

STATES IN MOTION

What's Happening In Indian States



16th June - 30th June

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Key Announcements

This document tracks the various key policy and reform decisions taken by state Governments and UTs between **16th June, 2026 to 30th June, 2026**.

Reform Decisions

I. Assam

A. **Land And Regulatory Reforms Package:** The Assam Government approved a set of land and regulatory reforms to simplify land conversion for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and renewable energy projects, to reduce land requirements for private universities and schools. The reforms also introduce single-window registration and automatic renewal for tourism accommodation establishments.

II. Arunachal Pradesh

A. **51-Point Deregulation And Simplification Framework:** The Arunachal Pradesh Government has enacted a 51-point deregulation package designed to slash compliance costs and supercharge investment. The reforms introduce third-party certification options and auto-renewal systems for vital environmental Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate approvals. It rationalises industrial building norms, revising Floor Area Ratios and height restrictions.

III. Delhi

A. **Delhi Fire Services Master Plan, 2026-2051:** The Delhi Government directed the preparation of the Delhi Fire Services Master Plan, 2026-2051, to modernise the city's fire emergency response system through expanded infrastructure, advanced technology, strengthened manpower, and a prevention and early-detection-based firefighting framework.

IV. Rajasthan

A. **Revision To Public Procurement Guidelines, 2026:** The Rajasthan Government revised the Rajasthan Public Procurement Guidelines to introduce procurement reservations and purchase preferences for Rajasthan-based Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs), including SC/ST-owned enterprises, while mandating a minimum 50% local content requirement for eligible products and services.

Policy Level Announcements

I. Gujarat

A. **Viksit Gujarat Industrial Policy 2026:** The Gujarat Government has unveiled the Viksit Gujarat Industrial Policy, 2026, to attract ₹ 10 lakh crore in investments over five years by promoting advanced manufacturing, supporting emerging sectors, providing enhanced incentives for backward talukas, and launching the T.H.R.I.V.E. Project to decentralise industrial growth.

II. Delhi

Key Announcements

A. **Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy, 2026:** The Delhi Cabinet has approved the Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy, 2026, with a ₹ 15,000 crore outlay to transition key vehicle categories to electric vehicles by 2030. It provides purchase incentives of ₹ 10,000–₹ 50,000, scrappage incentives, and support for installing 32,000 public charging points.

III. Maharashtra

A. **Rural Drinking Water Policy, 2026:** The Maharashtra Cabinet has approved the Rural Drinking Water Policy 2026 to ensure equitable potable water access via the Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0. It establishes a tariff rationalisation framework, capping monthly household water charges between ₹ 150 and ₹ 400 to maintain fiscal sustainability. The policy mandates that local self-governments achieve 100% cost recovery while integrating wastewater recycling and source sustainability.

B. **Unmanned Systems Policy, 2026:** The Unmanned Systems Policy 2026 establishes a comprehensive framework to propel Maharashtra as a leading hub for drones, robots, and autonomous vehicles. A key workforce mandate includes training and certifying 5,000 remote pilots, specifically reserving over 1,000 slots for women under the Namo Drone Didi scheme.

IV. Haryana

A. **Model Online Transfer Policy, 2026:** The Haryana Government has notified the Haryana Model Online Transfer Policy, 2026, establishing a standardised online transfer framework for state Government employees through a composite scoring system, category-based eligibility, and a digital, merit-based transfer process to enhance transparency and reduce administrative discretion.

V. Chhattisgarh

A. **Chhattisgarh Compressed Biogas (CG-CBG) Policy, 2026:** The Chhattisgarh Government approved the CG-CBG Policy, 2026, targeting nearly 5 lakh tonnes of annual production by converting agricultural residue, cattle dung, municipal solid waste, and other organic feedstock into compressed biogas, while creating new income opportunities for farmers and supporting clean fuel use.

VI. Kerala

A. **Mission Samudra-Port-Led Economic Development Initiative, 2026:** The Kerala Government launched Mission Samudra with an initial ₹ 400 crore allocation to rapidly establish a port-led economic ecosystem. The initiative consolidates 600 km of coastline, two international seaports, and 17 non-major ports into a highly unified maritime network. It strategically establishes manufacturing zones, dry ports, and state-of-the-art shipbuilding and repair facilities near Vizhinjam and Kochi.

Social Sector Schemes

I. Tamil Nadu

Key Announcements

- A. **New Health Insurance Scheme For Government Employees, 2026:** The state has introduced an upgraded health insurance plan that provides employees and their families with ₹ 7.5 lakh in standard medical coverage every five years. For severe medical emergencies like organ transplants, this coverage is up to ₹ 12 lakh. The plan covers nearly 3,000 standard procedures and 46 critical illnesses.

Investment Announcements

I. Odisha

- A. **Investment Proposals Approved Across 20 Mega Projects:** The Odisha High-Level Clearance Authority approved ₹ 76,612 crore worth of investments across 20 mega projects to promote high-value manufacturing, renewable energy, critical minerals, and industrial diversification while supporting balanced regional development.

II. Andhra Pradesh

- A. **Investments Across Emerging Technology And Green Industry Sectors:** The state Government approved investment proposals worth ₹ 30,515 crore from 50 companies. The approvals prioritise green energy acceleration, advanced electronics and digital infrastructure, and the establishment of a robust defense and aerospace manufacturing hub.

Other Decisions

I. Delhi

- A. **Air Pollution Mitigation Action Plan, 2026:** The Delhi Government unveiled the Delhi Air Pollution Mitigation Action Plan, 2026, restricting non-BS VI commercial vehicles during winter, making valid PUC certificates mandatory for fuel purchases, and strengthening transport and non-vehicular pollution control measures to reduce seasonal air pollution.

II. Maharashtra

- A. **Maharashtra Academy for Nurturing Technology, Research and Intellectual Assets (MANTRA) Centre, 2026:** The state approved the MANTRA Framework to radically enhance research commercialisation. This dedicated institution provides direct financial and structural support for patent filing and intellectual property management within higher education institutions.

III. Andhra Pradesh

- A. **Sarvasreyonidhi Scheme For Restoration Of Neglected Ancient Temples:** The Andhra Pradesh Government announced the allocation of over ₹ 813 crore to revive and develop 692 neglected ancient temples. This targeted investment focuses heavily on strengthening core temple infrastructure, improving facilities for devotees, and preserving religious heritage. It introduces enhanced ritual funding to ensure daily religious operations are sustained at historically significant but underfunded sites.

प्रमुख घोषणाएँ

यह लेख 16 जून, 2026 से 30 जून, 2026 के बीच राज्य सरकारों और केंद्रशासित प्रदेशों द्वारा लिए गए विभिन्न प्रमुख नीति और सुधार संबंधी निर्णयों का विवरण प्रस्तुत करता है।

सुधार संबंधी निर्णय

I. असम

- i. **भूमि एवं नियामक सुधार पैकेज:** असम सरकार ने सूक्ष्म, लघु और मध्यम उद्यमों (MSMEs) तथा नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा परियोजनाओं के लिए भूमि रूपांतरण को सरल बनाने और निजी विश्वविद्यालयों एवं स्कूलों के लिए भूमि आवश्यकताओं को कम करने हेतु भूमि एवं नियामक सुधारों के एक समूह को स्वीकृति दी है। इन सुधारों के अंतर्गत पर्यटन आवास प्रतिष्ठानों के लिए एकल खिड़की पंजीकरण और स्वचालित नवीनीकरण की भी शुरुआत की गई है।

II. अरुणाचल प्रदेश

- i. **51-सूत्रीय विनियमन-समाप्ति और सरलीकरण ढाँचा:** अरुणाचल प्रदेश सरकार ने अनुपालन लागतों में कटौती करने तथा निवेश को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से 51-सूत्रीय विनियमन-समाप्ति पैकेज लागू किया है। इन सुधारों के अंतर्गत महत्वपूर्ण पर्यावरणीय 'स्थापना के लिए सहमति' (Consent to Establish) और 'संचालन के लिए सहमति' (Consent to Operate) अनुमोदनों के लिए थर्ड-पार्टी प्रमाणन विकल्पों और स्वतः-नवीनीकरण प्रणालियों की शुरुआत की गई है। इसके अंतर्गत फ्लोर एरिया रेश्यो (Floor Area Ratios) और ऊँचाई प्रतिबंधों में संशोधन करते हुए औद्योगिक भवन मानदंडों को तर्कसंगत बनाया गया है।

III. दिल्ली

- i. **दिल्ली अग्निशमन सेवा मास्टर प्लान, 2026-2051:** दिल्ली सरकार ने विस्तारित बुनियादी ढाँचे, उन्नत प्रौद्योगिकी, सशक्त कार्यबल और रोकथाम तथा शीघ्र पता लगाने पर आधारित अग्निशमन ढाँचे के माध्यम से शहर की अग्निशमन आपातकालीन प्रतिक्रिया प्रणाली का आधुनिकीकरण करने के लिए दिल्ली अग्निशमन सेवा मास्टर प्लान, 2026-2051 तैयार करने का निर्देश दिया है।

IV. राजस्थान

- i. **सार्वजनिक खरीद दिशानिर्देशों, 2026 में संशोधन:** राजस्थान सरकार ने पात्र उत्पादों और सेवाओं के लिए न्यूनतम 50% स्थानीय सामग्री की आवश्यकता को अनिवार्य करते हुए, राजस्थान-आधारित सूक्ष्म और लघु उद्यमों (MSEs), जिनमें अनुसूचित जाति/अनुसूचित जनजाति के स्वामित्व वाले उद्यम शामिल हैं। साथ ही, खरीद आरक्षण और खरीद प्राथमिकताएँ शुरू करने हेतु राजस्थान सार्वजनिक खरीद दिशानिर्देशों में संशोधन किया है।

प्रमुख घोषणाएँ

नीतिगत घोषणाएँ

I. गुजरात

- i. **विकसित गुजरात औद्योगिक नीति 2026:** गुजरात सरकार ने उन्नत विनिर्माण को बढ़ावा देने, उभरते क्षेत्रों का समर्थन करने, पिछड़े तालुकों के लिए बढ़ी हुई प्रोत्साहन राशि प्रदान करने और औद्योगिक विकास के विकेंद्रीकरण हेतु टी.एच.आर.आई.वी.ई. (T.H.R.I.V.E.) परियोजना शुरू करके पाँच वर्षों में ₹ 10 लाख करोड़ का निवेश आकर्षित करने के लिए विकसित गुजरात औद्योगिक नीति, 2026 का अनावरण किया है।

II. दिल्ली

- i. **इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (EV) नीति, 2026:** दिल्ली कैबिनेट ने 2030 तक प्रमुख वाहन श्रेणियों को इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों में परिवर्तित करने के लिए ₹ 15,000 करोड़ के परिव्यय के साथ दिल्ली इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन नीति, 2026 को स्वीकृति दी है। यह ₹ 10,000-₹ 50,000 के खरीद प्रोत्साहन, स्कैपेज प्रोत्साहन और 32,000 सार्वजनिक चार्जिंग पॉइंट स्थापित करने के लिए सहायता प्रदान करती है।

III. महाराष्ट्र

- i. **ग्रामीण पेयजल नीति, 2026:** महाराष्ट्र कैबिनेट ने जल जीवन मिशन 2.0 के माध्यम से न्यायसंगत पेयजल उपलब्धता सुनिश्चित करने के लिए ग्रामीण पेयजल नीति 2026 को स्वीकृति दी है। यह राजकोषीय स्थिरता बनाए रखने के लिए मासिक घरेलू जल शुल्कों को ₹ 150 और ₹ 400 के बीच सीमित करते हुए एक शुल्क युक्तिकरण ढाँचा स्थापित करती है। यह नीति अनिवार्य करती है कि स्थानीय स्वशासन जल पुनर्चक्रण और स्रोत स्थिरता को एकीकृत करते हुए 100% लागत वसूली प्राप्त करें।
- ii. **मानवरहित प्रणाली नीति, 2026:** मानवरहित प्रणाली नीति 2026 ड्रोन, रोबोट और स्वायत्त वाहनों के लिए महाराष्ट्र को एक अग्रणी केंद्र के रूप में आगे बढ़ाने हेतु एक व्यापक ढाँचा स्थापित करती है। एक प्रमुख कार्यबल अधिदेश में 5,000 दूरस्थ पायलटों को प्रशिक्षित और प्रमाणित करना शामिल है, जिसमें विशेष रूप से नमो ड्रोन दीदी योजना के अंतर्गत महिलाओं के लिए 1,000 से अधिक स्लॉट आरक्षित किए गए हैं।

IV. हरियाणा

- i. **मॉडल ऑनलाइन स्थानांतरण नीति, 2026:** हरियाणा सरकार ने हरियाणा मॉडल ऑनलाइन स्थानांतरण नीति, 2026 को अधिसूचित किया है, जो पारदर्शिता बढ़ाने और प्रशासनिक विवेक को कम करने के लिए एक समग्र स्कोरिंग प्रणाली, श्रेणी-आधारित पात्रता और एक डिजिटल, योग्यता-आधारित स्थानांतरण प्रक्रिया के माध्यम से राज्य सरकार के कर्मचारियों के लिए एक मानकीकृत ऑनलाइन स्थानांतरण ढाँचा स्थापित करती है।

प्रमुख घोषणाएँ

V. छत्तीसगढ़

- i. **छत्तीसगढ़ संपीडित बायोगैस (CG-CBG) नीति, 2026:** छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार ने कृषि अवशेषों, पशु गोबर, नगरपालिका ठोस अपशिष्ट और अन्य जैविक फीडस्टॉक को संपीडित बायोगैस में परिवर्तित करके लगभग 5 लाख टन वार्षिक उत्पादन का लक्ष्य रखते हुए सी.जी-सी.बी.जी नीति, 2026 को स्वीकृति दी है। साथ ही, किसानों के लिए आय के नए अवसर पैदा किए जा रहे हैं और स्वच्छ ईंधन के उपयोग का समर्थन किया जा रहा है।

VI. केरल

- i. **मिशन समुद्र-बंदरगाह-आधारित आर्थिक विकास पहल, 2026:** केरल सरकार ने बंदरगाह-आधारित आर्थिक पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को तेजी से स्थापित करने के लिए प्रारंभिक ₹ 400 करोड़ के आवंटन के साथ मिशन समुद्र लॉन्च किया है। यह पहल 600 किमी तटीय रेखा, दो अंतर्राष्ट्रीय बंदरगाहों और 17 गैर-प्रमुख बंदरगाहों को एक अत्यधिक एकीकृत समुद्री नेटवर्क में समेकित करती है। यह रणनीतिक रूप से विडिंजम और कोच्चि के पास विनिर्माण क्षेत्र, शुष्क बंदरगाह और अत्याधुनिक जहाज निर्माण एवं रखखाव जैसी सुविधाएँ स्थापित करती है।

सामाजिक क्षेत्र की योजनाएँ

I. तमिलनाडु

- i. **सरकारी कर्मचारियों के लिए नई स्वास्थ्य बीमा योजना, 2026:** राज्य ने एक उन्नत स्वास्थ्य बीमा योजना शुरू की है जिसका उद्देश्य कर्मचारियों और उनके परिवारों को हर पाँच साल में ₹ 7.5 लाख का मानक चिकित्सा कवरेज प्रदान करना है। अंग प्रत्यारोपण जैसी गंभीर चिकित्सा आपात स्थितियों के लिए, यह कवरेज ₹ 12 लाख तक है। यह योजना लगभग 3,000 मानक प्रक्रियाओं और 46 गंभीर बीमारियों को कवर करती है।

निवेश संबंधी घोषणाएँ

I. ओडिशा

- i. **20 मेगा परियोजनाओं में निवेश प्रस्तावों को स्वीकृति :** ओडिशा उच्च-स्तरीय स्वीकृति प्राधिकरण ने उच्च-मूल्य वाले विनिर्माण, नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा, महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों और औद्योगिक विविधीकरण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए, साथ ही संतुलित क्षेत्रीय विकास का समर्थन करते हुए, 20 मेगा परियोजनाओं में ₹ 76,612 करोड़ के निवेश को स्वीकृति दी है।

II. आंध्र प्रदेश

प्रमुख घोषणाएँ

- i. **उभरती प्रौद्योगिकी और हरित उद्योग क्षेत्रों में निवेश:** राज्य सरकार ने 50 कंपनियों से ₹ 30,515 करोड़ के निवेश प्रस्तावों को स्वीकृति दी है। ये स्वीकृतियां हरित ऊर्जा त्वरण, उन्नत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और डिजिटल बुनियादी ढाँचे तथा एक मज़बूत रक्षा और एयरोस्पेस विनिर्माण केंद्र की स्थापना को प्राथमिकता देती हैं।

अन्य निर्णय

I. दिल्ली

- i. **वायु प्रदूषण शमन कार्य योजना, 2026:** दिल्ली सरकार ने दिल्ली वायु प्रदूषण शमन कार्य योजना, 2026 का अनावरण किया है, जो सर्दियों के दौरान गैर-बीएस VI वाणिज्यिक वाहनों को प्रतिबंधित करती है। ईंधन खरीद के लिए वैध पी.यू.सी.सी (PUCC) प्रमाण पत्र को अनिवार्य बनाती है, साथ ही, मौसमी वायु प्रदूषण को कम करने के लिए परिवहन तथा गैर-वाहनीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण उपायों को मज़बूत करती है।

II. महाराष्ट्र

- i. **महाराष्ट्र प्रौद्योगिकी, अनुसंधान और बौद्धिक संपदा पोषण अकादमी (MANTRA) केंद्र, 2026:** राज्य ने अनुसंधान व्यावसायीकरण को मौलिक रूप से बढ़ाने के लिए मंत्र (MANTRA) ढाँचे को स्वीकृति दी है। यह समर्पित संस्था उच्च शिक्षा संस्थानों के भीतर पेटेंट दाखिल करने और बौद्धिक संपदा प्रबंधन के लिए प्रत्यक्ष वित्तीय एवं संरचनात्मक सहायता प्रदान करती है।

III. आंध्र प्रदेश

- i. **उपेक्षित प्राचीन मंदिरों के नवीनीकरण के लिए सर्वश्रेयोनिधि योजना:** आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार ने 692 उपेक्षित प्राचीन मंदिरों के नवीनीकरण और विकास के लिए ₹ 813 करोड़ से अधिक के आवंटन की घोषणा की है। यह लक्षित निवेश मुख्य मंदिर के बुनियादी ढाँचे को मज़बूत करने, भक्तों के लिए सुविधाओं में सुधार करने और धार्मिक विरासत को संरक्षित करने पर केंद्रित है। यह ऐतिहासिक रूप से महत्वपूर्ण लेकिन अल्प-वित्तपोषित स्थलों पर दैनिक धार्मिक संचालन को बनाए रखने हेतु उन्नत अनुष्ठान फंडिंग की शुरुआत करती है।

Reform Decisions

I. Assam

A. Land And Regulatory Reforms Package

Source: [The Government Of Assam](#), [The Free Press Journal](#) | **Impact:** High

1. On 23rd June, 2026, the Assam Government approved the Assam Regulation of Re-classification and Re-classification-cum-Transfer of Lands (Amendment) Bill, 2026, the Assam Tourism Accommodation (Development and Registration) Rules, 2026, and amendments to the Assam Private Universities Act, 2007, as part of a broader package of regulatory reforms.
2. The reforms aim to simplify land-use and regulatory procedures, facilitate industrial, educational, and tourism-related investments, and improve the ease of doing business by reducing administrative barriers and streamlining approval processes.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The reforms provide for automatic land conversion for micro and khadi enterprises, and solar projects, eliminating District Commissioner's approval requirements for agricultural-to-non-agricultural transitions.
 - b. Expanded sectoral eligibility extends the land reclassification framework to MSMEs, hydrocarbon projects, solar power projects, and agriculture-to-non-agriculture land conversions.
 - c. The minimum land requirement for establishing private universities is reduced from 60 bighas to 35 bighas in the rural areas and from 30 bighas to 21 bighas in the urban areas.
 - d. Endowment fund requirement has been lowered for establishing private universities, reducing the initial financial corpus required from promoters.
 - e. The reforms revise the minimum land requirement for Lower Primary (LP) to Secondary Schools to one bigha in urban areas and three bighas in rural areas, with mandatory provision of sanitation, drinking water, disaster mitigation measures, and accessible infrastructure for Divyang students.
 - f. The reforms relating to tourism accommodation provide for a simplified single-window registration process along with an automatic renewal mechanism after every three years for the registration of homestays and similar establishments.
4. **Central Policy Alignment -** The regulatory reform package aligns with the Central Government's Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP),¹ which promotes regulatory simplification, streamlined approvals, and an improved investment climate. The

¹ [Business Reforms Action Plan \(BRAP\), The Department For Promotion Of Industry And Internal Trade \(DPIIT\), The Government Of India.](#)

A. Land And Regulatory Reforms Package

Source: [The Government Of Assam](#), [The Free Press Journal](#) | **Impact:** High

revised school infrastructure norms align with the objectives of Samagra Shiksha,² which promotes safe and inclusive school infrastructure.

5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Gujarat,³ Rajasthan,⁴ and Uttar Pradesh⁵ have undertaken regulatory reforms to simplify land-use approvals, facilitate private investment in education and tourism, and improve the ease of doing business through streamlined approval mechanisms.

6. **Relevance -**

a. Assam's economy continues to be dominated by the services sector, contributing around 46% of Gross State Value Added (GSVA),⁶ while manufacturing remains relatively limited, highlighting the need to improve conditions for industrial expansion. Simplifying land reclassification therefore seeks to reduce regulatory delays and improve investment readiness.

b. The automatic conversion provision marks a shift from discretionary approvals towards a simplified land-use framework. Earlier, conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes required approval from district authorities, with Assam's Sewa Setu portal prescribing a processing timeline of up to 45 working days for reclassification applications.⁷

c. Under the reforms, agricultural land used for micro, khadi and allied enterprises and solar projects will be deemed converted without requiring District Commissioner approval, reducing procedural delays and improving regulatory certainty for small investors.

d. Further, Assam's Strategic Investment Plan⁸ prepared under the World Bank-supported Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) programme⁹ identifies strengthening MSME competitiveness as a priority. Reducing land-related compliance through this reform can support formalisation, investment and local employment generation.

e. The inclusion of solar projects within automatic land conversion aligns land governance with Assam's renewable-energy ambitions. Assam's renewable-energy potential is estimated at around 14.4 GW,¹⁰ including nearly 13.76 GW from solar

² [Samagra Shiksha, The Government Of India.](#)

³ [Investor Facilitation Portal, The Government Of Gujarat.](#)

⁴ [Bureau Of Investment Promotion, The Government Of Rajasthan.](#)

⁵ [Nivesh Mitra, The Government Of Uttar Pradesh.](#)

⁶ [Economic Survey, Assam, 2025-26.](#)

⁷ [Sewa Setu, The Government Of Assam.](#)

⁸ [Strategic Investment Plan For The State Of Assam, The Ministry Of MSME.](#)

⁹ [PIB, August, 2024.](#)

¹⁰ [International Forum For Environment, Sustainability And Technology, March, 2024.](#)

A. Land And Regulatory Reforms Package

Source: [The Government Of Assam](#), [The Free Press Journal](#) | **Impact:** High

power,¹¹ but large-scale deployment requires timely access to suitable land parcels. Streamlined conversion can therefore reduce project uncertainty and improve private-sector participation in clean-energy infrastructure.

- f. The relaxation of land requirements under the Assam Private Universities Act, 2007 reflects a shift towards more flexible higher-education infrastructure norms. Reducing the minimum land requirement from 60 to 35 bighas in rural areas and 30 to 21 bighas in urban areas addresses the challenge of establishing institutions in areas where large contiguous land parcels are increasingly difficult to acquire.¹²
- g. The revised school infrastructure norms attempt to balance expansion of educational access with quality safeguards. By permitting lower primary to secondary schools on one bigha in urban areas and three bighas in rural areas, while mandating sanitation facilities, drinking water, boundary walls, toilets, disaster mitigation measures and divyang-friendly infrastructure, the reform prioritises functional infrastructure standards over land size alone.¹³
- h. The reforms targeting tourism accommodation are significant as Assam seeks to convert its growing tourism potential into local economic opportunities.^{14,15} Formalising homestays and introducing automatic renewal of registration can reduce recurring compliance requirements for small operators, encourage community participation in tourism and distribute economic benefits beyond conventional hotel networks.

¹¹ [International Forum For Environment, Sustainability And Technology, March, 2024.](#)

¹² [University Grants Commission, Report Of The Expert Committee To Determine Land Requirements For Higher Education Institutions.](#)

¹³ [The Economic Times, June, 2026.](#)

¹⁴ Assam witnessed a strong recovery and expansion in tourism, with tourist arrivals increasing from 17.02 lakh domestic tourists in 2021–22 to 98.12 lakh in 2022–23, while the state recorded 70.41 lakh domestic tourists and 26,129 foreign tourists in 2023–24, reflecting rising demand for tourism infrastructure.

¹⁵ [Business Standard, March, 2025.](#)

II. Arunachal Pradesh

A. 51-Point Deregulation And Simplification Framework

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

1. On 16th June, 2026, the Arunachal Pradesh Government approved a major deregulation package comprising 51 reforms aimed at improving ease of doing business and promoting investment in the state.
2. The reforms seek to improve the investment climate through risk-based regulation, digital governance systems, and simplified compliance mechanisms across land administration, labour regulation, environmental approvals, education infrastructure, and utility services.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The reforms come alongside the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (Facilitation of Establishment and Operations) Ordinance, 2026, which enables MSMEs to commence operations using a simple self-certification mechanism.
 - b. It also grants a three-year inspection moratorium and allows for conditional approvals to reduce compliance burdens.
 - c. The package introduces third-party certification mechanisms for Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate approvals. Additionally, it implements self-declaration and auto-renewal systems for Green and White category industries.
 - d. By amending the Arunachal Pradesh Land Settlement and Records Rules (APLSR), 2012, agricultural land falling within notified master plan areas is now automatically deemed converted to the land use specified in the master plan.
 - e. It rationalises industrial building norms by revising Floor Area Ratio (FAR),¹⁶ ground coverage requirements, parking norms, building height restrictions, and minimum plot size requirements.
 - f. Approvals and departmental No Objection Certificates (NOCs) are integrated into a single digital platform. This system also enables third-party inspections for low and medium risk buildings.
 - g. Minimum land ownership requirements for setting up private schools and universities have been removed, while ensuring no extra infrastructure or compliance conditions are imposed beyond central regulatory and RTE Act

¹⁶ Floor Area Ratio (FAR) is a zoning metric defining the ratio of a building's total usable floor area, excluding unoccupied spaces like parking and basements, to its total lot size. A higher FAR reflects denser urban construction and helps regulate structural types across different residential and commercial zones. By focusing exclusively on usable space, FAR provides city planners with a highly accurate picture of an area's true development potential.

A. 51-Point Deregulation And Simplification Framework

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

mandates.

h. The reform package integrates all 17 industrial estates and industrial parks with the GIS-based India Industrial Land Bank (IILB) portal and digitises trade licence, electricity, and water connection services.

4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The reforms align with the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) implemented by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT),¹⁷ which encourages states to adopt risk-based regulation, self-certification mechanisms, digital service delivery, and streamlined approval systems to improve ease of doing business.

5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Gujarat,¹⁸ Andhra Pradesh,¹⁹ and Uttar Pradesh²⁰ have implemented risk-based inspection systems, online single-window clearance mechanisms, self-certification frameworks, and digital approval platforms under their ease-of-doing-business reform programs to reduce compliance burdens and improve investment facilitation.

6. **Relevance** -

a. Arunachal Pradesh continues to exhibit a narrow economic base characterised by limited industrialisation and weak private capital formation. The state's GSDP is estimated at ₹ 47,823 crore in FY26,²¹ and cumulative Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows between October 2019 and June 2025 stood at only ₹ 53.25 crore.²² The reforms seek to address the disconnect between economic potential and realised private investment.

b. The adoption of self-certification, third-party certification and risk-based inspections signals a transition from ex-ante regulatory control towards ex-post compliance monitoring. Such frameworks have been promoted under the BRAP²³ to reduce compliance costs, particularly for MSMEs, which face disproportionately higher regulatory burdens relative to their scale of operations.

c. Moreover, the introduction of self-certification and third-party certification mechanisms reduces reliance on departmental approvals for routine compliance. By shifting responsibility for initial compliance verification to firms and accredited agencies, the reform seeks to **lower transaction costs** while allowing regulatory

¹⁷ [Business Reform Action Plan \(BRAP\).](#)

¹⁸ [Single Window Clearance Act, 2017, Gujarat.](#)

¹⁹ [Self-Certification Scheme \(SCS\), 2025, Andhra Pradesh.](#)

²⁰ [Nivesh Mitra Single Window System, Uttar Pradesh.](#)

²¹ [Arunachal Pradesh Budget Analysis 2026-27.](#)

²² [Department For The Promotion Of Industry And Internal Trade, The Government Of India.](#)

²³ [Business Reform Action Plan.](#)

A. 51-Point Deregulation And Simplification Framework**Source:** [The Economic Times](#) | **Impact:** High

authorities to concentrate on enforcement and audit functions.

- d. Inspection exemptions (especially for newly established MSMEs for a specified period) and risk-based oversight allow enforcement agencies to allocate regulatory attention according to the probability and consequences of non-compliance, rather than applying identical inspection requirements across all enterprises. The simultaneous rationalisation of compliance requirements across land administration, construction permits, labour regulation, environmental approvals and utility services recognises that firms experience regulation as a cumulative burden. Addressing multiple approval points concurrently is likely to yield greater reductions in transaction costs than reforms confined to a single department or sector.

III. Delhi

A. Delhi Fire Services Master Plan, 2026–2051

Source: [Indian Express](#), [The Sunday Guardian](#) | **Impact :** High

1. The Delhi Government has directed the Delhi Fire Services Department and all concerned departments to prepare the Delhi Fire Services Master Plan, 2026–2051.
2. The draft master plan aims to transition the Delhi Fire Services from a reactive firefighting system to a **prevention and early-detection**-centred emergency response framework to bring Delhi's fire response to an advanced global standard by 2051.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The plan proposes increasing the number of fire stations from 71 to 100 by 2030, 120 by 2032, and 196 by 2051, including the establishment of 49 new stations during the first six years.
 - b. It proposes doubling the fleet of Quick Response Vehicles from 100 to 200 by 2032, with an addition of 10 vehicles annually thereafter.
 - c. It projects a requirement of 9,223 additional personnel over three years to implement a 1+1 duty system (24 hours on, 24 hours off).
 - d. The master plan mandates the Delhi Fire Services to recruit additional personnel, establish fire stations in high-risk and underserved areas, and procure hydraulic platforms, rapid-response vehicles, modern communication systems, and protective equipment suited for congested urban areas.
 - e. It mandates the installation of smoke detectors and automatic sprinkler systems in all new buildings by 2026 and existing buildings by 2030.
 - f. It proposes an Internet of Things (IoT) based smart building integration system linking fire safety infrastructure directly to the Fire Control Room through web-based real-time monitoring over the next 5–10 years.
 - g. Further, it proposes deploying drones with live aerial feeds to the Fire Control Room within 15 years and establishing an automated Fire Control Room for each operational division, replacing the existing analogue wireless communication system.
 - h. The plan is structured in four phases:
 - i. Rapid expansion (years 1–5);
 - ii. Consolidation and upgradation (years 6–10);
 - iii. Optimisation and Specialisation (years 11–15);
 - iv. GIS-enabled modern emergency hubs (years 16–25).
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The master plan aligns with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Scaling, Type of Equipment and Training of Fire

A. Delhi Fire Services Master Plan, 2026–2051

Source: [Indian Express](#), [The Sunday Guardian](#) | **Impact :** High

Services, 2012,²⁴ which prescribe standards for fire station coverage ratios, response time norms, equipment specifications, and inter-agency coordination protocols for urban fire services. It also operationalises provisions of the Model Building Bye-Laws, 2016, issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, which mandate fire safety compliance in all construction approvals.²⁵

5. **Similar Initiatives in Other States** - Mumbai's Maharashtra Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures Act, 2006,²⁶ provides the statutory framework for a structured fire services expansion plan, maintaining a fire station coverage ratio linked to population density. Bengaluru also prepared a Fire Station Master Plan in 2022²⁷ under the Karnataka Fire Force.
6. **Relevance** -
 - a. Delhi Fire Services received approximately 26,568 calls in 2024–25, rising to over 36,000 calls by March 2026, an increase of over 35% in two years.²⁸ Fire-related fatalities totalled 90 in 2024–25 and 543 between 2019 and March 2026.²⁹ The plan's expansion from 71 to 100 stations by 2030 is a direct infrastructure response to this documented escalation.
 - b. The plan follows a series of major fire incidents³⁰ in Delhi, including the June 2026 hotel fire that claimed 21 lives,³¹ underscoring the need to strengthen fire prevention, emergency response, and enforcement of fire safety standards.
 - c. Delhi has 71 fire stations for a population of 3.3 crore, one station per 4.6 lakh people. Existing Standing Fire Advisory Council (SFAC) and NDMA guidelines prescribe a 3–5 minute urban response time.³² Land for stations in Anand Parbat, Dwarka Sector-3, Rohini Sector-3, Mahipalpur, and Gazipur has already been allotted but operations have not begun due to staff shortages.³³
 - d. In lieu of the above, the master plan's 9,223 additional personnel requirement directly addresses the staff gap that is preventing already-allocated infrastructure from becoming operational.
 - e. An analysis of Right to Information (RTI) data and Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reports reveals that the sanctioned strength for the core

²⁴ [National Disaster Management Guidelines Scaling, Type Of Equipment And Training Of Fire Services, 2012.](#)

²⁵ [Model Building Bye-Laws, 2016.](#)

²⁶ [Mumbai's Maharashtra Fire Prevention And Life Safety Measures Act, 2006.](#)

²⁷ [5 year Blueprint On Fire Safety For Bengaluru.](#)

²⁸ [Open Magazine, June, 2026.](#)

²⁹ [Business Standard, June, 2026.](#)

³⁰ [The Times Of India, June, 2026.](#)

³¹ [The Hindu, June, 2026.](#)

³² [The Print, June, 2026.](#)

³³ [The Print, June, 2026.](#)

A. Delhi Fire Services Master Plan, 2026–2051**Source:** [Indian Express](#), [The Sunday Guardian](#) | **Impact :** High

firefighting cadres of the Delhi Fire Service (DFS) has not changed since 2009. This core team consists of Firemen/Fire Operators (2,367) and Leading Firemen (422).³⁴ The master plan's additional personnel requirement directly addresses this issue.

- f. Mandatory smoke detectors and IoT building integration close the detection-to-reporting delay, which the plan identifies as the primary cause of the 3–5 minute survival window being missed in most fatal incidents.³⁵
- g. Lastly, drone-based aerial assessment and decentralised automated Fire Control Rooms address the communication dead zones and coordination failures exposed in recent multi-fatality incidents.

³⁴ [Republic World, June, 2026.](#)

³⁵ [The New Indian Express, June, 2026.](#)

IV. Himachal Pradesh

A. The Electricity Grid Code Regulations, 2026

Source: [Himachal Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission](#) | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 18th June, 2026, the Himachal Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission notified the Himachal Pradesh Electricity Grid Code Regulations, 2026.
2. The regulations aim to replace the Grid Code, 2008³⁶ and establish an updated governance framework for the planning, operation, protection, and security of the Intra-State Transmission System (InSTS).
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The regulations mandate that the State Transmission Utility (STU) enforce Grid Code provisions and form a Grid Code Review Committee to periodically review regulations, address stakeholder issues, and maintain alignment with national grid standards.
 - b. They require distribution licensees to submit electricity demand forecasts to the STU, which must prepare and annually update a ten-year transmission development plan incorporating renewable energy, storage systems, and demand response.
 - c. The regulations introduce project-type-specific technical requirements for hydro, solar, wind, hybrid, and energy storage installations covering connectivity, communication systems, telemetry, and real-time coordination with the SLDC.
 - d. They mandate fault-clearing timelines by voltage level and establish Protection Coordination Committees to periodically review and enforce protection arrangements across grid-connected entities.
 - e. Further, they provide for detailed commissioning procedures for generating stations and transmission systems, including startup power, infirm power injection, trial operations, and declaration of Commercial Operation Date (COD).³⁷
4. **Legal Alignment -** The regulations align with the Indian Electricity Grid Code, 2023,³⁸ notified by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC), which governs inter-state transmission standards.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Rajasthan,³⁹ Gujarat,⁴⁰ and Karnataka⁴¹ have each notified updated state grid codes introducing structured transmission planning mandates, renewable energy integration provisions, and

³⁶ [The Himachal Pradesh Electricity Grid Code, 2008.](#)

³⁷ The Commercial Operation Date (COD) is the official milestone when a power plant successfully completes trial runs, synchronizes with the power grid, and begins generating electricity for commercial sale.

³⁸ [Indian Electricity Grid Code \(IEGC\), 2023.](#)

³⁹ [RERC Grid Code, 2021.](#)

⁴⁰ [Gujarat Grid Code, 2022.](#)

⁴¹ [Karnataka Electricity Grid Code, 2015.](#)

A. The Electricity Grid Code Regulations, 2026

Source: [Himachal Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission](#) | **Impact:** Medium

protection coordination frameworks for intra-state transmission systems.

6. Relevance -

- a. Himachal Pradesh is one of India's leading hydropower-producing states, with an installed capacity exceeding 10 GW.⁴² The state has 27,436 MW of assessed hydropower potential,⁴³ but the Grid Code, 2008 predates the large-scale entry of private hydro developers, solar projects, and energy storage systems. The regulations with specific technical requirements for each generation type is a functional necessity for safe grid integration of this diversified energy mix.
- b. The state's hilly terrain makes grid restoration after faults significantly slower than in the plains.⁴⁴ The regulations' prescribed fault-clearing timelines and mandatory Protection Coordination Committees directly address this restoration risk.
- c. By aligning state-level regulations with the IEGC,⁴⁵ the regulations support greater integration of Himachal Pradesh's hydropower resources with the national grid, enhancing their role in balancing renewable-energy fluctuations across northern India.
- d. Further, the inclusion of clear, step-by-step procedures governing pre-commercial operations, specifically regulating startup power draw, early-stage infirm power injections, and formal trial run windows, resolves a long-standing point of friction for private tech developers. Under older, vague guidelines, private projects frequently faced long administrative delays and lost revenues while waiting for formal COD clearances. Codifying an explicit, rule-based tracking process **lowers regulatory transaction costs**, giving investors a highly predictable path to move from early testing straight into commercial generation.

⁴² [Rajya Sabha, Unstarred Question No. 1589, August, 2024.](#)

⁴³ [World Bank, 2023.](#)

⁴⁴ [World Bank, 2023.](#)

⁴⁵ [Indian Electricity Grid Code \(IEGC\), 2023.](#)

V. Karnataka

A. Praja Seva Department For Public Grievance Redressal, 2026

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

1. On 20th June, 2026, the Karnataka Government approved the establishment of the Praja Seva Department for public grievance redressal and citizen outreach.
2. The initiative aims to strengthen public grievance redressal and citizen outreach by creating a dedicated institutional mechanism for receiving, monitoring, and resolving public complaints and ensuring coordinated follow-up across Government departments.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. A dedicated Praja Seva Department will oversee public grievance redressal and citizen outreach activities across the state. It will be headed by a Cabinet Minister.
 - b. The administrative machinery will be headed by a senior IAS officer to monitor grievance handling and coordinate departmental responses.
 - c. Petitions submitted to the Chief Minister and Ministers will be routed through the Praja Seva Department for review, monitoring and follow-up.
 - d. The institution mandates weekly public grievance redressal and outreach meetings at the taluk level under the supervision of district ministers.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative aligns with the broader objective of citizen-centric governance and time-bound grievance redressal promoted under the Sevottam framework⁴⁶ for public service delivery and grievance management.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** In Tamil Nadu, a specialised Department under the Chief Minister operates for this purpose.⁴⁷ States such as Madhya Pradesh,⁴⁸ Uttar Pradesh,⁴⁹ and Rajasthan⁵⁰ have also established dedicated grievance-redress platforms and citizen service mechanisms.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The initiative represents a shift from platform-based grievance management to institution-based grievance governance. Karnataka already operates the Janaspandana - Integrated Public Grievance Redressal System (iPGRS),⁵¹ which collectively provide citizens with channels to register and track complaints. The creation of a dedicated Praja Seva Department addresses the need for administrative follow-up, inter-departmental coordination and accountability for resolution.

⁴⁶ [Sevottam Framework, Ministry Of Personnel, Public Grievances And Pensions.](#)

⁴⁷ [Mudhalarin Mugavari Department, The Government Of Tamil Nadu.](#)

⁴⁸ [Madhya Pradesh CM Helpline, The Government Of Madhya Pradesh.](#)

⁴⁹ [Uttar Pradesh Jansunwai Portal, The Government Of Uttar Pradesh.](#)

⁵⁰ [Rajasthan Sampark Portal, The Government Of Rajasthan.](#)

⁵¹ [Janaspandana - Integrated Public Grievance Redressal System.](#)

A. Praja Seva Department For Public Grievance Redressal, 2026**Source:** [The Hindu Business Line](#) | **Impact:** Medium

- b. In May, 2026, the Chief Minister reportedly flagged more than 1,800 delayed grievances under the iPGRS, warning that prolonged delays were eroding public trust in Government services.⁵² The establishment of a dedicated department therefore reflects recognition that grievance disposal has emerged as a governance-performance issue rather than merely an administrative process.
- c. By centralising petitions received by ministers, legislators and the Chief Minister's office within a single review architecture, the Government is attempting to reduce fragmentation in grievance handling and create clearer lines of administrative responsibility.
- d. Further, the requirement for district ministers to conduct weekly grievance-redressal meetings at the taluk level across all 224 Assembly constituencies introduces a field-level accountability mechanism into the grievance ecosystem. This may reduce information asymmetries between citizens and the administration by enabling regular feedback loops on service-delivery failures.⁵³
- e. Lastly, un-resolved public complaints function as an indirect tax on citizens, draining working-class hours through repeated visits to local offices and slowing down regional business investments. Elevating grievance clearance from an abstract clerical task into a key measure of ministerial success directly transforms the state's administrative culture.

⁵² [The Times Of India, May, 2026.](#)

⁵³ [India Today, June, 2026.](#)

VI. Tamil Nadu

A. Creation Of Renewable Energy Zones Under Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited

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

1. On 19th June, 2026, the Tamil Nadu Government approved the creation of five Renewable Energy Zones under the Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited (TNGECL) to accelerate the implementation of solar and wind energy projects across the state.
2. The initiative aims to streamline the planning, approval, monitoring, and implementation of renewable energy projects by establishing dedicated regional zones for the coordinated development of renewable energy infrastructure across Tamil Nadu.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The five Renewable Energy Zones are headquartered in Chennai, Tiruchirappalli, Tirunelveli, Coimbatore, and Madurai.
 - b. This initiative introduces a zonal administrative structure for processing approvals, project coordination, implementation, and power evacuation infrastructure for renewable energy projects.
 - c. The responsibility has been assigned to the Renewable Energy Zones for the administration, monitoring, and implementation of wind, solar, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), PM-KUSUM, PM Rooftop Solar, and other renewable energy projects.
 - d. The initiative creates a Project Implementation and Monitoring Centre in Chennai to strengthen oversight and coordination across the five renewable energy zones.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative aligns with the **PM-KUSUM Scheme**,⁵⁴ **PM Surya Ghar**⁵⁵ and the Union Government's objective of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil-fuel-based electricity capacity by 2030.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Gujarat,⁵⁶ Rajasthan,⁵⁷ and Karnataka⁵⁸ have established renewable-energy parks and institutional mechanisms to facilitate project development, renewable-energy deployment, and grid integration.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The creation of five Renewable Energy Zones represents the reconstruction of Tamil Nadu's renewable-energy administration following the dismantling of the

⁵⁴ [PM-KUSUM Scheme, Ministry Of New And Renewable Energy \(MNRE\).](#)

⁵⁵ [PM Surya Ghar: Muft Rooftop Solar Yojana, Ministry Of New And Renewable Energy \(MNRE\).](#)

⁵⁶ [Gujarat Renewable Energy Policy And Solar Park Development, The Government Of Gujarat.](#)

⁵⁷ [Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Limited \(RRECL\), The Government Of Rajasthan.](#)

⁵⁸ [Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited \(KREDL\), The Government Of Karnataka.](#)

A. Creation Of Renewable Energy Zones Under Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited

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

Centralised Non-Conventional Energy Sources (NCES) wings at Udumalpet and Tirunelveli over alleged irregularities in project approvals.⁵⁹ The initiative is therefore a redesign of the project-clearance architecture aimed at strengthening oversight, accountability and coordination under TNGECL.

- b. The governance overhaul assumes significance because Tamil Nadu already operates one of India's largest renewable-energy portfolios, with nearly 27 gigawatts (GW) of installed renewable capacity comprising approximately 12.08 GW of wind power and 11.7 GW of solar power.⁶⁰ The state accounts for nearly one-fourth of India's installed wind capacity and is targeting a 50% renewable-energy share by 2030.⁶¹ At this scale, project approvals, repowering decisions, transmission planning and power evacuation become binding constraints on renewable-energy expansion.
- c. The zonal structure institutionalises a **cluster-based model** of renewable-energy governance by integrating oversight of solar, wind, wind repowering, rooftop solar, PM-KUSUM 2.0⁶² and floating-solar projects within dedicated jurisdictions. This can improve coordination between project approvals, land management, transmission planning and investor facilitation.
- d. However, the initiative does not directly address the state's principal renewable-energy bottleneck which is transmission and grid integration capacity. Tamil Nadu reportedly curtailed around 700 lakh units of renewable energy in 2025, while more than 30 solar and wind projects nationally experienced curtailment between March and August, 2025, resulting in losses approaching ₹ 700 crore.^{63,64}
- e. While administrative restructuring streamlines processes, it alone is unlikely to resolve constraints arising from inadequate evacuation infrastructure, transmission congestion and storage deficits. These gaps need to be plugged to ensure that gains from renewable energy generation reach the final consumers.

⁵⁹ [Press Reader, June, 2026.](#)

⁶⁰ [The Ministry of New And Renewable Energy.](#)

⁶¹ [Down To Earth, December, 2025.](#)

⁶² [SolarSure, March, 2026.](#)

⁶³ Curtailment refers to the reduction or forced shutdown of electricity generation from power plants despite the availability of generation capacity. In the renewable-energy sector, curtailment typically occurs when transmission networks lack sufficient capacity to evacuate power, electricity demand is lower than supply, or grid operators restrict generation to maintain grid stability. As a result, renewable energy that could have been generated and supplied to consumers remains unused, leading to revenue losses for generators and lower utilisation of clean-energy assets.

⁶⁴ [The New Indian Express, May, 2025.](#)

VII. Andhra Pradesh

A. Removal Of Mandatory State Medical Council Registration

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

1. The Andhra Pradesh Department of Health and Family Welfare issued an order permitting doctors registered with any state Medical Council or Union Territory Medical Council in India to practise in Andhra Pradesh without requiring separate state registration or a No Objection Certificate.
2. The order aims to eliminate inter-state registration barriers for medical practitioners, facilitate workforce mobility, and strengthen Andhra Pradesh's position as a **destination for medical tourism** while ensuring compliance with the National Medical Commission Act, 2019.
3. **Key Features** -
 - a. Doctors registered with any State or Union Territory Medical Council may practise in Andhra Pradesh without separate Andhra Pradesh Medical Council (APMC) registration or No Objection Certificate (NOC), subject to online declaration, verification and compliance requirements prescribed by APMC.
 - b. The introduction of No Objection Certificate exemption removes the administrative requirement for inter-state medical practice, reducing documentation and processing timelines for incoming practitioners.
 - c. The order introduces an online portal-based verification infrastructure through the Andhra Pradesh Medical Council, streamlining credential verification, declaration submission, and record maintenance without duplicate registration.
4. **Legal Alignment** - This initiative directly aligns with the Central Government's mandate under the National Medical Commission (NMC) Act, 2019,⁶⁵ which seeks to dismantle fragmented state-level bureaucracies in favor of a unified national healthcare ecosystem.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Maharashtra⁶⁶ retains compulsory state registration for doctors from other states but streamlines the process by managing the verification internally rather than forcing the physician to manually obtain a No Objection Certificate.
6. **Relevance** -
 - a. The order addresses a longstanding regulatory friction in India's healthcare workforce market, where doctors registered in one state were often required to obtain a **fresh registration** and a **No Objection Certificate** before practising in another state.⁶⁷ Andhra Pradesh's decision therefore represents an attempt to

⁶⁵ [India Code, National Medical Commission \(NMC\) Act, 2019.](#)

⁶⁶ [The Times Of India, June, 2026.](#)

⁶⁷ [The Times Of India, March, 2026.](#)

A. Removal Of Mandatory State Medical Council Registration

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

- remove barriers to interstate movement of medical professionals.
- b. The issue assumes particular significance for Andhra Pradesh because the state is simultaneously expanding medical colleges, healthcare infrastructure and specialised medical services, increasing demand for doctors across both public and private healthcare systems.⁶⁸
 - c. The order seeks to enlarge the effective talent pool, including specialised professionals like neurosurgeons, cardiologists, and advanced oncologists, and make it available to hospitals and medical institutions by treating registration issued by any state Medical Council as sufficient for practice within Andhra Pradesh.
 - d. The order also reflects the application of the broader ease-of-doing-business philosophy to the healthcare sector.⁶⁹ By eliminating duplicate registration procedures, the state reduces transaction costs for practitioners while improving the ability of hospitals, medical colleges and healthcare providers to recruit talent from across India, particularly in specialised disciplines where shortages are often more acute.
 - e. The order also has implications for healthcare investment and medical tourism. Easier movement of qualified practitioners can improve the availability of specialist care, strengthen the attractiveness of the state for healthcare providers and support the development of advanced tertiary-care services. The third-order effect could be greater healthcare-sector investment and enhanced regional competitiveness in medical services.
 - f. Medical tourism functions as a high-margin export engine for a state's service economy. International and domestic patients traveling for complex cardiac, orthopedic, or organ transplant surgeries look for world-class specialist teams. Streamlining the licensing process allows major corporate hospital networks based in Vizag, Vijayawada, and Tirupati to easily bring in renowned out-of-state surgical teams for complex operations, strengthening Andhra Pradesh's position in the highly competitive regional healthcare market.

⁶⁸ [Deccan Chronicle, December, 2025.](#)

⁶⁹ [The Times Of India, March, 2026.](#)

VIII. Rajasthan

A. Revision To Public Procurement Guidelines, 2026

Source: [Rajasthan Gazette](#), [First India](#) | **Impact:** High

1. The Rajasthan Finance Department revised the Rajasthan Public Procurement Guidelines to accord preference to goods and services manufactured in the country (Make In India).
2. The Guidelines mandate preference for domestically manufactured products and services in state Government procurement, with targeted reservations for Rajasthan-based Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs), including SC/ST-owned enterprises, in line with the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and the state's Budget 2026-27 commitments.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The guidelines mandate that all state Government departments prioritise Make-in-India products and services in public procurement across tender categories.
 - b. They provide that where a Rajasthan-based MSE emerges as the lowest bidder (L-1),⁷⁰ it receives the entire procurement quantity.
 - c. Where another category holds the L-1 position, a reserved portion is allocated to Rajasthan-based MSEs.
 - d. The guidelines introduce dedicated procurement reservations for MSEs owned by Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe entrepreneurs, promoting greater inclusion within the state's industrial ecosystem.
 - e. The guidelines provide a 20% purchase preference margin for eligible local suppliers, allowing them to match the L-1 price and compete for the reserved procurement quantity.
 - f. Further, they also strengthen domestic value addition by mandating a minimum local content threshold of 50%, while excluding repackaged, rebranded, and refurbished products from eligibility.
4. **Legal Alignment -** The notification aligns with the Central Government's Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order, 2017,⁷¹ which provides preference for local products, while operationalising the preference through the Rajasthan Transparency in Public Procurement Act and Rules.⁷²

⁷⁰ An L1 bidder (Lowest 1) is the vendor or contractor who has quoted the lowest price in a tendering or procurement process. In government and corporate contracts, the L1 bidder is the primary frontrunner to win the contract, provided they meet all technical, quality, and eligibility criteria.

⁷¹ [Public Procurement \(Preference To Make In India\) Order, 2017.](#)

⁷² [The Rajasthan Transparency In Public Procurement Act and Rules, 2013.](#)

A. Revision To Public Procurement Guidelines, 2026

Source: [Rajasthan Gazette](#), [First India](#) | Impact: High

5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Uttar Pradesh,⁷³ Tamil Nadu,^{74,75} and Kerala⁷⁶ have each enacted similar preferential procurement frameworks providing price preference, quantity reservation, and local content compliance mandates for state-registered MSMEs in Government tenders.
6. **Relevance** -
- a. Rajasthan has over 33 lakh registered MSEs.⁷⁷ Despite being cost-competitive on base production, these smaller operations frequently struggle to survive due to irregular demand and intense competition from large, automated multi-national firms during standard open tenders. Turning the state's massive annual public purchasing budget into a legally mandated demand floor provides a reliable financial cushion for local businesses, stabilizing regional supply chains and protecting working-class industrial jobs.
 - b. The procurement preference guidelines convert state Government purchasing power into a **guaranteed demand floor** for Rajasthan-based MSEs. It will improve market access for smaller firms, which often face difficulties competing against larger manufacturers despite being cost-competitive.
 - c. Without a local content floor, procurement preferences can be gamed by intermediaries who buy finished goods, repackage them under a local entity, and qualify as MSEs. The 50% local content requirement forces genuine value addition within Rajasthan, ensuring that procurement preference translates into actual local manufacturing activity, employment, and supply chain development rather than mere trading margin.
 - d. The central Public Procurement Policy for MSEs mandates 25% procurement from MSEs with a 4% sub-target for SC/ST-owned enterprises from all central ministries and CPSEs.⁷⁸ The guidelines extend this logic to state procurement, closing a parallel gap that had left state departments outside this framework.
 - e. Moreover, by guaranteeing a share of procurement to local firms that match the L-1 price, the guidelines balance industrial-development objectives with fiscal prudence, avoiding the higher costs often associated with unconditional procurement preferences.

⁷³ [Uttar Pradesh Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises Promotion Policy, 2022.](#)

⁷⁴ [MSME Policy, 2021.](#)

⁷⁵ [Tamil Nadu Transparency In Tender Rules, 2000.](#)

⁷⁶ [Kerala Transparency In Public Procurement Amendment Act, 2018.](#)

⁷⁷ [Ministry Of Micro Small And Medium Enterprises.](#)

⁷⁸ [PIB, August, 2024.](#)

Policy Level Announcements

I. Maharashtra

A. Rural Drinking Water Policy, 2026

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

1. On 16th June, 2026, the Maharashtra State Cabinet approved the Maharashtra Rural Drinking Water Policy 2026, establishing a comprehensive framework for sustainable rural drinking water management, operation and maintenance, and tariff regulation for schemes implemented under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0.
2. It aims to ensure **equitable access to potable water across rural Maharashtra** by promoting village-level water self-sufficiency, sustainable water resource management, and efficient maintenance of rural drinking water infrastructure.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The tariff rationalisation fixes household water charges at ₹ 150 minimum and ₹ 400 maximum monthly, with Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran schemes subject to Board-approved rate determination.
 - b. The cost recovery obligations in the Policy mandate that local self-government bodies recover 100% of Operations & Management costs, establishing fiscal sustainability for scheme operations.
 - c. As a part of the policy framework, end to end integration of wastewater management has been made a crucial part of the agenda to promote recycling and reuse protocols alongside source sustainability measures, embedding circular water economy principles within rural drinking water administration.
 - d. The aspect of water self-sufficiency in the Policy incentivises village-level source revitalisation, rainwater harvesting infrastructure, and decentralised conservation mechanisms to reduce external dependency.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The policy aligns with the objectives of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM 2.0),⁷⁹ which seeks to provide sustainable and equitable access to safe drinking water in rural areas through functional household tap connections, source sustainability, and community participation.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Andhra Pradesh⁸⁰ and Odisha⁸¹ have primarily focused on strengthening the operation and maintenance of rural drinking water systems. Maharashtra's Rural Drinking Water Policy, 2026 is distinctive in combining water security, source sustainability, tariff regulation, and institutional

⁷⁹ [Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, The Government Of India.](#)

⁸⁰ [Operation And Maintenance Policy For Drinking Water Supply Schemes \(Rural\), The Government Of Andhra Pradesh.](#)

⁸¹ [Operation And Maintenance Policy For Rural Drinking Water Supply, 2026, Panchayati Raj And Drinking Water Department, The Government Of Odisha.](#)

A. Rural Drinking Water Policy, 2026

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

management within a single policy framework.

6. Relevance -

- a. Maharashtra has achieved approximately 88% rural tap-water coverage under the Jal Jeevan Mission, above the national average of around 80%, yet recurring water scarcity continues to affect large parts of the state.⁸² In May 2026 alone, 127 villages and hamlets across Marathwada required tanker-based water supply,⁸³ highlighting that household connectivity does not necessarily guarantee reliable or sustainable access to drinking water.
- b. The policy therefore seeks to shift the focus from creation of water-supply assets to **long-term service delivery**, source sustainability and water-security outcomes.
- c. Historically, Gram Panchayats spent a large portion of their development budgets covering expensive electricity bills run up by high-voltage water pumps, often leading to deep utility debts that disrupted service.
- d. Maharashtra is essentially exploring the solarisation of approximately 22,185 rural water-supply projects to reduce electricity-related operational costs and improve reliability of service delivery.⁸⁴ The policy can therefore be viewed as part of a wider effort to improve the financial and operational viability of rural water infrastructure.
- e. While requiring local bodies to achieve 100% cost recovery through a fixed tariff structure successfully de-risks the state budget, it introduces a distinct execution challenge across economically vulnerable agricultural zones. In drought-hit regions like Vidarbha and Marathwada, asking struggling households to pay an unyielding ₹ 150 to ₹ 400 monthly utility charge can spark community resistance and local political friction.
- f. The principal implementation challenge will be ensuring effective local management and financial sustainability. The policy's success depends on regular maintenance, user-charge collection, source protection and institutional capacity at the village level. Without sustained local ownership and adequate maintenance funding, even well-designed water-supply infrastructure can experience rapid deterioration in service quality.⁸⁵

⁸² [IndiaSpend, January, 2025.](#)

⁸³ [The Times Of India, May, 2026.](#)

⁸⁴ [Water Digest, June, 2026.](#)

⁸⁵ [Springer Nature, April, 2026.](#)

B. Unmanned Systems Policy, 2026

Source: [The Free Press Journal](#) | Impact: High

1. On 16th June, 2026, the Maharashtra Cabinet approved the Maharashtra Unmanned Systems Policy 2026, establishing a comprehensive framework for the development, manufacturing, research, deployment, and maintenance of drones, robots, and autonomous vehicles across the state.
2. The policy aims to position the state as a **leading hub for unmanned systems** by promoting research, innovation, manufacturing, and deployment while strengthening investment, skilled employment, and technology adoption across strategic sectors.
3. **Key Features** -
 - a. To achieve the goals of the policy, the State will establish the Maharashtra Unmanned Systems Mission to promote innovation, manufacturing, testing, certification, skilling, and responsible governance of unmanned systems.
 - b. Under the policy, Centres of Excellence (CoEs) will be established across three dedicated facilities to strengthen research capacity, innovation infrastructure, and skill development for unmanned systems technologies.
 - c. Skilled workforce development criterion in the policy mandates training and certification of approximately 5,000 remote pilots, with priority allocation of 1,000+ certifications to women from self-help groups under the Namo Drone Didi scheme for agricultural applications.
 - d. The incentive structures within the policy include capital investment support, electricity subsidies, GST reimbursements, stamp duty concessions, and patent registration reimbursements to attract private sector participation across manufacturing and service delivery.
 - e. The policy has a validity of five years with structured review mechanisms, establishing a durable regulatory framework for industry investment and technology development planning.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The policy aligns with the National Unmanned Aircraft System Traffic Management (UTM) Policy,⁸⁶ the Drone Rules, 2021⁸⁷ and builds on the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Drones and Drone Components.⁸⁸
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Tamil Nadu⁸⁹ and Madhya Pradesh⁹⁰ have adopted dedicated policies to promote unmanned systems manufacturing, research, innovation, and the deployment of drone technologies

⁸⁶ [The Ministry Of Civil Aviation.](#)

⁸⁷ [Drone Rules, 2021, Ministry Of Information And Broadcasting, The Government Of India.](#)

⁸⁸ [PLI Scheme For Drones And Drone Components, The Government Of India.](#)

⁸⁹ [Tamil Nadu Unmanned Aerial Vehicles \(UAVs\) Policy, 2022, The Government Of Tamil Nadu.](#)

⁹⁰ [Drone Promotion And Utilisation Policy, 2025, The Government Of Madhya Pradesh.](#)

B. Unmanned Systems Policy, 2026

Source: [The Free Press Journal](#) | **Impact:** High

across multiple sectors.

6. Relevance -

- a. The policy assumes significance amid the rapid expansion of India's unmanned-systems ecosystem, which comprises over 38,500 registered drones, nearly 39,900 Directorate General of Civil Aviation-certified remote pilots and 244 approved drone training organisations.⁹¹ As drones, robotics and autonomous systems increasingly find applications across agriculture, logistics, infrastructure management and public-service delivery, Maharashtra's intervention reflects an effort to secure a first-mover advantage.
- b. The policy envisages the creation of Centres of Excellence reflects recognition that technological competitiveness in advanced sectors depends on innovation, standards development, talent availability and commercialisation capacity in addition to production capabilities.
- c. The decision to anchor the policy within the Department of Information Technology signals a shift from viewing drones and robotics as isolated technologies to recognising them as part of a broader digital and innovation ecosystem.⁹²
- d. Such institutional positioning can facilitate convergence with artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing and emerging-technology initiatives, strengthening Maharashtra's long-term technological competitiveness.⁹³ Furthermore, by targeting an investment inflow of ₹ 25,000 crore, the policy strategically positions Maharashtra as a prime destination for the aforementioned.
- e. The policy's emphasis on demand creation alongside technology development is vital. The framework identifies agriculture as a key deployment sector, promoting the use of drones for precision spraying, crop-health monitoring and farm analytics while simultaneously investing in the training of 5,000 certified remote pilots, including over 1,000 women under the Namo Drone Didi initiative.⁹⁴

⁹¹ [PIB, February, 2026.](#)

⁹² [New Kerala, June, 2026.](#)

⁹³ [DD News, June, 2026.](#)

⁹⁴ [The Free Press Journal, June, 2026.](#)

II. Gujarat

A. Viksit Gujarat Industrial Policy 2026

Source: [Government Of Gujarat](#), [Desh Gujarat](#) | **Impact:** High

1. On 15th June, 2026, the Gujarat Government unveiled the Viksit Gujarat Industrial Policy, 2026. The policy aims to position Gujarat as a globally competitive, innovation-driven and **sustainable industrial powerhouse** by attracting ₹ 10 lakh crore of investments over five years.
2. It will help in promoting advanced manufacturing, strengthening research and development capabilities, generating high-quality employment, and supporting the state's target of becoming a \$ 3.5 trillion (approximately ₹ 331 lakh crore) economy by 2047.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy introduces a target of attracting ₹ 10 lakh crore in investments over the next five years across manufacturing, technology and emerging industrial sectors.
 - b. The policy provides flexible incentive structures allowing MSMEs, large, mega and ultra-mega units to choose combinations of capital subsidy, interest subsidy and power tariff assistance.
 - c. It identifies thrust sectors including semiconductors, green hydrogen, green ammonia, battery energy storage systems, robotics, drones, aerospace, space manufacturing and electric vehicles for targeted support.
 - d. The policy provides differential incentive ceilings based on taluka category, with higher support for Category A talukas.
 - e. The policy establishes a dedicated ecosystem for women entrepreneurship through the Women's Industrial Leadership Committee (WILC), an additional 1% interest subsidy, rental assistance covering 75% of rent up to ₹ 3 lakh annually for five years, and a Return-to-Industry Accelerator to support women re-entering the workforce after career breaks.
 - f. Further, it establishes the T.H.R.I.V.E. Project to shift industrial activity away from urban centres, easing congestion and improving quality of life.
 - g. The policy also introduces dedicated provisions for startups, women entrepreneurs and R&D-led enterprises, including startup assistance and additional interest subsidies for women-led ventures.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The policy aligns with the Government of India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and the Viksit Bharat@2047 vision⁹⁵ by promoting domestic manufacturing capabilities, technology-intensive industries, innovation-led growth and integration into global value chains.

⁹⁵ [Viksit Bharat 2047](#).

A. Viksit Gujarat Industrial Policy 2026

Source: [Government Of Gujarat](#), [Desh Gujarat](#) | **Impact:** High

5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Tamil Nadu,⁹⁶ Karnataka⁹⁷ and Uttar Pradesh⁹⁸ have introduced similar industrial policies targeting electronics, aerospace, Electric Vehicles (EVs) and emerging technology sectors through sector-specific incentives and industrial clusters.
6. **Relevance** -
- a. Gujarat contributes nearly 18% of India's manufacturing output⁹⁹ and roughly one-fourth of merchandise exports.¹⁰⁰ However, Gujarat's industrial growth has largely been driven by established sectors such as petrochemicals, textiles and mineral processing. By prioritising 21 high-growth sectors and offering enhanced incentives for industries such as robotics, drones and advanced manufacturing, the policy seeks to broaden the state's industrial profile, promote **technology-intensive production** and reduce dependence on a narrow set of industrial drivers.
 - b. The policy moves beyond broad commitments to women's entrepreneurship by embedding targeted institutional and financial support mechanisms within the industrial framework. The proposed WILC, and other incentives seek to address common barriers related to credit access and business establishment.¹⁰¹
 - c. Further, the Return-to-Industry Accelerator¹⁰² is particularly significant as it targets workforce re-entry among women following career breaks, potentially expanding labour-force participation and improving utilisation of skilled human capital in the state.
 - d. Rapid industrial expansion can place significant pressure on local power,¹⁰³ water and waste-management infrastructure,¹⁰⁴ particularly in regions hosting large manufacturing clusters. The policy's support for Zero Liquid Discharge systems,¹⁰⁵ wastewater recycling and shared industrial utilities seeks to mitigate these pressures while reducing the environmental footprint of future industrial growth.
 - e. Gujarat accounts for 22% of all Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandums

⁹⁶ [Tamil Nadu Industrial Policy, 2021.](#)

⁹⁷ [Karnataka Industrial Policy, 2025-30.](#)

⁹⁸ [Uttar Pradesh Industrial Investment And Employment Promotion Policy, 2022.](#)

⁹⁹ [ASSOCHAM.](#)

¹⁰⁰ [The Times Of India, June, 2026.](#)

¹⁰¹ [Viksit Gujarat Industrial Policy, 2026.](#)

¹⁰² A "Return-to-Industry Accelerator" is a specialized, short-term professional program designed to help individuals transition back into the workforce after an extended career break like parental leave.

¹⁰³ [Electricity Grids And Secure Energy Transitions, IEA.](#)

¹⁰⁴ [State Of Green.](#)

¹⁰⁵ Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) refers to an advanced wastewater treatment process that eliminates liquid waste by purifying virtually all water for reuse and reducing contaminants to dry solids.

A. Viksit Gujarat Industrial Policy 2026

Source: [Government Of Gujarat](#), [Desh Gujarat](#) | **Impact:** High

implemented nationally,¹⁰⁶ the highest of any state, but the concentration is in chemicals, petrochemicals, and textiles. The focus on semiconductor, robotics, and space manufacturing directly addresses an emerging gap as India's PLI-backed electronics and defence sectors need state-level complementary incentives to anchor supply chains.

- f. Further, Gujarat's Category A and Category B talukas covering tribal, backward, and lagging regions have historically received a disproportionately small share of industrial investment. The enhanced location-linked incentives directly redirect investment to these areas, addressing intra-state regional inequality
- g. A significant planning challenge within Gujarat's economic landscape is the sharp development gap between its rich golden-corridor industrial belts and its interior tribal or backward districts. Tying the subsidy matrix straight to regional taluka classifications turns site selection into a primary financial decision for corporate boards.
- h. In light of the above, allowing a project located within a Category A taluka to qualify for a subsidy ceiling 10 percentage points higher than an identical plant in a developed zone uses market forces to redirect capital into lagging regions, helping to distribute wealth and jobs more equitably across the state.
- i. Lastly, the announcement of the T.H.R.I.V.E. project is particularly significant from an urban governance perspective. Gujarat's major industrial centres, including Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara, and Rajkot, have witnessed increasing pressure on urban infrastructure due to industrial clustering and rapid urbanisation. Encouraging relocation of suitable industries to designated growth locations can thus reduce congestion costs, improve urban liveability, and support more balanced regional industrial development.

¹⁰⁶ [Vibrant Gujarat](#).

III. Delhi

A. Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy, 2026

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

1. On 29th June, 2026, the Delhi Government approved the new Electric Vehicle (EV) policy with a ₹ 15,000-crore outlay.
2. The new policy is likely to come into effect on 1st July, 2026, and will remain effective till 31st March, 2030.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy allocates ₹ 15,000 crore over four years to accelerate electric mobility in Delhi and will remain in force until 31st March, 2030.
 - b. It provides phased purchase incentives for electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and N1 commercial trucks,¹⁰⁷ alongside scrapping incentives for older BS-IV and below vehicles transitioning to EVs.
 - c. The policy mandates that only electric three-wheelers and N1 trucks be registered from 1st January, 2027, while new two-wheeler registrations must transition to EVs from 1st April, 2028.
 - d. It requires school buses to convert at least 10% of their fleet to electric vehicles within two years of the policy notification.
 - e. Purchase incentives for electric two-wheelers (priced up to ₹ 2.25 lakh) and electric three-wheelers are structured on a **declining three-year scale**:
 - i. ₹ 30,000 and ₹ 50,000 in Year 1;
 - ii. ₹ 20,000 and ₹ 40,000 in Year 2; and
 - iii. ₹ 10,000 and ₹ 30,000 in Year 3, respectively.
 - f. The policy provides for the installation of 32,000 public charging points over the next four years, supported by the Prime Minister e-Drive Scheme¹⁰⁸ and the Delhi Government.
 - g. It establishes a dedicated online portal for processing EV incentives and excludes hybrid vehicles from subsidy benefits.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - This policy aligns with the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP),¹⁰⁹ launched with an aim to improve air quality in 131 cities in 24 states by engaging all stakeholders.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States like Tamil Nadu,¹¹⁰ Maharashtra,¹¹¹ Madhya

¹⁰⁷ N1 commercial trucks are Light Commercial Vehicles (LCVs) designed for goods transport, featuring a Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) not exceeding 3.5 tonnes.

¹⁰⁸ [PM E-Drive Scheme](#).

¹⁰⁹ [National Clean Air Programme](#).

¹¹⁰ [Tamil Nadu EV Policy, 2023](#).

¹¹¹ [Maharashtra EV Policy, 2025](#).

A. Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy, 2026

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

Pradesh,¹¹² and Punjab¹¹³ have similar EV policies providing subsidies for EVs, charging infrastructure and incentives for scrapping of old vehicles.

6. Relevance -

- a. Vehicular emissions account for 51.5% of Delhi's PM2.5 pollution, making transport the city's single largest local pollution source, ahead of industry, construction, and waste burning combined.¹¹⁴ The policy directly targets this by tying its highest incentives to active EV adoption across two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and four-wheelers to replace the combustion fleet at scale.¹¹⁵
- b. A 10-year-old diesel vehicle meeting BS-II or BS-III standards emits 7.5 times higher toxic particulate matter than a current BS-IV vehicle.¹¹⁶ To force retirement of this high-emission cohort, the policy links its highest incentives to a scrappage certificate for BS-IV or older Delhi-registered vehicles, offering up to ₹ 1 lakh for cars, ₹ 25,000 for three-wheelers, and ₹ 10,000 for two-wheelers.
- c. Road transport contributes approximately 60% of Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) and 35% of Carbon Monoxide (CO) emissions in Delhi and its surrounding regions.¹¹⁷ These emissions pose serious public health risks, including increased incidence of asthma attacks, persistent coughing, wheezing, chronic respiratory diseases, cardiovascular conditions, strokes, and lung cancer.
- d. Accelerating the adoption of electric vehicles is therefore critical to reducing transport-sector emissions, improving urban air quality, and lowering the associated public health and economic burden.
- e. Delhi already has one of the highest EV penetration in India. It achieved an EV penetration rate of 13.91% of new vehicle registrations in FY 2025, the third-highest in the country and nearly double the national average of 8%.¹¹⁸
- f. However, despite the EV adoption rate of Delhi, the large vehicle volume and the rising pollution demands electrification of vehicles which is addressed by the policy. Additionally, the tiered structure of bans and incentives provide for a smooth transition.

¹¹² [Madhya Pradesh Electric Vehicle Policy 2025.](#)

¹¹³ [Punjab Electric Vehicle Policy 2022.](#)

¹¹⁴ [Down To Earth, December, 2025.](#)

¹¹⁵ [Business Standard, November, 2024](#)

¹¹⁶ [Business Standard, November, 2024](#)

¹¹⁷ [Commission For Air Quality Management \(CAQM\), Delhi.](#)

¹¹⁸ [EV Reporter, February, 2026.](#)

IV. Arunachal Pradesh

A. Arunachal Pradesh Cooperation Policy, 2026

Source: [Arunachal 24](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 17th June, 2026, the Arunachal Pradesh Cabinet approved the Arunachal Pradesh Cooperation Policy, 2026.
2. The policy aims to **strengthen cooperative institutions**, improve market access for agricultural and allied sector producers, promote digital governance within cooperatives, and enhance the contribution of the cooperative sector to rural economic development in Arunachal Pradesh.
3. **Key Features** -
 - a. The policy codifies provisions aimed at revitalising cooperative institutions and improving their efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness to members.
 - b. It expands cooperative engagement across sectors such as horticulture, livestock, fisheries, and other rural enterprises.
 - c. It recognises market access and rural economic development as core functions of cooperative institutions.
 - d. Lastly, specific provisions on digital governance are a priority area for the modernisation of cooperative institutions across the state within the policy.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The policy aligns with the National Cooperation Policy, 2025,¹¹⁹ which seeks to strengthen cooperative institutions, improve governance, enhance member participation, and expand the role of cooperatives in economic development.¹²⁰
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Odisha has its own State Cooperative Policy 2026.¹²¹ States such as Gujarat,¹²² Maharashtra,¹²³ and Karnataka¹²⁴ have also undertaken cooperative sector reforms and institutional strengthening measures aimed at improving cooperative governance, market access, and rural economic development.
6. **Relevance** -
 - a. The policy seeks to expand and strengthen Arunachal Pradesh's cooperative ecosystem by building upon its existing institutional base. While the state has approximately 1,034 functional cooperatives out of 1,552 registered societies,¹²⁵ its cooperative presence remains limited compared to mature cooperative states

¹¹⁹ [National Cooperation Policy, 2025, PIB.](#)

¹²⁰ [National Cooperation Policy, 2025.](#)

¹²¹ [The New Indian Express, February, 2026.](#)

¹²² [Registrar Of Cooperative Societies, The Government Of Gujarat.](#)

¹²³ [Cooperative Commissioner and Registrar, Cooperative Societies, The Government Of Maharashtra.](#)

¹²⁴ [Department Of Cooperation, The Government Of Karnataka.](#)

¹²⁵ [National Cooperative Database, Arunachal Pradesh.](#)

A. Arunachal Pradesh Cooperation Policy, 2026

Source: [Arunachal 24](#) | Impact: Medium

such as Maharashtra, which has over 2.19 lakh cooperative societies.¹²⁶ The policy therefore aims to increase cooperative penetration while improving governance, professional management and their role in rural value creation.

- b. The primary bottleneck limiting agricultural income across the region is not a lack of growing capacity, but rather the severe **logistics friction** caused by steep mountain terrain and weak transport connectivity. Forcing local cooperatives to shift their roles from simple credit providers into active marketing links helps bridge this commercial gap.
- c. Therefore, building dedicated post-harvest packaging facilities and partnering directly with regional transport networks enables rural producers to move specialised goods safely down to major consumption centers.
- d. The cooperative movement in the state¹²⁷ has historically evolved as a response to market-access constraints arising from difficult terrain and weak connectivity, with cooperatives operating across agriculture, horticulture, fisheries, transport, handloom, handicrafts, processing and marketing activities. Strengthening these institutions can improve aggregation, reduce transaction costs and enhance producers' bargaining power.
- e. Additionally, the policy's success will therefore depend on its ability to strengthen marketing networks, processing infrastructure and inter-state value-chain linkages rather than focusing solely on cooperative formation. Professional management, member participation, financial discipline and regular auditing of cooperatives should thus be prioritised over and above expansion in cooperative numbers alone.
- f. Lastly, while setting up specialised cooperatives for livestock, handlooms, and fisheries successfully builds local supply-chain depth, operating cold-storage units and processing lines within isolated valley systems introduces an intense energy requirement. High-altitude environments frequently experience seasonal power grid interruptions due to heavy monsoons and landslides.
- g. To insulate sensitive produce from storage failures, the Department of Cooperation could potentially pair its local grants with hybrid solar-plus-micro-hydro battery storage facilities built straight into the master infrastructure plans.

¹²⁶ [National Cooperative Database, Maharashtra.](#)

¹²⁷ [Government Of Arunachal Pradesh, Registrar Of Cooperative Societies.](#)

V. Haryana

A. Model Online Transfer Policy, 2026

Source: [Haryana Government Gazette](#), [Indian Express](#) | **Impact:** High

1. On 25th June, 2026, the Governor of Haryana, through the Human Resources Department, notified the Haryana Model Online Transfer Policy, 2026 under Articles 162 and 166 of the Constitution of India.¹²⁸
2. The policy aims to govern transfers of all regular state Government employees in cadres with 50 or more sanctioned posts through a structured, eight-stage online process, integrating with the Human Resources Management System (HRMS).
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. A 120-point composite scoring framework determines transfer ranking:
 - i. Age - 30 points;
 - ii. Experience in Cadre - 30 points;
 - iii. Special Factors - 60 points; and
 - iv. Disciplinary major -penalty attracts a negative deduction of 10 points.
 - b. Seven sub-factors constitute special factors:
 - i. Female gender - 10 points;
 - ii. Special category employees (divorced/widowed/single parent status) - 10 points;
 - iii. Couple case - 10 points;
 - iv. Spouse of military/paramilitary personnel - 10 points;
 - v. Debilitating disease (self or immediate family) - 10 points;
 - vi. Differently-abled child at 40%+ disability - 10 points; and
 - vii. Differently-abled employee at 40-69% disability - 10 points.
 - c. Further, seven employee categories have been defined under the policy, namely, Deemed, Voluntary, Minimum Tenure Not Completed, Notional, Surplus, Protected, and Excluded, to determine transfer eligibility.
 - d. Under the policy, employees due for superannuation within one year from transfer order generation are protected from transfer without written consent, and employees under active major-penalty currency lose 10 points.
 - e. All transfer objections, preferences, and grievances are processed exclusively through OTP-authenticated digital platforms.
 - f. Further, the policy prescribes a 10-day implementation period for all transfer orders and provides for withholding of salary in cases of non-compliance.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The integration with HRMS aligns with the National e-Governance Plan's mandate for digitised human resource management across

¹²⁸ [Constitution Of India, Articles 162 And 166.](#)

A. Model Online Transfer Policy, 2026

Source: [Haryana Government Gazette](#), [Indian Express](#) | **Impact:** High

Central and state cadres.¹²⁹

5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Uttar Pradesh¹³⁰ has adopted a comparable online transfer policy by introducing tenure-based transfer criteria, digital processing through an online portal, protection for specific employee categories, and disciplinary action against attempts to influence the transfer process.
6. **Relevance** -
 - a. Haryana's Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau registered 251 corruption cases in 2025, with 13 Government employees arrested every month on average.¹³¹ Discretionary, offline transfers are a documented source of bribe-seeking, and the 120-point formula with OTP-authenticated digital processing removes the human discretion that makes such transactions possible.
 - b. Frequent arbitrary transfers of frontline staff are a cause of poor public service outcomes. The minimum tenure protection and structured scoring of the policy directly address this by making arbitrary mid-tenure transfers procedurally impossible.
 - c. Women employees and single parents historically received less favourable postings due to informal discrimination in manual transfer processes, while military spouses faced repeated separation due to transfers not aligned with deployment cycles. Codifying 10 points per qualifying condition and making the calculation automatic within HRMS creates an enforceable equity outcome that informal goodwill mechanisms could not guarantee consistently.
 - d. Further, the recognition of hardship categories, including women, military spouses, caregivers and persons with disabilities, reflects the increasing adoption of employee-centric human resource practices within the public sector while retaining a merit-based transfer framework.
 - e. Lastly, the 10-day implementation deadline with salary withholding for non-compliance addresses a critical enforcement gap. In most states, transfer orders are routinely delayed or circumvented by employees using political connections to stay in preferred postings, undermining the entire transfer system.

¹²⁹ [National e-Governance Plan.](#)

¹³⁰ [The Times Of India, May, 2026.](#)

¹³¹ [Tribune, January, 2026.](#)

B. Teacher Transfer Policy, 2026

Source: [Haryana Government Gazette](#), [Indian Express](#) | **Impact:** High

1. On 25th June, 2026, the Haryana School Education Department, under the authority of the Governor of Haryana, notified the Haryana Teachers Transfer Policy, 2026.
2. The policy aims to govern transfers of all regular teachers across Haryana's school education cadres through a revised 120-point composite scoring framework to ensure equitable, rationalisation-based teacher distribution, protect teachers in hardship categories, and enforce transparent, technology-driven transfer decisions through Management Information System portal integration.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy introduces a 120-point composite ranking framework, assigning 30 points each to age and experience in cadre, and 60 points to special factors, replacing the previous age-dominant transfer formula.
 - b. It awards 10 points each for special factors including female gender, single-parent, widowed or divorced status, couple case, spouse of military or paramilitary personnel, debilitating disease affecting the teacher or family, and differently abled children with at least 40% disability, while imposing a negative 10-point penalty for major disciplinary action.
 - c. The policy prescribes a maximum tenure of 5 years continuously at a particular unit after which transfer becomes mandatory, while requiring a minimum tenure of one year for voluntary participation.
 - d. It protects teachers within one year of superannuation from transfer without their written consent.
 - e. The policy provides a hardship allowance of 10% of Basic Pay plus Dearness Allowance (DA) for regular teachers, and ₹ 10,000 per month for guest teachers, who voluntarily transfer to schools in Block Morni, Block Hathin, or District Nuh.
 - f. The policy digitises the entire transfer process through the Management Information System portal, covering participation, data verification, objections, preference submission, and grievance redressal using OTP-based authentication.
 - g. Further, it prohibits canvassing or attempts to influence the transfer process through extraneous means, with violations attracting disciplinary action.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The policy operationalises the DoPT Office Model Transfer Policy,¹³² which directs state Governments to adopt transparent, tenure-based, and technology-enabled transfer management systems for government employees.
5. **Similar Initiatives in Other States** - Uttar Pradesh operates a Basic Shiksha Parishad

¹³² [The Department Of Personnel And Training.](#)

B. Teacher Transfer Policy, 2026

Source: [Haryana Government Gazette](#), [Indian Express](#) | **Impact:** High

online teacher transfer portal using seniority-cum-preference scoring, eliminating manual discretion in elementary school postings across districts.¹³³ Karnataka implemented the School Teacher Transfer Amendment Rules, 2022, mandating merit-based online counselling for teacher transfers across cadres.¹³⁴

6. Relevance -

- a. A major challenge across state administrations is the frequent, arbitrary reassignment of frontline administrative staff to satisfy changing political preferences. This high turnover routinely disrupts long-term regional planning and weakens public service quality. Implementing a strict minimum tenure directly counters this volatility, ensuring steady, professional execution across all district offices.
- b. Haryana exhibits an alarmingly high vacancy rate of 39.4% at the secondary level. It faces considerable challenges relating to equitable distribution of teachers, which affects the quality of education particularly in rural areas.¹³⁵ Around **17,000 teaching positions are vacant** in Haryana,¹³⁶ distributed unevenly across districts with some districts having more teachers than sanctioned posts. The policy's 5-year tenure cap and mandatory rotation directly address this maldistribution.
- c. The previous formula was 75% age-dominant which allowed senior teachers to get preferred postings simply by virtue of age, regardless of teaching effectiveness or location. The new formula's 25% cadre experience weight incentivises sustained teaching commitment rather than just seniority-based privilege.
- d. Teacher vacancies are disproportionately concentrated in remote and educationally backward regions such as Nuh, Morni, and Hathin, where difficult living and working conditions discourage postings. The hardship allowance addresses this by providing a financial incentive for voluntary transfers.
- e. Research consistently shows that frequent teacher transfers disrupt instructional continuity and adversely affect student learning outcomes.¹³⁷ The prescribed minimum and maximum tenure provisions seek to balance institutional stability with periodic redistribution of teaching resources.

¹³³ [Government Of Uttar Pradesh](#).

¹³⁴ [Karnataka State Regulation Of Transfer Of Teachers Act, 2022](#).

¹³⁵ [Analysing The Teacher Shortage In India's Secondary Education: A Comprehensive Overview, 2024](#).

¹³⁶ [The Times Of India, February, 2026](#).

¹³⁷ [Effect Of Teacher Turnover Ratio On Students' Teaching And Learning, 2025](#).

VI. Chhattisgarh

A. Compressed Biogas Policy, 2026

Source: [Energy World](#) | Impact: High

1. On 23rd June, 2026, the Chhattisgarh Government approved the Chhattisgarh Compressed Biogas (CG-CBG) Policy, 2026.
2. The policy seeks to convert agricultural residue, cattle dung and other organic waste into **clean fuel** while creating new income streams for farmers and strengthening the state's rural economy.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy recognises agricultural residue, paddy straw, cattle dung, livestock waste, municipal solid waste, press mud, sugarcane residue, and energy crops as eligible feedstock for compressed biogas production.
 - b. It establishes a framework for the scientific utilisation of biomass and organic waste to produce compressed biogas as a substitute for conventional fossil fuels in transport and industry.
 - c. It targets an annual compressed biogas production potential of nearly 5 lakh tonnes.
 - d. It designates the Chhattisgarh Biofuel Development Authority (CBDA) as the nodal agency for implementing and promoting compressed biogas projects across the state.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** It aligns with the GOBARdhan initiative¹³⁸ and the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme,¹³⁹ which promotes compressed biogas production and waste-to-energy conversion.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Maharashtra¹⁴⁰ has a dedicated Compressed Biogas Policy to incentivise CBG plants and develop an integrated bioenergy ecosystem. Other states such as Bihar,¹⁴¹ Punjab,¹⁴² Madhya Pradesh,¹⁴³ Uttar Pradesh,¹⁴⁴ Rajasthan,¹⁴⁵ and Gujarat¹⁴⁶ have similar policies to promote compressed biogas production from agricultural and organic waste.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The SATAT initiative targeted 5,000 CBG plants¹⁴⁷ but had only about 212

¹³⁸ [PIB, February, 2026.](#)

¹³⁹ [PIB, December, 2022.](#)

¹⁴⁰ [Down To Earth, May, 2026.](#)

¹⁴¹ [Bihar Bio-Fuels Production Promotion Policy, 2023.](#)

¹⁴² [The Indian Express, October, 2024.](#)

¹⁴³ [Scheme For implementation Of Biofuel Projects In Madhya Pradesh.](#)

¹⁴⁴ [Uttar Pradesh State Bio-Energy Policy-2022](#)

¹⁴⁵ [Rajasthan Biomass And Waste To Energy Policy, 2023.](#)

¹⁴⁶ [Gujarat State Biotechnology \(BT\) Policy 2022-27.](#)

¹⁴⁷ [PIB, December, 2022.](#)

A. Compressed Biogas Policy, 2026

Source: [Energy World](#) | Impact: High

- commissioned as of now¹⁴⁸ reflecting a clear execution gap. At present, Chhattisgarh has commissioned just 3 CBG plants. The policy aims to directly correct this infrastructure lag, fast-tracking the construction of new utility blocks across 8 key districts (encompassing Raipur, Bilaspur, Bhilai, Rajnandgaon, Dhamtari, Ambikapur, Raigarh, and Korba) in partnership with GAIL and BPCL.
- b. The policy comes as India seeks to diversify its energy mix amid instability in West Asia and risks to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. With India importing nearly 90% of its crude oil¹⁴⁹ and 60% of its LPG requirements.¹⁵⁰ Expanding domestic alternatives such as CBG can reduce exposure to global supply disruptions and price volatility.
 - c. Notably, Chhattisgarh has 3.7 million hectares under rice cultivation¹⁵¹ contributing 6.43% of national rice output.¹⁵² Paddy straw from this harvest is currently burned in fields, contributing to air pollution and soil degradation. The policy converts this waste into fuel rather than smoke.
 - d. Further, the CBG Policy complements the state's recently approved Urban Gas Distribution Policy, 2026,¹⁵³ which seeks to expand City Gas Distribution infrastructure across urban centres. As approved by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) guidelines, CBG can be injected into gas pipeline networks¹⁵⁴ and supplied through the expanding CNG and Piped Natural Gas (PNG) distribution ecosystem. This policy indicates a coordinated state push to develop both clean-gas production and distribution infrastructure.
 - e. Lastly, anaerobic digestion processes generally convert only a fraction of incoming biomass into gaseous fuel, leaving behind massive volumes of nutrient-rich solid and liquid digestate. Setting up structured marketing channels to sell this Fermented Organic Manure (FOM) to regional farming cooperatives essentially generates a highly predictable second revenue track for plant operators.

¹⁴⁸ [GOBARdhan](#).

¹⁴⁹ [The Hindu, April, 2026](#).

¹⁵⁰ [PIB, March, 2026](#).

¹⁵¹ [Indian Council Of Agricultural Research](#).

¹⁵² [Unified Portal For Agricultural Statistics](#).

¹⁵³ [The Economic Times, April, 2026](#).

¹⁵⁴ [ANI News, February, 2026](#).

VII. Kerala

A. Mission Samudra: Port-Led Economic Development Initiative, 2026

Source: [Maritime Gateway](#) | Impact: High

1. On 20th June, 2026, the Kerala Government unveiled Mission Samudra as a key part of the budget announcements, allocating ₹ 400 crore to establish a port-led economy by integrating Kerala's maritime infrastructure, transforming the state into a global maritime and economic hub within five years.
2. The mission aims to position Kerala as a **global maritime and economic hub** by integrating its port infrastructure with logistics, manufacturing, shipbuilding, and maritime services to attract investment, generate employment, and strengthen the state's port-led economy.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Coastline integration under the mission consolidates 600 kms of coastline, two international seaports namely, Kochi and Vizhinjam (also a green bunkering hub), one container transshipment terminal, and 17 non-major ports into a unified port-led economic ecosystem.
 - b. Manufacturing and logistics infrastructure near Vizhinjam and Kochi ports establishes manufacturing zones, stuffing centres, and dry ports to strengthen port-based logistics and cargo operations.
 - c. Further, shipbuilding and maritime maintenance hub development establishes shipbuilding and repair capacity to strengthen Kerala's maritime economy and shipping services.
 - d. Maritime museum establishment will enable maritime heritage preservation, educational outreach, and tourism development through utilisation of existing port assets.
 - e. Five-year implementation timeline establishes the objective of transforming Kerala into a global maritime and economic hub within a defined implementation period.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The initiative aligns with the objectives of the Sagarmala Programme¹⁵⁵ and the Maritime India Vision 2030,¹⁵⁶ which promote port-led development, maritime infrastructure modernisation, logistics efficiency, coastal economic development, and the expansion of India's maritime economy.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Gujarat,¹⁵⁷ Andhra Pradesh,¹⁵⁸ and Odisha¹⁵⁹ have adopted port-led development strategies integrating ports with logistics infrastructure, industrial corridors, manufacturing clusters, and maritime

¹⁵⁵ [Sagarmala Programme, Ministry Of Ports, Shipping And Waterways, The Government Of India.](#)

¹⁵⁶ [Maritime India Vision 2030, The Government Of India.](#)

¹⁵⁷ [Gujarat Maritime Board \(GMB\), The Government Of Gujarat.](#)

¹⁵⁸ [Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board \(APMB\), The Government Of Andhra Pradesh.](#)

¹⁵⁹ [Directorate Of Ports & Inland Water Transport, The Government of Odisha.](#)

A. Mission Samudra: Port-Led Economic Development Initiative, 2026

Source: [Maritime Gateway](#) | Impact: High

services to strengthen regional economic growth.

3. Relevance -

- a. The mission assumes significance given Kerala's unique maritime endowment and the growing strategic importance of the state's ports. Kerala possesses a coastline of approximately 590 km,¹⁶⁰ occupies a strategic position on India's southwest coast along major international east-west shipping routes, and is home to Vizhinjam International Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport, India's first dedicated deep-water transshipment port capable of handling Ultra Large Container Vessels (ULCVs).¹⁶¹
- b. Historically, however, 75% of India's transshipment cargo has been routed through foreign ports such as Colombo, Singapore and Jebel Ali,¹⁶² resulting in higher logistics costs and loss of value addition. Mission Samudra seeks to leverage Kerala's geographical advantage to capture a greater share of maritime trade and associated economic activity. Additionally, this strengthens India's strategic maritime position in the Indian Ocean Region.
- c. The ₹ 400 crore worth of initial allocation¹⁶³ will be structured with the aim of transitioning the state from a consumer-driven economy to an active international trade hub by unifying its 17 non-major ports¹⁶⁴ and streamlining regional feeder loops. The corpus may also draw in private capital to build out high-capacity cold storage facilities, multi-modal transport hubs and container freight stations.
- d. India has been trying to integrate ports with logistics parks, manufacturing clusters, warehousing and maritime services rather than letting them function solely as cargo-handling facilities. Following the national model, Kerala aims to capture downstream economic activity, increase value addition and generate employment across the broader maritime economy.
- e. The emphasis on shipbuilding, ship repair and green bunkering reflects an attempt to diversify Kerala's maritime economy beyond cargo operations. Concurrently, it aligns with the national objective of reducing logistics costs to a globally competitive benchmark of 8-10%.¹⁶⁵

¹⁶⁰ [The Irrigation Department, The Government Of Kerala.](#)

¹⁶¹ [Vizhinjam Port.](#)

¹⁶² [PIB, July, 2022.](#)

¹⁶³ [The Economic Times, June, 2026.](#)

¹⁶⁴ [Sagar Sandesh, June, 2026.](#)

¹⁶⁵ [Logistics Costs And Competitiveness Of Indian Products In Global Markets.](#)

Social Sector Schemes

I. Tamil Nadu

A. Revised Cooperative Crop Loan Waiver Scheme

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

1. On 16th June, 2026, the Tamil Nadu Government revised its cooperative crop loan waiver program by increasing the waiver limit by ₹ 25,000 and extending eligibility to all categories of farmers.
2. By removing landholding restrictions, the revised scheme delivers equitable debt relief to all cooperative borrowers, significantly reducing financial stress for farmers across the state.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme revises maximum crop loan waiver amount from ₹ 50,000 to ₹ 75,000 for eligible cooperative crop loan borrowers.
 - b. It extends eligibility for the waiver scheme to all categories of farmers irrespective of landholding size.
 - c. The scheme applies to crop loans availed from cooperative banks between 1st May 2025 and 28th February 2026.
 - d. The recent changes expands scheme's coverage to approximately 14.43 lakh farmers with an estimated fiscal outlay of ₹ 5,932 crore.
 - e. The scheme limits relief for farmers with crop loans exceeding ₹ 75,000 to a maximum waiver of ₹ 35,000.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The scheme complements ongoing efforts to strengthen institutional agricultural credit delivery through the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme and the cooperative credit system by providing debt relief to borrowers within formal credit channels.¹⁶⁶
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Karnataka,¹⁶⁷ Maharashtra,¹⁶⁸ and Punjab¹⁶⁹ have implemented farm loan waiver programs through cooperative and institutional lending channels to reduce agricultural indebtedness and provide relief to distressed farmers.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The revision responds to criticism of the earlier waiver announced in May 2026,¹⁷⁰ which capped relief at ₹ 50,000 and largely favoured marginal farmers. The expanded scheme extends benefits to all categories of farmers, addressing

¹⁶⁶ [Kisan Credit Card \(KCC\) Scheme, The Government Of India.](#)

¹⁶⁷ [Karnataka Farm Loan Waiver Scheme.](#)

¹⁶⁸ [Maharashtra Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Shetkari Karjamukti Yojana.](#)

¹⁶⁹ [Punjab Farm Debt Waiver Program, Department Of Agriculture And Farmers Welfare, Punjab.](#)

¹⁷⁰ [AngelOne, June, 2026.](#)

A. Revised Cooperative Crop Loan Waiver Scheme

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

- demands for more equitable treatment across landholding sizes.
- b. The scheme adopts a differentiated debt-relief approach by fully waiving loans up to ₹ 75,000 while limiting relief for larger borrowers to ₹ 35,000. This seeks to prioritise fiscally constrained support towards smaller and potentially more vulnerable farmers, while containing the fiscal burden that would arise from extending full waivers to all outstanding loans.
 - c. Tamil Nadu's cooperative credit network is a major source of short-term agricultural finance. By waiving crop loans up to ₹ 75,000 and providing partial relief for larger loans, the Government seeks to reduce debt stress, improve repayment capacity and support farm investment ahead of subsequent cropping cycles.
 - d. Furthermore, the revised scheme significantly enlarges the fiscal commitment from about ₹ 2,044 crore under the original package to ₹ 5,932 crore,¹⁷¹ benefiting around 14.43 lakh farmers. The scheme represents one of the largest state-level farm debt relief interventions in recent years.
 - e. A major challenge with large-scale debt-waiver programs is the long-term impact on the liquidity of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) and district central cooperative banks. When a state announces a loan waiver, farmers naturally halt their out-of-pocket repayments. If the state treasury delays reimbursing the banks for these lost assets, the cooperatives can run low on liquid capital, slowing down new loan originations. To protect these vital banking links, the state must ensure its ₹ 5,932 crore subvention is paid out to cooperative networks on a strict, automated timeline.
 - f. The scheme may face concerns regarding fiscal sustainability and credit discipline. Large-scale loan waivers can strain state finances, create expectations of future waivers and potentially weaken repayment incentives within cooperative banking institutions. Farmer groups have also argued that the relief may remain inadequate for heavily indebted cultivators.¹⁷²

¹⁷¹ [The Times Of India, June, 2026.](#)

¹⁷² [The Times Of India, June, 2026.](#)

B. Expansion Of Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme

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

1. On 15th June, 2026, the Tamil Nadu Government expanded the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme to cover students in Classes VI to VIII in Government schools across the state.
2. The expansion aims to improve nutritional support for school-going children by extending breakfast provision to students in Classes VI to VIII, thereby increasing the coverage of the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme across Government schools in Tamil Nadu.
3. **Key Features** -
 - a. The scheme extends the coverage of the Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme from Classes I-V to Classes VI-VIII in Government schools.
 - b. It expands the beneficiary base from approximately 20 lakh students to around 35 lakh students statewide.
 - c. The scheme witnessed an increase in the annual expenditure from over ₹ 600 crore to nearly ₹ 1,000 crore.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The scheme complements the **Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman** (the PM POSHAN) Scheme by providing additional nutritional support to school-going children beyond the centrally supported mid-day meal framework.¹⁷³
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Karnataka¹⁷⁴ and Andhra Pradesh¹⁷⁵ have implemented school nutrition and supplementary feeding programs aimed at improving student nutrition, attendance, and learning outcomes.
6. **Relevance** -
 - a. Childhood malnutrition acts as a barrier to upward social mobility, as families trapped in low-income cycles often face unstable food access. Launching an early-morning breakfast program tackles this inequality, ensuring that every child entering a state-run classroom has access to clean, good-quality food.
 - b. The expansion brings nearly 15 lakh additional children under the program's coverage.¹⁷⁶ The move reflects Tamil Nadu's continued emphasis on school-based nutrition as an instrument for improving educational outcomes and human capital formation.
 - c. The expansion further responds to persistent nutritional deficits among

¹⁷³ [PM POSHAN \(Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman\) Scheme, Ministry Of Education, The Government Of India.](#)

¹⁷⁴ [Ksheera Bhagya Program, Karnataka School Education Department.](#)

¹⁷⁵ [Jagananna Gorumudda Program, The Government Of Andhra Pradesh.](#)

¹⁷⁶ [The New Indian Express, June, 2026.](#)

B. Expansion Of Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme

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

adolescents. Recent evidence indicates that 48.3% of Tamil Nadu's adolescents are anaemic,¹⁷⁷ while 46.3% of children aged 10-19 years suffer from zinc deficiency.¹⁷⁸ Extending breakfast provision to Classes VI-VIII seeks to address micronutrient deficiencies that can adversely affect cognitive development, classroom engagement and learning outcomes.

- d. The expansion is supported by evidence from the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission's impact assessment covering nearly 5,300 students across 100 schools. Between December 2023 and December 2024, the scheme contributed to a 63.2% decline in hospital admissions and a 70.6% reduction in serious illnesses. Educational outcomes also improved, with lesson recall increasing from 71.4% to 77%, the ability to learn new material rising from 88.1% to 92.5%, and completion of written assignments improving from 89.6% to 95.4%. The expansion therefore reflects the scaling of an intervention with demonstrated health and learning benefits.¹⁷⁹
- e. Annual expenditure on the program is expected to rise from over ₹ 600 crore to nearly ₹ 1,000 crore following the expansion.¹⁸⁰ Ensuring adequate kitchen infrastructure, food quality standards, supply-chain efficiency and monitoring capacity across a substantially larger beneficiary base will be critical to maintaining program effectiveness and fiscal sustainability.
- f. Lastly, while expanding the program to cover an additional 15 lakh middle-school students successfully scales up the state's welfare grid, running a massive 45-lakh plate daily food operation introduces severe quality-control demands. Cooking and shipping hot meals like upma, pongal, and local millets across thousands of schools requires precise hygiene tracking.

¹⁷⁷ [The Times Of India, October, 2024.](#)

¹⁷⁸ [The Times Of India, October, 2025.](#)

¹⁷⁹ [Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission Report On Chief Minister Breakfast Scheme.](#)

¹⁸⁰ [The New Indian Express, June, 2026.](#)

C. New Health Insurance Scheme For Government Employees, 2026

Source: [The Government Of Tamil Nadu](#), [The Hindu Business Line](#) | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 26th June, 2026, the Tamil Nadu Government notified the New Health Insurance Scheme for Government employees and eligible family members, expanding base health coverage from ₹ 5 lakh to ₹ 7.5 lakh over a five-year block period, with enhanced coverage of ₹ 12 lakh for specified severe illnesses.
2. The scheme aims to strengthen health security for Government employees and their dependents by expanding insurance coverage, broadening treatment eligibility, and enhancing financial protection against catastrophic health expenditure.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme expands base health coverage to ₹ 7.5 lakh per employee over a five-year block period, escalated from the previous ₹ 5 lakh ceiling, providing enhanced financial protection against standard medical procedures and hospitalisation.
 - b. It enhances the severe illness coverage, providing ₹ 12 lakh insurance protection for specified critical conditions including organ transplants, substantially increased from the earlier ₹ 10 lakh limit for catastrophic health events.
 - c. The treatment procedure coverage under the scheme encompasses 2,992 approved treatments and procedures eligible for base coverage, alongside 46 specified severe illness procedures qualifying for enhanced coverage thresholds.
 - d. The premium structure in the scheme establishes an annual insurance premium of ₹ 7,728 payable to the Government, recovered from employee salaries at ₹ 644 monthly installments, ensuring affordable cost-sharing mechanisms.
 - e. Insurance implementation through United India Insurance Company operationalises scheme delivery, claims processing, and beneficiary service management via an established state-partnered insurance provider.
 - f. The eligibility under the scheme extends coverage to dependents of government employees, broadening the scheme's protective scope beyond individual workers to household-level health security.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The scheme aligns with the objectives of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY),¹⁸¹ which seeks to strengthen financial protection against catastrophic health expenditure and improve access to quality healthcare through health insurance coverage.

¹⁸¹ [Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana \(PM-JAY\), The Government Of India.](#)

C. New Health Insurance Scheme For Government Employees, 2026

Source: [The Government Of Tamil Nadu](#), [The Hindu Business Line](#) | **Impact:** Medium

5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Kerala¹⁸² and Telangana¹⁸³ have implemented dedicated health insurance schemes for Government employees and pensioners to strengthen financial protection and provide cashless treatment through empanelled hospital networks.
6. **Relevance** -
- a. The scheme reflects the rapid escalation in healthcare costs and the growing financial burden of tertiary medical treatment. Medical inflation in India has consistently exceeded general inflation, averaging around 12–14% annually.¹⁸⁴ Increasing insurance limits therefore helps preserve the real value of health coverage and reduces the risk of Government employees incurring catastrophic out-of-pocket expenditure despite being insured.
 - b. The enhancement reflects Tamil Nadu's advanced epidemiological transition. More than 75% of all deaths in the state are attributable to non-communicable diseases, with cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes and chronic kidney disease driving an increasing demand for costly tertiary-care interventions such as organ transplantation, oncology treatment and long-term dialysis.¹⁸⁵ The higher insurance ceiling therefore responds to the rising cost of managing chronic illnesses rather than merely expanding employee welfare.
 - c. The scheme also reflects the increasing complexity and cost of modern healthcare. The scheme now covers 2,992 treatment procedures and 46 specified critical illness procedures, recognising that advances in medical technology, specialised diagnostics and tertiary-care interventions have significantly expanded both the range and cost of available treatments. Periodic revision of insurance ceilings is therefore necessary to ensure that publicly funded health protection remains aligned with contemporary clinical practice.
 - d. However, data suggests that the effectiveness of health insurance depends as much on provider networks, cashless access and timely claims settlement as on coverage limits.¹⁸⁶ Unless empanelled hospitals remain geographically accessible, package rates are periodically revised and claims are processed efficiently, higher insurance ceilings alone may not translate into improved financial protection.

¹⁸² [Medical Insurance For State Employees And Pensioners \(MediSEP\) Scheme, 2022, The Government Of Kerala.](#)

¹⁸³ [Employees Health Scheme \(EHS\), Government of Telangana.](#)

¹⁸⁴ [Aon, December, 2025.](#)

¹⁸⁵ [PubMed, May, 2024.](#)

¹⁸⁶ [NITI Aayog, Health Insurance For India's Missing Middle.](#)

D. Thaimaaman Thanga Mothiram Scheme, 2026

Source: [The Government Of Tamil Nadu](#), [The Hindu Business Line](#) | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 23rd June, 2026, the Tamil Nadu Government launched the Thaimaaman Thanga Mothiram Scheme to encourage institutional deliveries by providing a one-gram gold ring to eligible newborns delivered in Government health institutions.
2. The scheme aims to **strengthen maternal and newborn welfare** by encouraging institutional deliveries in Government health institutions through a symbolic birth benefit, while enhancing public confidence in and utilisation of the public healthcare system.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The implementation timeline for the scheme is from 22nd June, 2026, with formal inauguration on 15th September, 2026.
 - b. The scheme provides a one-gram gold ring to every eligible newborn delivered in a Government health institution.
 - c. Institutional delivery eligibility encompasses all eligible pregnant mothers delivering at Tamil Nadu Government health institutions, with eligibility restricted to residents of the State.
 - d. The scheme has a fiscal allocation of ₹ 756 crore funds for statewide implementation, covering approximately 4.2 lakh annual deliveries in Government health institutions.
 - e. The gold ring will be provided in addition to the existing maternity cash benefits and material kits.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The scheme aligns with the objectives of the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY),¹⁸⁷ which seeks to improve maternal and newborn health outcomes by promoting utilisation of institutional healthcare services and providing maternity benefits to eligible women.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Other states, including Odisha,¹⁸⁸ Telangana,¹⁸⁹ and Andhra Pradesh,¹⁹⁰ have focused on maternity welfare schemes providing financial and material assistance to promote institutional deliveries and improve maternal and newborn health outcomes.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The scheme assumes significance against the backdrop of Tamil Nadu's already mature maternal healthcare system. The state records nearly 100% institutional

¹⁸⁷ [Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana \(PMMVY\). The Government Of India.](#)

¹⁸⁸ [Mamata Scheme. Department Of Women And Child Development. The Government Of Odisha.](#)

¹⁸⁹ [KCR Kit Scheme. The Government Of Telangana.](#)

¹⁹⁰ [NTR Baby Kit Scheme. The Government Of Andhra Pradesh.](#)

D. Thaimaaman Thanga Mothiram Scheme, 2026

Source: [The Government Of Tamil Nadu](#), [The Hindu Business Line](#) | **Impact:** Medium

deliveries,¹⁹¹ has achieved the Sustainable Development Goal target for maternal mortality with a Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of 54 per 1 lakh live births,¹⁹² and consistently reports among the country's lowest infant mortality rates at 11 per 1,000 live births.¹⁹³ The scheme therefore appears intended less to increase institutional deliveries than to reinforce utilisation of government health institutions amid growing reliance on private healthcare.¹⁹⁴

- b. Notably, encouraging utilisation of government health institutions can protect households from the substantially higher cost of maternity care in private facilities. Evidence shows that the average out-of-pocket expenditure for childbirth in private hospitals is several times higher than in public facilities, with Caesarean deliveries imposing a particularly high financial burden on households.¹⁹⁵ Strengthening public-sector utilisation can therefore reduce catastrophic health expenditure and improve equitable access to maternal healthcare.
- c. In light of the above, driving consistent usage across public health networks ensures the state helps lower average household debt, keeping family savings available for long-term childhood nutrition and education.
- d. The scheme may generate indirect economic benefits by encouraging deliveries in public hospitals, where out-of-pocket expenditure is substantially lower than in private facilities. Data indicates that the average expenditure on institutional delivery in private hospitals is several times higher than in public facilities, suggesting that continued reliance on Government institutions can reduce household healthcare expenditure despite rising medical costs.¹⁹⁶
- e. The scheme nevertheless raises questions regarding fiscal prioritisation. With institutional deliveries already nearing universal levels, the marginal impact of a gold-based incentive on health outcomes may be limited. At a time of elevated gold prices and persistent pressure on India's Current Account Deficit (CAD),¹⁹⁷ allocating ₹ 756 crore to a symbolic welfare benefit invites debate over whether equivalent resources could have generated greater health gains through investments in healthcare quality and neonatal infrastructure.

¹⁹¹ [Factors Influencing The Choice Of Place Of Delivery In Tamil Nadu.](#)

¹⁹² [PIB, March, 2025.](#)

¹⁹³ [The New Indian Express, May, 2026.](#)

¹⁹⁴ [Subramaniam et al, Factors Influencing The Choice Of Place Of Delivery In Tamil Nadu.](#)

¹⁹⁵ [NFHS-5 India Report, The Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare.](#)

¹⁹⁶ [Down To Earth, May, 2026.](#)

¹⁹⁷ [Upstox, May, 2026.](#)

II. Delhi

A. Delhi Building And Construction Workers Health Scheme, 2026

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

1. On 23rd June, 2026, the Delhi Cabinet approved the Delhi Building and Construction Workers Health Scheme, 2026.
2. The scheme aims to provide structured health coverage to approximately 2.70 lakh registered building and construction workers and their families with an annual fiscal commitment of ₹ 200 crore from the Delhi Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Under the scheme, each registered worker receives cashless treatment of up to ₹ 2 lakh at empanelled hospitals.
 - b. Family coverage under the scheme extends to ₹ 10 lakh per year, covering spouse, children, and parents.
 - c. Beneficiaries are also entitled to free Outpatient Department and In-Patient Department services, diagnostic and laboratory tests, emergency medical assistance, and referral services at all empanelled facilities under the scheme.
 - d. Further, mobile Medical Units are deployed at construction sites and high worker-concentration areas, delivering health services directly to workers unable to access fixed facilities.
 - e. Digital health records and a modern beneficiary-tracking system are mandated for all enrolled workers, enabling service monitoring and transparency in scheme delivery.
 - f. A 24x7 toll-free helpline is established for scheme-related queries, grievances, and medical assistance guidance for registered beneficiaries.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The scheme operationalises the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996,¹⁹⁸ and the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996,¹⁹⁹ under which state welfare boards are mandated to utilise cess collections for health, safety, and social security benefits for registered construction workers.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Kerala operationalised the Construction Workers' Welfare Fund health benefit scheme under the Kerala Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Fund Board,²⁰⁰ providing hospitalisation coverage and

¹⁹⁸ [The Buildings And Other Construction Workers \(Regulation Of Employment And Conditions Of Service\) Act, 1996.](#)

¹⁹⁹ [Building And Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996.](#)

²⁰⁰ [Kerala Building And Other Construction Workers Welfare Board.](#)

A. Delhi Building And Construction Workers Health Scheme, 2026

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

health check-ups to registered workers statewide.

6. Relevance -

- a. Construction workers face a significantly higher risk of occupational accidents, with fatality rates estimated to be 3–4 times higher than other workers and up to six times higher in developing countries.²⁰¹ The construction sector accounts for 24% of all occupational fatalities in India despite employing a far smaller share of the workforce.²⁰²
- b. Despite these severe data footprints, field injuries routinely go underreported due to inadequate documentation and delayed medical reporting. Providing immediate cashless treatment up to ₹ 2 lakh ensures that injured workers receive care immediately without facing high out-of-pocket expenses that often delay or prevent hospitalisation.
- c. Low-wage migrant construction workers face an intense financial barrier that often makes standard hospital visits highly impractical.²⁰³ Managing a daily wage of ₹ 500 to ₹ 700, a laborer living in an on-site camp cannot afford to lose an entire day's pay to navigate long public hospital lines or cover transit costs.
- d. Deploying specialised Mobile Medical Units directly onto active construction zones solves this problem at the source, bringing primary diagnostics and check-ups straight to the worker to eliminate commuting costs and prevent wage loss.
- e. Construction Workers Welfare Board across India have been consistently criticised for collecting billions in cess while disbursing only a fraction on actual worker welfare.²⁰⁴ The ₹ 200 crore annual health commitment is a direct response to this utilisation gap, converting a dormant welfare fund into an active health entitlement.
- f. Mandating free diagnostic laboratory tests and annual health check-ups across empanelled networks allows the state to detect lung damage early, preventing curable workplace illnesses from turning into permanent, disabling conditions.

²⁰¹ [PubMed Central, July, 2022.](#)

²⁰² [Science Direct, June, 2023.](#)

²⁰³ [PubMed Central, September, 2025.](#)

²⁰⁴ [The Economic Times, July, 2022.](#)

III. Bihar

A. Sindhu Darshan Teerth Yatra Financial Assistance Grant Scheme, 2026

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

1. On 16th June, 2026, the Bihar Cabinet approved the Sindhu Darshan Teerth Yatra Financial Assistance Grant Scheme, 2026.
2. The scheme aims to provide **post-travel financial reimbursement** to eligible residents of Bihar undertaking the Sindhu Darshan Yatra to the Indus River in Leh-Ladakh, and promote Bihar's engagement with India's cultural heritage and religious tourism corridor.
3. **Key Features** -
 - a. The scheme allows eligible Bihar residents to receive reimbursement of 50% of documented travel expenses or ₹ 20,000 per pilgrim, whichever is lower, on a post-travel claim basis after completing the Yatra.
 - b. Beneficiary eligibility under the scheme is restricted to permanent adult residents of Bihar aged 18 years and above.
 - c. It operates on an annual beneficiary cap of 100 pilgrims in its initial phase, with detailed eligibility criteria, documentation requirements, and application procedures to be notified by the Bihar Tourism Department.
 - d. The scheme was brought by the Bihar Tourism Department and approved alongside the Chief Minister Bihar Heli-Tourism and Air Tourism Service Scheme, 2026,²⁰⁵ positioning it within a broader state tourism development package.
 - e. Reimbursement covers documented expenditures including transport tickets, hotel invoices, and qualifying travel bills incurred during the pilgrimage.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Uttar Pradesh,²⁰⁶ Chhattisgarh,²⁰⁷ Haryana,²⁰⁸ Gujarat,²⁰⁹ Rajasthan,²¹⁰ and Madhya Pradesh²¹¹ operate similar state-funded pilgrim assistance schemes providing travel subsidies or reimbursements for residents undertaking designated religious yatras, including the Char Dham, Sindhu Darshan, and other inter-state pilgrimage circuits.
5. **Relevance** -
 - a. The Ganga has long been central to Bihar's cultural and religious life, while the Sindhu Darshan Festival symbolically connects river traditions from across India.

²⁰⁵ [Business Today, June, 2026.](#)

²⁰⁶ [Uttar Pradesh Panch Takht Yatra Yojana.](#)

²⁰⁷ [Tirth Barat Yojana.](#)

²⁰⁸ [Haryana Mukhyamantri Teerth Yatra Yojana.](#)

²⁰⁹ [Shravan Tirthdarshan Yojana.](#)

²¹⁰ [Sindhu Darshan Pilgrimage Scheme.](#)

²¹¹ [Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Teerth Darshan Scheme.](#)

A. Sindhu Darshan Teerth Yatra Financial Assistance Grant Scheme, 2026**Source:** [Livemint](#) | **Impact:** Low

The ₹ 20,000 reimbursement makes participation more affordable for ordinary Bihar residents who could not otherwise afford it.

- b. Bihar's per capita income is the lowest of any state at ₹ 69,321 in 2024-25.²¹² A pilgrimage to Leh involving air travel, altitude acclimatisation, and permit-related expenses typically costs ₹ 40,000–₹ 80,000 per person, making it unaffordable for many households in Bihar. The scheme's reimbursement of 50% of the cost, up to ₹ 20,000, substantially lowers this financial barrier.
- c. Linking the scheme with the Chief Minister Bihar Heli-Tourism and Air Tourism Service Scheme²¹³ reflects a broader strategy to diversify Bihar's tourism policy beyond inbound tourism by facilitating outbound religious and heritage travel for its residents.
- d. Lastly, by anchoring the scheme to an initial annual beneficiary ceiling of 100 pilgrims paired with a hard ₹ 20,000 individual reimbursement cap, the State successfully contains its total annual budget exposure to a minor ₹ 20 lakh baseline. This prevents the open-ended welfare drain that develops when state governments provide un-capped religious subsidies.

²¹² [Rajya Sabha, Unstarred Question No. 4157, March, 2026.](#)

²¹³ [Hindustan Times, June, 2026.](#)

IV. Gujarat

A. Gujarat Ranshala (School On Wheels) Programme, 2026

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

1. On 23rd June, 2026, the Gujarat Government launched the Gujarat Ranshala (School on Wheels) Programme, 2026 from the Pathikashram State Transport Depot, Gandhinagar.
2. The programme aims to deliver uninterrupted elementary education to children aged 6–14 from seasonally migrating Agariya (salt pan worker) families in Surendranagar, Patan, Kutch, and Morbi districts.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The program deploys 28 retired Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation (GSRTC) buses converted into solar-powered mobile classrooms across four districts: 20 in Patdi taluka (Surendranagar), four in Santalpur (Patan), two in Anjar (Kutch), and two in Malia (Morbi).
 - b. Each bus accommodates more than 20 children and is equipped with a 3.8 KVA off-grid solar power plant capable of operating for up to 48 hours, 43-inch smart television, Dish TV connectivity, FM radio, LED lighting, and digital clock.
 - c. Under the program, classrooms are fitted with portable study tables, foldable outdoor shade nets, detachable blackboards and whiteboards, purified drinking water facilities, wash basins, and dedicated library and teacher cabin spaces.
 - d. Further, each unit includes health-monitoring tools such as digital weighing scales, height measurement systems, and Body Mass Index charts, alongside recreational facilities including board games, swings, slides, and basketball equipment.
 - e. The program is jointly implemented by the Samagra Shiksha campaign, the Gujarat Education Department, and GSRTC, with access to government-run online classes provided through existing state digital education infrastructure.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The program operationalises the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA),²¹⁴ the Central Government's integrated school education scheme under the Ministry of Education which mandates special provisions for out-of-school children, seasonal migrant learners, and dropouts through flexible and alternative schooling modes.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Odisha²¹⁵ and Andhra Pradesh²¹⁶ have implemented similar initiatives to ensure continuity of education for children of

²¹⁴ [PIB, February, 2022.](#)

²¹⁵ [Scroll, June, 2018.](#)

²¹⁶ [The New Indian Express, January, 2021.](#)

A. Gujarat Ranshala (School On Wheels) Programme, 2026

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

migrant families through seasonal hostels and residential education programmes. Whereas, unlike seasonal hostels, Gujarat's Ranshala delivers classroom education directly at the worksites of nomadic and seasonally migrating Agariya families.

6. Relevance -

- a. A study covering 1,476 migrant agricultural households in Saurashtra found that 63% of 1,985 school-age children did not attend school in their destination areas. The dropout ratio in all six destination districts exceeds 50%, with Amreli district recording around 87%.²¹⁷ The Agariya (salt pan worker) problem is uniquely severe because migration coincides with school term and not vacation. The program enables continuity of education by taking classrooms to migrant settlements.
- b. The Little Rann, where the Agariya families live during the salt season, is a protected wildlife reserve where no permanent structures are permitted. Mobile classrooms offer a legally compliant solution for providing education to Agariya children during the migration season.
- c. Since 2009, Gujarat has operated 24 seasonal tent schools in the Little Rann, enrolling fewer than 400 children.²¹⁸ In comparison, Ranshala's 28 solar-powered mobile schools can educate over 560 children through a more durable, weather-independent model.
- d. Literacy rates among Agariya women are extremely low reflecting generations of educational exclusion.²¹⁹ The Ranshala's girl-friendly design with wash basins, shade nets, and health monitoring tools directly targets the additional barriers that cause girls to drop out earlier and more frequently than boys.

²¹⁷ [India Spend December, 2023.](#)

²¹⁸ [Scroll, April, 2018.](#)

²¹⁹ [Berkeley Journal Of Sociology.](#)

Investment Announcements

I. Odisha

A. Investment Proposals Approved Across 20 Mega Projects

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

1. On 17th June, 2026, the Odisha High-Level Clearance Authority approved ₹ 76,612 crore investment proposals across 20 mega projects.
2. The approvals aim to diversify Odisha's industrial base away from upstream extraction toward **high-tech and value-added manufacturing**, by sanctioning large-scale investment distributed across nine districts to promote balanced regional industrial development.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The approvals provide clearance to Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited for a ₹ 10,000 crore ingot, wafer, and solar PV cell manufacturing facility in Ganjam district and to Saatvik Solar Industries for an additional ₹ 1,709.81 crore solar PV cell unit in the same district.
 - b. The approvals provide for ₹ 9,817.50 crore in combined investment for lab-grown diamond manufacturing units in Khordha district, projected to generate 8,100 jobs.
 - c. They introduce critical mineral and advanced manufacturing investments, including ₹ 3,650 crore in permanent magnet manufacturing and ₹ 2,800 crore in titanium dioxide production facilities.
 - d. They provide for major steel, power, pharmaceutical and transport manufacturing projects, including a ₹ 15,000 crore integrated steel plant in Jajpur and a ₹ 1,500 crore railway coach manufacturing facility.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The approvals align with the Make in India program and the National Program on Advanced Chemistry and Renewable Manufacturing²²⁰ focus on domestic manufacturing, renewable energy supply chains, critical minerals, and employment generation.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Gujarat has approved large-scale semiconductor, renewable energy and manufacturing investments through its industrial policy framework.²²¹ Rajasthan (Investment Promotion Scheme, 2024)²²² have similarly deployed single-window mega-project clearance mechanisms with targeted sectoral investment mandates across EV, solar, and critical minerals manufacturing.

²²⁰ [Ministry Of Heavy Industries.](#)

²²¹ [Viksit Gujarat Industrial Policy, 2026.](#)

²²² [Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme, 2024.](#)

A. Investment Proposals Approved Across 20 Mega Projects

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

6. Relevance -

- a. Odisha's economy is historically mining and metals-heavy. 41.3% of the state's Gross State Value Added (GSVA) comes from industry dominated by steel, aluminium, and mineral extraction.²²³ The ₹ 76,612 crore approval round deliberately diversifies into solar PV manufacturing, lab-grown diamonds, permanent magnets, and railway coaches.
- b. Further, this output was concentrated within capital-heavy, highly automated mining and raw metallurgy sectors, it generated very low local employment²²⁴ returns per rupee spent.²²⁵ Intentionally redirecting capital into labor-intensive electronics, optics, and transport engineering, such as Jupiter Wagons' new ₹ 1,500 crore railway coach plant in Jajpur, directly restructures the State's economic base, helping it move up the global industrial value chain.
- c. India depends on imports for nearly 80% of its solar equipment, with China supplying over 60% of these imports. In the 2024 financial year, solar sector imports reached \$ 7 billion (₹ 66,220 crore).²²⁶ Tata Power's ingot-wafer-cell facility and Saatvik's unit in Ganjam make Odisha a direct contributor to domestic solar manufacturing capacity.
- d. Odisha holds major deposits of mineral sands along its coast, including ilmenite, rutile, and monazite,²²⁷ the latter containing rare earth elements critical for permanent magnets. The ₹ 3,650 crore magnet manufacturing investment, paired with ₹ 2,800 crore in titanium dioxide production, signals the beginning of a downstream rare earth and critical mineral processing ecosystem built on Odisha's own mineral endowment.
- e. Further, India's polished LGD exports stood at \$ 1.13 billion (≈ ₹ 10,013 crores) for FY 2025-26.²²⁸ Lab-grown diamond manufacturing is a completely new industrial category for Odisha. Lab-grown diamonds require precision technology, controlled environments, and skilled operators which can help Odisha diversify its job base away from mine-floor labour.
- f. While attracting large lab-grown diamond investments such as Kira Diam can create over 8,100 high-skilled jobs, operating high-volume Chemical Vapour

²²³ [Odisha Economic Survey, 2025-26, Page 54.](#)

²²⁴ [Springer Nature, November, 2022.](#)

²²⁵ [Reserve Bank Of India, 2014.](#)

²²⁶ [Down To Earth, July, 2025.](#)

²²⁷ [Indian Minerals Yearbook, 2019.](#)

²²⁸ [GJEPC, 2026.](#)

A. Investment Proposals Approved Across 20 Mega Projects

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

Deposition (CVD)²²⁹ reactor arrays place significant demands on power infrastructure. CVD diamond manufacturing relies on energy-intensive plasma processes and highly controlled operating environments, where voltage fluctuations or power interruptions can affect production quality and increase material losses.²³⁰ As Khordha emerges as a hub for advanced manufacturing, ensuring reliable transmission infrastructure and grid stability will be critical to supporting these investments and sustaining operational efficiency.

- g. The clearance of Rashmi Metallurgical Industry's ₹ 15,000 crore investment to build a 4 MTPA integrated steel plant in Jajpur, alongside Shyam Metalics' ₹ 7,580 crore steel expansion in Sambalpur, capitalises on the region's rich iron ore deposits, generating steady tax revenues that help fund the state's wider technology and infrastructure goals.
- h. The primary operational risk threatening the long-term success of the new critical mineral framework is the acute shortage of **specialised chemical and metallurgical engineers** within the local labor pool. Operating advanced sintering lines for Neodymium Iron Boron (NdFeB)²³¹ magnets and managing precision titanium dioxide slag processing requires specialised technical skills that legacy mining vocational tracks do not cover.

²²⁹ Chemical Vapor Deposition (CVD) is a manufacturing process used to apply high-purity, high-performance solid films onto a surface. It works by exposing a heated material to volatile precursor gases, which react and decompose, leaving behind a solid, uniform coating at an atomic or molecular level.

²³⁰ [Tandfonline, March, 2023.](#)

²³¹ NdFeB (Neodymium Iron Boron) refers to a critical rare-earth material essential for manufacturing high-performance permanent magnets used in electric vehicles, wind turbines, and consumer electronics.

II. Arunachal Pradesh

A. Etalin Hydroelectric Project Development Agreement, 2026

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

1. On 16th June, 2026, the Government of Arunachal Pradesh and NHPC Limited signed an agreement for the development of the 3,097 MW Etalin Hydroelectric Project in Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh.
2. The project aims to **harness Arunachal Pradesh's untapped hydropower potential** to strengthen India's clean energy capacity while promoting infrastructure development and economic growth in Dibang Valley.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The project involves development of the 3,097 MW plant in Dibang Valley district, with an estimated annual electricity generation of approximately 11,600 million units (MU).
 - b. The NHPC Limited is designated as the implementing agency responsible for executing the project.
 - c. Local community participation is incorporated into the implementation framework, with NHPC required to engage local communities as stakeholders during project development.
 - d. The Steering Committee on Hydropower Development will oversee project implementation and review progress to facilitate timely execution.
4. **Legal Alignment -** The project aligns with the objectives of National Electricity Plan, 2023,²³² which emphasises expanding hydropower capacity to strengthen grid reliability and support India's clean energy transition.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Arunachal Pradesh possesses an estimated hydropower potential of around 58,000 MW, accounting for nearly 40% of India's total hydroelectric potential, yet only a small fraction has been harnessed.²³³ The project therefore represents a strategic step towards unlocking one of India's largest renewable energy resources while positioning Arunachal Pradesh as a future hydropower hub.
 - b. The choice of Dibang Valley reflects both hydrological and strategic considerations. It lies within the upper Brahmaputra basin, where steep river gradients, high discharge and deep valleys provide ideal conditions for large hydropower development.²³⁴ Located close to the India-China border, the project also assumes strategic significance as infrastructure development in Arunachal Pradesh contributes to greater economic integration and state presence in a

²³² [National Electricity Plan, 2023, The Government Of India.](#)

²³³ [PIB, April, 2026.](#)

²³⁴ [The Ministry Of Environment, Forest And Climate Change.](#)

A. Etalin Hydroelectric Project Development Agreement, 2026**Source:** [News Arena India](#) | **Impact:** High

sensitive frontier region.

- c. The project further strengthens India's clean-energy transition by expanding the country's firm renewable-energy capacity. Unlike solar and wind power, hydropower provides dispatchable electricity and peaking power that can be supplied on demand, making it critical for balancing an electricity system with rapidly increasing shares of intermittent renewable energy. As India targets 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030,²³⁵ large storage and hydropower projects such as Etalin will play an increasingly important role in ensuring grid reliability.
- d. Beyond electricity generation, the project can generate significant multiplier effects for the local economy. Large hydropower projects typically catalyse investments in roads, bridges, transmission infrastructure, communications and local services, improving connectivity in remote regions.²³⁶ Such infrastructure can subsequently support tourism, trade and broader socio-economic development across the Dibang Valley and adjoining districts.

²³⁵ [Down To Earth, January, 2025.](#)

²³⁶ [Impacts Of Hydropower Development On Locals' Livelihoods In The Global South, September, 2023.](#)

III. Karnataka

A. Karnataka Industrial Investment Approvals, 2026

Source: [Deccan Herald](#) | Impact: High

1. On 19th June, 2026, the State-Level Single Window Clearance Committee (SLSWCC) of Karnataka approved over 50 industrial projects involving investments of ₹ 7,506 crore.
2. The approvals aim to promote industrial growth, attract domestic and foreign investment, generate employment, and encourage the geographic diversification of industrial development across Karnataka, particularly beyond the Bengaluru region.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The committee approved 55 industrial projects including major domestic ventures such as Kaynes Electronics (₹ 495 crore), SFO Technologies (₹ 490 crore), and Bellatrix Aerospace (₹ 404 crore), alongside key Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals from international players like South Korea's YJ Link and Japan's Shinko.
 - b. This may potentially create more than 28,000 employment opportunities through the approved projects.
 - c. The investments span across 41 projects to locations outside Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural districts under the state's "Beyond Bengaluru" strategy.²³⁷
 - d. This round of investment proposals concentrate themselves in aerospace, Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM), and general engineering sectors.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The approvals align with the objectives of the Make in India initiative,²³⁸ which seeks to promote manufacturing investment, industrial growth, employment generation, and the expansion of domestic production capabilities. It utilises the standardised data-sharing tracks of the National Single Window System (NSWS)²³⁹ to accelerate inter-departmental approvals.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Andhra Pradesh,²⁴⁰ Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat²⁴¹ have established investment promotion and project-approval mechanisms to facilitate industrial investment, manufacturing growth, and employment generation.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. For decades, Karnataka's economic dominance was driven by traditional software development and IT outsourcing services.²⁴² But, maintaining long-term competitiveness requires building physical hardware capabilities. The investments

²³⁷ [Beyond Bengaluru Initiative, The Government Of Karnataka.](#)

²³⁸ [Make In India Initiative, The Government Of India.](#)

²³⁹ [National Single Window System.](#)

²⁴⁰ [Andhra Pradesh State Investment Promotion Board \(SIPB\), The Government Of Andhra Pradesh.](#)

²⁴¹ [Industrial Extension Bureau \(iNDEXTb\), The Government Of Gujarat.](#)

²⁴² [India Roadmap.](#)

A. Karnataka Industrial Investment Approvals, 2026**Source:** [Deccan Herald](#) | **Impact:** High

thus integrate high-value electronics and aerospace manufacturing alongside the state's expanding network of Global Capability Centers (GCCs),²⁴³ directly strengthening the local supply chain.

- b. The approvals reinforce Karnataka's position as India's leading technology and advanced-manufacturing hub. The state accounts for approximately 65% of India's aerospace exports, 67% of aircraft and helicopter manufacturing for defence services, and nearly 25% of the country's aircraft and spacecraft industry.²⁴⁴
- c. Additional investments can generate agglomeration benefits by deepening supplier networks, strengthening innovation linkages and attracting complementary investments across the semiconductor and electronics value chain.
- d. To protect these premium tech installations from grid disruptions, Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) must pre-install dedicated sub-stations across the newly designated interior growth zones.
- e. The developmental impact of these approvals will depend on timely land allotment, infrastructure provisioning, environmental clearances and project execution. The effectiveness of the state's industrial strategy will therefore be determined by conversion of approved investments into operational facilities and sustained employment generation.

²⁴³ [The Economic Times, April, 2026.](#)

²⁴⁴ [Invest Karnataka.](#)

IV. Tamil Nadu

A. Madras Export Processing Zone (MEPZ) Special Economic Zone Investment Approvals

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

1. On 22nd June, 2026, the Unit Approval Committee (UAC) of the Madras Export Processing Zone (MEPZ) Special Economic Zone (SEZ) approved seven new SEZ units and four Export Oriented Units (EOUs), involving investments of ₹ 710.39 crore and expected to generate 15,424 employment opportunities across the Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Puducherry (TAP) Region.
2. The approvals aim to **strengthen export-oriented manufacturing**, attract private investment, generate employment, and reinforce the TAP Region's position as a hub for manufacturing, electronics, semiconductors, and exports.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The investment portfolio under the approvals is spread across 11 units (7 SEZ units and 4 Export Oriented Units) totalling ₹ 710 crore, strengthening manufacturing expansion within the TAP region.
 - b. A Footwear manufacturing expansion through TKG Taekwang India Pvt's non-leather footwear unit at ELCOT SEZ, Tiruchirappalli, involves an investment of ₹ 515 crore and is expected to generate 13,364 jobs.
 - c. The investments harness the semiconductor and electronics ecosystem with Kinesis Semiconductor Wire Solutions India Pvt. Ltd. at MEPZ SEZ, Tambaram, involving an investment of ₹ 115 crore and expecting to generate 123 jobs.
 - d. They target employment generation across 15,424 positions supporting manufacturing, electronics, and semiconductor industries across the approved projects.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The approvals align with the objectives of the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Act, 2005²⁴⁵ and the Foreign Trade Policy 2023,²⁴⁶ which promote export-oriented manufacturing, investment, and globally competitive industrial ecosystems.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Gujarat,²⁴⁷ Karnataka,²⁴⁸ and Andhra Pradesh²⁴⁹ have developed SEZs and industrial parks to promote export-oriented manufacturing, electronics, engineering, and advanced manufacturing through investment-led industrial development.
6. **Relevance -**

²⁴⁵ [Special Economic Zones \(SEZ\) Act, 2005, The Government Of India.](#)

²⁴⁶ [Foreign Trade Policy, 2023, The Government Of India.](#)

²⁴⁷ [Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation \(GIDC\), The Government Of Gujarat.](#)

²⁴⁸ [Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board \(KIADB\), The Government Of Karnataka.](#)

²⁴⁹ [Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation \(APIIC\), The Government Of Andhra Pradesh.](#)

A. Madras Export Processing Zone (MEPZ) Special Economic Zone Investment Approvals

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

- a. The approvals reinforce Tamil Nadu's position as India's leading export-oriented manufacturing state.²⁵⁰ The state accounted for 41% of India's electronics exports in FY 2024–25, while manufacturing contributed nearly 23% of Tamil Nadu's Gross State Value Added (GSVA).²⁵¹ Additional investments within the MEPZ ecosystem therefore deepen an already established export base.
- b. The approvals demonstrate the changing role of SEZs in India's industrial strategy. With the pace of new SEZ notifications slowing in recent years, policy attention has shifted towards improving investment intensity, export competitiveness and value addition within existing zones. Mature industrial ecosystems such as MEPZ derive their competitive advantage from integrated infrastructure, customs facilitation, supplier networks and export logistics.
- c. The investment profile supports Tamil Nadu's strategy of moving into higher value-added manufacturing. The state's industrial policy has increasingly prioritised electronics, semiconductor components, precision engineering and specialised manufacturing alongside its traditional strengths in automobiles and textiles.²⁵²
- d. The approvals also reinforce the economic benefits of industrial clustering. International evidence suggests that strengthening existing industrial clusters often delivers greater economic returns than creating dispersed manufacturing centres.²⁵³
- e. The primary planning challenge threatening the long-term execution of the Trichy project is the minor friction arising from mixing different industrial types within a single zone.²⁵⁴ Allotting 69 acres of an ELCOT SEZ (originally planned to host clean, high-density Information Technology and software services) to a massive, high-volume non-leather footwear manufacturing plant can alter the zone's utility load profiles.
- f. Additionally, footwear production requires continuous water lines, high-capacity electricity inputs, and robust waste-treatment systems. To prevent system failures, developers must build self-contained wastewater treatment networks and dedicated sub-stations right inside the factory compound.

²⁵⁰ [Invest India, Great Places For Manufacturing In India.](#)

²⁵¹ [Tamil Nadu Stats.](#)

²⁵² [InvestinTamilNadu.](#)

²⁵³ [Industrial Clusters as Drivers of Sustainable Regional Economic Development? An Analysis of an Automotive Cluster from the Perspective of Firms' Role, February, 2020.](#)

²⁵⁴ [The Times Of India, June, 2026.](#)

V. Andhra Pradesh

A. ₹ 30,515 Crore Investments Across Emerging Technology And Green Industry Sectors

Source: [News On Air](#), [The Print](#) | Impact: High

1. On 18th June, 2026, at the 18th State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) meeting, the state Government approved investment proposals worth ₹ 30,515 crore from 50 companies, with projects expected to generate 29,677 employment opportunities across Andhra Pradesh.
2. The SIPB investment approvals aim to **accelerate industrial growth** by attracting private investment in priority sectors, generating employment, and strengthening Andhra Pradesh as a hub for advanced manufacturing and emerging technologies.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. **Corporate Capital Mobilisation:** The capital mobilisation is spread across 50 companies, led by investments of ₹ 6,000 crore by NTPC Renewable Energy, ₹ 2,788 crore by CtrlS Data Centres, ₹ 2,250 crore by Proterial India, and ₹ 1,000 crore by Ananth Technologies.
 - b. **Green Energy Acceleration:** It involves green energy acceleration through solar, wind, pumped storage, and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), aligned with the state's 160 GW vision, with prioritised lithium-ion battery manufacturing and EV fast-charging technologies.
 - c. **Advanced Electronics And Digital Infrastructure:** The investments focus on semiconductor and data centre development through robust manufacturing capacity, with simplified approvals and transparent land allotment for AI and quantum technology projects in Amaravati.
 - d. **Defense And Aerospace Hub Development:** The investments also include Fifth Generation Fighter Jet Manufacturing at Puttaparthi and proposes airstrip development between Tadipatri and Anantapur to establish a major defence and aerospace manufacturing hub.
 - e. **Rare Earth Minerals Ecosystem:** A rare earth minerals hub has been envisioned to be developed with end-to-end value chain integration, along with a Centre of Excellence for Rare Earth Minerals research at Andhra University.
 - f. **Agro-Industrial Infrastructure:** A Micro-irrigation Equipment Manufacturing Park will be set up to provide affordable irrigation technologies, supporting farmer adoption and horticultural and floriculture sector development.
 - g. **Domestic Mineral Extraction:** The Jonnagiri Gold Mine project is another significant part of the projects, recognising the area's historical and economic significance as a major domestic gold production centre.

A. ₹ 30,515 Crore Investments Across Emerging Technology And Green Industry Sectors

Source: [News On Air](#), [The Print](#) | Impact: High

4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The SIPB approvals align with the objectives of the India Semiconductor Mission²⁵⁵ by promoting investment in semiconductors, renewable energy, defence manufacturing, critical minerals, and emerging technology sectors.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Karnataka,²⁵⁶ Odisha,²⁵⁷ and Gujarat²⁵⁸ have established investment promotion and single-window approval mechanisms to facilitate industrial investment, manufacturing growth, and employment generation across priority sectors.
6. **Relevance** -
 - a. The approvals assume significance within Andhra Pradesh's investment-led industrialisation strategy, which seeks to accelerate economic growth, diversify the state's production base and generate large-scale employment opportunities while developing Amaravati as the state capital.²⁵⁹
 - b. Following its reconstitution in November 2024, the SIPB, has emerged as the state's apex investment-facilitation and project-monitoring body,²⁶⁰ providing high-level coordination for major investment proposals across sectors.
 - c. The concentration of investments in sectors identified as future growth engines, including renewable energy, semiconductors, data centres, electronics manufacturing, ethanol and advanced technologies is significant. This aligns with the state's effort to transition towards a **technology-intensive industrial structure** focused on semiconductors, quantum technologies and data infrastructure is particularly significant as these sectors are increasingly linked to national industrial and strategic priorities.²⁶¹
 - d. The sectoral composition of the approved investments indicates that Andhra Pradesh is pursuing an ecosystem-based industrial strategy rather than project-specific industrial expansion. The state's ambition to develop 160 gigawatts (GW) of renewable-energy capacity by 2047²⁶² has been accompanied by a policy focus on solar power, wind energy, pumped-storage projects and BESS,²⁶³

²⁵⁵ [India Semiconductor Mission, The Government Of India.](#)

²⁵⁶ [Invest Karnataka, Department Of Industries And Commerce, The Government Of Karnataka.](#)

²⁵⁷ [Invest Odisha / High-Level Clearance Authority \(HLCA\), The Government Of Odisha.](#)

²⁵⁸ [Industrial Extension Bureau \(iNDEXTb\), The Government of Gujarat.](#)

²⁵⁹ [The Economic Times, May, 2025.](#)

²⁶⁰ [Centre For Strategic And International Studies.](#)

²⁶¹ [The Print, June, 2026.](#)

²⁶² [The Hindu, February, 2026.](#)

²⁶³ [EQ Mag, April, 2026.](#)

A. ₹ 30,515 Crore Investments Across Emerging Technology And Green Industry Sectors

Source: [News On Air](#), [The Print](#) | **Impact:** High

positioning clean energy as a foundational input for future industrial growth.

- e. Lastly, the approvals' significance extends beyond investment values to employment generation. The approved projects are expected to create nearly 30,000 jobs,²⁶⁴ while the state Government has increasingly emphasised monitoring the conversion of investment commitments into actual employment opportunities.
- f. The emphasis on job creation also signals a shift towards outcome-based investment governance, where project success is assessed not only through capital inflows but through tangible economic and labour-market impacts.

²⁶⁴ [The Print, June, 2026.](#)

Other Decisions

I. Delhi

A. The Air Pollution Mitigation Action Plan, 2026

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

1. On 17th June, 2026, the Government of Delhi unveiled the Delhi Air Pollution Mitigation Action Plan, 2026.
2. It aims to reduce Delhi's winter air pollution through pre-season implementation of vehicle emission restrictions, fuel compliance enforcement, and demand-side transport management.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The plan prohibits the entry of non-BS VI commercial goods vehicles registered outside Delhi from 1st November, 2026 to 31st January, 2027.
 - b. It exempts CNG, LNG, electric, emergency service, and Government-duty vehicles from the entry restrictions.
 - c. It links fuel purchases at Delhi petrol pumps to a valid Pollution Under Control Certificate (PUC), making vehicles without a current PUC ineligible for refuelling within city limits.
 - d. It doubled parking charges at authorised facilities across Delhi from 1st November, 2026 to 28th February, 2027 to discourage private vehicle use during peak pollution months.
 - e. Further, it mandates staggered office timings, stricter enforcement against open waste and biomass burning, and enhanced monitoring of construction and other dust-generating activities as concurrent non-vehicular interventions.
 - f. It retains GRAP-stage²⁶⁵ restrictions on commercial goods vehicles, with enforcement escalating in line with real-time Air Quality Index thresholds.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The BS VI entry restriction directly enforces the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' BS VI emission standard mandate, which became universal for new vehicles from April, 2020.²⁶⁶
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Uttar Pradesh²⁶⁷ and Haryana²⁶⁸ have similar initiatives to restrict polluting vehicles, strengthen emissions enforcement, and implement seasonal measures to curb winter air pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR).
6. **Relevance -**

²⁶⁵ Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) refers to a set of emergency measures implemented in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR) to prevent severe air pollution.

²⁶⁶ [International Council On Clean Transport, April, 2016.](#)

²⁶⁷ [Federal, June, 2026.](#)

²⁶⁸ [Winter Action Plan, 2024-25.](#)

A. The Air Pollution Mitigation Action Plan, 2026**Source:** [Economic Times](#) | **Impact:** Medium

- a. Historically, the region's winter air quality strategy relied on reactive, short-term interventions triggered only after pollution reached hazardous levels, causing economic disruptions to logistics and sudden shutdowns of construction activities.
- b. Announcing strict transportation boundaries and fuel checks months in advance establishes an organised framework for businesses, allowing corporate supply chains to adjust scheduling and route cleaner fleets ahead of winter conditions.
- c. Delhi's annual PM_{2.5} average was 108.3 µg/m³ in 2024, 21 times the WHO guideline of 5 µg/m³, with November averaging 249 µg/m³.²⁶⁹ Vehicles are the biggest local source during winter, contributing nearly half of Delhi's local PM_{2.5}, more than construction, industry, and burning combined.²⁷⁰ The plan's November-January entry ban on non-BS VI commercial vehicles, PUC-linked refuelling, and doubled parking charges all target this single largest controllable source during the worst pollution months.
- d. Delhi's winter air pollution has long been managed through emergency measures after pollution levels spike. By announcing restrictions months in advance, the framework signals a shift towards anticipatory governance rather than crisis response.
- e. The decision transforms PUC compliance from a regulatory obligation into a transaction-linked enforcement mechanism, reducing reliance on inspections.
- f. Diesel trucks from outside Delhi, exempt from the city's own BS VI fleet requirements, are the highest-emitting vehicle category and enter Delhi in large numbers. Restricting pre-BS VI commercial vehicles targets a category that contributes disproportionately to transport-related emissions. The transition to BS VI standards was estimated to reduce particulate matter emissions from diesel vehicles by up to 80% compared to BS IV norms.²⁷¹

²⁶⁹ [Business Today, January, 2026.](#)

²⁷⁰ [Centre For Science And Environment.](#)

²⁷¹ [Science Direct, 2023.](#)

II. Maharashtra

A. Maharashtra Academy For Nurturing Technology, Research And Intellectual Assets (MANTRA) Centre, 2026

Source: [Rediff](#), [The Hindu Business Line](#) | Impact: High

1. On 18th June, 2026, the Maharashtra Government approved the establishment of the Maharashtra Academy for Nurturing Technology, Research and Intellectual Assets (MANTRA).
2. The initiative aims to strengthen research commercialisation and intellectual property creation in higher education institutions by supporting patent filing, technology transfer, industry collaboration, and the utilisation of research outputs.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The initiative provides financial support for the establishment of the Maharashtra Academy for Nurturing Technology, Research and Intellectual Assets (MANTRA) by the Higher and Technical Education Department.
 - b. It will have an allocation of ₹ 60 crores to support patent filing, intellectual property management and commercialisation of research from universities.
 - c. The establishment of the centre will be followed by the introduction of a two-credit, 30-hour training programme titled 'Sankalp', for faculty members across higher education institutions in Maharashtra.
 - d. MANTRA would commence operations from 1st July onwards, at the University of Mumbai's Kalina campus.
4. **Legal Alignment -** The initiative aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020²⁷² and the National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy, 2016,²⁷³ which encourage research, innovation, entrepreneurship, industry-academia collaboration, intellectual property creation, and the commercialisation of knowledge and research outputs.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Tamil Nadu,²⁷⁴ Karnataka²⁷⁵ and Kerala²⁷⁶ have established innovation-support institutions and university-industry collaboration platforms to promote research commercialisation, technology transfer, and intellectual property generation.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Despite ranking second behind Karnataka in NITI Aayog's India Innovation Index

²⁷² [National Education Policy \(NEP\), 2020.](#)

²⁷³ [National Intellectual Property Rights \(IPR\) Policy, 2016.](#)

²⁷⁴ [Tamil Nadu Technology Hub \(iTNT\), The Government Of Tamil Nadu.](#)

²⁷⁵ [Karnataka Science And Technology Promotion Society \(KSTePS\), The Government Of Karnataka.](#)

²⁷⁶ [Kerala Startup Mission \(KSUM\), The Government Of Kerala.](#)

A. Maharashtra Academy For Nurturing Technology, Research And Intellectual Assets (MANTRA) Centre, 2026

Source: [Rediff](#), [The Hindu Business Line](#) | Impact: High

2021,²⁷⁷ the state was displaced as the leading patent-filing jurisdiction by Tamil Nadu,²⁷⁸ which harnessed state subsidies for intellectual property registration and dedicated facilitation centres. The Tamil Nadu trajectory is the precedent MANTRA builds on.

- b. MANTRA addresses the obstacles in the conversion of registered patents into licensed products. Of roughly 2.30 lakh patents in force in India, only 6.39% were commercialised,²⁷⁹ and fewer than 10 to 15% of granted university patents translate into licensing deals, startups or industry collaboration.²⁸⁰ This translation deficit, set against a net outflow of about ₹ 1400 crores in intellectual property charges, is the structural problem the body aims to resolve.²⁸¹
- c. The distinctive feature is the placement of a dedicated technology-transfer and intellectual property-management body inside a state public university, a capability that in India remains concentrated in the IITs, IISc, CSIR, DRDO and ICMR under the National Intellectual Property Rights Policy, 2016 framework.²⁸²
- d. The body also addresses the quality problem inside the national filing surge. Filing has been propelled by ranking incentives, where National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) awards double weightage to granted patents and none to commercialisation, producing a grant rate near 2% for the top 50 private institutes against roughly 31% for Government institutions in FY2024-25.²⁸³ By anchoring on commercialisation and technology transfer rather than application counts, the design targets the translational margin that metric-driven filing leaves unaddressed.
- e. Maharashtra already operates a Patent Information Centre under the Rajiv Gandhi Science and Technology Commission for patent search and filing support,²⁸⁴ alongside Maharashtra Startup, Entrepreneurship and Innovation policy, 2025²⁸⁵ providing patent-filing reimbursement. MANTRA's value rests on adding genuine licensing, valuation and industry-linkage functions rather than replicating filing assistance.

²⁷⁷ [NITI Aayog, India Innovation Index.](#)

²⁷⁸ [Global Patent Filings.](#)

²⁷⁹ [Scroll, March, 2026.](#)

²⁸⁰ [India Today, February, 2026.](#)

²⁸¹ [The India Forum, March, 2026.](#)

²⁸² [National Intellectual Property Rights Policy, 2016.](#)

²⁸³ [The Print, March, 2026.](#)

²⁸⁴ [Patent Information Centre.](#)

²⁸⁵ [Maharashtra Startup, Entrepreneurship And Innovation Policy, 2025.](#)

B. Mumbai Port Authority Modernisation And Waterfront Development Initiative, 2026

Source: [The Free Press Journal](#), [The Hindu Business Line](#) | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 25th June, 2026, the Mumbai Port Authority (MbPA) unveiled 63 projects worth ₹ 5,028.17 crore to modernise port infrastructure, expand cargo capacity, redevelop the waterfront, and strengthen maritime tourism and related infrastructure.
2. The initiative aims to transform Mumbai Port into **an integrated maritime ecosystem** by strengthening port infrastructure, logistics, maritime tourism, shipbuilding, and waterfront development while enhancing the port's contribution to economic growth.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The initiative portfolio encompasses 63 initiatives, including seven completed projects, 34 projects under implementation, and 22 projects in the planning and tendering stages.
 - b. Under a private operation model at Indira Dock, J M Baxi Ports and Logistics cargo has secured cargo handling rights for 10 berths while the port authority retains ownership, generating a projected revenue of ₹ 770 crore over a 10-year period.
 - c. A ₹ 470 crore investment at Princes' Dock will establish India's first world-class marina designed specifically to cater to yachts and recreational vessels.
 - d. The initiative includes a dedicated yacht bay project, with an investment of ₹ 3.6 crore, which provides berthing and support infrastructure for private leisure vessels.
 - e. It has also set ferry and water transport expansion targets for an increase in annual passenger traffic from 10 million to 30 million over the next decade.
 - f. A significant part of the project is the maritime skill development programme targeting training of over 10,000 people annually for employment across the maritime sector.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative aligns with the objectives of the Sagarmala Programme²⁸⁶ and Maritime India Vision 2030,²⁸⁷ which promote port modernisation, port-led development, maritime infrastructure, logistics efficiency, and waterfront development.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Gujarat²⁸⁸ and Andhra Pradesh²⁸⁹ have adopted port-led development strategies integrating ports with logistics infrastructure, industrial clusters, manufacturing, and maritime services to

²⁸⁶ [Sagarmala Programme, Ministry Of Ports, Shipping And Waterways, The Government Of India.](#)

²⁸⁷ [Maritime India Vision 2030, The Government Of India.](#)

²⁸⁸ [Gujarat Maritime Board \(GMB\), The Government Of Gujarat.](#)

²⁸⁹ [Andhra Pradesh Maritime Board \(APMB\), The Government Of Andhra Pradesh.](#)

B. Mumbai Port Authority Modernisation And Waterfront Development Initiative, 2026

Source: [The Free Press Journal](#), [The Hindu Business Line](#) | **Impact:** Medium

strengthen regional economic growth.

6. Relevance -

- a. The initiative reflects the structural transformation of Mumbai Port from a cargo port to a diversified maritime economy. While Mumbai Port handled a record 7.52 crore tonnes of cargo in FY 2025–26,²⁹⁰ container traffic has increasingly shifted to the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA).²⁹¹ Diversification into tourism, logistics and waterfront development can create new revenue streams while improving the utilisation of prime waterfront assets.
- b. Despite a 7,517 km coastline²⁹² and a rapidly growing high-net-worth population, India has only a handful of marina facilities,²⁹³ with Kochi International Marina remaining the country's only fully operational international-standard marina.²⁹⁴ The project therefore seeks to create an entirely new segment of maritime tourism and leisure infrastructure rather than merely expand existing capacity.
- c. Expanding private participation in cargo handling is consistent with the internationally adopted **landlord port model**.²⁹⁵ This can enhance productivity, mobilise private capital and enable the port authority to focus on strategic planning and regulation.
- d. The expansion of regional ferry and water transit infrastructure represents a highly effective **demand-side intervention**, establishing a roadmap to scale annual passenger traffic from 100 lakhs to 300 lakhs over the next decade.²⁹⁶ By utilising the region's natural harbor network, this expansion deliberately bypasses Mumbai's saturated road and rail corridors to shift heavy commuter volumes onto efficient water routes.²⁹⁷
- e. The initiative also advances India's Blue Economy strategy by expanding the role of ports beyond cargo handling. Investments in maritime tourism, cruise infrastructure and marine services can diversify coastal economies.

²⁹⁰ [Mumbai Port Authority, Ministry Of Ports, Shipping And Waterways, The Government Of India.](#)

²⁹¹ [Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority, Performance Dashboard.](#)

²⁹² [PIB, December, 2025.](#)

²⁹³ A marina is a specialised harbour providing berthing, maintenance, fuelling and support services for yachts and recreational boats. Beyond leisure boating, marinas promote maritime tourism, hospitality, marine services and waterfront development, making them important drivers of the Blue Economy and coastal urban regeneration.

²⁹⁴ [J M Baxi Group, Issue XXII.](#)

²⁹⁵ [World Bank Group, Public Private Partnership Resource Centre.](#)

²⁹⁶ [PIB, June, 2026.](#)

²⁹⁷ [The Times Of India, June, 2026.](#)

III. Bihar

A. Bihar Outstanding Sportspersons Direct Appointment (Amendment) Rules, 2026

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

1. On 17th June, 2026, the Bihar Cabinet approved the Bihar Outstanding Sportspersons Direct Appointment (Amendment) Rules, 2026.
2. The rules aim to revise the employment entitlements under the Bihar Outstanding Sportspersons Direct Appointment Rules, 2023,²⁹⁸ by expanding **pay-level classifications** for medal winners at Asian Games and Commonwealth Games.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Under the amended rules, Olympic gold, silver and bronze medalists, athletes representing India in any format of sports disciplines included in the Olympic Games, players representing India in any format of cricket, and gold medal winners at the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games will be eligible for appointment in Pay Level-09.
 - b. Silver and bronze medalists from the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games are granted direct Government appointments under Pay Level-07, a classification previously unavailable to this category of athletes.
 - c. Medal-winning athletes qualifying under the rules receive direct appointment to Government posts without written examination or interview, as provided under the parent 2023 rules framework.
 - d. Further, appointed sportspersons are mandated to actively participate in competitive sports for five years from the date of appointment, with a bond signed as a precondition. A failure to fulfil this condition withholds service confirmation.
 - e. As per the rules, eligibility determination rests with a Sports Discipline Committee under the General Administration Department, comprising officials from the Art, Culture and Youth Department, Bihar State Sports Authority, and the Sports Authority of India.
 - f. Lastly, outstanding sportspersons appointed under these rules remain governed by the Bihar Government Servant (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 2005,²⁹⁹ and Bihar Sportspersons Government Servants (Service Conditions) Rules, 2015.³⁰⁰
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The rules align with the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) framework for sports incentives in Central Government employment, which provides for direct recruitment of outstanding sportspersons to Group C based

²⁹⁸ [Bihar Outstanding Sportspersons Direct Appointment Rules, 2023.](#)

²⁹⁹ [Bihar Government Servant \(Classification, Control and Appeal\) Rules, 2005.](#)

³⁰⁰ [Bihar Sportspersons Government Servants \(Service Conditions\) Rules, 2015.](#)

A. Bihar Outstanding Sportspersons Direct Appointment (Amendment) Rules, 2026

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

on international and national medal performance.³⁰¹

5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Jharkhand³⁰² and Meghalaya³⁰³ have similar provisions which provide for direct recruitment of outstanding sportspersons.
6. **Relevance** -
 - a. Bihar's per capita income is the lowest of any state at ₹ 69,321 in 2024-25.³⁰⁴ So, for most Bihar-origin athletes, the financial risk of pursuing elite sport full-time is simply too high without a safety net. Pay Level-09 and Pay Level-07 appointments thereby convert sporting achievement into a credible career pathway, making the investment in elite training financially viable for people from low-income backgrounds.
 - b. The mandatory five-year competitive participation bond transforms Government employment from a post-career reward into a performance-linked incentive. By withholding service confirmation for non-compliance, the rules aim to ensure that athletes remain active during their peak competitive years, while enabling the state to derive greater returns from its investments in sports infrastructure, including the Rajgir International Sports Complex.³⁰⁵
 - c. Tying employment directly to a five-year active playing bond ensures that these newly appointed administrators continue to utilise these facilities, lifting the competitive standard of regional training camps and helping to mentor the next generation of local youth talent.
 - d. While bypassing written examinations expedites appointments, placing elite athletes into administrative roles introduces a practical training challenge. Sportspersons who spend their youth in training camps may have limited exposure to bureaucratic procedures and civil service regulations.

³⁰¹ [Ministry Of Personnel, Public Grievances And Pensions Department Of Personnel And Training.](#)

³⁰² [The Statesman, March, 2026.](#)

³⁰³ [The Sentinel.](#)

³⁰⁴ [Rajya Sabha, Unstarred Question No. 4157, March, 2026.](#)

³⁰⁵ [India Today, September, 2025.](#)

IV. Punjab

A. Regulation Of Fee Of Un-Aided Educational Institutions (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026

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

1. On 22nd June, 2026, the Punjab Cabinet approved the Punjab Regulation of Fee of Un-aided Educational Institutions (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026.
2. The amendment caps annual fee hikes by **private unaided schools at 5%** to prevent arbitrary increases and reduce the financial burden on families.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The amendment caps annual fee increases by private unaided schools at 5%, with any increase beyond the limit requiring prior approval from a high-powered committee.
 - b. The committee, comprising two District Education Officers and a financial expert, will examine the financial position of applicant schools to determine whether the proposed fee increase is justified.
 - c. The amendment also provides for scrutiny of unreasonable fee increases made during the previous three years and the refund of excess amounts collected from parents.
 - d. Further, detailed guidelines will govern the implementation of the fee cap, approval process, and refund mechanism.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States/UTs such as Rajasthan,³⁰⁶ Uttar Pradesh,³⁰⁷ Maharashtra,³⁰⁸ Gujarat,³⁰⁹ and Delhi³¹⁰ have enacted similar frameworks to regulate fees in private unaided schools through fee committees, limits on increases, prior approval requirements, and grievance mechanisms.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Private schooling imposes a significantly higher financial burden on households. Nationally, average annual expenditure per student in private schools is estimated at ₹ 22,919 in rural areas and ₹ 35,798 in urban areas,³¹¹ making predictable fee increases important for household budgeting.
 - b. Punjab has a large private-school sector, with 7,589 private unaided schools out of the state's 27,281 schools in 2024-25.³¹² According to the latest Unified District Information System for Education (U-DISE) report 2024-25, private schools

³⁰⁶ [Rajasthan Schools \(Regulation Of Fee\) Act, 2016.](#)

³⁰⁷ [The Uttar Pradesh Self-Financed Independent Schools \(Fee Regulation\) Act, 2018.](#)

³⁰⁸ [Maharashtra Educational Institutions \(Regulation Of Fee\) Act, 2011.](#)

³⁰⁹ [Gujarat Self Financed Schools \(Regulation Of Fees\) Act, 2017.](#)

³¹⁰ [Delhi School. Education \(Transparency In Fixation And Regulation Of Fees\) Act, 2025.](#)

³¹¹ [Comprehensive Modular Survey on Education \(CMS:E\). NSS 80th Round. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation \(MoSPI\). 2025](#)

³¹² [The India Express, August, 2025.](#)

A. Regulation Of Fee Of Un-Aided Educational Institutions (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026

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

educate a majority of Punjab's school children, with 30.63 lakh students enrolled in private schools compared with 26.69 lakh in Government schools.³¹³

- c. In light of the above, it is pertinent to note that as the majority of school-going youth depend on un-aided private networks, price updates carry an outsized social weight. Implementing a predictable, automated 5% cap shields working-class budgets from high sector-specific inflation, preserving household income for long-term child nutrition and healthcare.
- d. Forcing schools that request increases past 5% to submit comprehensive financial records six months in advance represents an excellent administrative check. Historically, un-aided academies operated as opaque financial structures, setting high price schedules without displaying clear expenditure connections. Requiring detailed proof of building improvements or staff salary expansions shifts the entire industry toward evidence-based pricing, eliminating hidden capitation fees and unchecked profit extractions.
- e. However, the retrospective review of fee hikes over the previous three years creates regulatory uncertainty by reopening past decisions under new standards. This could impose unexpected refund liabilities on schools and make future financial planning more difficult.

³¹³ [PIB, August, 2025.](#)

V. Rajasthan

A. Haryana-Rajasthan Yamuna Water Sharing Memorandum Of Agreement

Source: [PIB](#), [Times Of India](#) | Impact: High

1. On 29th June, 2026, the state Governments of Haryana and Rajasthan signed a historic Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) in New Delhi to operationalise the long-pending Yamuna Water Project.
2. This MoA ends a 32-year deadlock stemming from the 1994 Memorandum of Understanding on the sharing of utilisable surface waters of the Upper Yamuna Basin.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The MoA provides a long-term operational framework for the annual supply of approximately 580 Million Cubic Meters (MCM) of Yamuna water to drought-prone regions.
 - b. The water will be channeled from the Hathnikund Barrage via the Western Yamuna Canal system specifically during the monsoon window extending from July to October.
 - c. The transit network will consist of a 295.5-km underground pipeline network leading directly to the Hansiyawas Reservoir in Churu, Rajasthan.
 - d. A dedicated joint entity, the Rajasthan-Haryana Yamuna Water Project Special Purpose Vehicle (RHYW-SPV), will be set up to manage the lifecycle construction and operations.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The MoA aligns with the National Perspective Plan (NPP),³¹⁴ aiming to transfer water from surplus river basins to water-deficit regions
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Similar inter-state water transfer initiatives include the Ken-Betwa River Link Project (Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh),³¹⁵ and the Subarnarekha River Basin Agreement (Bihar, Odisha and West Bengal),³¹⁶ and the Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal Link Project (Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan),³¹⁷ which seek to transfer water to water-scarce regions and strengthen regional water security.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Rajasthan and Haryana have among the highest levels of groundwater stress in India, with groundwater extraction rates of 147.11% and 136.75%, respectively, in 2025.³¹⁸ By transferring Yamuna's water through a dedicated pipeline system, the MoA can diversify water sources and reduce dependence on over-exploited aquifers in the two states.

³¹⁴ [PIB, March, 2023.](#)

³¹⁵ [Ken Betwa Link Project.](#)

³¹⁶ [PIB, September, 2011.](#)

³¹⁷ [Modified Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal Link Project.](#)

³¹⁸ [The Times Of India, December, 2025.](#)

A. Haryana-Rajasthan Yamuna Water Sharing Memorandum Of Agreement

Source: [PIB](#), [Times Of India](#) | Impact: High

- b. The MoA delivers an essential public health intervention for the Shekhawati region. Extensive field tests reveal dangerously unsafe fluoride levels exceeding 1.5 mg/L across more than 30 districts of Rajasthan, causing widespread skeletal and dental fluorosis in Churu, Jhunjhunu, and Sikar.³¹⁹ Introducing 580 MCM of clean surface water allows regional utilities to dilute and replace polluted well-water, lifting a heavy public health burden from millions of households.
- c. Further, resolving a 32-year-old interstate water dispute requires moving past shifting political dynamics to establish a resilient administrative platform. Setting up the Rajasthan-Haryana Yamuna Water Project Special Purpose Vehicle (RHYW-SPV) accomplishes this by creating a binding corporate structure. By detailing exact capital contributions, maintenance divisions, and automated release schedules up front, the framework insulates day-to-day pipeline operations from sudden policy shifts.
- d. The MoA will also strengthen drinking water supply in Haryana's Bhiwani and Fatehabad districts. Notably, the dedicated underground pipeline system will transfer Rajasthan's allocated share separately from open canal distribution, potentially reducing conveyance losses and limiting operational pressure on Haryana's existing canal network.
- e. The MoA creates a clearer institutional basis for implementation by defining water allocation, release protocols, cost-sharing, and maintenance responsibilities, reducing the coordination uncertainty that delayed the project for three decades.
- f. Nonetheless, the primary financial challenge threatening the long-term economic viability of the project is the region's challenging geography. Moving water from the low-lying plains of Haryana up to the high-elevation zones of Churu requires building multiple massive high-capacity pumping stations along the 295.5-km route.³²⁰ Running these heavy pumps demands a continuous, expensive power supply, which could drive up water tariffs and require the RHYW-SPV to build dedicated solar arrays along the pipeline right-of-way to keep operational costs manageable.

³¹⁹ [The Times Of India, March, 2026.](#)

³²⁰ [The Times Of India, June, 2026.](#)

VI. Ladakh

A. Ban On Single-Use Plastic And Littering

Source: [Administration Of Union Territory Of Ladakh](#) | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 19th June, 2026, the Ladakh Government approved a comprehensive ban on identified single-use plastic items and littering across the Union Territory.
2. The decision aims to protect Ladakh's fragile Himalayan ecosystem and promote responsible tourism through stricter penalties, enhanced monitoring, and regulation of plastic waste.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The order imposes an environmental penalty of ₹ 10,000 on individuals, commercial establishments, hotels and eateries for violations of the single-use plastic ban, while littering at public places attracts a penalty of ₹ 5,000.
 - b. It prohibits plastic cutlery, cups, plates, straws, trays, wrapping films, thermocol decorations, plastic flags, plastic stirrers and plastic banners below the prescribed thickness, in line with the 2022 national ban list.
 - c. It mandates random inspection checks for single-use plastic violations at Leh Airport and all entry points into Ladakh, with videography, photography, CCTV footage, and other electronic evidence permitted as legally admissible proof.
 - d. It allows for surprise checks and inspections at any location, permitting detection-to-challan proceedings without prior notice to the violating establishment or individual.
 - e. Further, enforcement authority is extended, for the first time, to a wide range of field functionaries: Sub Divisional Magistrates, Tehsildars, Executive Magistrates, Ladakh Pollution Control Committee District Officers, Tourism Department Assistant Directors, DPOs, BDOs, Municipal Committee Executive Officers, Forest Department Range Officers, Foresters and Guards, and the Environment Protection Force comprising ex-servicemen and wildlife stewards.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The framework operationalises the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) notification dated 12th August, 2021, which prohibited manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale, and use of identified single-use plastic items with effect from 1st July, 2022, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.³²¹
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States/Union Territories such as Sikkim,³²² Himachal Pradesh³²³ and Andaman and Nicobar Islands³²⁴ has also implemented

³²¹ [PIB, July, 2022.](#)

³²² [Sikkim Non-Biodegradable Garbage \(Control\) Act, 2023.](#)

³²³ [Himachal Pradesh Non-Biodegradable Garbage Controls Rules, 1996.](#)

³²⁴ [Andaman and Nicobar Gazette, 2019.](#)

A. Ban On Single-Use Plastic And Littering

Source: [Administration Of Union Territory Of Ladakh](#) | **Impact:** Medium

similar bans on Single-Use plastics.

6. Relevance -

- a. Over 50,000 plastic bottles are used daily in Leh during peak tourist season, generating 16 tonnes of waste per day, far exceeding what the 30-tonne capacity Skampari plant can sustainably process when other waste streams are included.³²⁵ The plastic ban targets the single largest and most visible component of this load at source.
- b. Tourism is Ladakh's primary economic base. Ladakh recorded a total of 1.17 lakh tourist arrivals during January–May 2026,³²⁶ against a resident population of only 3 lakh, making the region's pristine environment a direct economic asset. Plastic pollution that visually degrades this environment is a commercial risk to the very industry sustaining Ladakh's livelihoods.
- c. Data shows that there is a strong linear relationship between tourist arrivals and volume of waste generated in Ladakh.³²⁷ Ladakh recorded over 5.25 lakh tourist arrivals in 2023, creating concentrated waste loads that exceed local disposal capacity.³²⁸ Checking bags at Leh Airport and road entry points, the only two access corridors, intercepts the largest plastic volumes before they disperse into remote valleys.
- d. Further, having Tourism Department officers, Forest Guards, and Block Development Officers as enforcement authorities means violations at remote trekking routes, campsites, and entry points, where pollution control officers are absent, can now be prosecuted.
- e. The Union Territory of Ladakh contains the most frozen water outside the Arctic and Antarctica,³²⁹ while littered plastic waste is slower to degrade at high altitude and contaminates water streams around tourist destinations like Leh. Plastic contamination of glacial streams in Ladakh is not just a local environmental issue but water security risk for millions of people downstream who depend on Indus river water.

³²⁵ [Centre Of Excellence For Himalayan Studies, October, 2025.](#)

³²⁶ [Union Territory Of Ladakh, June, 2026.](#)

³²⁷ [Zero Waste Ladakh, July, 2024.](#)

³²⁸ [East Asia Forum, May, 2025.](#)

³²⁹ [National Centre For Epidemiology And Population Health, December, 2024.](#)

VII. Uttarakhand

A. Cattle Breed Improvement Through Embryo Transfer Technology (ETT) Pilot Project

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

1. On 18th June, 2026, the Uttarakhand Cabinet approved a pilot project to improve cattle breeds through embryo transfer technology.³³⁰
2. The project seeks to rapidly develop **purebred, high-genetic-merit** livestock and improve milk productivity across the state.
3. **Key Features** -
 - a. The project introduces embryo transfer technology to accelerate the multiplication of genetically superior cattle.
 - b. Under this project, high-quality embryos from superior donor cattle will be transferred to recipient animals to produce purebred, high-genetic-merit calves.
 - c. The project uses assisted reproductive technology to achieve faster genetic improvement than conventional breeding methods.
 - d. The project will assess the potential for wider adoption of embryo transfer technology across the state's dairy sector.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The project aligns with the Rashtriya Gokul Mission, which promotes genetic upgradation of bovines through advanced reproductive technologies, including In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) and embryo transfer. Under the mission, 24 IVF laboratories have been established nationally, with 16,210 embryos transferred and 2,612 calves born.³³¹
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Kerala³³² and Odisha³³³ through their respective bovine breeding policies, have similarly provided for the use of Embryo Transfer Technology (ETT) to produce high-genetic-merit cattle and improve indigenous breeds.
6. **Relevance** -
 - a. Embryo transfer can accelerate the multiplication of superior genetic stock. According to the National Dairy Development Board, Multiple Ovulation and Embryo Transfer (MOET) technology can produce 10–20 calves annually from a superior female animal, compared with roughly one calf through conventional

³³⁰ Embryo Transfer Technology (ETT) is an advanced reproductive technique where multiple embryos are non-surgically harvested from a genetically superior donor cow following hormone-induced superovulation and insemination, and transferred into synchronised surrogate cows. This maximises elite livestock reproduction, allowing a single high-quality female to produce dozens of calves annually without genetic contribution from the recipient cow.

³³¹ [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

³³² [The Kerala Bovine Breeding Act, 2024.](#)

³³³ [Odisha Bovine Breeding Policy, 2015.](#)

A. Cattle Breed Improvement Through Embryo Transfer Technology (ETT) Pilot Project

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

reproduction.³³⁴

- b. Uttarakhand produced 1.96 million tonnes of milk in 2025-26, growing by 3.1% over the previous year.³³⁵ Embryo transfer can support further growth by increasing the number of high-yielding animals rather than relying only on herd expansion.
- c. India's average milk productivity was 2,251 kg per animal annually in 2024-25,³³⁶ compared with over 10,000 kg per cow³³⁷ annually in high-productivity dairy systems such as the United States and Israel. This wide productivity gap highlights the need for faster genetic improvement, which the project seeks to address by multiplying high-genetic-merit cattle through embryo transfer technology.
- d. Structuring the field program through a formal 50% female calf risk-sharing contract between the Uttarakhand Livestock Development Board (ULDB) and local farmers represents a positive administrative incentive design. The high upfront cost of executing an embryo flush, running approximately ₹ 40,000 per donor operation, is entirely absorbed by the state's corpus fund, completely removing the financial entry barrier for low-income rural households.

³³⁴ [National Dairy Development Board.](#)

³³⁵ [The Times Of India, March, 2026.](#)

³³⁶ [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

³³⁷ [Israel Dairy, 2026.](#)

VIII. Sikkim

A. Himalayan Specialty Coffee Impact District Initiative, 2026

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

1. On 24th June 2026, the Government of Sikkim launched India's first Himalayan Specialty Coffee Impact District in North Sikkim through a public-private partnership involving the Department of Horticulture, AgrImpact Ventures, SocioLadder Group, and the Coffee Board of India.
2. The initiative aims to establish a **globally competitive specialty coffee ecosystem** while leveraging Sikkim's internationally recognised organic farming credentials to diversify the state's premium agricultural economy.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The initiative establishes an integrated specialty coffee value chain covering high-altitude nurseries, farmer training, processing facilities, branding, and access to international markets.
 - b. A public-private partnership framework assigns policy support and institutional coordination to the Department of Horticulture, technical expertise and investment facilitation to AgrImpact Ventures and SocioLadder Group, and research, extension services, and market support to the Coffee Board of India.
 - c. Farmers, Government agencies, private investors, and market partners will be integrated through the Agricultural Impact District model to create a coordinated rural development framework.
 - d. The Coffee Board of India will provide quality planting material, technical guidance, capacity-building, and market support to facilitate specialty coffee cultivation.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The initiative aligns with the Central Government's emphasis on promoting high-value horticulture, post-harvest infrastructure, and value addition through the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).³³⁸
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Andhra Pradesh³³⁹ and Odisha,³⁴⁰ have promoted specialty coffee cultivation through value chain development, processing, branding, market access, and partnerships with the Coffee Board of India.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The initiative assumes significance as it expands coffee cultivation into a new agro-climatic region. Coffee production in India has traditionally been concentrated in the southern states of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, which

³³⁸ [Mission For Integrated Development Of Horticulture \(MIDH\), The Government Of India.](#)

³³⁹ [The Times Of India, September, 2025.](#)

³⁴⁰ [The Times Of India, May, 2025.](#)

A. Himalayan Specialty Coffee Impact District Initiative, 2026

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

together account for over 95% of national production,³⁴¹ while commercial coffee cultivation has remained negligible in Sikkim. By establishing India's first Himalayan Specialty Coffee Impact District, the state seeks to diversify beyond its traditional high-value crops such as large cardamom and Sikkim Mandarin into premium specialty coffee, creating an entirely new agricultural value chain rather than expanding an existing one.³⁴²

- b. The initiative also builds upon Sikkim's established organic agriculture ecosystem to create a premium export niche. Since becoming India's first fully organic state in 2016,³⁴³ Sikkim has brought around 75,000 hectares under certified organic cultivation and received international recognition through the FAO Future Policy Gold Award.³⁴⁴
- c. Specialty coffee, when combined with Sikkim's organic certification, Himalayan origin and traceability, can command premium prices in global markets, providing the state with a distinct competitive advantage in high-value agricultural exports while increasing value addition from its limited cultivable land.
- d. The initiative is also significant because it adopts the Agricultural Impact District model,³⁴⁵ moving beyond conventional crop promotion towards integrated value-chain development. By bringing together Government agencies, the Coffee Board, private investors and market partners, the model seeks to generate first-order gains through higher farm productivity, second-order gains through processing, branding and value addition, and third-order benefits by integrating Sikkim into premium domestic and international coffee markets.
- e. Nonetheless, specialty coffee cultivation requires stringent quality control, skilled post-harvest processing, certification and stable access to premium markets. The Coffee Board has also advised cultivating multiple coffee varieties instead of relying solely on Geisha Arabica,³⁴⁶ highlighting that long-term success will depend on agronomic suitability, consistent quality and sustained buyer networks.

³⁴¹ [PIB, November, 2025.](#)

³⁴² [Horticulture Department, The Government Of Sikkim.](#)

³⁴³ [The Indian Express, December, 2016.](#)

³⁴⁴ [Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority \(APEDA\).](#)

³⁴⁵ The Agricultural Impact District Model is a regional planning framework designed to protect farmland from urban sprawl, evaluate agronomic policy, or optimise localised crop management. It defines specific geographic boundaries for targeted sustainable farming interventions.

³⁴⁶ Coffee cultivated in Sikkim is expected to comprise primarily high-altitude Arabica varieties, including Geisha, Selection 9, Chandragiri and Cauvery, which are better suited to cooler Himalayan conditions. Robusta, which requires warmer and lower elevations, is generally unsuitable for Sikkim's agro-climatic conditions.

IX. Andhra Pradesh

A. Fund Allocation Under Sarvasreyonidhi Scheme

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

1. On 22nd June, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Government announced the allocation of over ₹ 813 crore under the Sarvasreyonidhi scheme for the development of 692 neglected ancient temples across the state.
2. The scheme aims to **revive and develop** neglected ancient temples across Andhra Pradesh by strengthening temple infrastructure, preserving religious heritage, improving facilities for devotees, and safeguarding temple assets through targeted investments, enhanced ritual funding, and digital asset management.
3. **Key Features** -
 - a. Annual financial assistance for 'Dhoopa Deepa Naivedya' (ritual observances) in 6,137 temples will be increased from ₹ 35 crore to ₹ 73 crore.
 - b. An allocation of ₹ 750 crore is provided for the construction of 5,000 Srivani Bhajan Mandirs (worship centres) in partnership with Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD).
 - c. Land records covering approximately 4.5 lakh acres of temple-owned land across 22,672 temples will be digitised using blockchain technology.
 - d. Devotee welfare measures will expand Annaprasada Vitarana (subsidised meals) to approximately 3 crore annual beneficiaries across 111 major temples
4. **Central Scheme Alignment** - The scheme broadly aligns with the objectives of the PRASHAD Scheme,³⁴⁷ which supports the integrated development of pilgrimage destinations through infrastructure development, heritage conservation, and improved facilities for devotees.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Odisha³⁴⁸ have implemented a scheme for the restoration and preservation of temples, while Tamil Nadu³⁴⁹ has undertaken state-led initiatives for temple restoration, heritage conservation, and the development of religious infrastructure through their respective endowment administration frameworks.
6. **Relevance** -
 - a. The scheme assumes significance given Andhra Pradesh's religious and cultural heritage footprint. The state is home to 22,672 temples under the Endowments Department,³⁵⁰ with tourism currently contributing 4.6% of the state's Gross Value

³⁴⁷ [Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive \(PRASHAD\) Scheme, PIB.](#)

³⁴⁸ [Debalaya Prakalpa Scheme, The Government Of Odisha.](#)

³⁴⁹ [Temple Conservation and Restoration Works, The Government Of Tamil Nadu.](#)

³⁵⁰ [The Economic Times, June, 2023.](#)

A. Fund Allocation Under Sarvasreyonidhi Scheme

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

- Added (GVA), and the state aims to increase this to 8% by 2029.³⁵¹
- b. The scheme is rooted in the recognition that while major pilgrimage centres such as Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams attract substantial revenues and devotee footfall, a large proportion of Andhra Pradesh's temple ecosystem comprises small and medium temples with limited financial resources despite their historical and cultural significance. The scheme seeks to address this asymmetry through targeted public support.
 - c. Treating historic cultural assets as productive public infrastructure is an excellent decentralised growth strategy. While heavy industrial capital naturally clusters around major corporate coastal zones, religious tourism flows follow historical paths directly into smaller interior towns and rural taluks. Prioritising targeted infrastructure upgrades, enhanced devotee facilities, and wide-scale free meal programs stimulates underutilised local hospitality markets, generating steady employment across small-scale transport and regional commerce networks.³⁵²
 - d. The scheme forms part of a broader restructuring of temple governance and support systems. Alongside the ₹ 813 crore allocation, the Government announced the expansion of the Sri Venkateswara Alaya Nirmana (SRIVANI) Trust initiative to support temple construction and development activities and strengthened the Annaprasada Vitarana programme to improve free meal distribution for devotees (constituting 3 crore annual beneficiaries).³⁵³

³⁵¹ [Andhra Pradesh Tourism Policy 2024-29.](#)

³⁵² [KPMG, Heritage Tourism As A Tool For Sustainable Tourism.](#)

³⁵³ [The Economic Times, June, 2026.](#)

X. Arunachal Pradesh

A. Chief Minister' Comprehensive State Rural Road Development Programme (CM-CSRRDP), 2026

Source: [Arunachal 24](#) | Impact: High

1. On 17th June 2026, the Arunachal Pradesh Cabinet approved the Chief Minister's Comprehensive State Rural Road Development Programme (CM-CSRRDP) with a ₹ 2,000 crore outlay, operationalizing a key announcement from this year's state budget.
2. The program aims to improve rural connectivity by providing **all-weather road access** to unserved habitations with populations below 250, strengthening transport infrastructure in remote regions, and enhancing access to public services and economic opportunities across Arunachal Pradesh.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The budget outlay targets connectivity for 1,129 unserved habitations through the expansion of all-weather road networks by 2029.
 - b. The projects under the program would involve the construction of approximately 6,567 kilometres of rural roads to improve access in remote and underserved regions.
 - c. It prioritises coverage for habitations with populations below 250 that remain outside existing road-connectivity networks.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The program aligns with the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), which seeks to provide all-weather road connectivity to rural habitations and improve rural infrastructure access across India.³⁵⁴
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. The program builds upon a substantial existing road-development effort rather than initiating a new connectivity agenda. Arunachal Pradesh has already completed 1,254 of 1,309 sanctioned roads under PMGSY,^{355,356} while major investments through the Trans-Arunachal Highway³⁵⁷ and Border Roads Organisation projects³⁵⁸ have significantly expanded regional connectivity. However, the persistence of 1,129 unconnected habitations, primarily small and geographically isolated settlements, indicates that conventional population-based infrastructure programs have not fully addressed last-mile connectivity gaps.
 - b. The program also aims to address the prevailing connectivity gap by departing from the population-threshold logic that has historically guided rural road

³⁵⁴ [Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana \(PMGSY\), Ministry Of Rural Development, The Government Of India.](#)

³⁵⁵ [The Economic Times, May, 2026.](#)

³⁵⁶ [PM Gram Sadak Yojna.](#)

³⁵⁷ [National Highways And Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited.](#)

³⁵⁸ [MyGov.](#)

A. Chief Minister' Comprehensive State Rural Road Development Programme (CM-CSRRDP), 2026

Source: [Arunachal 24](#) | Impact: High

investments. Even PMGSY-IV, while relaxing eligibility norms for North-Eastern states, continues to operate through habitation-based criteria.³⁵⁹ Arunachal Pradesh's decision reflects a recognition that spatial isolation rather than population size is often the more relevant determinant of infrastructure deprivation in frontier regions.

- c. The ground-level deployment of infrastructure planning across 1,129 unconnected habitations provides a vital foundation for a frontier state like Arunachal Pradesh. The economic base built on top of the 6567 kilometers of reliable roads can enable the state to drive balanced growth, helping to retain populations within sensitive border zones.
- d. Notably, investing ₹ 2,000 crore across three financial years requires highly efficient asset management, as mountain infrastructure development often carries high construction premiums. Building across steep ridges and deep valleys can see a significant portion of project budgets consumed by heavy excavation and slope-clearing costs.
- e. The primary technical hazard threatening the long-term success of the road network is the intense environmental strain caused by the region's climate. The state's young, unstable mountain ranges experience high rainfall cycles that can rapidly trigger devastating landslides, frequently blocking or damaging unprotected road links.

³⁵⁹ Under PMGSY, rural road connectivity has historically been prioritised for habitations meeting prescribed population thresholds, generally 250 persons in North-Eastern and hill states. However, Arunachal Pradesh's exceptionally low population density of approximately 17 persons per sq km and highly dispersed settlement pattern mean that many geographically isolated habitations fall below these thresholds despite facing severe connectivity deficits.

Notes



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