals in Goa,<sup>235</sup> spanning serious offences and visa violations, underscoring security risks in a high-transience setting. The Goa (Verification of Tenants) Act, 2024,<sup>236</sup> was enacted to enable systematic tenant verification for security purposes, and the Rules operationalise this by defining a clear **escalation chain**, creating a continuous and accountable enforcement pipeline from property level to administrative oversight.

<sup>233</sup> [Department Of Tourism, Government Of Goa.](#)

<sup>234</sup> [Economic Survey 2024-25.](#)

<sup>235</sup> [The Times Of India, December, 2023.](#)

<sup>236</sup> [The Goa \(Verification of Tenants\) Act, 2024.](#)

**A. Goa Tenant Verification Rules, 2026****Source:** [The Government Of Goa](#), [The Goan](#) | **Impact:** Medium

- c. Goa's construction and tourism sectors rely heavily on informal, rotating migrant labour concentrated in rental housing. Tourism contributes 16.4% to the state's GDP and employs about 35% of the population,<sup>237</sup> making this untracked residential footprint a major governance gap. The Rules address this by mandating a permanent, police-inspectable tenant register covering all occupants. This creates a live, address-level database of the actual resident population beyond Census estimates.

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<sup>237</sup> [India Brand Equity Foundation, October, 2025.](#)

## VII. Meghalaya

### A. Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance, 2026

Source: [Assam Tribune](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2026, the Meghalaya Cabinet approved an ordinance declaring Khasi and Garo as official state languages, repealing the earlier Meghalaya State Language Act, 2005.<sup>238</sup>
2. The Ordinance aims to promote linguistic inclusivity, recognise the cultural and ethnic identity of indigenous communities, and expand the use of local languages in administration and governance.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. It grants Khasi and Garo full official language status, alongside English.
  - b. It repeals the Meghalaya State Language Act, 2005,<sup>239</sup> under which English was the sole official language.
  - c. The Khasi and Garo were only associated with official languages at the district and local levels, not across the entire state.
  - d. The ordinance enables wider use of indigenous languages in government communication and administration.
  - e. It marks a shift toward greater recognition of tribal languages in governance frameworks.
4. **Relevance -**
  - a. Under the Meghalaya Language Act, 2005, English was the sole official language, while Khasi and Garo had only limited associate status<sup>240</sup> despite being the mother tongue of about 82% of the population.<sup>241</sup> The Ordinance corrects this by granting Khasi and Garo full co-official status, enabling official communication to reach the majority in their primary language.
  - b. The restriction of official proceedings to English created friction within the Assembly, with the Members of the Legislative Assembly repeatedly resorting to Khasi and Garo in protest.<sup>242</sup> For a state where 86.15% of the population belongs to the Scheduled Tribes, this effectively excluded tribal languages from the primary legislative forum. The Ordinance corrects this by enabling debate in Khasi and Garo, aligning legislative functioning with the linguistic reality of its representatives and constituents.
  - c. Language Friction is a hidden tax on the poor. When a rural citizen cannot understand a Government notification on land rights or health schemes, they

<sup>238</sup> [The Meghalaya Language Act, 2005.](#)

<sup>239</sup> [The Meghalaya Language Act, 2005.](#)

<sup>240</sup> [The Meghalaya Language Act, 2005.](#)

<sup>241</sup> [The Meghalayan Express, April, 2026.](#)

<sup>242</sup> [The Times Of India, April, 2026.](#)

**A. Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance, 2026****Source:** [Assam Tribune](#) | **Impact:** Medium

must pay intermediaries to translate.<sup>243</sup> By providing Official Documents in Khasi/Garo, the state is performing a governance optimisation that improves welfare uptake.

- d. Further, the official status for these languages will trigger a boom in the local publishing, translation, and media industry. The requirement for translated textbooks, legal documents, and official signage creates a new linguistic economy for local linguists and tech developers.

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<sup>243</sup> [Hub News, April, 2026.](#)

## B. Meghalaya Startup Ecosystem Digital Platforms And Youth Outreach Initiative, 2026

Source: [India Today North East](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2026, the Meghalaya Government launched new digital platforms and youth outreach initiatives under its startup ecosystem program.
2. The initiative aims to strengthen Meghalaya's startup ecosystem by leveraging digital platforms to improve service delivery, expand market access, and increase youth participation in entrepreneurship through targeted outreach and engagement programs.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. It introduces three digital platforms:
    - i. PRIME Digital Service Providers Platform (DSPP) to streamline access to professional and business support services for entrepreneurs.
    - ii. Ekanbha platform to support artisans with disabilities through e-commerce and digital market access.
    - iii. ONG YI Delivery App, positioned as Upper Shillong's first local delivery platform, promoting hyperlocal entrepreneurship and digital commerce.
  - b. It provides e-commerce and digital access channels for artisans, including persons with disabilities, to integrate into market networks.
  - c. It enables youth outreach programs, including student engagement and ambassador initiatives, to promote entrepreneurship at the grassroots level.
  - d. It integrates startup support with incubation, mentorship, and funding frameworks under the PRIME program.
  - e. It seeks to strengthen ecosystem linkages across sectors such as technology, services, and local enterprises through platform-based coordination.
4. **Relevance -**
  - a. Meghalaya's real GSDP grew at just 2.1% (2012–22), with per capita income 32% below the national average,<sup>244</sup> alongside 18% youth unemployment, with 22.7% of youth not engaged in employment, education, or training.<sup>245</sup> PRIME IGNITE 2026 addresses this by building a structured pipeline from idea to market through digital platforms, funding visibility, and student outreach, targeting youth outside the formal labour market.
  - b. In India, less than 1% of artisans sell online, and only about 20% have received digital selling training.<sup>246</sup> In Meghalaya, craft groups remain relatively confined to

<sup>244</sup> [Macro And Fiscal Landscape Of The State Of Meghalaya, March, 2025.](#)

<sup>245</sup> [Asian Development Bank.](#)

<sup>246</sup> [India Development Review, January, 2023.](#)

## B. Meghalaya Startup Ecosystem Digital Platforms And Youth Outreach Initiative, 2026

Source: [India Today North East](#) | Impact: Medium

local markets like lewduh and seasonal fairs,<sup>247</sup> limiting income growth. The Ekanbha platform launched at PRIME IGNITE 2026 directly addresses this gap by enabling structured digital market access, particularly for artisans with disabilities who face the highest barriers to physical markets.

- c. Meghalaya, a “Top Performer”<sup>248</sup> in the DPIIT Startup Ranking 2022,<sup>249</sup> has scaled its ecosystem through PRIME with 2,847 entrepreneurs onboarded, 885+ funded, and 1,350 startups registered. However, access to mentorship, credit, and market linkages remained fragmented.<sup>250</sup> The PRIME Digital Service Providers Platform addresses this by creating a unified access system, strengthening enterprise growth in a ₹ 76,320 crore<sup>251</sup> economy targeting income convergence.

<sup>247</sup> [Meghalaya Basin Development Authority.](#)

<sup>248</sup> “Top Performer” is a high-ranking category awarded to states and Union Territories (UTs) that demonstrate significant progress and strong ecosystem support (scoring between 70-89 percentile) in building a conducive environment for startups.

<sup>249</sup> [Business Standard, January, 2024.](#)

<sup>250</sup> [India Today North East, April, 2026.](#)

<sup>251</sup> [Budget 2026-27, Government Of Meghalaya.](#)

Notes






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