

States In Motion

What's Happening In Indian States



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Table Of Contents

Key Announcements	5
मुख्य घोषणाएँ	8
I. Puducherry	12
A. Jan Vishwas (Amendment Of Provisions) Bill, 2025	12
II. Gujarat	14
A. The Gujarat Shops And Establishments (Regulation Of Employment And Conditions Of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2026	14
III. Maharashtra	16
A. Streamlining Of Agricultural-to-Non-Agricultural Conversion Regime	16
IV. Karnataka	18
A. Floor Area Ratio (FAR) Norms Revision For Industrial Plots	18
V. Tripura	19
A. The Ease Of Doing Business Ordinance, 2026	19
VI. Andhra Pradesh	20
A. Amendments To The Online Inspection System And IT/ITES Exemption	20
VII. Mizoram	22
A. Mizoram (Prevention Of Public Land Encroachment) Bill, 2026	22
VIII. Tamil Nadu	24
A. One-Time Stone Quarrying Regularisation Scheme	24
IX. Tripura	25
A. State Innovation Mission (SIM)	26
Policy Level Announcements	28
I. Kerala	28
A. Kerala Information Technology (IT) Policy, 2026	28
B. Kerala State Urban Policy, 2026	30
C. Cabinet Approval To Kerala Graphene Policy, 2026	32
D. The Revised Women's Policy, 2026	34
II. Maharashtra	36
A. Maharashtra Renewable Energy And Energy Storage Policy, 2025-2035	36
III. Tamil Nadu	38
A. Proposed Shipbuilding Policy, 2026	38
IV. Himachal Pradesh	40
A. State Data Hosting Policy	40
B. Cabinet Approval To New Lease Policy	42
V. Rajasthan	44
A. Rajasthan Industrial Park Incentive Policy, 2026	44
VI. Punjab	46

A. New Excise Policy, 2026-27	46
Social Sector Schemes	48
I. Telangana	48
A. Cabinet Approval To Cashless Employee Health Scheme (EHS)	48
B. Telangana Cabinet Approves Accident Insurance Scheme	50
II. Himachal Pradesh	51
A. Sukh Shiksha Scheme To Support Higher Education Of Widows' Daughters	51
III. Maharashtra	53
A. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Maharajasv Abhiyan	53
IV. Uttrakhand	55
A. Mukhyamantri Ekal Mahila Swarozgar Yojana	55
V. Punjab	57
A. Reward Policy For The Arrest Of Wanted Criminals	57
VI. Jharkhand	59
A. Launch Of Education Focused Initiatives	59
Investment Announcements	61
I. Odisha	61
A. Approval To 10 Major Industrial Projects Worth ₹ 44,200 Crore	61
II. Andhra Pradesh	63
A. Establishment Of An Integrated Lithium-Ion Battery Gigafactory	63
III. Gujarat	65
A. MoU For 250 MegaWatt (MW) Green AI-Ready Data Centre	65
IV. Bihar	66
A. Signing Of MoUs Worth ₹ 468 Crore To Formalise AI Partnerships	66
Other Decisions	68
I. Assam	68
A. Mission For Minority And Underprivileged Areas (MMUA) Expansion, 2026	68
B. Provincialisation Management System (PMS) Portal	69
II. Andhra Pradesh	71
A. Proposed Multi-Point Connectivity For Renewable Energy	71
B. Registration Of Births And Deaths Rules, 2025	73
C. MoU To Digitise Dokka Seethamma Midday Meal Scheme	75
III. Maharashtra	76
A. Maharashtra Climate Finance Access And Mobilisation Strategy (CFAMS)	76
IV. Kerala	77
A. Cabinet Approval To The Nativity Card Bill	77
B. The Advocates' Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2026	78
V. Haryana	80
A. Approval To Solar Micro Irrigation Projects	80

VI. Mizoram	82
A. Launch Of MSME Support Project	82
VII. Gujarat	84
A. Saurashtra Gharkhed Amendment Bill	84
VIII. Rajasthan	86
A. Rajasthan Homestay (Paying Guest House) Scheme, 2026	86
B. Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2026 And Rajasthan Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2026	88

Key Announcements

This document tracks the various key policy and reform decisions taken by State Governments and UTs between **16th February, 2026 and 28th February, 2026**.

Reforms Decisions

I. Puducherry

- A. **Jan Vishwas (Amendment Of Provisions) Bill, 2025:** The Government of Puducherry passed the Puducherry Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025, **decriminalising 47 provisions across 13 Acts** under five departments. The Amendment will replace criminal proceedings for minor violations with officer-determined monetary penalties.

II. Gujarat

- A. **Gujarat Shops And Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2026:** The Gujarat Legislative Assembly passed the Gujarat Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2026, extend daily working hours and permitting women to work night shifts in shops and commercial establishments.

III. Maharashtra

- A. **Streamlining Of Agricultural-to-Non-Agricultural (NA) Conversion Regime:** The Government of Maharashtra amended the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, scrapping the requirement for separate NA permission to convert agricultural land for non-agricultural use. Building plan approval (BPA) by the Town Planning Department or local planning authority shall serve as deemed NA permission, removing the need for separate District Collector approval.

IV. Karnataka

- A. **Revision Of Floor Area Ratio (FAR) Norms For Industrial Plots:** The Government of Karnataka revised FAR norms for industrial plots increasing permissible construction from 65% to 75% of plot area, enabling higher built-up utilisation.

V. Tripura

- A. **State Innovation Mission (SIM):** The Government of Tripura has launched its SIM to institutionalise innovation and entrepreneurship within the state's development framework aiming to build a decentralised and inclusive innovation ecosystem by promoting startups, supporting local enterprises and fostering technology-driven growth aligned with regional priorities.

Policy Level Announcements

I. Kerala

- A. **Information Technology (IT) Policy, 2026:** The Government of Kerala unveiled the IT Policy, 2026 which aims to capture 10% of the country's IT exports, generate five lakh new jobs, strengthen digital infrastructure through private participation in affiliation

Key Announcements

to public Infopark and Technopark. It also aims for 20,000 startups and Global Capability Centres and ensures universal internet connectivity with enhanced digital skill development for school going children.

- B. **State Urban Policy:** The Government of Kerala approved India's first comprehensive State Urban Policy which envisions a network of well-governed and climate-resilient cities by 2050, promotes inclusive and decentralised planning, strengthens urban infrastructure and institutions, and focuses on reducing social and spatial inequalities.
- C. **Graphene Policy, 2026:** The Kerala Cabinet approved the country's first Graphene Policy, 2026 to build a state-wide ecosystem for graphene research, innovation and industry, promoting R&D, supporting startups and enterprises, and providing financial and infrastructure incentives for graphene-based ventures.

II. Maharashtra

- A. **Renewable Energy And Energy Storage Policy, 2025–2035:** The Maharashtra Cabinet approved the policy to promote storage-friendly renewable energy, enabling up to four hours of storage through BESS, targeting 65% renewable electricity by 2035 with 10% supported by storage, aiming for 100 GW renewable and 100 GWh storage capacity, backed by ₹ 1,650 crore government support to attract ₹ 3.12 lakh crore in investments.

III. Tamil Nadu

- A. **Proposed Shipbuilding Policy, 2026:** The Tamil Nadu Government proposed a Shipbuilding and Ship Repair Policy with a ₹ 5,200 crore cluster at Thoothukudi with an aim to attract investment in shipbuilding, repair and marine services through incentives, infrastructure support and regulatory ease, supported by MoUs worth ₹ 30,000 crore.

IV. Himachal Pradesh

- A. **State Data Hosting Policy:** The Himachal Pradesh Government launched the State Data Hosting Policy, establishing a centralised 1,000 Terabyte Data Centre to host all departmental data, creating a secure, scalable digital backbone to improve transparency, efficiency, inter-departmental coordination and cybersecurity, while supporting expanded e-services and citizen engagement.

Social Sector Announcements

I. Telangana

- A. **Cashless Employee Health Scheme (EHS):** The Telangana Cabinet approved a Cashless EHS for Government employees, pensioners and their dependents, benefiting 17.07 lakh people, providing cashless treatment across government and empanelled private hospitals, issuing digital health cards and implemented through

Key Announcements

the Rajiv Aarogyasri Health Care Trust with shared employee and state contributions.

Investment Announcement

I. Odisha

A. **Approval To 10 Major Industrial Projects Worth ₹ 44,200 Crore:** The Odisha Government approved 10 industrial projects across eight districts, expected to generate 8,765 jobs. Key initiatives include a ₹ 4,620 crore memory chip plant in Khurda, ₹ 1,050 crore rare-earth magnet facility, ₹ 3,000 crore aerospace component unit, large-scale renewable energy and hydro projects, cement plants and a ₹ 1,622 crore cable landing station to boost digital connectivity.

II. Andhra Pradesh

A. **Integrated Lithium-Ion Battery Gigafactory:** The Andhra Pradesh State Investment Promotion Board approved Waaree Energies' ₹ 8,175 crore project to set up India's largest integrated lithium-ion battery gigafactory at Rambilli, Anakapalli district, creating 3,000 direct jobs and large-scale domestic battery manufacturing capacity to support clean energy, electric mobility and energy storage systems.

III. Gujarat

A. **250 MW Green AI-Ready Data Centre:** The Gujarat Government has signed an MoU with L&T VYOMA to establish a 250 MW green AI-ready data centre campus at Dholera SIR. The project aligns with the state's IT/ITeS Policy (2022-27) and is backed by over ₹ 850 crore in the state budget for AI and digital initiatives.

Other Decisions

I. Assam

A. **Mission For Minority And Underprivileged Areas (MMUA) Expansion, 2026:** The Assam Cabinet approved 3% reservation in Class I and Class II state Government jobs for tea tribes and Adivasi communities within the OBC quota, and expanded the MMUA scheme to include over one lakh additional women beneficiaries.

II. Andhra Pradesh

A. **Registration Of Births And Deaths Rules, 2025:** The Andhra Pradesh Health, Medical and Family Welfare Department issued the Andhra Pradesh Registration of Births and Deaths Rules, 2025 to streamline and digitise the procedure for registration of births and deaths in the state and strengthen the civil registration framework.

मुख्य घोषणाएँ

यह दस्तावेज़ 16 फ़रवरी 2026 से 28 फ़रवरी 2026 के मध्य राज्य सरकारों एवं केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों द्वारा लिए गए विभिन्न प्रमुख नीतिगत एवं सुधारात्मक निर्णयों का संकलन प्रस्तुत करता है।

सुधारात्मक निर्णय

I. पुदुचेरी

- A. **जन विश्वास (प्रावधानों का संशोधन) विधेयक, 2025** : पुदुचेरी सरकार ने पुदुचेरी जन विश्वास (प्रावधानों में संशोधन) विधेयक, 2025 पारित किया, जिसके अंतर्गत पाँच विभागों के अधीन 13 अधिनियमों में निहित **47 प्रावधानों को अपराध की श्रेणी से बाहर** किया गया है। इस संशोधन के माध्यम से छोटे उल्लंघनों के लिए आपराधिक कार्यवाही के स्थान पर सक्षम अधिकारी द्वारा निर्धारित मौद्रिक दंड का प्रावधान किया जाएगा।

II. गुजरात

- A. **गुजरात दुकान और प्रतिष्ठान (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2026**: गुजरात विधान सभा ने गुजरात शॉप्स एंड एस्टैब्लिशमेंट्स (रोज़गार का विनियमन एवं सेवा की शर्तें) (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2026 पारित किया है। इस संशोधन के अंतर्गत दुकानों एवं वाणिज्यिक प्रतिष्ठानों में दैनिक कार्य अवधि बढ़ाने तथा महिलाओं को रात्रि पाली (Night Shifts) में कार्य करने की अनुमति प्रदान करने का प्रावधान किया गया है।

III. महाराष्ट्र

- A. **कृषि से गैर-कृषि (एन.ए) रूपांतरण व्यवस्था को सुव्यवस्थित करना**: महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने महाराष्ट्र भूमि राजस्व संहिता में संशोधन करते हुए कृषि भूमि को गैर-कृषि उपयोग में परिवर्तित करने हेतु पृथक एन.ए अनुमति की अनिवार्यता को समाप्त कर दिया है। इसके परिणामस्वरूप अलग से जिला कलेक्टर की अनुमति प्राप्त करने की आवश्यकता समाप्त हो गई है, जिससे प्रक्रिया अधिक सरल एवं समयबद्ध हो सकेगी। अब नगर नियोजन विभाग अथवा संबंधित स्थानीय नियोजन प्राधिकरण द्वारा प्रदान की गई भवन योजना स्वीकृति (बीपीए) को ही डीमंड एन.ए अनुमति माना जाएगा।

IV. कर्नाटक

- A. **औद्योगिक भूखंडों के लिए फ्लोर एरिया अनुपात (एफ.ए.आर) मानदंडों में संशोधन**: कर्नाटक सरकार ने औद्योगिक भूखंडों के लिए फ्लोर एरिया अनुपात (एफ.ए.आर) मानकों में संशोधन करते हुए निर्माण क्षेत्र को भूखंड क्षेत्रफल के 65% से बढ़ाकर 75% कर दिया है। इससे निर्मित क्षेत्र के बेहतर उपयोग की सुविधा प्राप्त होगी और औद्योगिक निवेश एवं उत्पादन क्षमता में वृद्धि को प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा।

मुख्य घोषणाएँ

V. त्रिपुरा

- A. **राज्य नवाचार मिशन (एस.आई.एम):** त्रिपुरा सरकार ने राज्य के विकास ढांचे के भीतर नवाचार और उद्यमिता को संस्थागत बनाने के लिए अपना एस.आई.एम लॉन्च किया है, जिसका लक्ष्य स्टार्टअप को बढ़ावा देना, स्थानीय उद्यमों का समर्थन करना और क्षेत्रीय प्राथमिकताओं के साथ प्रौद्योगिकी-संचालित विकास को बढ़ावा देना है।

नीति स्तरीय घोषणाएँ

I. केरल

- A. **सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी (आई.टी) नीति, 2026:** केरल सरकार ने आई.टी नीति, 2026 जारी की, जिसका उद्देश्य देश के कुल आईटी निर्यात में 10% हिस्सेदारी प्राप्त करना तथा पाँच लाख नए रोजगार सृजित करना है। नीति के अंतर्गत सार्वजनिक इंफोपार्क एवं टेकरोपार्क से संबद्ध निजी भागीदारी के माध्यम से डिजिटल अवसंरचना को सुदृढ़ किया जाएगा। साथ ही 20,000 स्टार्टअप्स एवं ग्लोबल कैपेबिलिटी सेंटर्स (GCCs) को बढ़ावा देने तथा विद्यालयी बच्चों के लिए उन्नत डिजिटल कौशल विकास के साथ सार्वभौमिक इंटरनेट कनेक्टिविटी सुनिश्चित करने का लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है।
- B. **राज्य शहरी नीति :** केरल सरकार ने देश की पहली व्यापक राज्य शहरी नीति को स्वीकृति दी है, जिसका लक्ष्य वर्ष 2050 तक सुशासित एवं जलवायु-अनुकूल शहरों का नेटवर्क विकसित करना है। यह नीति समावेशी एवं विकेन्द्रीकृत नियोजन को प्रोत्साहित करती है, शहरी अवसंरचना एवं संस्थानों को सुदृढ़ करती है, तथा सामाजिक एवं स्थानिक असमानताओं को कम करने पर विशेष बल देती है।
- C. **ग्राफीन नीति, 2026:** केरल मंत्रिमंडल ने देश की पहली ग्राफीन नीति, 2026 को मंजूरी दी है, जिसका उद्देश्य ग्राफीन अनुसंधान, नवाचार एवं उद्योग के लिए राज्यव्यापी पारितंत्र (Ecosystem) विकसित करना है। नीति के अंतर्गत अनुसंधान एवं विकास (R&D) को बढ़ावा, स्टार्टअप्स एवं उद्यमों को समर्थन, तथा ग्राफीन-आधारित उपक्रमों के लिए वित्तीय एवं अवसंरचनात्मक प्रोत्साहन प्रदान किए जाएंगे।

II. महाराष्ट्र

- A. **नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा और ऊर्जा भंडारण नीति, 2025-2035:** महाराष्ट्र मंत्रिमंडल ने भंडारण-अनुकूल नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा को बढ़ावा देने की नीति को मंजूरी दे दी, जिसमें बी.ई.एस.एस के माध्यम से चार घंटे तक भंडारण को सक्षम किया गया, 2035 तक 65% नवीकरणीय बिजली का लक्ष्य रखा गया, जिसमें 10% भंडारण द्वारा समर्थित है, 100 गीगावाट नवीकरणीय और 100 गीगावॉट भंडारण क्षमता का लक्ष्य है, जिसमें ₹ 1,650 करोड़ के सरकारी समर्थन के माध्यम से लगभग ₹ 3.12 लाख करोड़ के निवेश आकर्षित करने का भी लक्ष्य है।

III. तमिलनाडु

मुख्य घोषणाएँ

- A. **प्रस्तावित जहाज निर्माण नीति, 2026:** तमिलनाडु सरकार ने शिपबिल्डिंग एवं शिप रिपेयर नीति, 2026 प्रस्तावित की है, जिसके अंतर्गत तूतुकुडी में ₹ 5,200 करोड़ की लागत से एक समर्पित क्लस्टर विकसित किया जाएगा। नीति का उद्देश्य जहाज निर्माण, मरम्मत एवं समुद्री सेवाओं के क्षेत्र में निवेश आकर्षित करना है। इसके लिए प्रोत्साहन अवसंरचना समर्थन एवं नियामकीय सुगमता प्रदान की जाएगी। इस पहल को लगभग ₹ 30,000 करोड़ के समझौता ज्ञापनों (MoUs) का समर्थन प्राप्त है, जिससे राज्य को समुद्री उद्योग (Maritime Sector) में एक प्रमुख केंद्र के रूप में विकसित करने का लक्ष्य रखा गया है।

IV. हिमाचल प्रदेश

- A. **स्टेट डेटा होस्टिंग नीति:** हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार ने राज्य डेटा होस्टिंग नीति शुरू की, सभी विभागीय डेटा को होस्ट करने के लिए एक केंद्रीकृत 1,000 टेराबाइट डेटा सेंटर की स्थापना की, विस्तारित ई-सेवाओं और नागरिक जुड़ाव का समर्थन करते हुए पारदर्शिता, दक्षता, अंतर-विभागीय समन्वय और साइबर सुरक्षा में सुधार के लिए एक सुरक्षित, स्केलेबल डिजिटल बैकबोन के रूप में स्थापित किया है।

सामाजिक क्षेत्र की घोषणाएँ

I. तेलंगाना

- A. **कैशलेस कर्मचारी स्वास्थ्य योजना (ई.एच.एस):** तेलंगाना मंत्रिमंडल ने सरकारी कर्मचारियों, पेंशनभोगियों और उनके आश्रितों के लिए कैशलेस ई.एच.एस को मंजूरी दे दी, जिससे 17.07 लाख लोगों को लाभ हुआ, सरकारी और सूचीबद्ध निजी अस्पतालों में कैशलेस उपचार प्रदान किया गया, डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य कार्ड जारी किए गए और साझा कर्मचारी और राज्य योगदान के साथ राजीव आरोग्यश्री हेल्थ केयर ट्रस्ट के माध्यम से लागू किया गया।

निवेश घोषणा

I. ओडिशा

- A. **₹ 44,200 करोड़ की 10 प्रमुख औद्योगिक परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी:** ओडिशा सरकार ने आठ जिलों में 10 औद्योगिक परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी दी, जिससे 8,765 रोजगार सृजित होने का अनुमान है। प्रमुख पहलों में डिजिटल कनेक्टिविटी को बढ़ावा देने के लिए खुर्दा में ₹ 4,620 करोड़ का मेमोरी चिप प्लांट, ₹ 1,050 करोड़ की रेयर-अर्थ मैग्नेट निर्माण इकाई, ₹ 3,000 करोड़ की एयरोस्पेस कंपोनेंट यूनिट, बड़े पैमाने पर नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा और जलविद्युत परियोजनाएं, सीमेंट संयंत्र और ₹ 1,622 करोड़ का केबल लैडिंग स्टेशन शामिल हैं।

II. आंध्र प्रदेश

मुख्य घोषणाएँ

- A. **एकीकृत लिथियम-आयन बैटरी गीगाफैक्ट्री:** आंध्र प्रदेश राज्य निवेश संवर्धन बोर्ड ने रामबिली, अनकापल्ली जिले में भारत की सबसे बड़ी एकीकृत लिथियम-आयन बैटरी गीगाफैक्ट्री स्थापित करने के लिए वारी एनर्जीज की ₹8,175 करोड़ की परियोजना को मंजूरी दे दी, जिससे स्वच्छ ऊर्जा, विद्युत गतिशीलता और ऊर्जा भंडारण प्रणालियों का समर्थन करने के लिए 3,000 प्रत्यक्ष रोजगार के अवसर और बड़े पैमाने पर घरेलू बैटरी विनिर्माण क्षमता का सृजन होगा।

III. गुजरात

- A. **250 मेगावाट ग्रीन ए.आई-रेडी डेटा सेंटर:** गुजरात सरकार ने यह परियोजना धोलेरा विशेष निवेश क्षेत्र (Dholera SIR) में 250 मेगावाट क्षमता वाला ग्रीन, ए.आई-रेडी डेटा सेंटर कैंपस स्थापित करने के लिए एलएडी व्योमा के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। यह परियोजना राज्य की आई.टी/आई.टी.ई.एस नीति (2022-27) के अनुरूप है और ए.आई और डिजिटल पहल के लिए राज्य के बजट में ₹850 करोड़ से अधिक का समर्थन प्राप्त है।

अन्य निर्णय

I. असम

- A. **अल्पसंख्यक और वंचित क्षेत्रों के लिए मिशन (एम.एम.यू.ए) विस्तार, 2026:** असम मंत्रिमंडल ने ओ.बी.सी कोटा के भीतर चाय जनजातियों और आदिवासी समुदायों के लिए क्लास I और क्लास II की राज्य सरकार की नौकरियों में 3% आरक्षण को मंजूरी दी, और एक लाख से अधिक अतिरिक्त महिला लाभार्थियों को शामिल करने के लिए एम.एम.यू.ए योजना का विस्तार किया।

II. आंध्र प्रदेश

- A. **जन्म और मृत्यु पंजीकरण नियम, 2025:** आंध्र प्रदेश स्वास्थ्य, चिकित्सा और परिवार कल्याण विभाग ने राज्य में जन्म और मृत्यु के पंजीकरण की प्रक्रिया को सुव्यवस्थित और डिजिटल बनाने और नागरिक पंजीकरण ढांचे को मजबूत करने के लिए आंध्र प्रदेश जन्म और मृत्यु पंजीकरण नियम, 2025 अधिसूचित किया।

Reform Decisions

I. Puducherry

A. Jan Vishwas (Amendment Of Provisions) Bill, 2025

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

1. The Puducherry Assembly passed the Puducherry Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025.
2. The decision aims to strengthen trust-based governance, simplify regulatory compliance, and create an institutional framework for higher education coordination in the Union Territory.
3. **Key Features** -
 - a. The Amendment will **revise 47 provisions** relating to minor, technical and procedural defaults across **13 Acts** under five departments.
 - b. The Amendment will replace criminal proceedings for minor violations with officer-determined monetary penalties.
 - c. Existing imprisonment provisions have been removed, ensuring no custodial punishment for minor non-compliance.
 - d. The initiative is intended to improve ease of doing business and compliance environment in Puducherry.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The ordinance aligns with the central Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023,¹ which decriminalised 183 provisions under 42 Central Acts, reducing compliance burden to enhance ease of doing business.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Puducherry has joined eight states such as Maharashtra, Haryana, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh,² and Uttarakhand³ have undertaken similar reforms, strengthening India's broader compliance-reduction agenda.
6. **Relevance** -
 - a. Nationally, there are over 26,134 imprisonment clauses in business laws.⁴ In Puducherry, where 45% of the population is dependent on small-scale farming and trade, removing custodial risks for minor defaults directly lowers the risk premium for investors.⁵
 - b. For the approximately 12.48 lakh residents⁶ (many of whom are micro-entrepreneurs), a criminal record for a technical lapse (like a late filing

¹ [Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2024.](#)

² [Money Control, November, 2025.](#)

³ [Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Ordinance, 2025.](#)

⁴ [Times Of India, February, 2022.](#)

⁵ [Department Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare.](#)

⁶ [Census Data, 2011.](#)

A. Jan Vishwas (Amendment Of Provisions) Bill, 2025**Source:** [The Hindu](#) | **Impact:** High

under the Factories Act, 1948)⁷ can bar them from Government tenders and bank credit. For a small business, a criminal record is more than a legal hurdle, it is a financial dead end. By decriminalising these technical lapses, the Bill ensures that micro-entrepreneurs are no longer barred from Government tenders and bank credits.

- c. Further, over **97% of cases filed under corporate laws** (like the Companies Act, 2013)⁸ involve **minor procedural lapses** rather than fraud.⁹ By moving 47 provisions to officer-determined penalties, Puducherry aims to reduce the entry of technical lapses into its lower courts, allowing the judiciary to focus its resources on high-impact cases rather than being hampered by administrative volume.

⁷ [The Factories Act, 1948.](#)

⁸ [The Companies Act, 2013.](#)

⁹ [TaxGuru.](#)

II. Gujarat

A. The Gujarat Shops And Establishments (Regulation Of Employment And Conditions Of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2026

Source: [The Government Of Gujarat](#), [The Economic Times](#) | **Impact:** High

1. On 17th February, the Gujarat Legislative Assembly passed the Gujarat Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2026, amending The Gujarat Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2019.¹⁰
2. It aims to extend daily working hours and permit women to work night shifts in shops and commercial establishments.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Amendment allows women, with their consent, to work night shifts between 9 PM and 6 AM in shops and establishments, subject to mandatory safeguards.
 - b. Employers will have to ensure protection of dignity and safety, protection against sexual harassment and provide facilities such as rest rooms, night creches, separate toilets and transportation from workplace to residence.
 - c. The state Government is empowered to prohibit or regulate the employment of women between 9 PM and 6 AM in specified shops, establishments or areas through notification in the Official Gazette, if deemed necessary.
 - d. The Amendment increases the permissible daily working hours from 9 to 10 hours, including breaks. It also enhances the quarterly overtime limit from **125 hours to 144 hours** in any three-month period.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Amendment aligns with the objectives of the Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions, 2020,¹¹ which provides a framework for regulating working hours, safety standards and employment conditions across establishments.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh have issued notifications permitting women to work night shifts, subject to their consent and prescribed safety conditions.¹²
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Despite Gujarat being an industrial powerhouse, female labour force participation which stands at 40.6%,¹³ has historically lagged due to shift-based restrictions.¹⁴ By permitting night shifts for women (9 pm to 6 am), Gujarat is targeting high-growth

¹⁰ [The Gujarat Shops And Establishments \(Regulation Of Employment And Conditions Of Service\) Act, 2019.](#)

¹¹ [Code On Occupational Safety, Health And Working Conditions, 2020.](#)

¹² [Moneycontrol, July, 2025.](#)

¹³ [Periodic Labour Force Survey Report, MoSPI, 2023-24, Pg. No. 126.](#)

¹⁴ [ETHR World, April, 2025.](#)

A. The Gujarat Shops And Establishments (Regulation Of Employment And Conditions Of Service) (Amendment) Bill, 2026

Source: [The Government Of Gujarat](#), [The Economic Times](#) | **Impact:** High

sectors such as Retail, IT/BPO, and Hospitality, which operate 24/7.

- b. Also, by increasing permissible daily hours from 9 to 10 and the quarterly overtime limit from 125 to 144 hours, a 15% capacity increase, allows businesses to manage peak demand periods more effectively.
- c. The above is particularly critical for Gujarat's textiles, gems and jewellery, and pharmaceutical sectors, which often face seasonal surges.¹⁵ The new limit of 144 hours brings Gujarat in parity with states like Telangana and aligns it with the flexibility offered under the Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions, 2020.
- d. Further, by mandating CCTV, safe transportation, and night crèches, the Amendment forces a professionalisation of the workspace. This is essential for the 26.9 lakh net female subscribers added to EPFO (formal employment) nationally in the last fiscal year.¹⁶

¹⁵ [TOI, December, 2025](#) and [DD News, February, 2026](#).

¹⁶ [PIB, October, 2025](#).

III. Maharashtra

A. Streamlining Of Agricultural-to-Non-Agricultural Conversion Regime

Source: [The Government Of Maharashtra, Indian Express](#) | **Impact:** High

1. The Government of Maharashtra scrapped the requirement of obtaining separate Non-Agricultural (NA) permission for converting agricultural land to non-agricultural use, issuing a gazette notification and amending the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code.¹⁷
2. The decision aims to simplify land conversion procedures, reduce approval layers, and improve ease of doing business by treating approved building plans as deemed NA permission.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The reform provides that **building plan approval** (BPA) by the Town Planning Department or local planning authority shall serve as **deemed NA permission**, removing the need for separate District Collector approval.
 - b. The reform abolishes the annual non-agricultural tax and replaces it with a one-time conversion premium based on slab rates linked to market value.
 - c. The decision removes the requirement of a separate NA certificate (sanad) for bank loan purposes once building permission is granted.
 - d. The framework enables online building permission applications through Building Plan Management System (BPMS) and Auto Development Control Regulations (AutoDCR) platforms.
 - e. The system provides for automatic mutation updates in 7/12 land records through the Revenue Department's computerised system after plan approval.
 - f. The reform clarifies that building permission alone does not change Occupant Class-II land status and applicable nazarana charges remain payable.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States like Andhra Pradesh has repealed the NA Land Assessment Act¹⁸ while Karnataka has passed The Karnataka Land Revenue (Third Amendment) Act, 2024,¹⁹ repealing NA permission requirements.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Previously, converting agricultural land for residential, commercial, industrial, or mixed uses in Maharashtra required two distinct approvals. Even after a building plan was approved, a developer could not legally commence construction or secure bank financing without a separate NA Sanad from the Collector.
 - b. Under the new rules, planning authority approval now automatically confers NA status if land has received a Building Plan Approval or regional plan, eliminating a separate bureaucratic step and instant eligibility for bank loans. By removing this

¹⁷ [The Maharashtra Land Revenue Code, 1966.](#)

¹⁸ [Andhra Pradesh Land Conversion Repeal Act, 2025.](#)

¹⁹ [The Karnataka Land Revenue \(Third Amendment\) Act, 2024.](#)

A. Streamlining Of Agricultural-to-Non-Agricultural Conversion Regime

Source: [The Government Of Maharashtra, Indian Express](#) | **Impact:** High

glacier-paced bottleneck, the state expects to accelerate the redevelopment of thousands of aging housing societies in Mumbai, Pune, and Thane, where legacy NA issues have stalled projects for decades.

- c. Further, the annual **NA tax was a recurring administrative burden** for housing societies, often involving disputed demands and arrears that complicated property transfers and redevelopment. The approval permanently abolishes the annual NA tax and waives all pending arrears. In its place, it introduces a one-time conversion premium based on a tiered slab of the land's market value.

IV. Karnataka

A. Floor Area Ratio (FAR) Norms Revision For Industrial Plots

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

1. The Government of Karnataka revised the FAR norms applicable to industrial plots through an official order to make them more industry-friendly.
2. The decision aims to promote industrial growth, **reduce land burden on industries**, and improve utilisation of industrial plots developed by the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB).
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The revision increases permissible industrial construction area from 65% to 75% of plot area, allowing higher built-up utilisation.
 - b. The reform reduces setback and surface parking constraints that earlier limited usable construction area within allotted industrial land.
 - c. The revised norms rationalise setback requirements for buildings up to 7 metres and up to 15 metres in height by lowering mandatory side and rear margins.
 - d. The decision allows residential facilities within industrial plots up to 15% of area in general plots, and up to 10% residential and commercial use in plots of at least 50 acres.
 - e. The decision rationalises parking norms, requiring only 2% plot area for parking in general industries and data centres, and 3% for warehousing and logistics units.
 - f. The reform encourages vertical industrial development, reducing overall land acquisition needs and lowering land purchase costs for entrepreneurs.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. Bengaluru has experienced acute industrial land scarcity, constraining manufacturing expansion and real estate development.²⁰ By allowing higher buildable area and integrated uses, the reform optimises land utilisation, increasing potential for job creation per unit of land.
 - b. The revised norms increase permissible built-up area to 75 %, directly raising the total constructible floor area on industrial land and reducing land requirements for equivalent production capacity. Higher FAR directly increases vertical built density.
 - c. The norms allow up to 15 % of general industrial plot area to be used for employee housing and residential facilities, and up to 10 % for residential/commercial buildings on plots \geq 50 acres, formally integrating mixed-use dimensions within industrial zones.

²⁰ [TOI, February, 2026.](#)

V. Tripura

A. The Ease Of Doing Business Ordinance, 2026

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

1. On 13th February, the Government of Tripura issued the Tripura Ease of Doing Business Ordinance, 2026 to amend certain enactments and further enhance trust-based governance for ease of living and doing business.
2. Through the Ordinance, the state aims to simplify regulatory processes, reduce prior approval requirements, and promote faster, trust-based clearances across land, business, construction, and healthcare sectors.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Ordinance amends multiple state laws, including the Tripura Land Revenue and Land Reforms Act, 1960,²¹ allowing **land diversion through self-declaration without prior approval**, subject to safeguards.
 - b. Relaxes working hour restrictions and revises penalties under the Tripura Shops and Establishments Act, 1970.²²
 - c. Eases licensing norms businesses only requiring approval under the Tripura Shops and Establishments Act, 1970²³ without a second approval under the Tripura Municipal Act, 1994.²⁴
 - d. Introduces Single Point of Contact (SPoC) mechanisms for construction and healthcare approvals to ensure time-bound clearances.
 - e. Introduces major reforms to the Tripura Clinical Establishment (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2018²⁵ by providing for District Registering Authorities, online registration systems, and structured oversight mechanisms.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. Prior to the Ordinance, agricultural land diversion frequently required dual prior approvals, including collector permissions and municipal consents. The new framework allows land diversion via self-declaration subject only to predefined safeguards, effectively eliminating one entire step of prior approval. This shift mirrors national land deregulation trends (e.g., Andhra Pradesh²⁶ abolishing standalone land conversion permissions) that reduced processing requirements.
 - b. The Ordinance introduces SPoC mechanisms for construction and healthcare approvals, embedding time guarantees into what were previously unscheduled, sequential multi-departmental approvals.

²¹ [The Tripura Land Revenue And Land Reforms Act, 1960.](#)

²² [The Tripura Shops And Establishments Act, 1970.](#)

²³ [The Tripura Shops And Establishments Act, 1970.](#)

²⁴ [The Tripura Municipal Act, 1994.](#)

²⁵ [The Tripura Clinical Establishment \(Registration And Regulation\) Act, 2018.](#)

²⁶ [Andhra Pradesh Land Conversion Repeal Act, 2025.](#)

VI. Andhra Pradesh

A. Amendments To The Online Inspection System And IT/ITES Exemption

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

1. On 14th February, the Labour, Factories, Boilers and Insurance Medical Services Department of the Government of Andhra Pradesh issued Amendments to the Online Inspection System and related exemption framework for Information Technology (IT)²⁷ and Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES)²⁸ establishments.
2. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Amendment **revises the risk categorisation framework** under the Online Inspection System by classifying establishments into High Risk (1-30 workers), Medium Risk (31-100 workers), and Low Risk (above 100 workers).
 - b. It places all IT and ITES establishments in the Low-Risk category irrespective of employee strength.
 - c. It extends the exemptions granted to IT and ITES establishments under specified provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Shops and Establishments Act, 1988²⁹ for a further period of five years, subject to conditions.
 - d. It provides that employees aggrieved by termination may seek remedy under the Industrial Relations Code, 2020.³⁰
 - e. The Amendment routes labour law violation complaints through the jurisdictional Joint Commissioner of Labour, to be acted upon only on specific instructions of the Chief Inspector.
 - f. It mandates that inspections follow the “Inspector-cum-Facilitator” framework and that inspection reports be submitted to the Chief Inspector and Commissioner of Labour for action under applicable labour laws and labour codes.
3. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Amendment aligns with the Ease of Doing Business approach and the compliance-reform model reflected in the Central labour codes, particularly the Inspector-cum-Facilitator mechanism under the Industrial Relations Code, 2020.³¹
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. All IT and ITES establishments were formally included in the Low Risk category regardless of workforce size, effectively reducing inspection frequency for one of the fastest-growing employment sectors in Andhra Pradesh’s economy. This

²⁷ The Information Technology (IT) establishments comprises companies that produce software, hardware, or semiconductor equipment, and those that provide internet applications and related services.

²⁸ ITES establishments refer to organisations that leverage information technology to improve an enterprise’s efficiency. This includes outsourced services such as Business Process Outsourcing (BPO), Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO), call centers, and back-office operations like HR and accounting.

²⁹ [Andhra Pradesh Shops And Establishments Act, 1988.](#)

³⁰ [Industrial Relations Code, 2020.](#)

³¹ [Industrial Relations Code, 2020.](#)

A. Amendments To The Online Inspection System And IT/ITES Exemption**Source:** [The Government Of Andhra Pradesh](#) | **Impact:** Medium

Amendment now institutionalises a risk-based classification of establishments based on workforce size which would ensure higher frequency inspections for workplaces with a larger workforce.

- b. By clarifying inspection pathways under a structured Inspector-cum-Facilitator framework the reform replaces discretionary, ad hoc inspection practices with predictable digital compliance workflows. This **reduces uncertainty and administrative delay**, which is a national reform priority to improve Ease of Doing Business.³²

³² [DPIIT, Business Reforms Action Plan, 2024.](#)

VII. Mizoram

A. Mizoram (Prevention Of Public Land Encroachment) Bill, 2026

Source: [The Government Of Mizoram](#), [The Print](#) | **Impact:** High

1. On 19th February, the Mizoram Legislative Assembly passed the Mizoram (Prevention of Public Land Encroachment) Bill, 2026 to strengthen legal safeguards against unauthorised occupation of Government and community land across Mizoram.
2. The Bill aims to strengthen the legal framework to **prevent encroachment of public land** by expanding coverage, improving enforcement, and establishing clear eviction and penalty mechanisms.
3. **Key Features** -
 - a. The Bill proposes to replace the Mizoram Prevention of Government Land Encroachment Act, 2001 (2001 Act),³³ citing its limited scope and weak enforcement provisions.
 - b. Proposes a broader definition of “public land,” extending protection to village council lands, community playgrounds, grazing grounds, and other shared public assets that were earlier vulnerable.
 - c. Provides for structured procedures, including clear eviction timelines, inquiry mechanisms, and provisions for appeal.
 - d. Introduces graded and proportionate penalties based on the nature and scale of encroachment, and includes provisions to address repeat offences and abetment.
 - e. Seeks to prohibit unauthorised occupation, possession, construction, or private use of public land, with the objective of protecting community assets and ensuring planned development.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The Mizoram Bill aligns with the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971³⁴ and is complemented by the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013,³⁵ strengthening legal protection and structured processes to prevent encroachment of public land.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - State-level legislations such as the Karnataka Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1974,³⁶ the Tamil Nadu Land Encroachment Act, 1905,³⁷ and the Delhi Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971³⁸ similarly provides statutory mechanisms for eviction of unauthorised occupants, protection of public land, and structured inquiry and penalty procedures to prevent encroachment.

³³ [The Mizoram Prevention Of Government Land Encroachment Act, 2001.](#)

³⁴ [The Public Premises \(Eviction Of Unauthorised Occupants\) Act, 1971.](#)

³⁵ [The Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation And Resettlement Act, 2013.](#)

³⁶ [The Karnataka Public Premises \(Eviction Of Unauthorised Occupants\) Act, 1974.](#)

³⁷ [The Tamil Nadu Land Encroachment Act, 1905.](#)

³⁸ [The Delhi Public Premises \(Eviction Of Unauthorised Occupants\) Act, 1971.](#)

A. Mizoram (Prevention Of Public Land Encroachment) Bill, 2026

Source: [The Government Of Mizoram](#), [The Print](#) | Impact: High

6. Relevance -

- a. The new Bill replaces the Mizoram Prevention of Government Land Encroachment Act, 2001, which had a narrow definition of “Government land,” failing to explicitly protect village council lands, community playgrounds, grazing grounds, water bodies and other public spaces from encroachment.³⁹ This gap allowed these lands to be occupied without clear statutory consequences and caused communal tensions.⁴⁰
- b. The Bill addresses the above by **expanding definitions of “public land,”** introduces graded penalties, and sets up a structured adjudicatory process to deal with unauthorised occupation more effectively, including harsher punishments for repeat or large-scale encroachments.
- c. Further, as Aizawl and other towns undergo rapid urbanisation, unclaimed land often becomes a target for private gain. The Bill is, thus aiming towards asset preservation. It ensures that future generations have access to parks and grazing lands that would otherwise have been lost to the land-grab phenomenon seen under the provisions of the 2001 Act.

³⁹ [The Mizoram Prevention Of Government Land Encroachment Act, 2001.](#)

⁴⁰ [North East Now, February, 2026.](#)

VIII. Tamil Nadu

A. One-Time Stone Quarrying Regularisation Scheme

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

1. The Government of Tamil Nadu introduced a **one-time scheme to regularise excess and illegal stone quarrying**, through a Government Order with retrospective effect from 6th April, 2015, providing for penalty-based regularisation.
2. The decision aims to bring past excess and unauthorised quarrying within a regulated framework by allowing compounding on payment of prescribed penalties instead of continued violation status.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme provides for regularisation of:
 - i. Excess quarrying within leasehold areas on payment of twice the seigniorage fee as compounding fee, along with applicable statutory levies; and
 - ii. Quarrying in non-leasehold areas on payment of five times the seigniorage fee.
 - b. It fixes a weighted average seigniorage rate of ₹ 25 per metric tonne for penalty calculation.
 - c. The scheme applies only to cases where demand notices or show-cause notices have already been issued for excess or illegal quarrying.
 - d. The scheme mandates drone surveys of existing quarries within a fixed timeline; surveys have already been completed for a large number of rough stone quarries.
 - e. The scheme remains valid for a period of two years from commencement, and non-payment attracts penal interest at 24% per annum.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. Tamil Nadu's quarrying sector is a significant source of state revenue. In 2024, mineral revenue (including minor minerals like rough stone and aggregates) contributed about ₹ 1,835 crore annually, with minor minerals alone contributing over ₹ 513.43 crore.⁴¹
 - b. However, historical audits have documented widespread illegal quarrying, unlicensed operations and revenue leakages, including a ₹ 328 crore in lost revenue across 56 leases, with persistent irregularities in licence compliance across multiple districts.⁴² In light of the above, the scheme aims to reduce pending show-cause/legal disputes, fast-track compliance for operators, and bring them into the formal regulatory fold, thereby shortening administrative enforcement cycles and reducing prolonged litigation and uncertainty.
 - c. Traditional monitoring of stone quarries was hindered by administrative discretion and the inability to accurately verify excess mining on the ground. This

⁴¹ [TOI, August, 2024.](#)

⁴² [TOI, November, 2021.](#)

A. One-Time Stone Quarrying Regularisation Scheme

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

led to 1,439 cases of illicit mining cases but only 135 criminal cases being filed, creating a suspicious environment that discouraged formal investment.⁴³

- d. The use of geospatial technology (drone surveys) for 904 of about 1,845 quarries potentially creates a **verified digital inventory to enforce compliance**, reduce disputes, and support evidence-based permitting. This reduces administrative discretion and transaction costs for investors and operators.

⁴³ [TOI, December, 2025.](#)

IX. Tripura

A. State Innovation Mission (SIM)

Source: [Press Information Bureau](#), [Dev Discourse](#) | **Impact:** High

1. On 27th February, the Government of Tripura launched the State Innovation Mission (SIM) in Agartala to **institutionalise innovation and entrepreneurship** within the state's development framework.
2. SIM aims to build a decentralised and inclusive innovation ecosystem by promoting startups, supporting local enterprises and fostering technology-driven growth aligned with regional priorities.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. SIM will function under the Tripura Institution for Transformation (TIFT) as the nodal body for innovation and startup promotion.
 - b. SIM will work in collaboration with national innovation platforms such as the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) 2.0⁴⁴ and the NITI Aayog, facilitating integration among Government agencies, industry players, academia, incubators, and international partners.
 - c. It seeks to nurture grassroots innovation, encourage MSMEs and strengthen the state's startup ecosystem.
 - d. It aims to connect local innovators with national support structures and expert networks.
 - e. Further, SIM focuses on translating local ideas into scalable enterprises and technology-based solutions.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Several states have institutionalised dedicated innovation missions to anchor their startup ecosystems. The most recent SIM being adopted in Haryana.⁴⁵ Telangana operationalised this through T-Hub⁴⁶ as a strong public-private incubator, Gujarat adopted a dual model via iCreate⁴⁷ and i-Hub⁴⁸ linking advanced tech and universities, and Tamil Nadu established StartupTN⁴⁹ with a focus on seed funding and Tier-2 and Tier-3 expansion.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Tripura aims to a 12% growth rate by 2047,⁵⁰ and the estimated growth rate of the

⁴⁴ The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a Government of India initiative to foster a national culture of innovation and entrepreneurship by creating platforms, policies, and support for students, researchers, and startups.

⁴⁵ [Tribune, February, 2026.](#)

⁴⁶ [Telangana T-Hub.](#)

⁴⁷ [Gujarat iCreate.](#)

⁴⁸ [Gujarat I-Hub.](#)

⁴⁹ [StartupTN.](#)

⁵⁰ [India Today NE, May, 2025.](#)

A. State Innovation Mission (SIM)

Source: [Press Information Bureau](#), [Dev Discourse](#) | Impact: High

state is at **12.9% rise in 2024-25**.⁵¹ SIM provides an opportunity for the state to grow at such a constant rate by injecting innovation and startup-led growth into the economy, shifting the GDP mix toward high-value technology and IP-driven output.

- b. The state has about 150 startups despite its size and development profile, which will grow with the intended complementary policies and the SIM itself.⁵² The grassroots focus and converting innovation to scalable businesses will result in infrastructure that is built specifically for future-ready industries.
- c. Lastly, a significant portion of **Tripura's current startups are women-led**.⁵³ The SIM's decentralised structure, specifically the Innovation Centres in all 8 districts, ensures that tribal and rural women entrepreneurs have “plug-and-play” infrastructure and co-working spaces without having to migrate to Agartala.

⁵¹ [Ukhrul Times, August, 2025.](#)

⁵² [ET, February, 2026.](#)

⁵³ [PIB, February, 2026.](#)

Policy Level Announcements

I. Kerala

A. Kerala Information Technology (IT) Policy, 2026

Source: [The Government Of Kerala](#), [New Indian Express](#) | **Impact:** High

1. On 20th February, the Kerala Cabinet approved the Kerala Information Technology Policy, 2026.
2. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy targets:
 - i. Securing a **10% share of India's IT exports** and creating a minimum of five lakh new jobs in IT and allied sectors.
 - ii. Triple IT infrastructure space through private participation and decentralised growth, and increase the number of startups to 20,000.
 - iii. 100% household internet connectivity through fibre-optic access.
 - iv. To provide specialised training to 25 lakh students over five years, by introducing ICT textbooks (Classes 1-10).
 - b. The policy also aims at infrastructure expansion:
 - i. Permits the establishment of affiliated private IT parks linked with government parks such as Infopark and Technopark.
 - ii. Promotes Global Capability Centres (GCCs), data centres, and expansion of plug-and-play IT workspaces in emerging urban centres.
 - iii. Facilitates land pooling and private capital participation to accelerate IT infrastructure growth.
 - iv. Focuses on advanced sectors including Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, Electronics, Genomics, Defence and Space Technologies through Centres of Excellence and large-scale skill development programmes.
 - c. The policy strengthens data-driven governance by shifting e-governance services to cloud platforms, creating a single user interface for citizen services, and establishing state-controlled data repositories with open-source promotion.
 - d. It provides incentives such as simplified labour norms, land pooling for new IT parks, startup funding support, and establishment of a Critical Infrastructure Fund for resilience during disasters.
 - e. It promotes workforce participation of women, persons with disabilities and transgender persons, and enhances data privacy and integrated digital governance systems.
3. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Gujarat,⁵⁴ Karnataka,⁵⁵ Uttar

⁵⁴ [ABP News, February, 2022.](#)

⁵⁵ [Hindustan Times, November, 2025.](#)

A. Kerala Information Technology (IT) Policy, 2026

Source: [The Government Of Kerala](#), [New Indian Express](#) | **Impact:** High

Pradesh,⁵⁶ Maharashtra,⁵⁷ Assam,⁵⁸ and Manipur⁵⁹ have adopted updated IT (and Information Technology Enabled Services) policies to promote digital infrastructure, attract investments, foster innovation in emerging technology and enhance employment generation in the technology sector.

4. Relevance -

- a. Despite producing a large pool of skilled graduates, Kerala continues to witness significant **outward migration** due to insufficient high-quality IT job creation within the state. Of the 4.8 lakh Keralites who have migrated domestically, 2.18 lakh are in Karnataka alone, highlighting the strong pull of Bengaluru's IT ecosystem.⁶⁰
- b. In light of the above, the policy identifies job creation as an essential aspect of promoting the IT sector. While the sector successfully added 72,000 jobs over the last five years,⁶¹ the new policy sets a target seven times higher. It is a calculated scaling factor designed to transition Kerala from steady growth to a primary national employment hub.
- c. Currently, Kerala contributes roughly 1.6% (₹ 26,000 crore) to India's total IT exports.⁶² The policy provides the dedicated effort framework needed to bridge the gap toward a 10% national share. By targeting an expansion in export value, the policy focuses on elevating local firms to compete on a global scale.

⁵⁶ [IT And ITes Policy Of Uttar Pradesh 2022.](#)

⁵⁷ [CBRE India.](#)

⁵⁸ [Information Technology And Electronic Policy Assam, 2017.](#)

⁵⁹ [Manipur IT Policy 2022.](#)

⁶⁰ [Indian Express, June, 2024.](#)

⁶¹ [Mathrubhumi, October, 2025.](#)

⁶² [Mathrubhumi, October, 2025.](#)

B. Kerala State Urban Policy, 2026

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

1. On 13th February, the Government of Kerala approved India's first comprehensive State Urban Policy to provide a long-term framework for planned, climate-smart and sustainable urbanisation across the state.
2. The policy aims to guide scientific urban planning, strengthen decentralised governance, and ensure inclusive and environmentally sustainable growth of cities and towns up to the year 2050.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy envisions Kerala by 2050 as a **continuous network of climate-smart cities and towns** ensuring scientific planning and good governance.
 - b. The framework provides a statewide guiding template for urban development across civic bodies and Government departments.
 - c. The initiative emphasises inclusive growth, decentralised planning, and environmental sustainability in urban expansion.
 - d. The policy focuses on infrastructure development, institutional capacity building, and participatory governance mechanisms.
 - e. The framework addresses social and spatial inequalities and strengthens urban social support systems.
 - f. The policy covers legal and institutional reforms, governance strengthening, people-oriented services and programmes, and spatial and strategic planning.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy's emphasis on sustainable and inclusive urban development directly aligns with the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT),⁶³ which prioritises improved basic services, infrastructure upgrades, and quality of life in urban areas.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Kerala has framed India's first comprehensive state-level Urban Policy, providing a long-term development roadmap till 2050 as the state undergoes rapid urbanisation. Unlike piecemeal or sector-specific plans, this policy unifies multi-sectoral urban development aims (governance, infrastructure, inequality reduction, climate resilience) into an integrated 25-year strategy, making it a foundational governance instrument for urban transformation.
 - b. Kerala is likely to be nearly 80% urbanised by 2050,⁶⁴ a marked acceleration compared to about 47.7 % urban population from 2011.⁶⁵ This magnitude of urban expansion highlights a structural shift in demographic and economic patterns,

⁶³ [PIB, June, 2025.](#)

⁶⁴ [Onmanorama, February, 2026.](#)

⁶⁵ [Draft Kerala Urban Policy, 2023, Pg. No. 4.](#)

B. Kerala State Urban Policy, 2026**Source:** [Onmanorama](#) | **Impact:** High

with major implications for housing demand, service delivery, mobility, land use, environment and employment.

- c. Kerala's urban governance architecture is deeply shaped by the People's Plan Movement of 1996, which **devolved around 35–40% of the state's development expenditure** to local governments and transferred many public institutions, including health, education and welfare facilities, to local administration.⁶⁶ As a result, development planning and service delivery in the state are heavily Urban Local Body (ULB) - driven, making local governments the primary implementation mechanism for urban policy initiatives.
- d. The policy, thus, provides an integrated, long-term planning framework to manage this transition by aligning infrastructure financing, climate resilience and local governance reforms to accommodate rising urban population density in a sustainable and economically productive manner.

⁶⁶ [The Hindu Centre For Politics And Public Policy, August, 2022.](#)

C. Cabinet Approval To Kerala Graphene Policy, 2026

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

1. On 13th February, the Kerala Cabinet approved the **country's first graphene policy**, Kerala Graphene Policy, 2026 to create a state-wide ecosystem for graphene research, innovation, commercialisation and industry.
2. The policy aims to position Kerala as a global hub for graphene research, production and technology adoption, leveraging graphene's potential across modern industries such as electronics, energy, materials, healthcare, composites and more.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy promotes research and development (R&D) and application of graphene and related advanced materials, supporting innovation from labs to commercial use.
 - b. The Policy offers 50% reduction in land lease charges to companies setting up graphene-related units in Government industrial parks, including those managed by Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation and Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation.
 - c. The Government will also provide for capital expenditure support of up to 45%, along with exemptions from stamp duty, registration fees and power duty.
 - d. The policy includes financial consultancy, market support and facilitation of technology transfer to help enterprises, including startups, scale locally and abroad.
 - e. The decision is a part of a longer-term strategy linking state industrial vision with advanced material ecosystems and sustainable innovation growth.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Kerala Graphene Policy aligns with deep-tech and graphene commercialisation initiatives like the Graphene-Aurora programme.⁶⁷ It also complements national goals of building the India Graphene Engineering and Innovation Centre (IGEIC) under the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047.⁶⁸
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Global demand for graphene is booming and the market is expected to grow further from roughly \$ 0.6 billion (about ₹ 5,470.07 crore) in 2025 to about \$ 7.0 billion (about ₹ 63,820.12 crore) by 2034.⁶⁹ The policy aims to capture this growth by establishing the Graphene Aurora Project in Palakkad and a ₹ 87 crore Graphene Innovation Centre at Kalamassery.
 - b. By offering a 50% subsidy on lease payments in Government parks, Kerala is lowering the entry barrier for global manufacturers. This transition from lab

⁶⁷ [PIB, August, 2023.](#)

⁶⁸ [PIB, September, 2024.](#)

⁶⁹ [Precedence Research, October, 2025.](#)

C. Cabinet Approval To Kerala Graphene Policy, 2026

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

research to industrial scale is expected to trigger a high-value export cycle in semiconductors and EV batteries, where graphene is a critical performance enhancer.

- c. The policy is crucial because **India's current graphene output is very low** (about 500 kg/year).⁷⁰ By promoting technology transfer and commercialisation, Kerala can significantly boost domestic graphene production and reduce import dependence.
- d. Further, the Central Government is already backing nanotechnology heavily by allocating about \$ 500 million (about ₹ 4,551.6 crore) for nanotech R&D in 2023, and supportive policies are seen as key to expanding the market.⁷¹ Kerala's move amplifies this trend by building local capability and boosting exports in a cutting-edge field.

⁷⁰ [Precedence Research, October, 2025.](#)

⁷¹ [India Graphene Market Outlook To 2030.](#)

D. The Revised Women's Policy, 2026

Source: [The Hindu](#), [Madhyamam Online](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 11th February, the Kerala Cabinet approved the revised Women's Policy, 2026 to align with contemporary needs and build a women-centric "Nava Kerala."
2. The policy was formulated by an 11-member Gender Council, prioritising women's safety, labour rights, legal protection, and support for tribal and coastal communities.
3. It aims to eliminate discrimination across caste, religion, and gender and ensure equal participation of women in all spheres of society.
4. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy ensures **equal representation of women in governance, legislatures, and high-level decision-making bodies.**
 - b. Promotes gender justice in employment, education, and health sectors.
 - c. It seeks to create gender-friendly spaces in families, educational institutions, cultural spheres, and public places.
 - d. Introduces a special gender protocol in education, curriculum updates on equality, self-defence and sports training for girls.
 - e. Introduces creches and breastfeeding centres in higher education institutions, and staff training for gender-friendly campuses.
 - f. Targets the eradication of dowry within five years and promotes skill-building for women in emerging technologies.
 - g. Seeks to make healthcare institutions women-friendly from primary health centres to medical colleges, with special focus on elderly women.
 - h. Provides for special health and education packages for dalit, tribal, and coastal areas.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Despite Kerala's high literacy, female labour force participation remains significantly lower than men's, only about 29.9% of women work compared with 70% of men, reflecting structural barriers to economic empowerment. Strengthening gender-focused policy is critical to converting educational gains into workforce inclusion and income security.⁷²
 - b. About 52% of women in Kerala (aged 18-49) believe a husband is justified in beating his wife in certain circumstances. This deeply embedded gender norms that justify domestic violence is addressed by a comprehensive policy framework addressing both legal enforcement gaps and entrenched social attitudes.⁷³
 - c. Between 2017-18 and 2022-23, the gender share in Kerala's budget rose from 11.5%

⁷² [CPRG, September, 2024.](#)

⁷³ [Hindustan Times, July, 2023.](#)

D. The Revised Women's Policy, 2026**Source:** [The Hindu](#), [Madhyamam Online](#) | **Impact:** Medium

to about 20.9% of allocations for women-oriented programmes.⁷⁴ While this shows growing commitment on paper, persistent labour market gaps and patterns of violence indicate that enhanced policy framework is still essential to translate budgetary commitment into measurable equality outcomes.

⁷⁴ [Business Standard, April, 2023.](#)

II. Maharashtra

A. Maharashtra Renewable Energy And Energy Storage Policy, 2025–2035

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

1. On 22nd February, the Maharashtra Cabinet approved the Maharashtra Renewable Energy and Energy Storage Policy, 2025–2035 to promote storage-friendly renewable energy and strengthen green energy infrastructure.
2. The policy aims to boost renewable energy usage by integrating Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) to store generated energy for later use and address supply fluctuations caused by weather changes, outages, or other disruptions.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy enables storage of renewable energy for up to four hours through BESS.
 - b. It targets procurement of 65% of electricity from renewable sources by 2035, with at least 10% of power demand supported by energy storage systems.
 - c. The state aims to develop 100 GW of renewable energy capacity and 100 GWh of energy storage capacity per day by 2035.
 - d. The state Government plans a budgetary support of ₹ 1,650 crore over ten years, expected to attract investments of approximately ₹ 3.12 lakh crore.
 - e. Incentives will be provided to firms establishing renewable energy projects with storage facilities.
 - f. The policy provides for land allotment to establish Renewable Energy Industrial Zones (REIZs)⁷⁵ and offers supportive incentives.
 - g. Special tariff categories will be introduced to encourage 100% renewable energy supply to commercial and industrial consumers, including storage support for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the Central Government's **BESS Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme**⁷⁶ to promote grid-scale storage and renewable integration.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Rajasthan,⁷⁷ Karnataka⁷⁸ and Telangana⁷⁹ also have dedicated Renewable Energy Policies that promote solar, wind and hybrid projects, while supporting energy storage integration to ensure reliable and stable green power supply.
6. **Relevance -**

⁷⁵ REIZs are specialised industrial parks powered by on-site, low-cost green energy (solar, wind, or hydrogen) to create sustainable, competitive, and efficient manufacturing hubs.

⁷⁶ [PIB, April, 2025.](#)

⁷⁷ [Rajasthan Renewable Energy Policy, 2023.](#)

⁷⁸ [Karnataka Renewable Energy Policy, 2022-2027.](#)

⁷⁹ [Telangana Clean And Green Energy Policy, 2025.](#)

A. Maharashtra Renewable Energy And Energy Storage Policy, 2025–2035

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

- a. India is aiming for 500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030.⁸⁰ The policy's aim for 100 GW renewable energy power by 2035, with current capacity already at 13.7 GW,⁸¹ directly contributes to the national targets making **Maharashtra a front-runner in renewable energy capacity.**
- b. India requires renewable energy storage capacity of 230 GWh by 2030.⁸² The requirement that 10% of power demand come from storage by 2035 is one of the highest state-level storage ambitions in India. This infrastructure is the critical link in transforming intermittent solar and wind into Firm and Dispatchable Renewable Energy (FDRE),⁸³ ensuring grid stability and round-the-clock clean power.
- c. Further, storage adoption is critical for grid integration of renewables because generation from wind and solar is variable and not inherently dispatchable.⁸⁴ India's installed capacity of storage-backed renewable energy is likely to increase to 25-30 GW by FY 28 from almost nil,⁸⁵ and Maharashtra is positioning itself as a testbed for renewable energy storage solutions at scale.
- d. Lastly, the ₹ 3.12 lakh crore investment target is strategically linked to the REIZ (Industrial Zones). This policy incentivises the entire value chain, from lithium-ion cell manufacturing to grid-scale battery assembly, positioning Maharashtra as a direct competitor to clean-energy hubs like Gujarat and Karnataka.

⁸⁰ [Business Standard, February, 2026.](#)

⁸¹ [TOI, March, 2025.](#)

⁸² [ET Energy World, December, 2025.](#)

⁸³ FDRE refers to hybrid renewable projects (typically solar and wind) integrated with energy storage systems (ESS) to provide reliable, round-the-clock (RTC) power, rather than intermittent supply.

⁸⁴ [TOI, November, 2025.](#)

⁸⁵ [ET Energy World, May, 2025.](#)

III. Tamil Nadu

A. Proposed Shipbuilding Policy, 2026

Source: [The Hindu](#), [News Today Net](#) | Impact: High

1. The Tamil Nadu Government has proposed to roll out a Shipbuilding and Ship Repair Policy, with a ₹ 5,200 crore cluster at Thoothukudi to boost manufacturing, jobs and the state's maritime position.
2. Through the proposed Shipbuilding Policy, Tamil Nadu aims to emerge as a global hub for the shipbuilding industry and promote shipbuilding and marine ancillary manufacturing.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. **Investment And Incentive Framework:**
 - i. The decision aims to attract investment in shipbuilding, ship repair, marine equipment and ancillary services.
 - ii. The policy will offer incentives, infrastructure support and regulatory ease for domestic and foreign players.
 - iii. Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) signed with Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and a global shipbuilding firm involve about ₹ 30,000 crore investment commitments.
 - iv. The framework proposes land support, tax rebates, capital subsidies and faster clearances, plus plug-and-play plots and deep-draught berths.
 - b. **Infrastructure And Cluster Development:**
 - i. It focuses on integrated maritime clusters with shipyards, fabrication units, logistics hubs and testing facilities.
 - ii. Thoothukudi has been chosen as the centrepiece cluster, with the ₹ 5,200 crore project covering land development, dry docks, marine fabrication zones, cargo handling systems, utility networks, access roads and worker accommodation.
 - iii. The project will be developed by State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu Ltd. (SIPCOT) with V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The proposed Policy aligns with national maritime goals such as New Shipbuilding and Repair Policy,⁸⁶ which targets a top global ranking for India in shipbuilding.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - In 2025, Maharashtra rolled out India's first shipbuilding, ship-repair and ship recycling policy, focusing on maritime clusters,

⁸⁶ The New Shipbuilding And Repair Policy Under Maritime India Vision 2030 Targets A Top-10 Global Ranking, With Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 Aiming To Place India Within The Top 5 Shipbuilding Nations, [PIB, March, 2025](#).

A. Proposed Shipbuilding Policy, 2026

Source: [The Hindu](#), [News Today Net](#) | Impact: High

shipyard infrastructure, and marine ancillary manufacturing.⁸⁷

6. Relevance -

- a. The domestic shipbuilding and maritime ancillary market is projected to expand significantly as global trade volumes recover and deeper supply chains are built, the broader shipbuilding market is estimated to exceed **\$ 8 billion (about ₹ 72 thousand crore) by 2033**. Tamil Nadu's long coastline (about 1,076 km) and established port infrastructure create a strategic advantage but it has not been able to capitalise on the same due to fragmented regulations.⁸⁸
- b. In light of the above, the policy is designed to create a comprehensive regulatory framework, addressing land use, port-linked manufacturing, FDI facilitation, and vendor ecosystem clustering, which would reduce entry barriers to the industry.
- c. The policy will allow the shipbuilding sector to capitalise on the high multiplier effects of 6.4, i.e., 1 direct job in shipbuilding reportedly generates more than 6 ancillary jobs across welding, precision engineering, logistics, and marine services, a structural employment generator for coastal districts.⁸⁹
- d. Further, with commitments of ₹ 30,000 crore (including MoUs with Mazagon Dock and Cochin Shipyard), Tamil Nadu is targeting a slice of the global shipbuilding market,⁹⁰ projected to reach \$ 275.09 billion (about ₹ 24.95 thousand crore) by 2030.⁹¹

⁸⁷ [Business Standard, May, 2025.](#)

⁸⁸ [ET Infra, March, 2025.](#)

⁸⁹ [ET Manufacturing, September, 2025.](#)

⁹⁰ [The New Indian Express, September, 2025.](#)

⁹¹ [Ship Building Market Report, The Business Research Company, 2026.](#)

IV. Himachal Pradesh

A. State Data Hosting Policy

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

1. On 13th February, Himachal Pradesh launched the Himachal Pradesh State Data Hosting Policy, becoming the first state in India to implement a dedicated framework for state-level data hosting.
2. The policy marks a significant milestone in digital governance and aims to institutionalise secure, standardised and centralised management of Government data.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. A key pillar of the policy is the establishment of a **state Data Centre with a capacity of 1,000 terabytes**.
 - b. All departmental data will be hosted within this centralised facility, creating a secure and scalable digital backbone for governance.
 - c. The structured hosting framework is designed to support real-time data access, improved inter-departmental coordination and enhanced cybersecurity.
 - d. By bringing all state data under a single regulated architecture, the Government aims to improve administrative efficiency and transparency in public service delivery.
 - e. In addition to the Data Hosting Policy, the state has undertaken several parallel digital reforms. The number of online public services has increased from around 113 at the time of the Government's formation to nearly 200, significantly expanding e-district service access.
 - f. The grievance redressal helpline 'Nukhsutri Seva Sankalp' (1100) has also recorded a reported satisfaction rate of 71%, reflecting improvements in citizen engagement and service responsiveness.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. The requirement for this policy is necessitated by the expansion of online public services, which increased from 113 at the Government's inception to approximately 200 by early 2026.⁹² Furthermore, the state recorded a substantial volume of digital activity, with 22.78 lakh service deliveries recorded through the e-District portal in 2024. This scale of operations requires a centralised, high-capacity infrastructure to manage data processing and security.⁹³ To address these needs, the Government established a state-of-the-art Data Centre with a 1,000 terabyte capacity to serve as a secure digital backbone.
 - b. This policy framework provides the technical infrastructure necessary to sustain

⁹² [ANI News, February, 2026.](#)

⁹³ [The Statesman, October, 2025.](#)

A. State Data Hosting Policy

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

the 77% growth in e-service accessibility. By prioritizing real-time data integration, the state transition aims toward a **data-analytics model for resource management**. Such a shift is a functional requirement for the state's topography, particularly in coordinating logistics and resource allocation in disaster-prone areas.

B. Cabinet Approval To New Lease Policy

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

1. On 15th February, the Himachal Pradesh Cabinet approved a new lease policy to revise rents of nearly 9,000 shops and stalls owned by urban local bodies across the State. This aims to end decades-old “dead rents” and strengthen the financial position of municipal institutions.
2. **Target Beneficiaries** - The policy seeks to improve the financial health of 71 urban local bodies, including municipal corporations, municipal councils and nagar panchayats.
3. **Key Features** -
 - a. It addresses the issue of outdated lease agreements under which shops in prime markets are paying rents as low as ₹ 100 to ₹ 500 per month, compared to newer shops charging ₹ 1,500 to ₹ 5,000 per month.
 - b. Rents will be re-evaluated and aligned more closely with prevailing market rates to reduce revenue leakage and improve municipal income.
 - c. Under the Himachal Pradesh Municipal Act, 1994,⁹⁴ which regulates the municipal corporations, the revised rents will be determined based on circle rates and property location with different slabs for main markets, link roads, suburban areas and residential zones.
 - d. The nature of commercial activity will be considered while fixing rents to ensure equitable classification.
 - e. Further, this policy aims to propose a mechanism for regular rent increases at fixed intervals to prevent stagnation in income.
 - f. It also ensures transparent lease renewals and recovery of long-pending dues to strengthen accountability and financial discipline.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - In the recent past states like Maharashtra⁹⁵ and Karnataka⁹⁶ have undertaken reforms to rationalise municipal lease policies and strengthen urban local body revenues.
5. **Relevance** -
 - a. The requirement for this policy is necessitated by a structural disparity between legacy rental rates, currently ranging from ₹ 100 to ₹ 500 per month, and prevailing market rates of ₹ 1,500 to ₹ 5,000 per month. This gap represents a **functional revenue loss of 300% to 900% per unit**. By recalibrating the valuation across 9,000 commercial assets, the state’s 71 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) can generate a projected incremental annual revenue of ₹10 to ₹25 crore.

⁹⁴ [Himachal Pradesh Municipal Corporation Act, 1994.](#)

⁹⁵ [Real Estate Law Journal, October, 2024.](#)

⁹⁶ [Deccan Herald, July, 2024.](#)

B. Cabinet Approval To New Lease Policy**Source:** [The News Himachal](#) | **Impact:** Medium

- b. Under this framework, rental income is decoupled from historical stagnation and systematically indexed to Circle Rates (government-notified land values). This transition, facilitated by the Himachal Pradesh Municipal Act, 1994, ensures that public assets yield a Return on Investment (ROI) proportional to their specific geographic classification, whether situated in primary markets, link roads, or suburban zones.
- c. Furthermore, this reform acts as a primary eligibility criterion for the state to access the Union Cabinet's ₹ 1 Lakh Crore Urban Challenge Fund. By addressing the issue of static "dead rents," the state enables its 5 Municipal Corporations and 66 smaller urban bodies to qualify for performance-linked grants and a ₹ 5,000 crore Central Guarantee on loans intended for urban infrastructure development.

V. Rajasthan

A. Rajasthan Industrial Park Incentive Policy, 2026

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

1. On 27th February, the Rajasthan Cabinet approved the Rajasthan Industrial Park Incentive Policy, 2026 to expand industrial infrastructure, promote private investment and generate large-scale employment across the State.
2. **Key Features -**
 - a. The **policy introduces four development models**, allowing parks to be set up entirely on RIICO-allotted land, through 80:20 land sharing between developer and RIICO, on fully privately arranged land, or under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.
 - b. To ensure viability, each private industrial park must have a minimum area of 50 acres and at least 10 industrial units.
 - c. Graded capital subsidies for common infrastructure are provided - up to ₹ 20 crore (up to 100 acres), ₹ 30 crore (100–250 acres) and ₹ 40 crore (above 250 acres), along with green incentives of up to ₹ 12.5 crore per park.
 - d. Additional benefits include exemptions in stamp duty and land conversion charges, rebates in electricity duty for renewable energy use and financial assistance up to ₹ 3 crore for approach road construction.
 - e. All proposals will be processed through the RajNivesh portal, with RIICO serving as the nodal implementation agency to ensure streamlined approvals.
3. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** The Delhi Government, under the Delhi Industrial Policy (2025–2035)⁹⁷, proposes the development of low-cost industrial parks and SME business zones, offering tax incentives to make Delhi a more accessible city for businesses of all sizes.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. Currently, the secondary sector in Rajasthan contributes approximately 27% to the GSVA, which is lower than the targets required to achieve a \$350 billion state economy by 2030.⁹⁸ By offering capital subsidies that can cover up to 40% of common infrastructure costs, the policy lowers the high entry barriers for private developers, addressing the industrial infrastructure deficit that has historically limited the state's manufacturing output.
 - b. Further, Rajasthan's MSME sector accounts for over 95% of industrial units but suffers from a lack of “plug-and-play” infrastructure.⁹⁹ The mandate for at least 10 units per park creates a structured ecosystem for these smaller enterprises, providing them with access to shared facilities that were previously

⁹⁷ [Delhi Industrial Policy \(2025–2035\)](#).

⁹⁸ [Rajasthan Economic Review 2024-25](#).

⁹⁹ [Times of India, June 2024](#).

A. Rajasthan Industrial Park Incentive Policy, 2026**Source:** [Times Of India](#) | **Impact:** Medium

cost-prohibitive, thereby improving their global competitiveness.

- c. Rajasthan currently leads India in solar installed capacity which **accounts for 27% of the nation's total solar capacity**,¹⁰⁰ yet industrial power costs remain a concern for manufacturing units.¹⁰¹ The policy's green incentives of ₹ 12.5 crore and electricity duty rebates are structurally relevant as they allow industrial parks to leverage the state's natural renewable surplus, creating a "Green Industrial Corridor" that reduces operational overheads for energy-intensive industries.

¹⁰⁰ [Solar Quarter, January 2026.](#)

¹⁰¹ [Time of India, October 2025.](#)

VI. Punjab

A. New Excise Policy, 2026-27

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

1. On 23rd February, the Government of Punjab approved the new Excise Policy for 2026–27, setting a **revenue target of ₹ 12,800 crore** more than double the ₹ 6,225 crore collected in 2022.¹⁰²
2. The Government projects the policy as a crackdown on the liquor mafia combined with structural reforms to enhance transparency and revenue stability.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Existing liquor groups can renew licenses with a 6.5% increase, while non-renewals will be allotted through an e-tendering process to ensure competitive and transparent allocation.
 - b. The quota for country liquor has been increased by 3%, with excise duty unchanged on country liquor but raised on English liquor and beer.
 - c. Notably, license fees have been increased by around 10%.
 - d. For the first time, rules permit the establishment of malt (single malt) manufacturing units in Punjab, allowing in-state distillation and bottling to boost investment and industrial growth.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** The Uttar Pradesh Government has recently launched a new excise policy aimed at increasing excise revenue to ₹ 60,000 crores¹⁰³ Meanwhile, the Madhya Pradesh Government has announced their excise policy for 2026–27 aimed at improving regulatory transparency, preventing monopolistic control and strengthening state revenue.¹⁰⁴
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. The New Punjab Excise Policy 2026–27 aims to double the state’s excise earnings. By targeting ₹ 12,800 crore, the state aims for an 104% increase over 2021–22 collection of ₹ 6,255 crore.
 - b. Additionally, for the first time Punjab is moving beyond simple bottling to indigenous distillation, capturing a larger share of the value chain, by permitting in-state malt manufacturing, it aims to target the premium liquor segment, which has seen at 39% compound annual growth rate (CAGR) between 2020–2023, far exceeding the global average of about 8%.¹⁰⁵
 - c. The policy utilises transparent allocation methods to dismantle the “Liquor Mafia” and ensure fair market competition. By mandating e-tendering for non-renewed licenses and a fixed 6.5% increase for renewals, the state has potentially

¹⁰² [The Week, February, 2026.](#)

¹⁰³ [Business Standard, February, 2026.](#)

¹⁰⁴ [DD News, February, 2026.](#)

¹⁰⁵ [ET Retail, January, 2025.](#)

A. New Excise Policy, 2026-27**Source:** [Indian Express](#) | **Impact:** Medium

eliminated back-door negotiations.

- d. Furthermore, a strategic 3% increase in country liquor quota addresses local demand while an unchanged duty on country liquor **protects low-income consumers from illicit “moonshine” (hooch)**. Conversely, the 10% hike in license fees and increased duties on English liquor/beer ensure that the revenue burden is shifted toward the premium consumption segment.

Social Sector Schemes

I. Telangana

A. Cabinet Approval To Cashless Employee Health Scheme (EHS)

Source: [News Arena India](#) | Impact: High

1. On 23rd February, the Telangana Cabinet approved a Cashless EHS for Government employees.
2. The scheme aims to strengthen healthcare access for employees, pensioners, and their dependent family members and will benefit 17.07 lakh people.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Cashless treatment will be available at all Government hospitals and 652 empanelled private hospitals, covering 1,998 medical procedures.
 - b. Digital health cards will be issued to all beneficiaries.
 - c. It will be implemented through the Rajiv Aarogyasri Health Care Trust, with employees contributing 1.5% of basic pay and the state Government contributing an equal share.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Uttar Pradesh,¹⁰⁶ Delhi,¹⁰⁷ Tamil Nadu,¹⁰⁸ Rajasthan,¹⁰⁹ Karnataka¹¹⁰ have implemented dedicated cashless or contributory health schemes for Government employees and pensioners to ensure empanelled hospital access, financial protection and expanded healthcare coverage.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Non-life insurance penetration, which includes health insurance, was just **1% of total premiums** collected to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2022-23.¹¹¹ Consequently, the out-of-pocket payment for health emergencies is high in India, about 39.4% of total health expenditure (THE) in 2021-22.¹¹² In Telangana, THE amount by individuals was ₹ 9,305 crore.¹¹³ Therefore, this scheme will help employees shift the burden of expenditure from the emergent situation, and increase non-life insurance penetration.
 - b. Additionally, a cashless scheme shifts financial risk away from households at the point of care, reducing the likelihood that employees and their families will incur catastrophic health expenditure or resort to distress borrowing (e.g., loans, asset sales) when faced with expensive procedures while ensuring equitable access to early, preventive treatment.

¹⁰⁶ [Cashless Health Scheme Of Uttar Pradesh.](#)

¹⁰⁷ [Delhi Government Employees Health Scheme.](#)

¹⁰⁸ [Tamil Nadu New Health Insurance Scheme.](#)

¹⁰⁹ [Rajasthan Government Health Scheme.](#)

¹¹⁰ [Karnataka Arogya Sanjeevini Scheme.](#)

¹¹¹ [Money Control, December, 2023.](#)

¹¹² [Business Standard, September, 2024.](#)

¹¹³ [Telangana Today, October, 2024.](#)

A. Cabinet Approval To Cashless Employee Health Scheme (EHS)**Source:** [News Arena India](#) | **Impact:** High

- c. Lastly, under the old system, Telangana's private hospitals often refused EHS patients due to **delayed Government reimbursements**.¹¹⁴ The new 1.5% contributory pool creates a liquid fund, ensuring that hospitals are paid on time, thereby incentivising them to accept EHS cards with the same priority as cash-paying patients.

¹¹⁴ [Telangana Today, September, 2025.](#)

B. Telangana Cabinet Approves Accident Insurance Scheme

Source: [News Arena India](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 23rd February, the Telangana Cabinet approved an Accident Insurance Scheme for Government employees and pensioners.
2. The scheme aims to strengthen social security and financial protection for lakhs of beneficiaries across the State.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme provides **₹ 1.20 crore compensation in case of accidental death** without requiring any premium payment from beneficiaries.
 - b. It also provides term insurance coverage of ₹ 10 lakh in case of natural death up to the age of 60 years.
 - c. The scheme will benefit 5.19 lakh regular Government employees and 2.38 lakh pensioners, covering a total of 7.57 lakh individuals.
 - d. The scheme will be implemented through banks without putting additional financial burden on employees or state exchequer.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Recently, Karnataka¹¹⁵ has introduced enhanced accident insurance mechanisms, including compensation upto ₹ 1 crore compensation in cases of accidental death, aimed at strengthening financial security and social protection for government and public sector employees.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Sudden death of the primary earning member significantly increases the risk of long-term poverty for households. Income shocks are a major contributor to downward mobility among salaried families, particularly where insurance coverage is inadequate. By offering accident insurance, the state lowers vulnerability to distress borrowing, asset liquidation, or educational discontinuation among dependents.¹¹⁶
 - b. Additionally, domestic life insurance penetration remains relatively low, about 3% of total premiums collected to the country's GDP in 2022-23, and average personal accident covers purchased by individuals are typically far below ₹ 1 crore.¹¹⁷ By offering ₹ 1.2 crore cover which is substantially higher than typical private accident policies, the scheme significantly reduces long-term income replacement risk for over 7.5 lakh households.

¹¹⁵ [ANI, June, 2024.](#)

¹¹⁶ [Gokhale Institute Of Politics And Economics, September, 2023.](#)

¹¹⁷ [Money Control, December, 2023.](#)

II. Himachal Pradesh

A. Sukh Shiksha Scheme To Support Higher Education Of Widows' Daughters

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

1. On 20th February, the Himachal Pradesh Government announced the expansion of the Indira Gandhi Sukh Shiksha Yojna to extend financial assistance to daughters of widows pursuing higher education both within and outside the state.
2. **Target Beneficiaries** - The scheme will support **daughters of widows, destitute or divorced women**, and disabled parents. Under the revised provisions, eligible daughters up to 27 years of age can now avail benefits for higher and professional education.
3. Currently, 504 girls in the 18–27 age group are benefiting from the scheme,¹¹⁸ and nearly 20% are expected to opt for professional courses under the expanded ambit.
4. **Key Features** -
 - a. Beneficiaries enrolled in professional courses at Government-run institutions outside the state will receive ₹ 3,000 per month for up to 10 months to cover rent or paying guest accommodation expenses, where Government hostel facilities are unavailable.
 - b. The expanded coverage includes engineering and technology, business and management, medical and allied health sciences, law, IT and computer applications, education and humanities, SCVT programmes, Craftsmen Training Scheme courses and programmes offered by the Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology.
 - c. For the current financial year, ₹ 31.01 crore has been allocated under the scheme, of which ₹ 22.96 crore has already been utilised as of 3rd February, 2026. An additional ₹ 1 crore annually will be earmarked to support the expanded provisions.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Rajasthan's Devnarayan Chatra Scooty Yojana¹¹⁹ and Madhya Pradesh's Ladli Laxmi Yojana¹²⁰ promotes girls' education by providing financial incentives and supporting the welfare of girls from disadvantaged communities.
6. **Relevance** -
 - a. The Sukh Shiksha Scheme aims to dismantle the economic barriers that prevent the daughters of widows, destitute women, and disabled parents from achieving professional autonomy. By extending eligibility to age 27 and broadening the scope to include high-impact fields such as engineering, medicine, and law, the state Government is targeting the significant dropout rate typically seen among

¹¹⁸ [Hindustan Times, February, 2025.](#)

¹¹⁹ [Devnarayan Chhatra Scooty Yojana.](#)

¹²⁰ [Ladli Laxmi Yojana.](#)

A. Sukh Shiksha Scheme To Support Higher Education Of Widows' Daughters**Source:** [Hindustan Times](#) | **Impact:** Medium

vulnerable groups transitioning from secondary to higher education.

- b. Currently, 504 girls are enrolled in the scheme, and nearly 20% are expected to pursue professional courses under the new ambit, necessitating the state's strategic provision of ₹ 3,000 monthly rental assistance for those studying in Government institutions outside the state where hostels are unavailable.
- c. Further, the Government estimates that 20% of current beneficiaries will pivot toward professional courses due to this expansion. The top-up cost of ₹ 1 crore annually is remarkably low compared to the long-term economic independence of these 500+ women, who will likely **transition from welfare recipients to high-value taxpayers** in fields like Medicine or Engineering.

III. Maharashtra

A. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Maharajasv Abhiyan

Source: [Mid-Day](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 19th February, the Maharashtra Government launched the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Maharajasv Abhiyan (Phase-1), a statewide revenue service delivery drive to ensure speedy and transparent delivery of revenue services and resolution of long-pending revenue matters.
2. The initiative focuses on the welfare of common citizens, farmers, agricultural labourers, students, and women.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The drive delivers more than **15 major revenue services through special ‘Samadhan Shibir’ camps with on-the-spot disposal.**
 - b. The statewide drive covers all revenue circles, including areas under municipal councils and nagar panchayats.
 - c. It enables mutation entry clearance, correction of land record errors, and issuance of key certificates.
 - d. It issues digitally signed 7/12 and 8-A extracts, income, domicile, caste, and Non-Creamy Layer (NCL) certificates.¹²¹
 - e. The revenue outreach programme grants administrative sanction for farm access roads (Panand Rasta) and house-site allotments (Patte Watap).
 - f. The scheme’s framework supports processing of e-measurement applications and registration/updation under Agriculture Stack (Agristack)¹²² and Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN).¹²³
 - g. The special service campaign resolves cases related to violation of fragmentation law.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** State level initiatives such as the Bhoomi Project¹²⁴ in Karnataka similarly promote the same. Tamil Nadu also runs a comparable outreach model called Ungaludan Stalin (“Stalin With You”).¹²⁵
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Maharashtra faces significant pending applications and delays in providing services within stipulated times, undermining transparency and efficiency under the Right to Public Service framework.¹²⁶ The drive’s targeted “Samadhan Shibir”

¹²¹ A Non-Creamy Layer (NCL) Certificate is an official document for OBC candidates whose annual family income is below ₹ 8 lakh, validating their eligibility for central/state Government job reservations, scholarships, and educational institution quotas. It separates socially backward individuals from the wealthier “creamy layer.”

¹²² [Agristack](#).

¹²³ [PM-KISAN](#).

¹²⁴ [Bhoomi](#).

¹²⁵ [TOI, July, 2025](#).

¹²⁶ [CAG Report On Delivery Of Public Services, Maharashtra, Report 1 Of 2023, Pg. No. 12.](#)

A. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Maharajasv Abhiyan**Source:** [Mid-Day](#) | **Impact:** Medium

camps are directly responding to these inefficiencies by resolving long-pending revenue service matters in a time-bound, citizen-centric way, addressing a systemic backlog.

- b. Notably, 27% of the Municipal Councils and 35% of Gram Panchayats in the state did not have any service-providing centres to serve the citizens. Additionally, pending applications for service delivery increased from 1.78 lakh in 2016-17 to 9.54 lakh by 2020-21.¹²⁷ By aiming to deliver key revenue services on the spot through camps in every revenue circle, the drive helps compensate for gaps in formal service infrastructure and accessibility.
- c. Further, hundreds of services were unavailable on Maharashtra's existing Aaple Sarkar portal, forcing citizens to navigate fragmented systems and undermining time-bound delivery.¹²⁸ The drive's physical, daily monitored camps augment digital delivery gaps, bringing services closer to citizens in areas where online systems remain incomplete.

¹²⁷ [CAG Report On Delivery Of Public Services, Maharashtra, Report 1 Of 2023, Pg. No. 12.](#)

¹²⁸ [CAG Report On Delivery Of Public Services, Maharashtra, Report 1 Of 2023, Pg. No. 12.](#)

IV. Uttarakhand

A. Mukhyamantri Ekal Mahila Swarozgar Yojana

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

1. On 17th February, the Uttarakhand Government launched the Chief Minister Single Women Self-Employment Scheme.
2. **Target Beneficiaries** - The scheme is designed to provide economic security, dignity and self-reliance to single women managing households independently. It includes widows, deserted and divorced women, survivors of acid attacks and crime, transgender persons, and women compelled to live alone due to social or economic circumstances.
3. **Key Features** -
 - a. In the first phase, ₹ 3.45 crore was transferred directly into the bank accounts of **484 beneficiaries** from six districts through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). The beneficiaries include women from Bageshwar, Dehradun, Nainital, Pauri, Tehri and Udham Singh Nagar.
 - b. While around 540 additional women from the remaining seven districts are expected to receive assistance worth ₹ 4 crore by the end of the month.
 - c. The scheme approves projects worth up to ₹ 2 lakh per beneficiary to encourage micro-enterprise development and self-employment ventures.
 - d. The Government will provide a subsidy of 75% or up to ₹ 1.5 lakh, whichever is lower, while the remaining 25% is contributed by the beneficiary through personal resources or institutional loans.
 - e. Financial assistance will be disbursed through the DBT mechanism to ensure transparency, accountability and timely delivery of funds.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The scheme aligns more closely with Central Government self-employment initiatives for women such as Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)¹²⁹, Stand-Up India¹³⁰ and the New Swarnima Scheme,¹³¹ which provide collateral-free loans, subsidies and capacity-building support to promote women's entrepreneurship and long-term financial independence.¹³²
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - State-level initiatives such as Mukhyamantri

¹²⁹The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) is a flagship scheme launched by the Government of India to provide loans up to 10 lakh to non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises. These loans are classified as MUDRA loans and are disbursed through Commercial Banks, RRBs, Small Finance Banks, MFIs, and NBFCs.

¹³⁰ Stand-Up India is a grassroots entrepreneurship initiative mandating bank branches to provide loans between 10 lakh and 1 crore to at least one SC/ST and one woman borrower.

¹³¹ New Swarnima Scheme is a specific term loan scheme implemented by the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC) aimed at providing financial assistance to women entrepreneurs belonging to Backward Classes.

¹³² [National Commission For Women](#).

A. Mukhyamantri Ekal Mahila Swarozgar Yojana**Source:** [Hindustan Times](#) | **Impact:** Medium

Mahila Udyami Yojana¹³³ in Bihar and Indira Mahila Shakti Udyam Protsahan Yojana¹³⁴ in Rajasthan also promotes women-led enterprise development.

6. Relevance -

- a. By approving projects up to ₹ 2 lakh, the Government enables micro-enterprises (such as beauty parlours, data entry centres, and poultry farming) that were previously inaccessible due to collateral requirements. The 75% subsidy (up to ₹ 1.5 lakh) significantly lowers the cost of failure for first-time entrepreneurs.
- b. It is pertinent to note that Uttarakhand's female labour force participation is improving but still faces a significant urban-rural gap (41.8% in rural areas vs 18.6% in urban areas).¹³⁵ By funding projects in districts like Bageshwar and Pauri, the scheme directly addresses rural unemployment and female out-migration.
- c. Single women, including widows, divorcees, and survivors of crime, often lack documented ownership of land or property, which are traditional requirements for securing bank loans, women are only 14% of landowners owning 11% of agricultural land in rural landowning households.¹³⁶ The lack of collateral, combined with a low annual income threshold, creates a credit trap where women cannot afford the high startup costs of even micro-enterprises.
- d. The scheme, in essence, fundamentally shifts the risk from the beneficiary to the state by providing a 75% subsidy on projects worth ₹ 2 lakh. By requiring only a 25% contribution from the beneficiary, the policy lowers the barrier to entry to a manageable level.

¹³³ [Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyami Yojana.](#)

¹³⁴ [Indira Mahila Shakti Udyam Protsahan Yojana.](#)

¹³⁵ [Periodic Labour Force Survey Report, MoSPI, 2023-24, Pg. No. 126.](#)

¹³⁶ [The Journal Of Development Studies, 2021.](#)

V. Punjab

A. Reward Policy For The Arrest Of Wanted Criminals

Source: [Punjab News Line](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 24th February, the Government of Punjab notified the Reward Policy of the State of Punjab for the Arrest of Wanted Criminals under the ongoing 'Gangstran Te Vaar' campaign.
2. **Key Features -**
 - a. The authority to sanction rewards is distributed based on the rank and jurisdiction of the officer:
 - i. District Level (SSPs): Authorised to sanction rewards up to ₹ 1 lakh.
 - ii. Range/Zonal Level (CPs, IGPs, and DIGs): Authorised to sanction rewards up to ₹ 1.5 lakh.
 - iii. Specialised Units (Wing Heads): Authorised to sanction rewards up to ₹ 2 lakh.
 - iv. State Command (DGP, Punjab): Exclusive authority to approve all rewards exceeding ₹ 2 lakh.
 - b. The policy covers absconders, proclaimed offenders and habitual criminals.
 - c. Rewards will be granted to the people whose credible and actionable information leads to the identification, location and arrest of wanted criminals.
 - d. Police officers and officials carrying out exceptional or high-risk operations are also eligible.
 - e. Rewards are ex-gratia and determined case-by-case based on the gravity of the offence, risk undertaken and quality of information.
 - f. A structured recommendation process is mandatory, with the immediate supervisory Gazetted Officer certifying the credibility of information and roles played.
 - g. The identity of informers will be protected at all stages to ensure safety and confidentiality.
3. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Himachal Government has also launched Chitta Information Reward Scheme¹³⁷ for those who provide information about people involved in the chitta (an adulterated form of heroin) business with rewards ranging from a minimum of ₹ 10,000 to a maximum of ₹ 10 lakh.¹³⁸
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. Currently, Punjab is plagued with the problem of organised crime by the organised gangs operating all over the state, with a sharp spike in targeted killings, with 31 fatalities in 2025, the highest count since 2016.¹³⁹ Law enforcement has mapped over 400 active gang modules in the state, with approximately 60 major gangsters

¹³⁷ [Chitta Information Reward Scheme](#).

¹³⁸ [Indian Express, December, 2025](#).

¹³⁹ [South Asian Terrorism Portal](#).

A. Reward Policy For The Arrest Of Wanted Criminals

Source: [Punjab News Line](#) | Impact: Medium

- and 1,200 associates operating from both within Punjab and foreign bases.¹⁴⁰
- b. The current policy directly targets the operational infrastructure of organised crime via Human Intelligence (HUMINT). Also, in **2025 over 60% of successful anti-gangster operations in Punjab were driven by HUMINT**. By formalising rewards up to ₹ 2 lakh and above, the state creates a high-stakes incentive for whistleblowers to bypass the fear of retaliation.

¹⁴⁰ [Times Of India, January, 2026](#).

VI. Jharkhand

A. Launch Of Education Focused Initiatives

Source: [Indian Masterminds](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 24th February, the Government of Jharkhand announced major education-focused initiatives in its 2026–27 Budget, signalling a significant push towards strengthening school and higher education infrastructure.
2. **Key Features -**
 - a. The state will establish 100 new CM Schools of Excellence, introducing CBSE curriculum from the 2027–28 academic session.
 - b. An ideal school for martyrs' dependents will also be set up.
 - c. In higher education, Baba Bhimrao Ambedkar University will be established in Chatra district.
 - d. Additionally, five new girls' residential schools will be opened, two in Dhanbad and one each in Palamu, Latehar and Garhwa.
 - e. The Budget allocates ₹ 16,251.43 crore for early and secondary education, and ₹ 2,564.45 crore for higher and technical education.
3. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The reforms align with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020,¹⁴¹ emphasising equitable access, quality improvement and expansion of institutional capacity.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. While the expansion to 100 new CM Schools of Excellence is ambitious, the state faces a significant "implementation friction" identified in previous cycles.¹⁴² Furthermore, infrastructure audits have shown that while buildings are upgraded, functional labs and English-language faculty remain in short supply.¹⁴³
 - b. As of 2025-26, **Jharkhand's Higher Education Gross Enrollment Rate (GER) stands at approximately 18.6%,¹⁴⁴** which is significantly lower than the national target of 50% by 2035 (as set by NEP, 2020).¹⁴⁵ Establishing a university in the Chatra district is a strategic move to provide localised access to the 18–23 age group in one of the state's most interior regions, reducing the financial burden of relocation for tribal and rural students.
 - c. Further, allocation for five new girls' residential schools specifically targets districts with high drop-out rates among female students. It is pertinent to note that there is a stark gender literacy gap in Jharkhand with male literacy is 82.8%

¹⁴¹ [National Education Policy, 2020.](#)

¹⁴² [Times of India, May 2024.](#)

¹⁴³ [Prabhat Khabar, August 2023.](#)

¹⁴⁴ [AISHE Report, 2021-22.](#)

¹⁴⁵ [NDTV, August, 2020.](#)

A. Launch Of Education Focused Initiatives**Source:** [Indian Masterminds](#) | **Impact:** Medium

and female literacy lags at 70.6%, both lower than national average.¹⁴⁶

- d. By covering the total cost of boarding and education, the state policy counters the economic preference often given to male children in low-income households, thereby leveling the playing field for girl students.

¹⁴⁶ [Jharkhand Economic Survey, 2025.](#)

Investment Announcements

I. Odisha

A. Approval To 10 Major Industrial Projects Worth ₹ 44,200 Crore

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

1. On 21st February, the Odisha Government approved 10 major industrial projects worth ₹ 44,200 crore.
2. **Key Announcements -**
 - a. The projects are spread across eight districts Khurda, Koraput, Kalahandi, Malkangiri, Dhenkanal, Puri, Nayagarh and Deogarh and are expected to generate 8,765 jobs and strengthen Odisha's position in semiconductors, renewable energy and advanced manufacturing.
 - b. In the semiconductor sector, ASP Semicon will set up a ₹ 4,620 crore memory chip manufacturing plant in Khurda, marking a major step in building domestic chip fabrication capacity.
 - c. In rare earth manufacturing, Magnova Private Ltd will establish a ₹ 1,050 crore high-performance magnet facility in Khurda, critical for EVs and clean energy technologies.
 - d. The automotive and aerospace segment will see Bharat Forge invest ₹ 3,000 crore in Dhenkanal to manufacture aerospace and defence components.
 - e. In the cement sector, NCL Industries and Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Ltd will each invest ₹ 2,000 crore in Koraput and Malkangiri, respectively.
 - f. On the renewable energy front, Adani Hydro Energy Twelve Ltd will invest ₹ 9,731 crore in a pumped storage project in Nayagarh, while Jindal Green PSP Two Private Limited will invest ₹ 3,711 crore in a similar project in Deogarh.
 - g. Additionally, Sangamam CD Hydro Consortium will invest ₹ 9,000 crore in Koraput and Greenko Private Ltd has proposed a ₹ 7,506 crore project in Kalahandi to enhance long-term energy security and renewable integration.
 - h. In telecom infrastructure, Shreetech Data Ltd-CLS will establish a ₹ 1,622 crore cable landing station in Puri, strengthening digital connectivity.
3. **Relevance -**
 - a. The state has approved a ₹ 4,620 crore semiconductor memory chip plant by ASP Semicon, which targets **domestic fabrication capacity and the creation of 2,500 specialised jobs**.¹⁴⁷ This is complemented by Magnova Private Ltd's ₹ 1,050 crore high-performance magnet facility, a critical link for the EV supply chain that currently faces high import dependency.
 - b. Furthermore, with ₹ 29,949 crore dedicated to pumped-storage hydro projects by

¹⁴⁷ [Sambad English, February 2026](#)

A. Approval To 10 Major Industrial Projects Worth ₹ 44,200 Crore**Source:** [The Economic Times](#) | **Impact:** High

firms like Adani and Greenko, Odisha is addressing the urgent need for grid-scale energy storage to integrate its growing renewable capacity. By also securing its first-ever undersea cable landing station in Puri, a ₹ 1,622 crore investment by Shreetech Data Ltd, the state is establishing the digital infrastructure necessary to support the high-speed data requirements of a modern, technology-driven economy.

II. Andhra Pradesh

A. Establishment Of An Integrated Lithium-Ion Battery Gigafactory

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

1. The Andhra Pradesh State Investment Promotion Board approved a project by Waaree Energies to establish **India's largest integrated, greenfield lithium-ion battery gigafactory** at Rambilli, Anakapalli district, with an investment of ₹ 8,175 crore and estimated 3,000 direct jobs.
2. The project aims to create large-scale domestic lithium-ion battery manufacturing capacity to strengthen clean-energy manufacturing, energy storage systems, and import substitution.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The plant will have a manufacturing capacity of 16 Gigawatt hour (GWh) with end-to-end battery value chain integration.
 - b. The facility will include cell manufacturing, battery pack assembly, and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).
 - c. The unit supports renewable energy expansion, electric mobility growth, and grid-level storage capacity.
 - d. The approval aligns with clean energy policy goals and domestic clean-tech manufacturing push.
 - e. This partnership is established under the Andhra Pradesh Integrated Clean Energy Policy 2024,¹⁴⁸ which provides incentives for large-scale renewable projects in addition to infrastructure for equipment manufacturing and storage.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The project aligns with the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Storage¹⁴⁹ to boost domestic Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) manufacturing and import substitution, and supports the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles Scheme (FAME India Scheme)¹⁵⁰ by strengthening battery supply chains for electric mobility and renewable energy integration.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** State-initiatives such as Gujarat's gigafactory push at Sanand¹⁵¹ and the Amara Raja Advanced Cell Technologies advanced cell plant in Telangana¹⁵² similarly promotes domestic battery production, clean-tech manufacturing, and electric mobility expansion.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Currently, lithium-ion cells and storage systems needs of the country is almost

¹⁴⁸ [Andhra Pradesh Integrated Clean Energy Policy, 2024.](#)

¹⁴⁹ [Production Linked Incentive Scheme.](#)

¹⁵⁰ [PIB, July, 2022.](#)

¹⁵¹ [Pvmagazine, December, 2025.](#)

¹⁵² [PIB, March, 2025.](#)

A. Establishment Of An Integrated Lithium-Ion Battery Gigafactory

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

entirely met by imports (about 15 GWh),¹⁵³ establishing large-scale domestic production reduces exposure to global supply shocks and supply chain risk. The gigafactory will cover the full lithium-ion battery value chain, from cell manufacturing to battery packs and large-scale BESS, helping build domestic production capacity in a sector where it has been heavily import-dependent.

- b. Further, projections suggest domestic lithium-ion demand will reach about 115 GWh by 2030 (nearly 8 times from about 15 GWh today) driven by Electric Vehicles (EVs) and stationary storage, despite current import reliance.¹⁵⁴ The gigafactory supply will thus help meet this sharp demand growth domestically, fostering investment in ancillary suppliers, materials sourcing, and localised value chains.

¹⁵³ [Bharat Express, November, 2024.](#)

¹⁵⁴ [TOI, July, 2025.](#)

III. Gujarat

A. MoU For 250 MegaWatt (MW) Green AI-Ready Data Centre

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

1. On 20th February, Gujarat signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishing a 250 MW green AI-ready data centre campus at Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR), marking a major step toward positioning the state as a leading hub for artificial intelligence and digital infrastructure.
2. The initiative aims to build high-capacity, environmentally sustainable digital infrastructure capable of supporting cloud computing, advanced analytics and AI-based services.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The proposed 250 MW campus at Dholera SIR will be developed as a green, large-scale data centre designed to support AI workloads and hyperscale cloud operations.
 - b. Under the MoU framework, L&T VYOMA will conduct detailed assessments of land suitability, infrastructure readiness, availability zones and sustainability benchmarks.
 - c. The project aligns with the state's IT/ITeS Policy (2022-27) and is expected to generate substantial direct and indirect employment during construction, commissioning and long-term operations
 - d. In line with this vision, Gujarat Government has allocated over ₹ 850 crore in the state Budget for AI and digital governance initiatives.¹⁵⁵
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. The domestic data centre market is transitioning toward a scale-driven, hyperscale-led expansion phase. With the **national AI sector projected to reach \$ 17 billion by 2027**,¹⁵⁶ there is an urgent need for specialised infrastructure capable of handling high-density AI training workloads and advanced analytics.
 - b. The project directly supports the “MANAV” vision for AI,¹⁵⁷ which emphasises national data sovereignty and accessible technology. To fuel this, Gujarat has allocated over ₹ 850 crore for AI and digital governance initiatives, which will further act as a strategic financial anchor to transition Gujarat from a digital consumer to an indigenous AI powerhouse.
 - c. The above will ensure that the state's high-speed data infrastructure and compute capabilities remain under sovereign control to safeguard national security and drive long-term economic autonomy.

¹⁵⁵ [IM, February, 2026.](#)

¹⁵⁶ [The Hindu, June, 2025.](#)

¹⁵⁷ MANAV vision for AI strategic initiative by the Government of India focused on achieving national data sovereignty by building indigenous AI frameworks.

IV. Bihar

A. Signing Of MoUs Worth ₹ 468 Crore To Formalise AI Partnerships

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

1. On 17th February, the Government of Bihar signed MoUs worth ₹ 468 crore at the India AI Impact Summit And Expo 2026. The agreements were signed with major technology companies to promote artificial intelligence-led innovation, research and employment generation in the state.
2. The initiative seeks to promote innovation, incubation, research collaboration and large-scale job creation, while integrating artificial intelligence into governance systems for improved implementation of Government schemes.
3. **Key Features** -
 - a. An MoU worth ₹ 60 crore has been signed for establishing the Bihar AI Centre of Excellence (CoE), with Tiger Analytics as the Industry Partner and IIT Patna as the Academic Partner.
 - b. Additionally, ₹ 250 crore has been earmarked for setting up a Research Park at IIT, Patna to strengthen industry-academia collaboration and advanced research infrastructure.
 - c. Under the Bihar GCC Policy 2026¹⁵⁸ and Bihar IT Policy 2024,¹⁵⁹ the state also signed MoUs with leading Global Capability Centre (GCC) and IT units, including Red Cyber (₹ 103 crore), GrowQR (₹ 30 crore) and CIPL (₹ 25 crore).
 - d. These investments are expected to create over 10,000 employment opportunities in emerging technology sectors.
 - e. More than 50,000 youth are projected to receive skill development training through AI-linked programmes.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The MoUs align with the Union Government's broader vision of positioning India as a global leader in artificial intelligence under initiatives such as the IndiaAI Mission,¹⁶⁰ which focuses on building AI compute infrastructure, CoEs and industry-academia partnerships.
5. **Relevance** -
 - a. Bihar is leveraging this policy framework to capitalise on its unique youth dividend, with 58% of its population under the age of 25, the highest proportion in India.¹⁶¹ Historically, Bihar has been a labor-surplus state, however, these MoUs aim to pivot the economy toward high-end services and IP creation. The ₹ 250 crore Research Park at IIT Patna is set to be the largest in Eastern India, acting as a regional anchor for the \$ 15.7 trillion (₹ 14.24 lakh crore) global AI economy

¹⁵⁸ [Official Gazette On Approval Of Bihar Global Capability Centre \(GCC\) Policy -2026.](#)

¹⁵⁹ [Bihar IT Policy, 2024.](#)

¹⁶⁰ [PIB, February, 2026.](#)

¹⁶¹ [The News Indian Express, February, 2026.](#)

A. Signing Of MoUs Worth ₹ 468 Crore To Formalise AI Partnerships

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

expected by 2030.¹⁶²

- b. Economically, the state's GCC Policy 2026 is designed to attract Global Capability Centres by offering 100% reimbursement of employer Employees' Provident Fund (EPF)¹⁶³ (up to ₹ 5,000 per month) and attractive fixed capital subsidies of 30% (up to ₹ 30 crore). This is expected to create over **10,000 new job opportunities** in emerging technologies.¹⁶⁴
- c. Further, these incentives aim to lower the cost of operation for tech giants by an estimated 15-20% compared to traditional hubs like Bengaluru. By creating 10,000 direct tech jobs, Bihar intends to retain high-skilled graduates locally, thereby increasing the state's IT/ITeS sector GSDP contribution, which is currently projected to grow at a CAGR of 9.7%.¹⁶⁵
- d. Furthermore, this strategic alignment with the IndiaAI Mission positions Bihar as a primary beneficiary of the ₹ 10,372 crore Central fund for AI computation and innovation.¹⁶⁶

¹⁶² [Business Standard, September, 2025.](#)

¹⁶³ EPF is a mandatory savings scheme under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, administered by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) in India.

¹⁶⁴ [Economic Times, May, 2025.](#)

¹⁶⁵ [Mint, February, 2026.](#)

¹⁶⁶ [PIB, February, 2026.](#)

Other Decisions

I. Assam

A. Mission For Minority And Underprivileged Areas (MMUA) Expansion, 2026

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

1. On 17th February, 2026, the Assam Cabinet approved 3% reservation in Class I and Class II state Government jobs for tea tribes and Adivasi communities within the OBC quota, and expanded the MMUA scheme¹⁶⁷ to include over one lakh additional women beneficiaries.
2. **Key Features -**
 - a. The decision approves 3% reservation in Class I and Class II posts for tea tribes and Adivasi communities within the OBC quota.
 - b. It extends reservation earlier limited to Grade III and Grade IV posts to Grade I and Grade II positions, including state civil services and professorial posts.
 - c. It provides that the revised reservation will apply to higher-level recruitment from next year, and to other posts advertised immediately from now.
 - d. The decision expands the MMUA scheme by approving inclusion of 1,07,532 additional Self-Help Group (SHG) members.
 - e. The expansion seeks to ensure that **no eligible beneficiary is left out**.
3. **Relevance -**
 - a. Tea estate communities face educational deprivation, for example, literacy among women in estate areas was observed as extremely low in some locations as low as about 22 % in isolated estates, compared to female literacy in Assam, 66.27% which is higher than national averages;¹⁶⁸ poor access to secondary education and high dropout rates are widely reported.¹⁶⁹ This reservation would help them access educational opportunities.
 - b. The mission would help 'Tea Tribes' with significantly poorer living conditions, remote settlement patterns, and limited access to public services, and historically compounded exclusion from competitive jobs to access formal education and examination success.¹⁷⁰
 - c. Extending reservation to Grade I and II posts institutionalised pathways for Tea Tribe and Adivasi youth. Evidence from recent recruitments shows hundreds of candidates from these communities being inducted into Government services (Grade III/IV) via Assam Direct Recruitment Examination (ADRE), highlighting latent demand now being expanded into higher grades.¹⁷¹

¹⁶⁷ [MMUA Scheme](#).

¹⁶⁸ [Assam Census Data](#).

¹⁶⁹ [CDEA India, December, 2025](#).

¹⁷⁰ [Assam Tribune, February, 2026](#).

¹⁷¹ [City Air News, January, 2026](#).

B. Provincialisation Management System (PMS) Portal

Source: [Lok Mat Times](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 18th February, 2026, the Government of Assam launched the Provincialisation Management System (PMS) Portal to give a final, technology-driven push to the provincialisation of venture schools and their teaching and non-teaching staff under the Assam Education (Provincialisation of Services of Teachers and Re-Organisation of Educational Institutions) Act, 2017.¹⁷²
2. The portal initiative aims to create a transparent and time-bound digital system to process, verify, and monitor applications for provincialisation of eligible venture educational institutions and employees.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The digital portal provides a centralised platform to receive and process applications from non-provincialised venture schools and colleges and their staff.
 - b. It creates a unified database of institutions, teachers, and non-teaching employees to remove ambiguity and reduce irregularities in provincialisation decisions.
 - c. The provincialisation drive covers multiple categories of institutions including lower primary (LP), upper primary (UP) / middle (ME), high schools, higher secondary schools, and degree colleges.
 - d. It requires institutions to be established before 1st January, 2006 and to submit recognition papers, land records, academic details, and staff credentials through the portal.
 - e. The technology-based monitoring mechanism is designed to improve scrutiny, speed, and administrative efficiency in the provincialisation process.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. For the first time, institutions and their employees have a clear **digital channel to submit and verify compliance documents** (recognition, land ownership, academic performance, credentials). This reduces disputes over eligibility determination and creates a standardised baseline for provincialisation eligibility, measurable via ratio of complete vs incomplete applications and validation error rates. It also reduces delays and procedural ambiguity.
 - b. The Government announced preferential marking to help unqualified staff compete for other Government jobs. This creates a measurable mechanism to integrate affected workers into alternative public sector roles, potentially increasing their 'hireability' in Government job exams compared with peers without preferential marks.

¹⁷² [The Assam Education \(Provincialisation Of Services Of Teachers And Re-Organisation Of Educational Institutions\) Act, 2017.](#)

B. Provincialisation Management System (PMS) Portal**Source:** [Lok Mat Times](#) | **Impact:** Medium

- c. Assam has already **provincialised over 50,000 teachers** in phases across primary, secondary and college levels since 2011.¹⁷³ A more efficient provincialisation system, through the introduced centralised PMS portal, provides venture school staff with formal employment prospects.
- d. Lastly, the Government introduced a complementary scheme, Gurudakshina scheme,¹⁷⁴ in the Vote-on-Account Budget to provide financial support for staff whose services could not be provincialised.¹⁷⁵ This will provide short-term income stability while awaiting employment transitions for several teachers who had earlier missed provincialisation due to lack of certificates or eligibility-related issues.

¹⁷³ [DD News, February, 2026.](#)

¹⁷⁴ The Guru Dakshina scheme in Assam is a one-time financial assistance package introduced by the state government to support teachers who missed out on school provincialisation (regularisation) due to a lack of certificates or eligibility issues. It aims to provide aid to educators in deserving, verified, and genuine institutions.

¹⁷⁵ [The Assam Tribune, February, 2026.](#)

II. Andhra Pradesh

A. Proposed Multi-Point Connectivity For Renewable Energy

Source: [The Government Of Andhra Pradesh](#), [Mercom India](#) | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 19th February, the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (APERC) issued the draft Second Amendment to the Terms and Conditions for Tariff Determination from Renewable Energy Sources Regulation, 2025.¹⁷⁶
2. It proposes **changes to connectivity requirements for wind-solar hybrid and renewable energy** with storage projects.
3. The Amendment aims to offer greater flexibility in grid connectivity for hybrid renewable energy projects by removing the requirement that all components be connected at a single interconnection point, thereby optimising grid use and project design.
4. **Key Features -**
 - a. The draft proposes that renewable hybrid projects and renewable energy with storage projects may now be connected at the same or different interconnection points, subject to applicable connectivity approvals, scheduling discipline, and settlement mechanisms.
 - b. The Amendment follows stakeholder representations requesting the removal of the single interconnection requirement to allow greater design flexibility and optimal use of renewable energy resources.
 - c. APERC noted that permitting separate interconnection points can optimise transmission infrastructure, allowing each generation component to connect at the nearest technically feasible point and minimise the need for dedicated transmission lines.
 - d. The draft also revises definitions, allowing renewable hybrid energy projects and renewable energy with storage projects to connect at the same or different interconnection points while maintaining other regulatory conditions.
5. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The proposal aligns with the Green Energy Open Access Rules, 2022¹⁷⁷ and the Electricity Act, 2003,¹⁷⁸ promoting flexible connectivity, open access, and efficient grid integration of renewable and hybrid energy projects.
6. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Gujarat,¹⁷⁹ Rajasthan¹⁸⁰ and Karnataka¹⁸¹ have already implemented regulatory provisions relevant to hybrid and renewables integration capacities.

¹⁷⁶ [The Terms And Conditions For Tariff Determination From Renewable Energy Sources Regulation, 2025.](#)

¹⁷⁷ [Green Energy Open Access Rules, 2022.](#)

¹⁷⁸ [The Electricity Act, 2003.](#)

¹⁷⁹ [ET Government, December, 2025.](#)

¹⁸⁰ [Mercom, September, 2025.](#)

¹⁸¹ [Draft Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission \(Roadmap For Reducing Crosssubsidy And Cross Subsidy Surcharge\) Regulations, 2025.](#)

A. Proposed Multi-Point Connectivity For Renewable Energy

Source: [The Government Of Andhra Pradesh](#), [Mercom India](#) | **Impact:** Medium

7. Relevance -

- a. Earlier systems with strict **single interconnection requirements limited hybrid project design options**, potentially increasing costs and logistical constraints. The Amendment permits multi-point interconnection for wind, solar and storage projects. This creates clear design flexibility that can help reduce project costs and improve capacity utilisation for renewables, with immediate relevance for developers planning hybrid and storage plants.
- b. National policy and grid planning documents increasingly consider energy storage essential for managing variability in high renewable penetration scenarios. India will require 230 GWh of storage capacity by 2030 to integrate 254 GW of renewables.¹⁸² By defining renewable energy with storage in technical tariff regulation, APERC provides regulatory clarity for financing and constructing hybrid and storage projects.
- c. The Amendment sets a minimum Capacity Utilisation Factor (CUF)¹⁸³ of 40 % per MW for wind-solar hybrid projects for tariff matters. The Regulation introduces standardised CUF requirements, which reduces uncertainty in tariff determination and aligns hybrid tariff methodology with international and national norms, which will improve tariff predictability.

¹⁸² [ET Energy World, December, 2025.](#)

¹⁸³ CUF is an empirically measured performance indicator used across Indian regulatory frameworks to assess project viability and tariff values.

B. Registration Of Births And Deaths Rules, 2025

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

1. On 17th February, the Health, Medical and Family Welfare Department of the Government of Andhra Pradesh issued the Andhra Pradesh Registration of Births and Deaths Rules, 2025, replacing the Andhra Pradesh Registration of Births and Deaths Rules, 1999.¹⁸⁴
2. The Rules seek to streamline and modernise the procedure for registration of births and deaths in the state and strengthen the civil registration framework.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Rules **mandate compulsory registration of every birth and death within 21 days of occurrence**, with provision for delayed registration upon payment of prescribed late fees and, in certain cases, approval of the competent authority.
 - b. They prescribe standardised forms and reporting procedures, assigning clear responsibilities to hospitals and institutions for reporting events occurring under their care, and requiring families or informants to report domiciliary events.
 - c. The Rules emphasise digital registration through the Civil Registration System (CRS) to ensure accuracy, transparency, and timely issuance of certificates.
 - d. The Rules provide penalties for non-compliance or failure to report events within the stipulated time, thereby strengthening the civil registration framework in the state.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The Central Government's CRS initiative under the Ministry of Home Affairs and Office of Registrar General aims to achieve 100% birth and death registration nationwide.¹⁸⁵
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Andhra Pradesh joins Uttar Pradesh,¹⁸⁶ Karnataka¹⁸⁷ and Tamil Nadu¹⁸⁸ in modernising the birth and death registration process.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Although India has improved its civil registration coverage, in 2023, domestic registration levels reached 98.4% for births and 97.2% for deaths.¹⁸⁹ The 2025 rules help **standardise and operationalise mandatory processes** (including timelines and digital reporting interfaces), aiming to close the existing registration gaps and reach the aim of achieving 100% registration.
 - b. Some hospitals and private facilities consistently fail to report births/deaths, and

¹⁸⁴ [Andhra Pradesh Registration Of Births And Deaths Rules, 1999.](#)

¹⁸⁵ [Civil Registration System, Government Of India.](#)

¹⁸⁶ [TOI, July, 2025.](#)

¹⁸⁷ [TOI, December, 2025.](#)

¹⁸⁸ [TOI, August, 2025.](#)

¹⁸⁹ [Insights By Dataful, October, 2025.](#)

B. Registration Of Births And Deaths Rules, 2025**Source:** [The Government Of Andhra Pradesh](#) | **Impact:** Medium

some registrars lack processes for timely certification, creating statewide data inconsistency that weakens demographic and health planning.¹⁹⁰ The Rules codify specific timelines and integrate penalty clauses for non-compliance by institutions or registrars. This gives the Central Government's initiative greater administrative force through explicit timelines and accountability measures.

¹⁹⁰ [Swadesi, April, 2025.](#)

C. MoU To Digitise Dokka Seethamma Midday Meal Scheme

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

1. On 19th February, the Andhra Pradesh School Education Department signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with International Innovation Corps (IIC) under the aegis of Chicago University Trust to strengthen implementation of the Dokka Seethamma Midday Meal Scheme¹⁹¹ in Government schools.
2. The MoU aims to digitise and improve implementation of the meal programme by using data analytics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance transparency, efficiency, and service quality. The partnership **promotes digital governance in school meal delivery**.
3. **Target Beneficiaries** - The initiative covers about 32.3 lakh students receiving meals daily in 42,230 schools and colleges.
4. **Key Features** -
 - a. The MoU enables technology-based monitoring of the Midday Meal Scheme across the state.
 - b. The IIC team will support accurate estimation of student meal uptake and monitoring of nutritional standards.
 - c. The digital support system is aimed to reduce administrative burden and enables faster decision-making.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Similar models exist in Tamil Nadu under the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme¹⁹² and in Karnataka State Mid-Day Meal Programme,¹⁹³ which use technology for real-time tracking.
6. **Relevance** -
 - a. Local surveys have found significant dissatisfaction with aspects of the scheme, including issues like poor clarity on nutrition quantities, inconsistent monitoring, and calls for improvements by over 66% of surveyed students.¹⁹⁴ Digitisation will help accurately monitor large beneficiary populations and identify gaps in service delivery that paper-based systems, which is critical at this scale.
 - b. While about 92% of primary students receive midday meals, upper primary coverage is lower (about 77%), with some districts below 75% coverage.¹⁹⁵ These measurable shortfalls in coverage demonstrate why more precise data, real-time tracking, and analytics are needed to ensure meals reach all eligible students and meet nutritional standards consistently.

¹⁹¹ [AbpTelugu, July, 2024.](#)

¹⁹² [Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme.](#)

¹⁹³ [Karnataka Mid-Day Meal Programme.](#)

¹⁹⁴ [South First, March, 2025.](#)

¹⁹⁵ [TOI, May, 2025.](#)

III. Maharashtra

A. Maharashtra Climate Finance Access And Mobilisation Strategy (CFAMS)

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

1. On 17th February, the Government of Maharashtra launched the CFAMS at Mumbai Climate Week to mobilise large-scale investments for transitioning the state toward a **low-carbon and climate-resilient economy**.
2. It aims to integrate climate action with economic growth by creating a structured framework to identify, access, mobilise, and allocate climate finance across sectors.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The strategy is developed by the State Climate Action Cell, providing an institutional roadmap for climate finance planning.
 - b. It focuses on unlocking diverse funding sources, improving interdepartmental coordination, and converting climate policy priorities into bankable and investable projects across sectors.
 - c. It is aligned with Maharashtra State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) 2.0¹⁹⁶ and the Viksit Maharashtra 2047 vision,¹⁹⁷ with the state estimating ₹ 3 lakh crore climate investment needs during 2024–2030.
 - d. It proposes a Climate Finance Facilitation Desk and use of blended finance and risk-sharing instruments to attract private and market-based capital.
 - e. A Maharashtra Climate Finance Dashboard will track departmental climate expenditure, support data-driven decisions, and improve transparency for domestic and global investors.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. The plan addresses climate-related risks, including rising urban heat, flood exposure, and unpredictable rainfall which are emerging as material economic constraints. Rising urban heat alone could reduce domestic GDP by as much as 2.5% if unaddressed, signalling a quantifiable macroeconomic risk for Maharashtra's highly urbanised economy.¹⁹⁸
 - b. Alongside CFAMS, the state unveiled a pipeline of over 1,000 climate action projects spanning 44 AMRUT cities aimed at creating bankable investment opportunities. This represents a structured attempt to translate climate planning into definable, investable projects with clear financing pathways, a key challenge in climate economics where fragmented pipelines often deter capital flows.¹⁹⁹

¹⁹⁶ [Rajya Sabha, Unstarred Question No 532, July, 2025.](#)

¹⁹⁷ [Viksit Maharashtra 2047.](#)

¹⁹⁸ [Down To Earth, February, 2026.](#)

¹⁹⁹ [The Indian Express, February, 2026.](#)

IV. Kerala

A. Cabinet Approval To The Nativity Card Bill

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

1. On 18th February, the Kerala Cabinet approved the Kerala Nativity Card Bill, a legislative proposal to grant legal validity to the Nativity Card scheme announced in December, 2025.²⁰⁰
2. The Bill aims to **confer legal status to a permanent Nativity Card**, making it a valid document to certify that a person hails from Kerala and to simplify identity verification in interacting with Government services and social programmes.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Nativity Card will be issued on the lines of the existing Nativity Certificate, but with legal validity under the new Bill.
 - b. The card certifies a person as a native of Kerala, including those born in the state or with at least one ancestor born in Kerala, provided they have not acquired foreign citizenship.
 - c. Individuals born outside Kerala due to their parents' employment or livelihood reasons will also be considered natives if they meet the criteria.
 - d. Applicants must submit a prescribed application along with documents and fee to the Tahsildar, and the district collector can review, cancel, or modify decisions but must give a fair hearing.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Telangana²⁰¹ provides nativity certification via the MeeSeva portal for access to state welfare benefits and reservations.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Citizens previously needed a combination of documents (birth certificate, address proofs) to establish nativity for state-specific entitlements. A single, legally valid identity document can be integrated into digital governance platforms. This can measurably reduce turnaround times for service requests requiring nativity proof, such as domicile certificates, state scholarships, and local recruitment processes. This creates clarity in eligibility verification and reduces ambiguity during application scrutiny in Government departments.
 - b. Kerala's population is aging rapidly due to very low fertility and high life expectancy. With a relatively higher proportion of older adults, there will be strong demand for social welfare and healthcare services requiring documentation of eligibility. A statutorily valid nativity card could streamline access for seniors, especially those without ready access to multiple national IDs due to older record systems, improving service uptake.²⁰²

²⁰⁰ [Onmanorama, December, 2025.](#)

²⁰¹ [MeeSeva Portal.](#)

²⁰² [Kerala Census Data, 2011.](#)

B. The Advocates' Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2026

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

1. On 13th February, the Kerala Cabinet approved the Kerala Advocates' Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2026 to amend the Kerala Advocates' Welfare Fund Act, 1980.²⁰³
2. The Amendment aims to enhance welfare and financial security for registered advocates by increasing key benefit limits under the Kerala Advocates' Welfare Fund Act, 1980.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Increases the value of the Advocates' Welfare Fund stamp duty from ₹ 12 to ₹ 20 and raises the annual subscription from ₹ 1,200 to ₹ 2,000 for members of the Advocates' Clerks Welfare Fund.
 - b. Intends to increase the maximum benefit payable on cessation of practice from ₹ 10 lakh to ₹ 20 lakh.
 - c. Intends to increase the benefit payable on death of an advocate from ₹ 10 lakh to ₹ 20 lakh.
 - d. Increases the financial assistance limit for major surgeries and cancer treatment from ₹ 1 lakh to ₹ 2 lakh.
 - e. Strengthens the social security framework for advocates covered under the State welfare fund
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Several other Indian states including Karnataka²⁰⁴, Rajasthan²⁰⁵, Uttar Pradesh²⁰⁶ and Jharkhand²⁰⁷ have also established statutory Advocates' Welfare Funds to provide retirement, death and medical assistance benefits to advocates.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. The welfare fund has around 6,000 live members, and income traditionally comes from stamp sale and subscriptions (along with contributions from Kerala Legal Benefit Fund). The current hike in contributions is a major infusion intended to balance fund inflows against growing pension and retirement benefit liabilities.²⁰⁸
 - b. The Amendment formalises pension eligibility criteria, requiring members to have completed at least 8 years of membership and be at least 60 years old to receive pension under prescribed rates. This aligns future benefit flows with predictable actuarial conditions, reducing open-ended payouts and improving long-term

²⁰³ [The Kerala Advocates' Welfare Fund Act, 1980.](#)

²⁰⁴ [The Karnataka Advocates' Welfare Fund Act, 1983.](#)

²⁰⁵ [The Rajasthan Advocates Welfare Fund Act, 1987.](#)

²⁰⁶ [The Uttar Pradesh Advocates Welfare Fund Act, 1974](#)

²⁰⁷ [The Jharkhand Advocates' Welfare Fund Act, 2012](#)

²⁰⁸ [Law Department, Government of Kerala.](#)

B. The Advocates' Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2026**Source:** [The Hindu](#) | **Impact:** Medium

financial sustainability.

- c. The maximum payable pension and death benefits increase to ₹ 20 lakh, which directly increases the financial safety net available to advocates on retirement or in the event of death, helping offset medical or family expenses at vulnerable life stages.
- d. Over nine crore Indian households spend ≥ 10 % of their total household expenses on healthcare,²⁰⁹ defined as catastrophic health expenditure, therefore a ₹ 2 lakh cap on medical support for critical health needs provides a larger buffer against high treatment costs, which are a known driver of financial distress in India.

²⁰⁹ [Hindustan Times, July, 2023.](#)

V. Haryana

A. Approval To Solar Micro Irrigation Projects

Source: [Construction World](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 24th February, the Government of Haryana approved solar-powered micro irrigation projects worth ₹ 402 crore to promote water-efficient and energy-efficient farming across the state.
2. The initiative prioritises small and marginal farmers, particularly in water-stressed districts, aiming to reduce irrigation costs and enhance on-farm efficiency.
3. **Key Features** -
 - a. The projects will install solar pumps and micro irrigation systems to reduce dependence on grid electricity and diesel-powered pumps.
 - b. Implementation will be overseen by the state agriculture and irrigation departments, covering procurement, installation, farmer training and quality checks.
 - c. The phased rollout will include monitoring of water-use efficiency and system performance, with public outreach to streamline farmer participation.
 - d. The scheme is expected to reduce electricity consumption, cut diesel usage, conserve groundwater and deliver recurring cost savings.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The initiative aligns with Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY),²¹⁰ which promotes micro irrigation and “Per Drop More Crop,” and Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Surakshaevam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM),²¹¹ which supports solar pumps and renewable energy adoption in agriculture.
5. **Relevance** -
 - a. Haryana has emerged as a **national leader in solar pump deployment under PM-KUSUM**, having already installed over 1.88 lakh solar pumps as of early 2026.²¹² This ₹ 402 crore allocation directly builds on this momentum, aiming to clear the remaining waiting list of nearly 30,000 applicants identified in the 2025-26 Phase-I rollout. By institutionalizing these gains, the state is transitioning from pilot-scale adoption to a standard agricultural practice.
 - b. It is important to note that 60% of Haryana’s blocks are classified as Dark Zones due to critical groundwater depletion.²¹³ Micro-irrigation (Drip/Sprinkler) combined with solar power increases water-use efficiency to 90%, compared to just 40–50% in conventional surface irrigation. This project is, thus, vital for the 14 worst-affected districts, including Kurukshetra and Kaithal, where the water table

²¹⁰ [Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana.](#)

²¹¹ [Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Surakshaevam Utthaan Mahabhiyan.](#)

²¹² [Lok Bhavan Haryana, February 2026.](#)

²¹³ [Times Of India, May, 2025.](#)

A. Approval To Solar Micro Irrigation Projects**Source:** [Construction World](#) | **Impact:** Medium

has been dropping by ~1 meter annually.²¹⁴

- c. For FY 2025-26, the Haryana Government's subsidy burden to provide power to farmers at ₹ 0.10 per unit is estimated at ₹ 6,781 crore.²¹⁵ By transitioning farmers to off-grid solar pumps, the state reduces the demand on the grid, which currently faces an average gap of 3,000 MW between peak and off-peak hours.²¹⁶
- d. Owing to the above the current policy helps lowering the state's recurring subsidy burden, easing peak load stress on the grid, and promoting long-term energy sustainability through decentralised renewable generation while ensuring reliable daytime power supply for farmers.
- e. Furthermore, Haryana farmers use diesel pumps and spend around ₹ 55,000 annually on fuel.²¹⁷ Approval Of Solar Micro Irrigation Project eliminates this expense, ensuring a payback period of less than two cropping seasons. With a 75% combined subsidy (30% Central and 45% state), a five Horse Power (HP) solar pump that costs ₹ 2.6 lakh in the market is available to a Haryana farmer for roughly ₹ 65,000, making clean technology accessible to low-income families.

²¹⁴ [Times Of India, May, 2025.](#)

²¹⁵ [Hindustan Times, April, 2025.](#)

²¹⁶ [Hindustan Times, April, 2025.](#)

²¹⁷ [CSE India.](#)

VI. Mizoram

A. Launch Of MSME Support Project

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

1. On 12th February, the Government of Mizoram launched a multi-faceted project to strengthen the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector and support entrepreneurs through structured capacity building, market linkages and enterprise development support.
2. It aims to promote inclusive economic growth and employment by addressing capacity, finance, infrastructure and market-access gaps, while encouraging enterprise formalisation, local manufacturing and value-chain development across the state.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The project focuses on hand-holding support for entrepreneurs and MSME expansion.
 - b. It is jointly implemented with the Confederation of Indian Industry – Centre for Excellence on Employment and Livelihood (CII-CEL).
 - c. The support includes skill development, technical assistance, cluster development, Common Facility Centres (CFCs), compliance and certification assistance.
 - d. The package facilitates access to affordable finance through linkages with lending institutions and Government schemes.
 - e. It places special emphasis on rural and women entrepreneurs, along with technology adoption and digital tools through training and demonstration projects.
 - f. The initiative receives Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) support from Volvo Group, enabling eligible MSME participants to join without cost.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The project aligns with Central MSME initiatives such as Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP),²¹⁸ Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)²¹⁹ and PM Vishwakarma schemes.²²⁰
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. According to Mizoram’s Economic Survey, only 8,213 MSME units were registered in 2022-23, employing around 57,818 persons with total investment of about ₹ 592

²¹⁸ Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme Is A Credit-Linked Subsidy Scheme That Promotes Micro-Enterprises In The Non-Farm Sector To Generate Employment In Rural And Urban Areas.

²¹⁹ Scheme Of Fund For Regeneration Of Traditional Industries Strengthens Traditional Industries By Enhancing Competitiveness, Infrastructure, Technology, Skills And Market Access To Ensure Sustainable Livelihoods For Artisans And Rural Entrepreneurs.

²²⁰ PM Vishwakarma Provides Holistic Support To Artisans And Craftspeople Through Access To Collateral Free Credit, Skill Training, Modern Tools, Incentive For Digital Transactions And Market Linkage Support.

A. Launch Of MSME Support Project

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

crore, reflecting a relatively low industrial density compared to national averages.²²¹ The project explicitly prioritises enhanced finance access and market linkages, which, if paired with digital MSME registration and credit guarantee frameworks, can reduce credit frictions and improve enterprise credit uptake.

- b. Further, geographically isolated and plagued by high transportation costs, Mizo entrepreneurs in the handicrafts and food-processing sectors have historically been locked out of the national market.²²² While Mizo youth have demonstrated world-class talent (winning the IndiaSkills North East Championship 2026)²²³, there has been a persistent valley of death between possessing a skill and running a scalable, compliant, and export-ready factory.
- c. The project bridges the existing gap by providing global industry insights and technical assistance through Volvo Group's CSR support.²²⁴ By establishing Common Facility Centres (CFCs) and providing certification assistance, the policy helps local units meet national quality standards. This lowers the transaction cost for exporters, allowing Mizo products (like high-value bamboo composites) to **reach domestic and ASEAN markets** via the emerging logistics corridors under the **Act East Policy**.²²⁵

²²¹ [Economic Survey Of Mizoram, 2023-24.](#)

²²² [EastMojo, February, 2026.](#)

²²³ [IndiaTodayNE, January, 2026.](#)

²²⁴ [TOI, February, 2026.](#)

²²⁵ [PIB, December, 2015.](#)

VII. Gujarat

A. Saurashtra Gharkhed Amendment Bill

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

1. On 18th February, the Gujarat Legislative Assembly passed Saurashtra Gharkhed Amendment Bill to provide for disposal of land that is unauthorisedly occupied or wrongfully held through invalid transfer by vesting such land in the state Government.
2. **Key Features** -
 - a. The Amendment modifies Section 75 of The Saurashtra Gharkhed, Tenancy Settlement and Agricultural Lands Ordinance, 1949,²²⁶ to enable vesting of land in the state Government if it is found to be unauthorisedly occupied or wrongfully possessed through invalid transfer.
 - b. Such land will vest in the state free from all encumbrances lawfully subsisting on the date of vesting.
 - c. The Collector may act suo motu or on an application by an interested person if there is reason to believe that land is under wrongful possession due to invalid transfer.
 - d. The land must be restored to the position that existed prior to such invalid transfer, or it may be vested in the state Government in the manner specified.
 - e. If the Collector determines that a land transfer is invalid, he may impose a penalty of three times the prevailing value of the land on the person or institution in whose favour the invalid transfer was made.
3. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Maharashtra²²⁷ and Karnataka²²⁸ have amended their land revenue laws to strengthen action against illegal land occupation and curb encroachments.
4. **Relevance** -
 - a. It is imperative to note that, prior to this Amendment, the 1949 Ordinance allowed for eviction but lacked a clear mechanism for the final disposal of land. This often left prime agricultural land trapped in decades of litigation.²²⁹ The Amendment brings the Saurashtra region in line with the Gujarat Tenancy and Agricultural Lands Act, 1948,²³⁰ creating a uniform legal code across the state.
 - b. Further, by granting the Collector the **power to vest land in the state Government free from all encumbrances**, the Amendment aims to resolve a portion of the state's land-related civil cases, which currently contribute to a significant share of

²²⁶ [The Saurashtra Gharkhed, Tenancy Settlement And Agricultural Lands Ordinance, 1949.](#)

²²⁷ [Maharashtra Land Revenue Code \(Amendment\) Act, 2025.](#)

²²⁸ [Indian Express, December, 2024.](#)

²²⁹ [Times Of India, February, 2026.](#)

²³⁰ [Gujarat Tenancy And Agricultural Lands Act, 1948.](#)

A. Saurashtra Gharkhed Amendment Bill**Source:** [Indian Express](#) | **Impact:** Medium

the over 1.11 crore pending civil cases.²³¹

- c. The Amendment introduces a massive financial deterrent to discourage the illegal transfer of agricultural land to non-farmers. Now, Collectors can impose a penalty of three times the prevailing Jantri value of the land. With Gujarat's Jantri rates having seen significant recent revisions, this penalty ensures that the cost of illegal occupation is no longer a cost of doing business for land mafias. For a land parcel valued at ₹ 1 crore, the penalty alone would now stand at ₹ 3 crore, effectively making illegal encroachment economically unviable.
- d. Furthermore, the Amendment provides a three-month restoration window for parties to return land to the original farmer. This data-backed timeline forces a quick resolution, ensuring that agricultural productivity is not lost to long-term property disputes.

²³¹ [National Judicial Data Grid](#).

VIII. Rajasthan

A. Rajasthan Homestay (Paying Guest House) Scheme, 2026

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

1. On 23rd February, the Rajasthan Tourism Department launched the 'Rajasthan Homestay (Paying Guest House) Scheme, 2026 aimed at promoting tourism growth, rural income generation and self-employment.
2. This initiative builds upon the Rajasthan Tourism Policy 2025,²³² which encourages private investment in tourism infrastructure such as homestays, hotels and resorts to strengthen the state's overall tourism ecosystem.
3. **Target Beneficiaries** - The scheme is designed for homeowners, small investors, rural families and women entrepreneurs seeking direct participation in the tourism economy.
4. **Key Features** -
 - a. The licensing process has been simplified through a single-window, digital approval system with reduced documentation.
 - b. The maximum number of **rooms per residential unit has been increased from 5 to 8**, with a cap of 24 beds.
 - c. The earlier requirement mandating the owner's residence on the premises has been removed, homestays can now be operated by the owner, lessee or a designated caretaker.
 - d. Each unit must meet standards related to sanitation, attached bathrooms, water and electricity supply, ventilation, fire safety, parking and waste disposal.
 - e. Registration will be decentralised through local Tourism Department offices and Tourist Reception Centres (TRCs).
 - f. Maintaining a guest register for seven years and reporting foreign guest details is mandatory.
5. **Central Initiative Alignment** - At the Central level, the Ministry of Tourism implements the Incredible India Bed and Breakfast and Homestay Establishments Scheme²³³ to classify, regulate and promote homestays across the country, enhancing accommodation standards while promoting cultural and community-based tourism.
6. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - At the state level, Uttar Pradesh approved the Uttar Pradesh Homestay and the Bed and Breakfast Policy, 2025²³⁴ to expand rural homestay infrastructure and strengthen tourism facilities at religious and major tourist destinations.²³⁵ Similarly, Himachal Pradesh notified the Himachal Pradesh

²³² [Rajasthan Tourism Policy, 2025](#).

²³³ [PIB, July, 2025](#).

²³⁴ [UP Tourism, Bed And Breakfast Scheme](#).

²³⁵ [Jagaran, June, 2025](#).

A. Rajasthan Homestay (Paying Guest House) Scheme, 2026**Source:** [Business Standard](#) | **Impact:** Medium

Homestay Rules 2025,²³⁶ mandating registration of homestays, including those previously operating under central schemes, to promote regulated, quality-driven and sustainable tourism growth.²³⁷

7. Relevance -

- a. The current Rajasthan homestay policy (Paying Guest House) Scheme, 2026 aims to cater for an additional surge in tourism in Rajasthan. In 2025, the state recorded 24.44 crore tourists arrivals, marking a 10% growth from the 23.22 crore visitors in 2024. This follows a staggering 65% increase in 2023.²³⁸ With domestic travel outperforming international arrivals by nearly 10 to 1, there is an urgent need for diversified, affordable, and authentic accommodation.
- b. In light of the above, by increasing the room limit per unit from 5 to 8, the state effectively expands its bed-bank by 60% per registered household without the environmental or capital heavy-lifting of new hotel construction.²³⁹
- c. Further, the current scheme strengthens the tourism sector, which serves as the backbone of the state economy by contributing 12% to the state GDP, which is more than double the national average of 5%.²⁴⁰
- d. Lastly, the scheme aligns with the Rajasthan Tourism Policy, 2025 goals of making the state a 365-day (year-round) destination.²⁴¹ By removing the mandatory owner residence requirement, the policy unlocks locked assets, vacant heritage homes or second properties allowing them to contribute to the local economy via lessees or caretakers.

²³⁶ [Himachal Pradesh Homestay Rules, 2025.](#)

²³⁷ [The Tribune, January, 2026.](#)

²³⁸ [Times Of India, January, 2026.](#)

²³⁹ Based on notified cap increase from 5 to 8, the increase is calculated to be 60%.

²⁴⁰ [Economic Times, December, 2025.](#)

²⁴¹ [Rajasthan Tourism Policy, 2025, Pg. No. 6.](#)

B. Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2026 And Rajasthan Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2026

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

1. On 26th February, 2026, the Government of Rajasthan approved the removal of the two-child norm disqualification for candidates contesting Panchayati Raj and Urban Local Body elections.
2. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Cabinet approved amendments to Section 19 of the Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 and Section 24 of the Rajasthan Municipalities Act, 2009.
 - b. The move abolishes a 30-year-old restriction introduced in 1995, making individuals with more than two children eligible to contest local elections.
 - c. The government justified the decision by citing a decline in the State's Total Fertility Rate from 3.6 (1991-94) to 2, calling the provision outdated in the present socio-demographic context.
3. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have also removed similar two-child disqualification norms in local body elections.²⁴²
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. Rajasthan's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has dropped to 2.0, successfully falling below the replacement level of 2.1 required for population stability.²⁴³ The 1995 provision was a product of an era facing a "population explosion". However, with the state now entering a phase of demographic maturity, the continued enforcement of the norm was increasingly viewed as a structural barrier to democratic participation rather than a necessary incentive for family planning.
 - b. Furthermore, the removal of the norm addresses the unintended gender consequences of the policy, such as reports of candidates deserting female children or pressurized sex-selective practices to remain eligible for office. By decoupling electoral eligibility from family size, the state reduces the incentive for such harmful practices, thereby indirectly supporting the objectives of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign and improving the state's child sex ratio.

²⁴² [Indian Express, November 2024](#)

²⁴³ [The Week, June 2026](#).



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