

STATES IN MOTION

What's Happening In Indian States



16th May - 31st May

MAY 2026 | VOLUME II

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Key Announcements

This document tracks the various key policy and reform decisions taken by state Governments and UTs between **16th May, 2026 to 31st May, 2026.**

Reform Decisions

I. Assam

A. **Uniform Civil Code Bill:** The Assam Government passed the Uniform Civil Code Bill, 2026, establishing a common legal framework for marriage, divorce, succession, and live-in relationships while excluding Scheduled Tribes. The Bill mandates monogamy, introduces compulsory registration of marriages and live-in relationships, and provides uniform inheritance and divorce provisions with penalties for non-compliance.

II. Haryana

A. **One-Time Waiver Scheme For Property Tax Interest and Penalty Arrears:** The Haryana Government has introduced a one-time waiver scheme for Urban Local Bodies, offering a 100% waiver on interest and penalty arrears on pending property tax dues since 2010 if principal dues are paid by 30th June, 2026. The scheme aims to accelerate recovery of long-pending municipal tax arrears and improve voluntary tax compliance.

B. **Aggregator Safety And Clean Mobility Regulatory Framework, 2026:** The Haryana Government has mandated a ₹ 5 lakh accident insurance cover for cab passengers and enhanced insurance protection for drivers under revised aggregator licensing rules. The new framework also requires safety equipment in commercial vehicles, 24×7 control rooms, and cleaner-fuel adoption for aggregator and delivery vehicles operating in NCR districts.

III. Bihar

A. **Land Record Digitisation And Mutation Disposal:** The Bihar Government has directed district administrations to dispose of nearly 48,000 pending mutation and e-measurement cases through a time-bound mechanism and close monitoring. Simultaneously, it is expanding online mutation, jamabandi, and lagan payment services as part of the state's ongoing land records digitisation programme.

IV. Maharashtra

A. **Revision Of Reservation Recruitment Rules:** The Maharashtra Government approved revised recruitment rules under which reserved category candidates availing relaxations related to age, educational qualifications, experience, or examination attempts will be counted only against reserved-category vacancies and will not be eligible for adjustment against open-category posts. Candidates who do not avail such relaxations will remain eligible for selection in the open category on merit, while fee concessions alone will not affect open category eligibility.

Key Announcements

V. Ladakh

A. **Extension Of Industry Benefits To Hotels And Guest Houses:** The Ladakh administration has granted industry status to 1,257 registered hotels and guest houses from 1st June, 2026, enabling them to avail industrial tariffs for electricity and water. The decision also extends eligibility for concessional loans, subsidies, and industrial incentives, with electricity tariffs reduced from ₹ 5.49 to ₹ 4.10 per unit.

VI. Tripura

A. **Completion Of Phase-II Deregulation Reforms:** The Government of Tripura completed all 51 priority reform areas under the National Compliance Reduction and Deregulation Initiative, comprising 23 reforms in Phase-I and 28 reforms in Phase-II. The reforms include self-certification-based land-use approvals, strengthened single-window clearances, simplified environmental and tourism regulations, a single nodal mechanism for interstate registration of medical professionals, and a centralised e-Gazette system.

VII. Karnataka

A. **Revision of Minimum Wages, 2026:** The Karnataka Labour Department notified the Karnataka Minimum Wages Revision Notification, 2026, revising minimum wages by an average of 60% across 83 scheduled employments. The notification introduces a three-zone wage structure, mandates skill-based wage categories, and fixes wages up to ₹ 31,114 per month for highly skilled workers in Zone 1.

Policy Level Announcements

I. Haryana

A. **Make In Haryana Industrial Policy, 2026:** The Haryana Government has approved the Make in Haryana Industrial Policy, 2026, targeting ₹ 5 lakh crore in investments and 10 lakh jobs over the next five years. The policy introduces enhanced incentives, including SGST reimbursements and employment subsidies, while prioritising sectors such as semiconductors, electronics, AI, pharmaceuticals, data centres, and green industries.

II. Rajasthan

A. **Industrial Development Policy, 2026:** Rajasthan's new industrial development policy targets a \$ 350 billion (₹ 3,346.64 crore) state economy by 2028–29 through industrial expansion, infrastructure creation, and greater private-sector participation. The policy prioritises MSMEs, ODOP-linked manufacturing, export-oriented industries, and talent development to strengthen the state's industrial competitiveness.

III. Karnataka

A. **Alcohol-in-Beverage (AiB) Excise Policy:** The Government of Karnataka implemented an Alcohol-in-Beverage (AiB) taxation policy from 11th May, 2026, replacing the bulk

Key Announcements

litre-based excise system with an alcohol-content-based taxation model. The policy reduces excise classification slabs from 16 to 8 and revises liquor taxation and retail pricing based on alcohol content, lowering prices for mild beers while increasing prices for lower-cost Indian Made Liquor (IML) products.

Social Sector Announcements

I. Chhattishgarh

A. **The 'Jan Bhagidari – Sabse Door, Sabse Pehle' Campaign In Tribal Areas:** The “Jan Bhagidari – Sabse Door, Sabse Pehle” campaign targets remote tribal villages covered under PM-JANMAN and Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, bringing welfare services directly to underserved communities. The initiative includes grievance-redressal camps, health screenings for diseases such as sickle cell anemia and tuberculosis, and service delivery through Aadi Seva Kendras.

II. Kerala

A. **Free Bus Travel For Women In KSRTC:** The Kerala Government approved free bus travel for women in Kerala State Road Transportation Corporation (KSRTC) services. Under the scheme, women will be eligible for free travel on KSRTC bus services across the state from 15 June 2026, reducing daily commuting costs. The initiative forms part of the UDF Government’s “Indira Guarantee” commitments outlined in its election manifesto. The initiative forms part of the UDF Government’s “Indira Guarantee” commitments outlined in its election manifesto. Detailed operational guidelines for implementation will be issued separately.

Investment Announcements

I. Odisha

A. **Semiconductor Substrate Manufacturing Facility In Odisha:** The Odisha Government has signed an MoU to establish a \$ 3.3 billion (₹ 31,347.57 crore) semiconductor substrate manufacturing facility in the Bhubaneswar–Khurda region, focusing on advanced glass-core and HDI semiconductor substrates. The project, expected to create over 1,800 high-skilled jobs, marks Intel's first semiconductor manufacturing project in India and strengthens the country's semiconductor packaging value chain.

Other Decisions

I. West Bengal

A. **Discontinuation Of Religion-Based Welfare Assistance Schemes:** The West Bengal Cabinet has approved the discontinuation of religion-based honorarium schemes, ending monthly financial assistance to around 65,000 imams, muezzins, and temple priests from June 2026. Budgetary allocations under these schemes will be

Key Announcements

restructured, while student scholarships and general welfare programs will continue unchanged.

- B. **In-Principle Approval For The Implementation Of The 7th Pay Commission:** The West Bengal Government has accorded in-principle approval for implementing the 7th Pay Commission, replacing the existing ROPA 2019 framework for state employees and pensioners. The move will revise salaries, pensions, allowances, and retirement benefits across state departments, aided institutions, boards, and corporations.

II. Karnataka

- A. **5,000 Crore Action Plan For Kalyana Karnataka Region:** The Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board has approved the utilisation plan for the Karnataka Government's ₹ 5,000 crore allocation for 2026-27, including ₹ 1,500 crore for Budget-announced schemes, ₹ 100 crore for higher education, ₹ 450 crore under regional and discretionary funds, and ₹ 50 crore for administrative expenses. The allocation accelerates infrastructure development, improves social sector outcomes, and promotes balanced economic growth across the Kalyana Karnataka region.

मुख्य घोषणाएं

यह लेख 16 मई, 2026 से 31 मई, 2026 के बीच राज्य सरकारों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों (UTs) द्वारा लिए गए विभिन्न प्रमुख नीतिगत और सुधार निर्णयों को ट्रैक करता है।

सुधार निर्णय

I. असम

- A. **समान नागरिक संहिता (UCC) बिल:** असम सरकार ने समान नागरिक संहिता बिल, 2026 पारित किया है। यह अनुसूचित जनजातियों (ST) को छोड़कर विवाह, तलाक, उत्तराधिकार और लिव-इन रिलेशनशिप के लिए एक समान कानूनी ढांचा स्थापित करता है। यह बिल एक विवाह (मोनोगैमी) को अनिवार्य बनाता है, विवाह और लिव-इन रिलेशनशिप के पंजीकरण को जरूरी करता है, और नियम न मानने पर जुर्माने के साथ एक समान विरासत और तलाक के प्रावधान प्रदान करता है।

II. हरियाणा

- A. **प्रॉपर्टी टैक्स के ब्याज और जुर्माने के बकाये पर वन-टाइम छूट योजना:** हरियाणा सरकार ने शहरी स्थानीय निकायों के लिए एक वन-टाइम छूट योजना शुरू की है। इसके अंतर्गत, यदि 30 जून 2026 तक मूल बकाया राशि का भुगतान कर दिया जाता है, तो 2010 से लंबित प्रॉपर्टी टैक्स पर लगे ब्याज और जुर्माने पर 100% की छूट दी जाएगी। इस योजना का उद्देश्य लंबे समय से लंबित नगर निगम कर की वसूली में तेजी लाना और लोगों को स्वेच्छा से टैक्स भरने के लिए प्रेरित करना है।
- B. **एग्रीगेटर सेफ्टी और क्लीन मोबिलिटी रेगुलेटरी फ्रेमवर्क, 2026:** हरियाणा सरकार ने एग्रीगेटर लाइसेंसिंग नियमों में बदलाव करते हुए कैब यात्रियों के लिए ₹5 लाख का दुर्घटना बीमा कवर और ड्राइवरों के लिए बेहतर बीमा सुरक्षा अनिवार्य कर दी है। नए ढांचे के अंतर्गत एन.सी.आर (NCR) जिलों में चलने वाले एग्रीगेटर और डिलीवरी वाहनों के लिए कर्मर्शियल वाहनों में सुरक्षा उपकरण, 24x7 कंट्रोल रूम और स्वच्छ ईंधन अपनाना भी आवश्यक है।

III. बिहार

- A. **भूमि रिकॉर्ड का डिजिटलीकरण और दाखिल-खारिज (म्यूटेशन) निपटारा:** बिहार सरकार ने जिला प्रशासन को लगभग 48,000 लंबित दाखिल-खारिज और ई-मापी मामलों को समय सीमा के भीतर और कड़ी निगरानी के अनुरूप निपटाने का निर्देश दिया है। इसके साथ ही, राज्य के चल रहे भूमि रिकॉर्ड डिजिटलीकरण कार्यक्रम के हिस्से के रूप में ऑनलाइन दाखिल-खारिज, जमाबंदी और लगान भुगतान सेवाओं का विस्तार किया जा रहा है।

IV. महाराष्ट्र

मुख्य घोषणाएं

- A. **आरक्षण भर्ती नियमों में संशोधन:** महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने संशोधित भर्ती नियमों को स्वीकृति दी है। इसके अंतर्गत, आयु, शैक्षणिक योग्यता, अनुभव या परीक्षा के प्रयासों में छूट का लाभ लेने वाले आरक्षित श्रेणी के उम्मीदवारों को केवल आरक्षित पदों के लिए गिना जाएगा और वे ओपन-कैटेगरी (अनारक्षित) पदों के लिए योग्य नहीं होंगे। जो उम्मीदवार ऐसी छूट का लाभ नहीं लेते हैं, वे अपनी मेरिट (योग्यता) के आधार पर ओपन कैटेगरी में चयन के पात्र रहेंगे, जबकि केवल फीस में छूट लेने से ओपन कैटेगरी की योग्यता पर कोई असर नहीं पड़ेगा।

V. लद्दाख

- A. **होटलों और गेस्ट हाउसों को उद्योग के लाभों का विस्तार:** लद्दाख प्रशासन ने 1 जून 2026 से 1,257 पंजीकृत होटलों और गेस्ट हाउसों को 'उद्योग' का दर्जा दिया है। इससे वे बिजली और पानी के लिए औद्योगिक दरों का लाभ उठा सकेंगे। यह निर्णय उन्हें रियायती ऋण, सब्सिडी और औद्योगिक प्रोत्साहन के लिए भी योग्य बनाता है, जिसमें बिजली की दरें ₹5.49 से घटाकर ₹4.10 प्रति यूनिट कर दी गई हैं।

VI. त्रिपुरा

- A. **चरण-II विनियमन (Deregulation) सुधारों को पूरा करना:** त्रिपुरा सरकार ने राष्ट्रीय अनुपालन न्यूनीकरण और विनियमन पहल के अंतर्गत सभी 51 प्राथमिकता वाले सुधार क्षेत्रों को पूरा कर लिया है, जिसमें चरण-I में 23 सुधार और चरण-II में 28 सुधार शामिल हैं। इन सुधारों में स्व-प्रमाणन (सेल्फ-सर्टिफिकेशन) आधारित भूमि-उपयोग अनुमोदन, मजबूत सिंगल-विंडो क्लियरेंस, सरल पर्यावरण और पर्यटन नियम, चिकित्सा पेशेवरों के अंतरराज्यीय पंजीकरण के लिए एक सिंगल नोडल तंत्र और एक केंद्रीकृत ई-गजट प्रणाली शामिल हैं।

VII. कर्नाटक

- A. **न्यूनतम मजदूरी में संशोधन, 2026:** कर्नाटक श्रम विभाग ने कर्नाटक न्यूनतम मजदूरी संशोधन अधिसूचना, 2026 जारी की है, जिसमें 83 अनुसूचित रोजगारों में न्यूनतम मजदूरी में औसतन 60% का संशोधन किया गया है। यह अधिसूचना तीन-ज़ोन वेतन संरचना पेश करती है, कौशल-आधारित वेतन श्रेणियों को अनिवार्य करती है, और ज़ोन 1 में अत्यधिक कुशल श्रमिकों के लिए मजदूरी ₹31,114 प्रति माह तक तय करती है।

नीति स्तर की घोषणाएं

I. हरियाणा

- A. **मेक इन हरियाणा औद्योगिक नीति, 2026:** हरियाणा सरकार ने 'मेक इन हरियाणा औद्योगिक नीति, 2026' को स्वीकृति दे दी है। इसका लक्ष्य अगले पांच वर्षों में ₹5 लाख करोड़ का निवेश और 10 लाख नौकरियां पैदा करना है। यह नीति एस.जी.एस.टी (SGST) रिफंड और रोजगार सब्सिडी सहित बेहतर प्रोत्साहन पेश करती है। साथ ही, यह

मुख्य घोषणाएं

सेमीकंडक्टर, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, एआई (AI), फार्मास्यूटिकल्स, डेटा सेंटर और हरित उद्योगों (green industries) जैसे क्षेत्रों को प्राथमिकता देती है।

II. राजस्थान

A. **औद्योगिक विकास नीति, 2026:** राजस्थान की नई औद्योगिक विकास नीति का लक्ष्य औद्योगिक विस्तार, बुनियादी ढांचे के निर्माण और निजी क्षेत्र की अधिक भागीदारी के माध्यम से 2028-29 तक राज्य की अर्थव्यवस्था को \$350 बिलियन (₹3,346.64 करोड़) तक पहुंचाना है। यह नीति राज्य की औद्योगिक प्रतिस्पर्धा को मजबूत करने के लिए एम.एस.एम.ई (MSME), ओ.डी.ओ.पी (ODOP) से जुड़े निर्माण, निर्यात-उन्मुख उद्योगों और प्रतिभा विकास को प्राथमिकता देती है।

III. कर्नाटक

A. **अल्कोहल-इन-बेवरेज (AiB) आबकारी (Excise) नीति:** कर्नाटक सरकार ने 11 मई, 2026 से अल्कोहल-इन-बेवरेज (AiB) कराधान नीति लागू की है। इसने बल्क लीटर-आधारित आबकारी प्रणाली की जगह अल्कोहल-मात्रा-आधारित टैक्स मॉडल को अपना लिया है। यह नीति आबकारी वर्गीकरण स्लैब को 16 से घटाकर 8 कर देती है। साथ ही, यह अल्कोहल की मात्रा के आधार पर शराब पर टैक्स और खुदरा मूल्य निर्धारण में संशोधन करती है, जिससे हल्की बीयर की कीमतें कम हो जाती हैं जबकि कम लागत वाले इंडियन मेड लिक्वर (IML) उत्पादों की कीमतें बढ़ जाती हैं।

सामाजिक क्षेत्र की घोषणाएं

I. छत्तीसगढ़

A. **आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में 'जन भागीदारी - सबसे दूर, सबसे पहले' अभियान:** "जन भागीदारी - सबसे दूर, सबसे पहले" अभियान पीएम-जनमन (PM-JANMAN) और धरती आबा जनजातीय ग्राम उत्कर्ष अभियान के अंतर्गत आने वाले दूरदराज के आदिवासी गांवों को लक्षित करता है। यह वंचित समुदायों तक सीधे कल्याणकारी सेवाएं पहुंचाता है। इस पहल में शिकायत-निवारण शिविर, सिकल सेल एनीमिया और तपेदिक (टीबी) जैसी बीमारियों के लिए स्वास्थ्य जांच, और 'आदि सेवा केंद्रों' के माध्यम से सेवा वितरण शामिल है।

II. केरल

A. **KSRTC में महिलाओं के लिए मुफ्त बस यात्रा:** केरल सरकार ने केरल राज्य सड़क परिवहन निगम (KSRTC) की सेवाओं में महिलाओं के लिए मुफ्त बस यात्रा को स्वीकृति दे दी है। इस योजना के अंतर्गत, महिलाएं 15 जून 2026 से राज्य भर में KSRTC बस सेवाओं पर मुफ्त यात्रा के लिए पात्र होंगी, जिससे उनके दैनिक आने-जाने का खर्च कम

मुख्य घोषणाएं

होगा। यह पहल यू.डी.एफ (UDF) सरकार के चुनाव घोषणापत्र में बताए गए "इंदिरा गारंटी" वादों का हिस्सा है। यह पहल यू.डी.एफ (UDF) सरकार के चुनाव घोषणापत्र में बताए गए "इंदिरा गारंटी" वादों का हिस्सा है। इसे लागू करने के लिए विस्तृत परिचालन दिशा-निर्देश अलग से जारी किए जाएंगे।

निवेश घोषणाएं

I. ओडिशा

- A. **ओडिशा में सेमीकंडक्टर सब्सट्रेट विनिर्माण सुविधा:** ओडिशा सरकार ने भुवनेश्वर-खोरधा क्षेत्र में \$3.3 बिलियन (₹ 31,347.57 करोड़) की सेमीकंडक्टर सब्सट्रेट विनिर्माण (मैन्युफैक्चरिंग) सुविधा स्थापित करने के लिए एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। यह उन्नत ग्लास-कोर और एच.डी.आई (HDI) सेमीकंडक्टर सब्सट्रेट पर केंद्रित है। इस परियोजना से 1,800 से अधिक उच्च-कुशल रोजगार पैदा होने की उम्मीद है। यह भारत में इंटेल (Intel) की पहली सेमीकंडक्टर विनिर्माण परियोजना है और देश की सेमीकंडक्टर पैकेजिंग वैल्यू चेन को मजबूत करती है।

अन्य निर्णय

I. पश्चिम बंगाल

- A. **धर्म-आधारित कल्याणकारी सहायता योजनाओं को बंद करना:** पश्चिम बंगाल कैबिनेट ने धर्म-आधारित मानदेय योजनाओं को बंद करने की स्वीकृति दे दी है। इसके अंतर्गत जून 2026 से लगभग 65,000 इमामों, मुअज्जिनों और मंदिर के पुजारियों को मिलने वाली मासिक वित्तीय सहायता समाप्त कर दी जाएगी। इन योजनाओं के अंतर्गत बजटीय आवंटन का पुनर्गठन किया जाएगा, जबकि छात्र छात्रवृत्ति और सामान्य कल्याण कार्यक्रम बिना किसी बदलाव के जारी रहेंगे।
- B. **7वें वेतन आयोग को लागू करने के लिए सैद्धांतिक स्वीकृति :** पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार ने राज्य कर्मचारियों और पेंशनभोगियों के लिए मौजूदा ROPA 2019 ढांचे की जगह 7वें वेतन आयोग को लागू करने के लिए सैद्धांतिक (in-principle) स्वीकृति दे दी है। इस कदम से राज्य के विभागों, सहायता प्राप्त संस्थानों, बोर्डों और निगमों में वेतन, पेंशन, भत्ते और सेवानिवृत्ति लाभों में संशोधन होगा।

II. कर्नाटक

- A. **कल्याण कर्नाटक क्षेत्र के लिए 5,000 करोड़ रुपये की कार्य योजना:** कल्याण कर्नाटक क्षेत्रीय विकास बोर्ड ने 2026-27 के लिए कर्नाटक सरकार के ₹5,000 करोड़ के आवंटन की उपयोग योजना को स्वीकृति दे दी है। इसमें बजट में घोषित योजनाओं के लिए ₹1,500 करोड़, उच्च शिक्षा के लिए ₹100 करोड़, क्षेत्रीय और विवेकाधीन निधि के

मुख्य घोषणाएं

अंतर्गत ₹450 करोड़ और प्रशासनिक खर्चों के लिए ₹50 करोड़ शामिल हैं। यह आवंटन बुनियादी ढांचे के विकास में तेजी लाता है, सामाजिक क्षेत्र के परिणामों में सुधार करता है, और पूरे कल्याण कर्नाटक क्षेत्र में संतुलित आर्थिक विकास को बढ़ावा देता है।

Reform Decisions

I. Assam

A. Uniform Civil Code Bill, 2026

Source: [The Government Of Assam, Legislative Brief On Uniform Civil Code Assam, 2026](#) | **Impact:** High

1. On 27th May, 2026, the Assam Government passed the Uniform Civil Code Bill, 2026 in the Assam Legislative Assembly.
2. The Bill seeks to replace religion-based personal laws with a common legal framework for marriage, divorce, succession, and live-in relationships, while preserving constitutional protections for Scheduled Tribes.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. **Applicability:** The Bill establishes a uniform legal framework for marriage, divorce, succession, wills, and live-in relationships applicable to all residents irrespective of religion, while excluding Scheduled Tribes as defined under Article 366(25)¹ read with Article 342,² to protect customary laws and practices safeguarded under the Sixth Schedule and Assam's special constitutional framework under Article 371B.
 - b. **Marriage Provisions:** It prescribes a minimum marriage age of 21 years for men and 18 years for women, mandates monogamy, requires registration of marriages within 60 days, and repeals the Assam Compulsory Registration of Muslim Marriages and Divorces Act, 2024.³
 - c. **Divorce And Succession:** The Bill provides uniform grounds for divorce, including cruelty, desertion, and mutual consent, grants equal inheritance rights to spouses, children, and parents under a gender-neutral Class-I heir framework, and permits written witnessed wills by adults of sound mind.
 - d. **Live-In Regulation:** It introduces compulsory registration of live-in relationships within 30 days, recognises children born from such relationships as legitimate as recognized by judicial decisions,⁴ and provides deserted partners the right to seek maintenance through courts.
 - e. **Penalties:** Notably, failure to register a marriage or divorce may attract a penalty of ₹ 10,000, while polygamy or bigamy may invite imprisonment of up to seven years. Non-registration of live-in relationships may attract imprisonment of up to three months or a fine of ₹ 10,000, and submission of forged documents may attract imprisonment of up to three months or a fine of ₹ 25,000.

¹ [Article 366\(25\), Constitution Of India.](#)

² [Article 342, Constitution Of India.](#)

³ [The Assam Compulsory Registration Of Muslim Marriages And Divorces Act, 2024.](#)

⁴ S.P.S. Balasubramanyam v. Suruttayan, (1994) AIR 133.

A. Uniform Civil Code Bill, 2026

Source: [The Government Of Assam, Legislative Brief On Uniform Civil Code Assam, 2026](#) | **Impact:** High

4. **Central Scheme Alignment** - The Bill aligns with Article 44 of the Constitution⁵, which directs the State to endeavour to secure a Uniform Civil Code for citizens.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Uttarakhand⁶ and Gujarat⁷ have adopted similar Uniform Civil Code frameworks regulating marriage, divorce, succession, and live-in relationships through a common civil law applicable across communities.
6. **Relevance** -
 - a. By replacing a fragmented system of community-specific personal laws with a standardised civil framework, the Bill resolves the long-standing problem of legal inconsistency and the marginalisation of vulnerable groups, especially muslim women. This unified approach ensures that every resident, regardless of faith, is governed by the same rules for marriage, divorce, and succession, effectively using the rule of law to eliminate discriminatory customary practices and provide equal legal standing for all.
 - b. According to state-level data, polygamy prevalence stands at 3.6% among Muslims, compared to 1.8% among Hindus and 1.8% among other religious communities.⁸ The Bill essentially ends polygamy in Assam, a state that has the sixth highest number of polygamous relationships (2.1%) with Biswanth and Kamirganj Districts at 4.2% each in 2019-2021.⁹ Additionally, polygamous loops frequently dilute household wealth, strip women of formal inheritance protections, and cause highly fragmented family properties. Banning the practice and implementing strict 7-year sentences gives women property security.
 - c. The Bill addresses the legal vacuum around live-in relationships by mandating their registration, recognising children born from registered or unregistered unions as legitimate, and granting deserted partners a statutory right to claim maintenance. It extends financial and legal protections beyond formal marriage, safeguards women against abandonment and exploitation, and brings previously unregulated domestic arrangements within a defined legal framework.
 - d. By ensuring equal inheritance and property rights for children born from such unions, the Bill also seeks to eliminate historical discrimination and strengthen their long-term social and economic security. However, compulsory registration

⁵ [Article 44, Constitution Of India.](#)

⁶ [Uniform Civil Code, Uttarakhand.](#)

⁷ [Uniform Civil Code, Gujarat.](#)

⁸ [The Print, May, 2023.](#)

⁹ [The Indian Express, November, 2025.](#)

A. Uniform Civil Code Bill, 2026

Source: [The Government Of Assam, Legislative Brief On Uniform Civil Code Assam, 2026](#) | **Impact:** High

may prompt concerns about privacy, personal autonomy, and the safeguarding of personal information.

II. Haryana

A. One-Time Waiver Scheme For Property Tax Interest and Penalty Arrears

Source: [Haryana One Time Waiver Of Property Tax, Hindustan Times](#) | **Impact:** High

1. On 15th May, 2026, a one-time waiver scheme was introduced for property tax interest and penalty arrears for Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in Haryana.
2. The scheme aims to encourage settlement of pending dues, improve tax compliance, and enhance municipal revenue collection.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. A one-time waiver has been provided on interest and penalty components related to pending property tax dues.
 - b. The scheme applies to property owners under ULBs in Haryana.
 - c. It aims to improve recovery of long-pending municipal tax arrears.
 - d. The waiver mechanism seeks to encourage voluntary compliance and reduce litigation related to property tax disputes.
 - e. A 100% waiver on interest on pending property tax dues since 2010, if payments are made by 30th June, 2026.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Similar one-time property tax waiver and settlement schemes have also been undertaken by Delhi,¹⁰ Andhra Pradesh,¹¹ and Punjab¹² to encourage clearance of pending municipal dues through waiver of interest and penalty components upon payment of principal tax liabilities.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. Haryana's industrial cities have historically faced weak municipal tax recovery,¹³ resulting in heavy dependence on state Government grants and State Finance Commission allocations. In cases where industrial hubs such as Panipat have missed a large share of their property tax collection targets,¹⁴ municipal finances have come under significant strain.
 - b. By incentivising settlement of pending dues, the scheme seeks to strengthen local revenue mobilisation and provide ULBs with additional fiscal resources to fund infrastructure and civic projects without adding to the state's fiscal deficit.
 - c. Municipal revenue systems previously faced compliance gaps and weak digital integration in tax recovery processes. In Panipat, non-integration of property data on the No Dues Certificate (NDC) portal was cited by Municipal Corporation (MC) officials as the primary reason behind only 30% recovery (₹ 14.70 crore) against a ₹

¹⁰ [Times Of India, May, 2025.](#)

¹¹ [Times Of India, March, 2026.](#)

¹² [Times Of India, August, 2025.](#)

¹³ [The Times Of India, June, 2025.](#)

¹⁴ [The Tribune, January, 2025.](#)

A. One-Time Waiver Scheme For Property Tax Interest and Penalty Arrears

Source: [Haryana One Time Waiver Of Property Tax, Hindustan Times](#) | **Impact:** High

40 crore target in 2022-23.¹⁵ The scheme strengthens digital payment and settlement systems during implementation, improving taxpayer accessibility and supporting more efficient, technology-driven urban revenue management in Haryana's ULBs.

- d. Lastly, as taxpayers must reconcile their accounts online to claim the waiver, the system updates property use shifts (e.g., residential units converted into commercial shops) in real time. This expands the state's sustainable tax collection potential by an estimated 22–25% for the next fiscal cycle.

¹⁵ [The Tribune, March, 2023.](#)

B. Aggregator Safety And Clean Mobility Regulatory Framework, 2026

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

1. On 18th May, 2026, Haryana Government made mandatory accident insurance coverage of ₹ 5 lakh for cab passengers under the revised aggregator licensing rules in Haryana.
2. The decision forms part of a broader overhaul of regulations governing cab aggregators, delivery platforms, and app-based transport services.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. As per the decision, cab aggregators have been mandated to provide a minimum accident insurance cover of ₹ 5 lakh for every passenger using app-based taxi services.
 - b. Further, aggregator platforms must provide drivers with health insurance coverage of at least ₹ 5 lakh and term insurance coverage of ₹ 10 lakh.
 - c. From January 2026 onwards, all new aggregator, delivery, and e-commerce vehicles operating in Haryana's NCR districts must use Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), electric, battery-operated, or other cleaner fuels.
 - d. As per the decision, commercial vehicles operating under aggregator platforms must be equipped with GPS-based vehicle tracking systems, panic buttons, first-aid kits, and fire extinguishers.
 - e. Further, aggregators are required to digitally verify drivers and vehicles through the VAHAN and SARATHI portals and maintain detailed digital records of all onboarded drivers and vehicles.
 - f. The framework mandates driver onboarding standards, induction and refresher training programmes, cyber-security compliance for aggregator applications, and regulation of fares.
 - g. The rules also contain provisions relating to driver welfare, inclusion of Divyangjan-friendly vehicles, and the gradual transition of fleets towards electric mobility.
 - h. Lastly, aggregators have been directed to establish 24×7 control rooms and customer-support centres for passenger safety monitoring, complaint handling, and grievance redressal.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment** - The Haryana framework aligns with the Central Government's Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines (MVAG) 2025¹⁶ norms on passenger insurance, driver welfare, safety systems, and cleaner-fuel adoption for app-based mobility platforms.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Similar frameworks have also been adopted in Delhi through the Delhi Motor Vehicle Aggregator and Delivery Service Provider

¹⁶ [MVAG, 2025](#).

B. Aggregator Safety And Clean Mobility Regulatory Framework, 2026

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

Scheme, 2023,¹⁷ in Maharashtra through the Maharashtra Motor Vehicle Aggregator Rules, 2025,¹⁸ and in Rajasthan through the Rajasthan Motor Vehicles Aggregator Scheme Rules, 2025,¹⁹ covering passenger safety, insurance, and fleet regulation standards.

6. Relevance -

- a. India's rapidly expanding gig economy has largely remained outside traditional social-security systems such as Employees' State Insurance (ESI) and Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) due to the contractor status of platform workers. Haryana's mandate of ₹ 5 lakh health insurance and ₹ 10 lakh term insurance for app-based drivers creates a formal welfare and social-security framework for gig workers operating on aggregator platforms.
- b. App-based transport services in Haryana previously operated without uniform passenger protection standards or mandatory accident compensation mechanisms.²⁰ The decision directly mandates ₹ 5 lakh accident insurance for passengers and ₹ 10 lakh term insurance for drivers, strengthening financial security and accountability in the platform mobility sector.
- c. Lastly, conventional fuel-based commercial fleets in NCR districts have contributed to worsening urban pollution and transport emissions.²¹ The decision directly restricts new aggregator fleet additions to CNG, electric, battery-operated, and other cleaner-fuel vehicles from January 2026, aligning app-based mobility growth with cleaner urban transport objectives.

¹⁷ [Delhi Motor Vehicle Aggregator Rules, 2023.](#)

¹⁸ [Maharashtra Motor Vehicle Aggregator Rules, 2025.](#)

¹⁹ [Rajasthan Motor Vehicles Aggregator Scheme Rules, 2025.](#)

²⁰ [Times Of India, May, 2026.](#)

²¹ [Times Of India, December, 2025.](#)

C. Standardised Appointment Rules And Facilities For Chairpersons And Vice-Chairpersons In Government Bodies

Source: [The Government Of Haryana, The Tribune](#) | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 27th May, 2026, the Haryana Government issued consolidated rules governing the appointment, tenure, honorarium, and facilities of non-official Chairpersons and Deputy/Vice-Chairpersons appointed in boards, corporations, and other Government bodies.
2. The framework has been introduced to standardise administrative provisions and ensure uniformity across such appointments in the state.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The consolidated framework standardises appointment conditions, tenure, honorarium, allowances, and facilities for non-official Chairpersons and Deputy/Vice-Chairpersons across Government bodies in Haryana.
 - b. It replaces a fragmented system where benefits were governed through scattered instructions and applied inconsistently across different bodies.
 - c. The tenure of office has been fixed at one year from the date of assuming charge, with the Government retaining powers to extend or curtail the tenure.
 - d. The framework benchmarks entitlements to fixed grades, including HRA of up to ₹50,000 or ₹45,000 per month (or actual rent paid, whichever is lower).
 - e. Telephone and medical facilities will be provided at par with Group-A officers, while TA/DA will be admissible at Grade-I officer rates.
 - f. It also provides house rent allowance, official vehicle facilities, travel allowance, telephone facilities, medical benefits, and supporting staff for eligible appointees.
 - g. The framework will apply to boards, corporations, and Government bodies where separate statutory rules do not already exist.
 - h. It aims to improve administrative uniformity, standardise institutional appointments, and streamline governance procedures across Government bodies in Haryana.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The framework aligns with broader administrative reform efforts focused on standardisation of public appointments, institutional accountability, uniform governance practices, transparency and greater efficiency²² across public bodies and organisations.²³
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** The measure complements administrative rationalisation initiatives adopted by states such as Rajasthan²⁴ and Gujarat²⁵ for

²² [My Gov, August, 2021.](#)

²³ [Department Of Administrative Reforms And Public Grievances.](#)

²⁴ [Economic Times, January, 2026.](#)

²⁵ [Gujarat Administrative Reforms Commission.](#)

C. Standardised Appointment Rules And Facilities For Chairpersons And Vice-Chairpersons In Government Bodies

Source: [The Government Of Haryana](#), [The Tribune](#) | Impact: Medium

standardising service conditions, tenure provisions, and institutional facilities across boards, corporations, and public authorities.²⁶

6. Relevance -

- a. Non-official appointments to state boards have historically been governed through varied departmental practices, often resulting in ad-hoc perk structures, administrative ambiguity, and uneven spending across public bodies.
- b. A consolidated framework helps standardise appointment conditions and facilities across departments and government bodies, improves compliance, and makes related expenditure more predictable and trackable.²⁷
- c. These bodies are largely headed by Members of Legislative Assemblies or ruling-party affiliates and previously ran on terms revised piecemeal rather than one published standard. The framework fixes a uniform one-year tenure from the date of assuming charge, which the Government may extend or curtail, alongside the standard pay-and-perks schedule. Essentially, tenure and cost become transparent and trackable, and the term is easier to align with administrative or performance needs.
- d. Lastly, transport expenses have historically been a major source of expenditure inflation across unmonitored state boards, driven by unrestricted fuel allocations and un-vetted private mileage. The framework introduces a hard operational cap, i.e., cars equivalent to Additional Chief Secretary rank are provided, but non-official users are restricted to a maximum ceiling of 5,000 kilometers per month for combined official travels, forcing immediate cost containment onto active transport boards.

²⁶ [Times Of India, October, 2025](#).

²⁷ [PRMS, May, 2026](#).

III. Bihar

A. Land Record Digitisation And Mutation Disposal

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

1. On 15th May, 2026, the Bihar Government initiated the disposal of nearly 48,000 pending land mutation and e-measurement cases while accelerating digital land record reforms across the state.
2. **Key Features** -
 - a. It mandates the district administrations to dispose of long-pending mutation and e-measurement cases within a fixed timeline.
 - b. The initiative focuses on the disposal of approximately 48,000 pending land-related cases across the state.
 - c. In parallel, it accelerates the digitisation and modernisation of land records as part of ongoing revenue administration reforms.
 - d. It further promotes online processing of mutation, jamabandi, lagan payment, and other land record management services.
 - e. Through these measures, the initiative seeks to enhance transparency, reduce procedural delays, and minimise land-related disputes through technology-enabled governance,
 - f. District officials have also been instructed to closely monitor pending cases and ensure timely disposal.
3. **Central Scheme Alignment** - The Central Government's Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP)²⁸ promotes digitisation of land records, online mutation services, and modernisation of revenue administration systems.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Similar land-record modernisation and pendency-clearance initiatives have also been undertaken in Karnataka through the Bhoomi digital land records system,²⁹ Madhya Pradesh through the MP Bhulekh program, and Uttar Pradesh through digitised mutation and online revenue court reforms under Uttar Pradesh Bhulekh.³⁰
5. **Relevance** -
 - a. Data from the Bihar Police Directorate (2025) indicates that nearly 60% of both minor and major crimes in the state are linked to land disputes, often driven by ambiguous boundary demarcation and delayed mutation proceedings.³¹ In this context, the disposal of around 48,000 pending high-dispute cases, including 8,688 unresolved cases in Patna alone,³² serves as an important pre-emptive public

²⁸ [DILRMP, Ministry Of Rural Development.](#)

²⁹ [Revenue Department, Government Of Karnataka.](#)

³⁰ [Bhulekh, Government Of Uttar Pradesh.](#)

³¹ [The Print, April, 2026.](#)

³² [Prop News Time, May, 2025.](#)

A. Land Record Digitisation And Mutation Disposal

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

safety measure.

- b. Pending mutation cases often render land assets financially unusable, as the absence of updated and digitally verified Jamabandi records restricts access to Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) and formal agricultural loans. By clearing nearly 48,000 such pending cases, the state seeks to improve rural credit access, enhance liquidity in the agrarian economy, and enable farmers to rely more on institutional finance ahead of the 2026 Kharif season.
- c. Historically, the Anchal (Circle) offices functioned as high-friction governance zones where files were manually delayed to extract economic rents.³³ By implementing Daily Digital Monitoring directly from Patna, the department is utilising state-level vertical tracking to overrule local bureaucratic friction, professionalising the lowest tiers of land administration.
- d. Land mutation applications were frequently pending far beyond the prescribed timelines of 35 days for undisputed cases and 75 days for disputed cases, with many remaining unresolved for over 120 days. By mandating time-bound disposal of nearly 48,000 pending mutation and e-measurement cases alongside district-level monitoring, the initiative directly addresses administrative backlogs. This is expected to improve service delivery, reduce transaction delays, and strengthen the efficiency of Bihar's land governance system.³⁴

³³ [Land Governance Assessment Framework For Bihar, 2014.](#)

³⁴ [Patna Press, May, 2026.](#)

IV. Maharashtra

A. Revision Of Reservation Recruitment Rules

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

1. On 14th May, 2026, the Government of Maharashtra approved new recruitment rules restricting reserved category candidates who avail reservation-linked relaxations from competing for open category seats in Government recruitment examinations.
2. The move aims to standardise reservation implementation and remove ambiguity in public sector recruitment processes.
3. **Key Features** -
 - a. Reserved category candidates availing relaxations related to age limit, educational qualification, experience, or number of examination attempts will no longer be eligible for selection under the open category.
 - b. Such candidates will be considered only against seats reserved for their respective categories, even if their merit score qualifies for open category positions.
 - c. Reserved category candidates who clear examinations without availing any reservation-linked relaxation will continue to remain eligible for selection in the open category on merit.
 - d. The Government clarified that examination fee concessions alone will not disqualify reserved category candidates from competing in the open category.
 - e. Further, the revision was framed following recommendations received regarding uniform implementation of reservation norms across departments and recruitment agencies.³⁵
 - f. The revision comes at a time when total reservation in Maharashtra has reached around 72% following inclusion of the Maratha reservation under the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) category.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The revision aligns with the central federal model defined under the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) OM dated 01.07.1998. This central office memorandum explicitly mandates that SC/ST/OBC candidates selected on relaxed standards must be adjusted strictly against their reserved quotas and are deemed unavailable for unreserved openings.³⁶
5. **Relevance** -
 - a. Maharashtra currently has a reservation of 62%, including various categories such as SC, ST, OBC, Vimukt Jati, Nomadic Tribes, EWS and others.³⁷ With the addition of 10% reservation for the Marathas, the total reservation in the state will now reach 72%. This exceeds the Supreme Court's general 50% ceiling guideline in

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

³⁶ [Department Of Personnel And Training, 1998.](#)

³⁷ [Times Of India, February, 2024.](#)

A. Revision Of Reservation Recruitment Rules

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

- several contexts, intensifying competition for open-category seats and potentially reducing unreserved- category representation making open/unreserved category.
- b. Previously, in *Chaya v. The State of Maharashtra*³⁸ the Supreme Court allowed reserved category candidates who secure higher marks on pure merit in the main competitive examination named Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) to migrate to the unreserved (open) category, regardless of whether they utilized a 5% relaxation in qualifying marks for the Teachers Eligibility Test. Critics rely on this competing line of reasoning to argue against the revision of the reservation rules.
 - c. Further, in *Union of India v. Sajib Roy (2025)*,³⁹ the Supreme Court held that reserved category candidates availing relaxations such as age limit or fee concessions cannot claim open category seats where recruitment rules specifically prohibit such migration, reinforcing rule-based implementation of reservation policies in Government recruitment.⁴⁰
 - d. Prior to this notification, Maharashtra lacked explicit, codified rules detailing the migration boundary for relaxed candidates. This legislative silence led to continuous legal battles, with recruitment processes routinely frozen by the **Maharashtra Administrative Tribunal (MAT)** or the Bombay High Court after results were published.⁴¹ Therefore, codifying an explicit rule introduces clear upfront criteria, reducing the litigation delays that cost the state executive time and human resource momentum.
 - e. Critics argue that treating age or attempt concessions as an absolute bar to merit based migration, penalises candidates who have overcome socio-economic disadvantages to secure top scores in competitive examinations. However, the restriction seeks to minimise ambiguity in recruitment processes and reduce post-selection litigation over reservation and migration claims.⁴²

³⁸ *Chaya v. State of Maharashtra*, (2026) INSC 277.

³⁹ *Union of India v. Sajib Roy*, (2025) INSC 1084.

⁴⁰ [Indian Kanoon, September, 2025.](#)

⁴¹ [HT, December, 2023.](#)

⁴² [The Print, May, 2026.](#)

IV. Ladakh

A. Extension Of Industry Benefits To Hotels And Guest Houses

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

1. On 20th May, 2026, the Ladakh administration granted ‘industry’ status to hotels and guest houses registered with the tourism department.
2. The decision aims to strengthen tourism infrastructure, reduce operational costs for hospitality establishments, and promote tourism-led economic growth in the Union Territory.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Hotels and guest houses registered with the Tourism Department in Ladakh will be granted “industry” status with effect from 1st June, 2026.
 - b. Eligible hospitality establishments will receive electricity and water supply at industrial tariff rates instead of the existing commercial tariff rates.
 - c. Commercial electricity tariffs for registered hospitality units will be reduced from ₹ 5.49 per unit to ₹ 4.10 per unit under the revised industrial tariff structure.
 - d. Registered hotels and guest houses will also be exempt from property tax, reducing the overall tax burden on hospitality establishments.
 - e. Further, registered hotels and guest houses will become eligible for concessional bank loans, industrial incentives, subsidies, and other institutional support available to industrial units.
 - f. The decision is expected to benefit around 1,257 registered hotels and guest houses across Leh and Kargil districts.
 - g. The decision aims to reduce operational costs, improve financial viability of hospitality establishments, and strengthen tourism-linked economic activity in Ladakh.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The decision aligns with the objectives of the Swadesh Darshan Scheme⁴³ and broader national efforts to strengthen tourism infrastructure and promote tourism-led regional economic development.⁴⁴
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Jammu and Kashmir⁴⁵ and Himachal Pradesh⁴⁶ have also extended industry incentives and policy support to tourism and hospitality establishments.⁴⁷
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Ladakh’s hospitality sector operates under a structurally difficult business model, with many hotels and guest houses functioning for only around six months a year

⁴³ [Swadesh Darshan Scheme, Ministry Of Tourism](#).

⁴⁴ [PIB, July, 2023](#).

⁴⁵ [Tourism Department, Government Of Jammu And Kashmir](#).

⁴⁶ [PIB, February, 2026](#).

⁴⁷ [Information And Public Relation, Government Of Himachal Pradesh](#).

A. Extension Of Industry Benefits To Hotels And Guest Houses

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

due to harsh winters while continuing to bear high fixed costs during the off-season. By shifting eligible registered units from commercial to industrial electricity and water tariffs, the decision directly lowers recurring utility expenditure and improves the financial viability of tourism enterprises in Leh and Kargil.

- b. Hotels, guest houses, and homestays in Ladakh were paying commercial electricity tariffs of ₹ 5.49/unit⁴⁸ despite operating for only around six months annually due to harsh winters, creating high fixed-cost burdens. The shift to industrial tariffs of ₹ 4.10/unit directly lowers utility expenses, improving financial sustainability and long-term viability of tourism enterprises.
- c. High commercial water tariffs of ₹ 28-46 per kilolitre increased operating costs for hospitality establishments in a geographically challenging region. The application of industrial water tariffs of ₹ 26-29 per kilolitre directly reduces recurring expenditure, improving competitiveness and project viability across 1,257 registered units.⁴⁹
- d. Moreover, hospitality units in Ladakh lacked formal industrial recognition, limiting access to concessional finance, subsidies, and institutional support available to other sectors. Granting 'industry' status enables hotels and guest houses to access concessional bank loans, capital incentives, and Government support schemes.⁵⁰ This will lead to improved credit access, increase private investment in hospitality infrastructure and expand tourism-linked employment generation.

⁴⁸ [The Business Standard, May, 2026.](#)

⁴⁹ [The Business Standard, May, 2026.](#)

⁵⁰ [The Business Standard, May, 2026.](#)

B. Integrated Ease Of Doing Business Portal For Digital Governance

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

1. On 25th May, 2026, the Ladakh administration launched an integrated Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) Portal aimed at strengthening digital governance, simplifying public service delivery, and improving the business environment in the Union Territory.
2. **Key Features -**
 - a. The portal provides businesses, entrepreneurs, startups, MSMEs, investors, and citizens with a single online platform to access Government approvals and departmental services across Ladakh.
 - b. In the initial rollout phase, 13 departments have been integrated with the platform and 23 online services have already been made operational through the unified interface.
 - c. Further, departments including Tourism, Industries and Commerce, and Public Health Engineering have been onboarded, along with access to Government schemes, incentives, policies, rules, notifications, and procedures.
 - d. As per the portal, a Common Application Form (CAF) mechanism has been introduced to enable applicants to submit core information once for use across multiple departmental applications, thereby reducing repetitive documentation requirements.
 - e. The portal includes features such as Single Sign-On access, PAN authentication, SMS and e-mail notifications, live application tracking, integrated payment gateway, grievance redressal system, and workflow-based approval mechanisms.
 - f. Applicants will also be able to monitor approval timelines, application pendency, and grievance status through an interactive digital dashboard aimed at improving transparency and accountability in service delivery.
3. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The portal aligns with the objectives of Digital India,⁵¹ the National Single Window System (NSWS),⁵² and broader Ease of Doing Business reforms focused on integrated digital governance, single-window clearances, and technology-driven public service delivery.⁵³
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Various states such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, among others have also implemented integrated single-window digital governance platforms to streamline approvals,⁵⁴ improve

⁵¹ [Digital India, Government Of India](#).

⁵² [NSWS, DPIIT](#).

⁵³ [PIB, February, 2026](#).

⁵⁴ [Ministry Of Commerce And Trade, January, 2023](#).

B. Integrated Ease Of Doing Business Portal For Digital Governance

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

investor facilitation, and strengthen online delivery of Government services.⁵⁵

5. Relevance -

- a. Businesses, entrepreneurs and investors in Ladakh previously had to navigate multiple departments through separate, largely offline and manual approval processes, with no single point of access for clearances. The new integrated EoDB portal brings 13 departments and 23 live online services onto a single digital interface, reducing paperwork and manual processes, backed by timeline-based approvals, an automated appeal/escalation mechanism and a delay-accountability framework to track pendency. By cutting duplication and procedural delays, it is aimed at faster approvals and stronger investor confidence.
- b. Entrepreneurs in remote regions such as Zaskar and Nubra previously had to undertake lengthy journeys across high-altitude terrain merely to submit paperwork at district headquarters in Leh or Kargil. The shift to a fully online platform eliminates this geographic disadvantage, significantly reducing compliance costs, saving valuable time, and lowering the upfront operational burden for local enterprises.
- c. Further, delayed approvals and lack of digital coordination weakened service delivery and constrained technology-driven governance reforms in Ladakh. The platform introduces timeline-based approvals, PAN authentication, digital payments, SMS/e-mail alerts, and automated appeal mechanisms for delayed cases.
- d. In small, tourist-dependent border economies, capital turnover cycles are highly sensitive to regulatory delays. If a local enterprise faces a 6-month delay for an ordinary operating permit, they miss an entire peak summer commercial cycle, endangering their loan repayments. Introducing an interactive digital dashboard that publicly maps application pendency forces bureaucratic responsiveness, injecting predictability into the region's startup and hospitality ecosystems.
- e. Onboarding 13 line ministries under a singular governance architecture prevents departments from operating as disconnected siloes. For instance, when a food processing unit applies for an industrial connection via the portal, the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department can immediately view the verified structural map shared by the Industries and Commerce wing, standardising environmental clearance evaluations and cutting down internal administrative lag.

⁵⁵ [PIB, February, 2021.](#)

V. Tripura

A. Completion Of Phase-II Deregulation Reforms

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

1. On 15th May, 2026, the Government of Tripura completed all 51 Priority Areas under the National Compliance Reduction and Deregulation Initiative led by the Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India.
2. This includes 23 areas in Phase-I and 28 areas in Phase-II aimed at improving Ease of Doing Business (EODB) and supporting investment facilitation in the state.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. **Industrial Sector Reforms -**
 - i. The initiative introduces self-certification-based “Change of Land Use” approvals in areas aligned with Master Plans and environmental safeguards, reducing delays in approvals.
 - ii. Strengthening of the Single Window Approval Agency (SWAAT) single-window systems shall be undertaken for integrated approvals, transparent processing, and online access to Government services.
 - b. **Environmental Governance Reforms -**
 - i. Environmental governance has been enhanced through expedited environmental clearance processes and simplified procedures for electricity connections, including the elimination of mandatory field inspections within prescribed limits.
 - c. **Citizen Centric Reforms -**
 - i. In the health sector, a single nodal mechanism has been introduced to facilitate seamless interstate registration and practice for medical professionals.
 - ii. In the tourism segment, homestay regulations have been simplified by removing multiple No Objection Certificates (NOC) requirements and enabling online self-renewal systems to encourage local tourism entrepreneurship.
 - d. **Digital Governance Reforms -**
 - i. A centralised e-Gazette system for unified digital access to Acts, Rules, Regulations, and Government Notifications has been introduced.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** It directly aligns with the Cabinet Secretariat Task Force on Compliance Reduction and Deregulation, which seeks to streamline regulations and cut red tape across Indian states. It also reinforces the broader reform objective of the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, and the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026.⁵⁶
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Tripura’s land-use system was fragmented across more than 100 land-use

⁵⁶ [Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Bill, 2026.](#)

A. Completion Of Phase-II Deregulation Reforms

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

- categories,⁵⁷ with overlapping NOCs stalling industrial approvals. Phase-I/II collapsed these to just 10 categories with flexible mixed land-use and routed clearances through the SWAAT agency, removing overlapping NOCs and automated approvals for low-risk projects via self-declaration.⁵⁸
- b. Industrial units and MSMEs faced pre-operation compliance checks, inspections and clearance delays. Under Phase II, businesses can start through self-declaration, providing inspection exemptions for up to 3 years in specified categories. This reduces setup friction, improves MSME operating speed and supports faster investment grounding.
 - c. Mandatory field inspections for environmental clearances and electricity connections earlier delayed projects. The initiative simplifies these approvals by removing mandatory inspections within prescribed limits. As of 14th May, 2026, the state has attracted more than 35,140 crore worth of proposed investment through 394 MoUs with grounded investments worth ₹ 5,352 crore, concentrated in healthcare, tourism, logistics and infrastructure through the deregulation exercise.⁵⁹
 - d. Doctors previously faced re-registration in each state, and homestays cleared multiple NOCs before operating. Now medical professionals can obtain interstate registration through a single nodal system, and homestay reforms removed multiple NOC requirements with online self-renewal.⁶⁰
 - e. The state launched a centralised e-Gazette for unified digital access to Acts, Rules and Notifications, plus an auto-appeal mechanism under the Right to Services framework, backed by the Tripura Jan Vishwas Act, 2025, which repealed 6 Acts, amended 4 and decriminalised minor offences. Combined with a 94% Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) 2024 approval rate (up from 66% in 2022), this signals a durable shift to trust-based governance ensuring better accountability.⁶¹

⁵⁷ [E News Time, May, 2026.](#)

⁵⁸ [E News Time, May, 2026.](#)

⁵⁹ [Punjab Kesari, May, 2026.](#)

⁶⁰ [ANI, May, 2026.](#)

⁶¹ [The News Mill, May, 2026.](#)

VI. Karnataka

A. Revision Of Minimum Wages

Source: [The Hindu](#), [The Government Of Karnataka](#) | **Impact:** High

1. On 23rd May, 2026, the Karnataka Labour Department notified the final draft of the Karnataka Minimum Wages Revision Notification, 2026.
2. The notification revises Karnataka's minimum wages across all scheduled employments, aligning with Supreme Court norms, and resolving litigation from the 2022–23 revision.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. It revises minimum wages upward by an average of 60% across 83 scheduled employments, fixing ₹ 23,376 for unskilled and up to ₹ 31,114 for highly skilled workers in Zone 1 (Greater Bengaluru).⁶²
 - b. It introduces a three-zone wage classification system with Greater Bengaluru classified under Zone 1, district centres under Zone 2, and remaining regions under Zone 3.
 - c. It provides annual revision of Variable Dearness Allowance component of ₹ 1,030 indexed to the Consumer Price Index, direct bank-account payment of wages, and wage computation on a 26-working-day basis.
 - d. The notification mandates skill-based wage categorisation for unskilled, semi-skilled, skilled, and highly skilled workers across notified employment.
 - e. It mandates equal pay for men, women, transgender persons, and persons with disabilities for similar work, and provides double wages for overtime and holiday work.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The notification is issued under Sections 3 and 5 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948,⁶³ and operationalises the Supreme Court's *Workmen Represented By Secretary v. Management Of Reptakos Brett & Co* (1992)⁶⁴ wage-fixation principles. It anticipates the wage-floor framework of the Code on Wages, 2019⁶⁵ currently under phased rollout.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Haryana recently revised skill-based minimum wages to around ₹ 15,220 for unskilled workers and ₹ 18,500 for skilled workers, while Uttar Pradesh implemented interim wage hikes of nearly 21% in districts including Gautam Budh Nagar and Ghaziabad.⁶⁶
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The pre-revision wage framework was based on 2022–23 rates and remained tied

⁶² [The News Minute, May, 2026.](#)

⁶³ [The Minimum Wages Act, 1948.](#)

⁶⁴ *Workmen Represented By Secretary v. Management Of Reptakos Brett And Co.*, (1992) 1 SCC 290.

⁶⁵ [The Code On Wages, 2019.](#)

⁶⁶ [The Economic Times, April, 2026.](#)

A. Revision Of Minimum Wages

Source: [The Hindu](#), [The Government Of Karnataka](#) | **Impact:** High

up in prolonged litigation between labour unions, employers and the State. The 2026 notification closes those proceedings and replaces a fragmented, employment-specific regime. It also addresses stagnant wage floors, with the unskilled Zone I rate in Bengaluru limits earlier at roughly ₹ 15,000–₹ 16,000,⁶⁷ along with gender-differentiated entries and a complex four-zone classification that made wage computation uneven and burdensome.

- b. The notification is significant for its sheer reach, extending wage protection to over one crore workers directly addressing the erosion of real incomes amid rising living costs. This also makes Karnataka the state with the highest minimum wage in the country.⁶⁸
- c. By anchoring the new wage floors in the Supreme Court's *Workmen Represented By Secretary v. Management Of Reptakos Brett And Co.* (1992) framework and building in a Variable Dearness Allowance, the state has shifted minimum wage fixation toward a needs-based, indexed standard consistent with the architecture envisaged under the Code on Wages, 2019.
- d. At the same time, the steep upward revision and three-zone classification carry meaningful implications for labour-intensive industry competitiveness and employer compliance costs.
- e. A sudden 60% increase in baseline labor costs represents a massive operational hurdle. In highly competitive, low-margin assembly clusters like Bengaluru's Peenya Industrial Area, labor costs often account for over 45% of total operating expenses. This margin compression runs a serious risk of driving an estimated 20% industries in Peenya industrial area in Bengaluru and shifting of at least 30% industries to other low cost neighbouring states like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.⁶⁹
- f. Lastly, the inclusion of statutory language mandating absolute wage parity for men, women, transgender persons, and persons with disabilities (PwDs) for similar work marks a major milestone in inclusive labor design. By threatening severe prosecution and compounding financial penalties for any gender-differentiated wage entries, the notification cleanly eliminates historical discriminatory pricing loops across construction and garment sectors.

⁶⁷ [Government Notification No. KA 411 L W.B.W.I 2023.](#)

⁶⁸ [The News Minute, May, 2026.](#)

⁶⁹ [Deccan Herald, April, 2025.](#)

VII. Delhi

A. Delhi Fire Service (Amendment) Rules, 2025

Source: [ANI News](#), [Hindustan Times](#) | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 28th May, 2026, the Delhi Government operationalised the Delhi Fire Service (Amendment) Rules, 2025 to strengthen fire safety compliance mechanisms and streamline the process for fire safety inspections and certification across the capital.
2. The rules enable empanelled private entities to undertake fire safety inspections and issue Fire No Objection Certificates (NOCs) following regulatory approval and registration.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Private experts, agencies, and companies will now be permitted to conduct inspections of fire safety arrangements in buildings across Delhi under the revised regulatory framework.
 - b. Such entities will function as designated “Fire Safety Auditors” and will be required to obtain registration and authorisation from the Director of the Delhi Fire Service.
 - c. Fire Safety Certificates, including Fire NOCs, issued by registered Fire Safety Auditors after inspection will be treated as valid under the amended rules.
 - d. The rules seek to reduce procedural delays and improve efficiency in fire safety approvals by expanding inspection and certification capacity beyond the Government-led mechanism.
 - e. The rules are aimed at strengthening compliance monitoring, improving accountability in fire safety systems, and enabling faster processing of approvals for residential, commercial, and institutional buildings.
 - f. Lastly, the rules form part of broader governance reforms focused on digitisation, decentralisation of compliance services, and improved ease of doing business in the capital.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The rules align with provisions under the National Building Code of India (NBC), 2016⁷⁰ and broader national fire and life safety regulations promoting risk-based inspections, professional fire safety audits, compliance certification, and improved urban fire safety governance standards.⁷¹
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Maharashtra has also incorporated third-party “Fire and Life Safety Auditor” mechanisms under its amended fire safety framework to strengthen compliance monitoring and fire safety certification processes.⁷²
6. **Relevance -**

⁷⁰ [National Building Code Of India, 2016.](#)

⁷¹ [National Building Code Of India, Bureau Of Indian Standard.](#)

⁷² [The Maharashtra Fire Prevention And Life Safety Measures Act, 2006.](#)

A. Delhi Fire Service (Amendment) Rules, 2025**Source:** [ANI News](#), [Hindustan Times](#) | **Impact:** Medium

- a. Multiple fatal fire incidents in Delhi, including the 2024 Vivek Vihar neonatal hospital fire and recurring commercial building fires,⁷³ exposed weak compliance monitoring and delayed detection of fire safety violations. Mandatory registration and authorisation of Fire Safety Auditors under the Delhi Fire Service strengthens professional accountability and institutionalises periodic compliance verification.
- b. Fire-related emergencies in Delhi rose sharply in 2026, with 6,693 fire calls and 32 deaths reported between January and April alone, exposing persistent compliance gaps in residential and commercial buildings.⁷⁴
- c. In light of the above, allowing registered third-party auditors to undertake inspections institutionalises continuous compliance monitoring and strengthens urban fire-risk governance. Essentially, by introducing strict compounding fines ranging from ₹ 10,000 to over ₹ 50,000 for minor equipment faults (enforced directly by regional Deputy Chief Fire Officers), the rules make continuous maintenance far cheaper than facing continuous penalty outlays or building seal orders.
- d. Historically, obtaining a Fire NOC from the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) was a major point of friction for businesses, hotels, and hospitals, prone to systemic inspection backlogs and arbitrary delays. Moving to a decentralised, third-party framework represents a fundamental shift in compliance governance. It removes a massive compliance barrier, speeding up opening timelines for commercial real estate while allowing the DFS to transition from a bogged-down licensing bureau into a lean, highly specialised emergency response force.

⁷³ [The Indian Express, May, 2026.](#)

⁷⁴ [Hindustan Times, May, 2026.](#)

VIII. Odisha

A. Amendments To Odisha Thermal Power Policy For Independent Power Producers

Source: [APAC Media](#), [Business Standard](#) | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 21st May, 2026, the Odisha Cabinet revised provisions under the Odisha Thermal Power Policy, 2008 to modify the mandatory power allocation framework applicable to Independent Power Producers (IPPs) operating in the State.
2. **Key Features -**
 - a. The mandatory power allocation requirement for Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to the Odisha Government has been reduced from the earlier 12–14% range to 5% under the revised framework.
 - b. The amendment has been incorporated under the Odisha Thermal Power Policy, 2008 as part of efforts to improve investment conditions and operational flexibility for thermal power developers in the State.
 - c. A state-nominated agency will have the right to purchase 5% of power sent out from future thermal power plants at variable cost.
 - d. The amendment also seeks to simplify MoU-linked procedures and strengthen environmental-compliance provisions for thermal power projects.
 - e. The revised allocation structure is expected to improve commercial viability of thermal power projects and support higher private sector participation in power generation infrastructure.
 - f. The amendment aligns Odisha's thermal power framework with broader power sector reform measures focused on competitive energy markets, investment facilitation, and efficient utilisation of generation capacity.
3. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The amendment aligns with broader power-sector reforms under the Electricity Act,⁷⁵ 2003, focused on private participation, competitive power markets, investment facilitation and improved generation capacity utilisation.
4. **Relevance-**
 - a. The amendment cuts the mandatory power Odisha can buy from new IPP thermal plants from the 12–14% legacy slab to 5% at variable cost,⁷⁶ aligning the state with the Central Electricity Authority's (CEA) recommended 5% framework that peer states had already adopted. By bringing Odisha's terms into parity with neighbours, it removes what investors flagged as the single biggest viability drag on a state otherwise rich in coal, port access, and skilled manpower improving the ease-of-doing-business and competitive-federalism correction by the Majhi

⁷⁵ [Ministry Of Power, Government Of India.](#)

⁷⁶ [The Business Standard, May, 2026.](#)

A. Amendments To Odisha Thermal Power Policy For Independent Power Producers

Source: [APAC Media](#), [Business Standard](#) | **Impact:** Medium

Government.

- b. The amendment significantly improves project economics for Independent Power Producers by allowing a larger share of generated power to be sold in competitive markets rather than through mandatory state allocation obligations. The revised framework is expected to strengthen private sector participation and facilitate an estimated ₹ 25,000–30,000 crore in additional thermal power investment, while streamlined MoU procedures and stricter environmental compliance provisions improve regulatory clarity and operational accountability.
- c. The reform also aligns Odisha's policy framework with broader national power sector reforms focused on ease of doing business, competitive electricity markets, and more efficient utilisation of generation capacity.⁷⁷
- d. Despite abundant coal reserves, port access, and skilled manpower, Odisha attracted less than 4 GW of new thermal capacity and under ₹ 40,000 crore investment over the past decade, while neighbouring Chhattisgarh attracted over ₹ 1.5 lakh crore and added 16 GW after adopting a 5% quota model. The revised framework removes the key viability drag identified by industry bodies, strengthening Odisha's competitiveness in inter-state investment attraction.

⁷⁷ [Orissa Post, May, 2026.](#)

B. Project Zero Anti-Corruption Initiative, 2026

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

1. On 26th May, 2026, the Kerala Home Department launched the Project Zero Anti-Corruption Initiative, 2026.
2. Project Zero aims to transform Kerala into a corruption-free state by shifting the anti-graft approach from post-offence prosecution to source-level prevention, combating both conventional bribery and emerging digital corruption through public participation, technology-driven monitoring, and institutional reform within the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The project proposes a phased anti-corruption framework to eliminate bribery in public service delivery through coordinated action by the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB).
 - b. It provides a reward of ₹ 5,000 to citizens who upload verified video evidence of Government employees demanding bribes on the official Vigilance portal.⁷⁸
 - c. The project provides confidentiality protection for whistleblowers and complainants reporting corruption cases directly to the VACB.
 - d. It seeks to revise the 1969 Vigilance Manual to align with present-day requirements, with a draft of the revised manual already prepared.
 - e. It introduces a prevention-first model, positioning the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau as a deterrent that targets the source of corruption rather than post-facto action alone.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment** - The initiative aligns with the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 which was amended in 2018⁷⁹ and India's broader administrative reform agenda focused on transparent governance and accountable public service delivery.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Bihar and Haryana have also implemented similar measures. Bihar introduced a zero-tolerance anti-corruption policy⁸⁰ while Haryana adopted a zero-tolerance framework focused on anti-corruption enforcement and e-governance reform.⁸¹
6. **Relevance-**
 - a. Corruption in the state had eroded public confidence, with a widespread perception that nothing moved without paying bribes, and that in many offices

⁷⁸ [South First, May, 2026.](#)

⁷⁹ [Prevention Of Corruption \(Amendment\) Act, 2018.](#)

⁸⁰ [The Hindu, April, 2026.](#)

⁸¹ [Directorate Of Information, Public Relations And Languages, Government Of Haryana.](#)

B. Project Zero Anti-Corruption Initiative, 2026**Source:** [The New Indian Express](#) | **Impact:** Medium

even certificates were issued only after bribes were paid.⁸²

- b. The existing vigilance framework operated reactively, initiating action only after corruption offences were committed, and rested on the outdated Vigilance Manual, 1969 (later amended in 2001).⁸³ The Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 has created challenges in registering and investigating corruption cases against senior officials and elected representatives without prior sanction from appointing authorities.
- c. Project Zero signals an intent to move from ad hoc vigilance action to a sustained, citizen-facing campaign. The project converts citizens into a frontline detection mechanism wherein the public can upload videos of Government employees demanding bribes to the official Vigilance portal.
- d. Further, the overhaul of the 1969 Vigilance Manual, stronger departmental vigilance, and greater reliance on digital detection systems reflect a shift from reactive enforcement to preventive governance. By modernising oversight mechanisms and addressing technology-enabled corruption, the initiative aligns with the Centre's Zero Tolerance Against Corruption approach⁸⁴ and the post-2018 Prevention of Corruption Act regime.
- e. In the modern economy, corrupt practices have rapidly moved away from cash handoffs toward complex cyber and digital formats. Officials frequently use indirect third-party digital wallets, inflated peer-to-peer online purchases, or digital assets to mask illicit financial flows. Setting up a dedicated Cyber Vigilance Unit equipped with advanced predictive data tools enables the state to map hidden asset movements, tracking modern white-collar crimes that slide past traditional manual audits.
- f. Its success, however, will depend on effective implementation, the operational independence of the VACB, robust whistleblower protection, and measurable enforcement outcomes rather than declaratory commitments alone.

⁸² [OnManorama, May, 2026.](#)

⁸³ [Vigilance And Anti-Corruption Bureau Manual, 2001.](#)

⁸⁴ [Economic Times, August, 2023](#)

X. Telangana

A. Restoration Of Fiscal Autonomy To Gram Panchayats

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

1. On 26th May, 2026, the Telangana Government directed the restoration of gram panchayats' financial powers by amending the Telangana Panchayat Raj Act, 2018.⁸⁵
2. This aims to restore fiscal autonomy to gram panchayats by enabling direct access and utilisation of locally generated revenues for village-level development works.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Government mandates amendments to Section 70(3) of the Telangana Panchayat Raj Act, 2018⁸⁶ to operationalise the revised fund management framework.
 - b. The reform proposes restoration of direct financial access for gram panchayats to utilise their own-source revenues for local development activities.
 - c. It introduces a revised mechanism under which gram panchayat revenues will be deposited into designated bank accounts instead of treasury accounts.
 - d. It mandates that nearly 50,000 gram panchayat staff and contract employees receive salaries on the first day of every month, on par with Government employees.⁸⁷
 - e. A dedicated monthly allocation of ₹ 50 crore for the payment of gram panchayat employee salaries and direct bank transfer of Cheyutha social security pensions,⁸⁸ replacing the manual post-office disbursal system, with eligibility streamlined through voter ID, Aadhaar and Socio-Economic, Education, Employment, Political and Caste (SEEEPC) data.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The initiative aligns with the constitutional framework for strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions under the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992⁸⁹ and Article 280(3)(bb)⁹⁰ of the Constitution, and supports direct utilisation of 15th Finance Commission grants devolved to rural local bodies.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Andhra Pradesh has strengthened gram panchayat financial autonomy, with over 13,000 gram panchayats achieving nearly 80% own-source revenue collection in FY 2025-26, generating over ₹ 1,000 crore through tax and non-tax revenues supported by digital and administrative reforms.⁹¹
6. **Relevance-**

⁸⁵ [The Telangana Panchayat Raj Act, 2018.](#)

⁸⁶ [The Telangana Panchayat Raj Act, 2018.](#)

⁸⁷ [Deccan Chronicle, May, 2026.](#)

⁸⁸ [The New Indian Express, May, 2026.](#)

⁸⁹ [73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.](#)

⁹⁰ [Article 280\(3\), Constitution Of India.](#)

⁹¹ [Deccan Chronicle, April, 2026.](#)

A. Restoration Of Fiscal Autonomy To Gram Panchayats

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

- a. The earlier framework required gram panchayats to deposit their own source revenue into treasury accounts, weakening the financial independence of gram panchayats over their own source revenue. Salary disbursement to panchayat staff lacked a fixed schedule, and social security pensions were routed manually through post offices, creating delays.⁹²
- b. The reform's significance lies in operationalising the own-source-revenue (OSR) principle behind the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.⁹³
- c. With the amendment Section 70(3) of the Telangana Panchayat Raj Act, 2018, gram panchayats can deposit revenue into bank accounts instead of treasury accounts.
- d. While local bodies receive state and Central funds, delays in treasury transfers often hinder basic services. Direct banking channels can eliminate these bottlenecks, enabling faster use of local revenues for village infrastructure.
- e. Further, a major flaw in local Government administration has been the highly unpredictable salary schedule, often delays up to six months for the rural sanitation workers, data entry operators, and contract staff. The ₹ 50 crore monthly allocation ensures that workers receive their pay on the first day of every month, matching the schedules of mainstream Government employees and boosting frontline productivity.
- f. Allowing villages to retain 100% of locally collected revenue strengthens tax compliance by directly linking collections to visible community improvements such as roads, schools, and public services.
- g. Lastly, Telangana has removed a routing chokepoint that had diluted the third tier's financial autonomy. This would also ensure that employees working in Government departments whether on outsourcing or contract basis will receive salaries on the first day of every month.⁹⁴

⁹² [Deccan Chronicle, May, 2026.](#)

⁹³ [73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.](#)

⁹⁴ [Deccan Chronicle, May, 2026.](#)

B. Revision Of Minimum Wages

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

1. On 30th May, 2026, the Telangana Government notified the Revision of Minimum Wages which aims to revise and standardise minimum wages across all establishments covered under the Code on Wages, 2019.⁹⁵
2. The notification also aims to establish a **uniform skill-based wage** framework, align wage fixation with cost-of-living adjustments and contemporary labour market conditions in Telangana.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The notification revises minimum monthly wages across three geographical zones, ranging from ₹ 14,000 for unskilled workers in Zone III to ₹ 20,000 for highly skilled workers in Zone I, effective from 1st June, 2026.
 - b. The notification introduces a common skill classification framework comprising Unskilled, Semi-Skilled, Skilled, and Highly Skilled categories applicable across covered establishments.
 - c. The notification provides a Variable Dearness Allowance⁹⁶ linked to the Consumer Price Index⁹⁷ at 443 points, with an increase of ₹ 33.86 per point per month for every rise above the base index and revision every six months.
 - d. The notification extends minimum wage coverage to new employment including e-commerce and courier services, mobile tower maintenance, public amusement parks, LPG distribution agencies, borewell drilling, and ready-mix concrete units.
 - e. The notification also mandates gender-neutral wage rates, direct electronic wage payments, double wages for overtime and work on holidays, and principal employer responsibility for payment of minimum wages through contractors.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The notification is issued under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948,⁹⁸ and aligns with Sections 6 and Section 8 of the Code on Wages, 2019, which provide for skill-based minimum wage fixation and a uniform wage framework across employment.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Karnataka recently revised minimum wages through a three-zone skill-based framework⁹⁹, Haryana adopted skill-linked minimum wage revisions with periodic adjustments linked to labour categories and cost conditions¹⁰⁰ and Uttar Pradesh implemented a three-tier district-based minimum

⁹⁵ [The Code On Wages, 2019.](#)

⁹⁶ Variable Dearness Allowance is an adjustable component of an employee's minimum wage designed to offset the impact of inflation.

⁹⁷ The Consumer Price Index is used to measure the average change over time in the prices paid by urban and rural households for a representative basket of consumer goods and services.

⁹⁸ [The Minimum Wages Act, 1948.](#)

⁹⁹ [The Hindu, May, 2026.](#)

¹⁰⁰ [The Economic Times, April, 2026.](#)

B. Revision Of Minimum Wages

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

wage structure from 1st April, 2026 linked to regional cost-of-living differences.¹⁰¹

6. Relevance -

- a. The prior wage structure had remained static for roughly 14 years, leaving rates significantly below those of comparable states and prompting trade unions and workers' associations to seek judicial intervention. Large segments of the workforce in newer service economy sectors fell entirely outside the scheduled employment framework, with no statutory wage floor.
- b. The notification corrects this by mandating a uniform zone-based model that ties wages to cost of living, expanding scheduled sectors from 67 to 77,¹⁰² and fixing skill-graded floors with a defined high-skilled tier. Liability fixed on principal employers closes the enforcement gap in contractor and agency-mediated employment.
- c. The notification also extends enforceable wage protection to an estimated 1.11 crore workers, **formalising compensation** in gig-adjacent and informal sectors such as e-commerce and courier services. It establishes a periodic, cost-indexed revision benchmark that improves wage predictability for employers and strengthens compliance architecture across the state's labour market.

¹⁰¹ [SSC Online, April, 2026.](#)

¹⁰² [ETV Bharath, June, 2026.](#)

XI. Andhra Pradesh

A. Procurement, Investment And Cost Control Regulations, 2026

Source: [APERC - The Government Of Andhra Pradesh, Solar Quarter](#) | **Impact:** Low

1. On 22nd May, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (APERC) released the draft Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission Procurement, Investment and Cost Control Regulations, 2026.
2. The regulations aim to establish a uniform procurement, investment approval, and cost control framework for electricity transmission and distribution utilities in the state.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The regulations propose applicability to all transmission and distribution licensees in Andhra Pradesh for transmission projects above ₹ 20 crore and distribution schemes exceeding ₹ 5 crore.
 - b. They mandate submission of Procurement Policies, Purchase Manuals, Standard Technical Specifications, and Standard Bidding Documents to APERC within three months of the regulation coming into force.
 - c. The regulations introduce mandatory electronic tendering through open competitive two-part bidding systems with separate technical and financial bid evaluation mechanisms.
 - d. They prohibit cartelisation, collusive bidding, artificial contract splitting, and non-competitive procurement practices while restricting single and proprietary tenders to exceptional cases subject to regulatory scrutiny.
 - e. They require Licensees to submit annual material prices, labour rates and benchmark costs before 31st December each year, and to publish tender notices, corrigenda, approved specifications, bid results, contract awards and Schedules of Rates on their websites and e-procurement portals.
 - f. The regulations enable APERC to conduct third-party financial, technical, and procurement audits and introduces a “Prudence Check” mechanism allowing partial or full disallowance of tariff recovery for excessive or improperly procured expenditure.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The regulation aligns with the Electricity Act, 2003, which mandates regulatory oversight of electricity procurement, tariff determination, and consumer interest protection.¹⁰³
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Before the regulations, Andhra Pradesh’s power utilities followed different procurement rules, specifications and cost norms. This led to restrictive

¹⁰³ [The Electricity Act, 2003.](#)

A. Procurement, Investment And Cost Control Regulations, 2026

Source: [APERC - The Government Of Andhra Pradesh, Solar Quarter](#) | **Impact:** Low

tendering, weaker competition, higher procurement costs, and excess inventory, with these costs ultimately being passed on to consumers through electricity tariffs.

- b. The regulations close this gap by institutionalising competitive e-tendering, separate technical-financial bid evaluation, and independent prudence checks for transmission projects above ₹ 20 crore and distribution projects above ₹ 5 crore, directly operationalising the consumer-protection and transparent-governance mandate of the Electricity Act, 2003.
- c. Tighter scrutiny over utility capital expenditure and procurement, with explicit curbs on cartelisation, collusive bidding, and artificial contract-splitting reducing inflated project costs at the DISCOM/TRANSCO level.¹⁰⁴
- d. Essentially, a common loophole used by DISCOMS to evade higher regulatory scrutiny involves artificial contract-splitting (i.e., breaking a large project down into a series of minor, sub-scale tender orders that fall safely below formal review limits). By explicitly banning this practice and establishing a three-month submission mandate for uniform purchase manuals, the regulations close this operational loophole, forcing all major asset expansions through centralised oversight.
- e. In public utility modeling, every rupee of wasteful or un-benchmarked expenditure approved for a state transport or distribution network automatically inflates its Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR).¹⁰⁵ Over time, this forces a regressive increase in consumer tariffs. Installing a strict prudence check mechanism shifts the financial burden of inefficient choices onto the utility's balance sheet, protecting residential and industrial consumers from unnecessary price hikes.

¹⁰⁴ [APERC \(Procurement, Investment And Cost Control\) Draft Regulations, 2026.](#)

¹⁰⁵ An Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) is the total forecasted revenue a regulated utility or public service company needs to generate within a year to cover its reasonable operating costs, capital expenditures, taxes, and earn a fair return on its investments.

Policy Level Announcements

I. Haryana

A. Make In Haryana Industrial Policy, 2026

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

1. On 19th May, 2026, the “Make in Haryana Industrial Policy, 2026” was approved with the objective of attracting ₹ 5 lakh crore in fresh investment and generating nearly 10 lakh jobs over the next five years.
2. The policy aims to strengthen Haryana’s position as a major investment destination by expanding industrial incentives, supporting technology-driven sectors, and promoting balanced regional industrial development.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy targets fresh investments worth ₹ 5 lakh crore and creation of around 10 lakh jobs over five years.
 - b. The policy replaces the earlier Haryana Enterprises and Employment Policy (HEEP), 2020¹⁰⁶ with a revised industrial framework.
 - c. It focuses on sectors such as artificial intelligence, semiconductors, electronics manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, data centres, gaming, agro-processing, and green industries.
 - d. It also introduces revised regional classification categories including Core, Intermediate, Sub-Prime, and Prime/Focus Areas to promote balanced industrial growth.
 - e. It further provides SGST reimbursement incentives ranging from 30% to 70% for eligible industries.
 - f. Employment subsidy for industries hiring local youth has been enhanced to up to ₹ 1 lakh per employee annually for 10 years.
 - g. Moreover, it includes capital subsidies, R&D incentives, and support for emerging technology sectors and export-oriented industries.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Similar investment and employment-oriented industrial policies have also been pursued by states such as Tamil Nadu¹⁰⁷ and Uttar Pradesh,¹⁰⁸ with a focus on attracting high-value manufacturing, technology sectors, data centres, semiconductors, and export-oriented industries through fiscal incentives and sector-specific support.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The earlier HEEP 2020 framework set a far smaller ambition, targeting roughly ₹ 1

¹⁰⁶ [Haryana Enterprises And Employment Policy \(HEEP\), 2020.](#)

¹⁰⁷ [Tamil Nadu Industrial Policy, 2021.](#)

¹⁰⁸ [Uttar Pradesh Industrial Investment And Employment Promotion Policy 2022.](#)

A. Make In Haryana Industrial Policy, 2026

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

lakh crore in investment and 5 lakh jobs over five years, leaving Haryana's industrial pull below its NCR potential.¹⁰⁹ The policy addresses this by replacing HEEP 2020, targeting ₹ 5 lakh crore in fresh investment and 10 lakh jobs, roughly a fivefold scaling of investment ambition aligned with emerging sectors like semiconductors, AI infrastructure and electronics manufacturing.

- b. Essentially, for priority socio-economic groups (i.e., Women, Scheduled Castes, Divyangs, Agniveers), this assistance rises to ₹ 1.20 Lakh. This massive labor subvention lowers net corporate operating expenses (OPEX), converting Haryana into an incredibly cost-competitive labor market for high-volume operations.
- c. The previous A, B, C and D block classification¹¹⁰ concentrated incentives in select regions,¹¹¹ leaving backward blocks outside the industrial mainstream and entrenching regional imbalance. The policy addresses this by scrapping that system for a Core, Intermediate, Sub-Prime and Prime/Focus Area framework that extends incentives across every block of the state, widening industrial expansion beyond traditional Gurugram, Faridabad and Manesar belts toward balanced regional growth.
- d. Because the policy channels higher-percentage capital subsidies (up to 30% for mega projects) specifically into Prime and Focus Areas, it naturally guides heavy manufacturing away from the highly congested Gurugram-Faridabad belt. This spatial steering redirects development toward new corridors along the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) and KMP Expressway, building secondary economic centers while protecting the capital hub from further infrastructure strain.
- e. Lastly, to optimise local hiring pipelines, companies recruiting youth registered via the Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam (HKRN) portal receive a 100% reimbursement of both employer and employee EPF contributions for 5 years.¹¹² This structural intervention removes standard regulatory payroll friction, providing manufacturing firms with a highly cost-effective legal recruitment loop.

¹⁰⁹ [Haryana Enterprises And Employment Policy \(HEEP\), 2020](#).

¹¹⁰ The A, B, C and D classification divided regions into different industrial development categories based on their level of industrialisation, with varying incentive structures linked to each category.

¹¹¹ [Haryana Industries](#).

¹¹² [The Times Of India, May, 2026](#).

II. Rajasthan

A. Industrial Development Policy, 2026

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

1. On 22nd May, 2026, the Rajasthan Government cleared a new industrial development policy focused on promoting talent economy and strengthening private sector participation in industrial infrastructure development.
2. The policy aims to support industrial expansion, encourage investment, and improve competitiveness across key sectors of the State economy.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy targets development of a \$ 350 billion (₹ 33.25 lakh crore) state economy by 2028-29 through expansion of industrial investments, infrastructure creation, and sector-specific manufacturing growth.
 - b. The policy focuses on developing world-class industrial infrastructure with greater participation from the private sector across industrial and manufacturing sectors.
 - c. Incentives will be provided to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to support industrial growth and improve EoDB operations in the state.
 - d. The policy extends support to sectors covered under the One District One Product (ODOP)¹¹³ initiative to promote region-specific manufacturing and export potential.
 - e. Moreover, export-oriented industries have been identified as a priority area under the policy framework to strengthen industrial competitiveness and market access.
 - f. The policy places emphasis on development of a “talent economy” aimed at improving skilled workforce availability and supporting long-term industrial capacity creation.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the objectives of Make in India,¹¹⁴ the MSME Development Framework,¹¹⁵ and the ODOP¹¹⁶ initiative focused on manufacturing growth, export promotion, and region-specific industrial development.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States including Uttar Pradesh¹¹⁷ and Gujarat¹¹⁸ have also implemented industrial development policies focused on MSME incentives, export promotion, and private sector-led industrial infrastructure development.
6. **Relevance -**

¹¹³ [PIB, January, 2026.](#)

¹¹⁴ [Department For Promotion Of Industry And Internal Trade.](#)

¹¹⁵ [Ministry Of Micro, Small And Medium Enterprises, Government Of India.](#)

¹¹⁶ [PIB, January, 2026.](#)

¹¹⁷ [Invest UP, Government Of Uttar Pradesh.](#)

¹¹⁸ [Times Of India, January, 2026.](#)

A. Industrial Development Policy, 2026

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

- a. Rajasthan's manufacturing sector contributed only around 27.16% to the state's Gross State Value Added (GSVA) in 2024-25,¹¹⁹ reflecting gaps in industrial depth and value-added production capacity. The policy promotes private-sector-led industrial infrastructure and sector-focused manufacturing expansion to support the target of a \$ 350 billion (₹ 3,346.64 crore) state economy by 2028-29.
- b. Notably, MSMEs account for over 90% of industrial units in Rajasthan¹²⁰ but continue to face constraints in finance, infrastructure access, and market competitiveness. The policy resolves this by embedding targeted margin money grants and technology acquisition subsidies directly into the state's ODOP execution frameworks. This financial cushioning helps micro-units upgrade their machinery and scale up into formal, export-ready enterprises.
- c. Rajasthan is seeking to diversify beyond its traditional industrial strengths in minerals, textiles, gems and jewellery, handicrafts, tourism, and agro-processing by expanding into emerging sectors such as semiconductors, data centres, Global Capability Centres (GCCs), defence manufacturing, and logistics.
- d. The policy is also relevant because it places private-sector participation at the centre of industrial infrastructure development. Rajasthan has large land availability, mineral resources, renewable energy potential and improving logistics connectivity, but industrial growth has often been constrained by gaps in plug-and-play infrastructure, approvals, water management and last-mile connectivity. By promoting private participation in industrial parks, logistics facilities, warehousing and common infrastructure, the policy can help reduce the burden on state agencies and improve project readiness.
- e. Notably, by introducing a dedicated talent economy focus area, the state is transforming its vocational and engineering institutes into specialised training centers. Partnering with top-tier tech firms to run curricula in advanced Artificial Intelligence, engineering, semiconductor testing, and precision automation creates an immediate, highly competitive local labor supply.
- f. Because the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC)¹²¹ was fully completed in March 2026, Rajasthan operates with a functional virtual coastline. The policy capitalises on this logistics infrastructure by offering targeted incentives to logistics hubs, inland container depots (ICDs), and high-capacity warehousing facilities along the Jaipur-Alwar axis.

¹¹⁹ [Economic Review, Government Of Rajasthan, 2024-25.](#)

¹²⁰ [KNN India, June, 2024.](#)

¹²¹ [Ministry Of Railways, Government Of India, February, 2021.](#)

III. Karnataka

A. Alcohol-in-Beverage (AiB) Excise Policy, 2026

Source: [The Government Of Karnataka](#), [Live Mint](#) | Impact: High

1. The Government of Karnataka implemented a new Alcohol-in-Beverage (AiB) taxation policy, replacing the earlier bulk litre-based excise system with an alcohol-content-based taxation model. Karnataka is the first state in India to introduce the AiB taxation policy.
2. The policy aims to restructure liquor taxation, rationalise excise slabs, and revise retail pricing based on alcohol content.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The state replaced the earlier bulk litre-based excise framework¹²² with a taxation model linked to percentage of alcohol content in beverages from 11th May, 2026.
 - b. Prices of mild and lager beers with around 5% alcohol content were reduced by nearly 20–25%.
 - c. The prices of premium Scotch whiskies were reduced significantly, while cheaper Indian Made Liquor (IML) products witnessed price increases of around 20–30%.
 - d. The Government reduced the number of excise slabs for alcohol classification from 16 to 8 under the revised excise framework.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States like Haryana,¹²³ Goa,¹²⁴ and Maharashtra¹²⁵ have similar alcohol-content-linked mixed models where excise duty is determined by manufacturing cost, MRP slabs, volume (bulk litre), and alcohol strength thresholds. However, they do not have a fully alcohol-content-based excise system.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. The policy shifts Karnataka's liquor taxation framework from volume-based pricing to alcohol-content-based taxation, reshaping a key source of state revenue. The KP Krishnan committee report shows that alcohol taxation contributes over 20% of Karnataka's own tax revenue.¹²⁶ If the price differential between mild beer and cheap IML widens sufficiently, substitution effects could shift a portion of consumption toward lower-alcohol products.
 - b. The 20-30% increase on cheaper IML products raises the effective cost of high-alcohol, low-cost spirits for the lowest-income consumer segment. Premium Scotch reductions are fiscally marginal in volume terms but carry signalling value for hospitality, tourism, and Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions

¹²² Bulk litre refers to a unit of measurement in excise taxation based on the total volume of a liquid (1000 millilitres) rather than its alcohol content.

¹²³ [Hindustan Times, May, 2025.](#)

¹²⁴ [Government Of Goa.](#)

¹²⁵ [Government Of Maharashtra.](#)

¹²⁶ [The News Minute, April, 2026.](#)

A. Alcohol-in-Beverage (AiB) Excise Policy, 2026

Source: [The Government Of Karnataka, Live Mint](#) | **Impact:** High

(MICE) sectors where Karnataka particularly Bengaluru competes with Goa and Maharashtra.¹²⁷

- c. This structurally reforms state excise architecture for the first time, with direct fiscal, public health, and industry-composition consequences.
- d. Further, widening the price gap between low-alcohol beer and high-alcohol cheap spirits acts as a behavioral nudge. By making beer 25% cheaper and cheap whiskey 30% more expensive, the policy tries to push consumers down the alcohol concentration ladder, aiming to lower the long-term public health and domestic costs associated with hard spirit addiction.
- e. However, industry bodies raised concerns that increased excise burden on low-cost liquor categories could affect smaller regional manufacturers and lower-income consumers, as lower excise slabs contribute nearly 70–80% of state excise revenue.¹²⁸ However, the state is betting that the Inelastic Demand¹²⁹ for basic spirits combined with the higher per-unit tax will keep total revenue stable.
- f. A sharp 30% price increase on lower-tier IML creates an immediate risk of illicit moonshine distillation or cross-border smuggling from lower-tax jurisdictions. To prevent this from eroding legal revenue, the state must back this pricing change with a major upgrade to its digital tracking infrastructure, adding mandatory quick-response (QR) cryptographic stamps on all low-cost bottles.
- g. Lastly, smaller regional distilleries that rely completely on mass-market, cheap liquor lines face a sharp supply-side squeeze under the new 8-slab system. Lacking the financial buffer or brand power of multinational giants (like Diageo or United Breweries) to absorb higher upfront excise duties, these local manufacturers may be forced to re-engineer their portfolios toward milder, blended alternatives to survive.

¹²⁷ [Coherent Market Insights, May, 2025.](#)

¹²⁸ [Livemint, May, 2026.](#)

¹²⁹ Inelastic demand is an economic concept where the quantity demanded of a good or service remains relatively unchanged despite significant fluctuations in its price.

IV. Andhra Pradesh

A. Andhra Pradesh Tourism Policy Roadmap (2024–2029)

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

1. On 13th May, 2026, the Government of Andhra Pradesh rolled out an ambitious plan to attract more than ₹ 20,000 crore in investments in the tourism sector under the Tourism Policy, 2024–29.¹³⁰
2. The plan aims to position Andhra Pradesh as a major multi-experience tourism destination while generating large-scale employment and expanding tourism infrastructure across the state.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy targets to generate employment opportunities for more than 1.22 lakh people through tourism and hospitality projects across the state.
 - b. The Government granted industrial status to the tourism sector and announced incentives such as capital subsidies, State Goods and Services Tax (SGST), reimbursement, and stamp duty exemptions to encourage private investment in tourism infrastructure.
 - c. Around 117 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed in the tourism sector over the past two years, while major hospitality brands including Taj, Marriott, ITC, Hyatt, Oberoi, and Hilton are planning projects expected to add more than 7,700 hotel rooms in the state.
 - d. The state plans to develop seven anchor tourism hubs in Visakhapatnam, Araku, Rajamahendravaram, Amaravati, Srisailam, Gandikota, and Tirupati along with more than 25 tourism circuits and major MICE tourism destinations.
 - e. The Government is also promoting new tourism segments such as luxury cruises, heli-tourism, caravan tourism, eco-tourism, adventure tourism, and floating houseboats, while also expanding water sports and pilgrimage tourism infrastructure.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The initiative aligns with major tourism infrastructure and destination development programs of the Government of India such as the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Schemes¹³¹ and Swadesh Darshan Scheme (SDS) 2.0.¹³²
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States like Uttar Pradesh,¹³³ Kerala¹³⁴ and Goa¹³⁵ have similar tourism promotion initiatives which focuses on strengthening tourism

¹³⁰ [Andhra Pradesh Tourism Policy, 2024-2029.](#)

¹³¹ [PRASHAD Scheme.](#)

¹³² [Swadesh Darshan Scheme.](#)

¹³³ [Uttar Pradesh Tourism Policy, 2022.](#)

¹³⁴ [Kerala Tourism Policy, 2017.](#)

¹³⁵ [Goa Tourism Policy, 2020.](#)

A. Andhra Pradesh Tourism Policy Roadmap (2024–2029)

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

infrastructure, promoting heritage, eco, rural, and adventure tourism, improving visitor experience, and generating employment through tourism-led economic development.

6. Relevance -

- a. Andhra Pradesh attracts over 29 crore domestic tourist visits annually,¹³⁶ routinely ranking among the top three states in India for domestic tourism. This massive footfall is heavily driven by spiritual and pilgrimage centers, though the state also promotes its extensive coastline and eco-tourism.
- b. Despite this volume, Andhra Pradesh's tourism revenue realisation per visitor remains low relative to states such as Rajasthan, Goa, and Kerala, reflecting a structural gap between footfall and monetisable tourism infrastructure precisely the gap this policy targets.
- c. Tirupati attracts staggering domestic numbers, but the local economy struggles with low Dwell Time,¹³⁷ with most pilgrims leaving within 12–24 hours due to limited ancillary attractions. The policy addresses this gap by promoting premium niche experiences, including the recently approved Seaplane Project at Rayala Cheruvu,¹³⁸ to increase visitor spending and extend average stays.
- d. Through partnerships with digital platforms such as Airbnb, MakeMyTrip, and Booking.com, the policy has facilitated the registration of 1,855 homestays, integrating the informal rural economy into the digital tourism ecosystem. This model enables households in eco-tourism regions such as Araku Valley to directly access consumer demand, generating decentralized non-farm income within local communities.
- e. Further, the 1.22 lakh employment target, if achieved, would constitute a meaningful contribution to Andhra Pradesh's post-bifurcation employment challenge, as Hyderabad, the former economic and services hub of undivided Andhra Pradesh, remained with Telangana after 2014.

¹³⁶ [Ministry Of Tourism, 2025.](#)

¹³⁷ Dwell time refers to the amount of time a visitor spends at a specific destination or place.

¹³⁸ [The New Indian Express, May, 2026.](#)

V. Bihar

A. Bihar Raiyati Land Purchase Policy, 2026

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

1. On 27th May, 2026, the Bihar Cabinet introduced the Bihar Raiyati Land Purchase Policy, 2026 to streamline acquisition of privately-owned land required for Central and state Government infrastructure and public welfare projects.
2. The policy introduces a revised compensation framework, financial incentives, and transaction-related exemptions to accelerate project implementation and reduce land acquisition bottlenecks.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Landowners in urban areas will receive compensation equivalent to twice the market value or circle rate, whichever is higher, for acquisition of privately-owned land under the revised policy framework.
 - b. In rural areas, compensation for acquired land will be fixed at four times the market value or circle rate, whichever is higher, to provide enhanced financial protection to landowners.
 - c. An additional incentive amount equivalent to 10% of the total compensation value will be provided to affected landowners over and above the prescribed compensation structure.
 - d. Land transactions carried out under the policy will be exempted from stamp duty and registration charges in order to simplify acquisition procedures and reduce associated transaction costs.
 - e. The policy will apply to land acquisition for infrastructure, industrial, connectivity, and public welfare projects undertaken by both the Central Government and the Bihar Government across the state.
 - f. The policy aims to improve compensation transparency, reduce land acquisition disputes and procedural delays, and accelerate implementation of development and public infrastructure projects in Bihar.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013,¹³⁹ which focuses on fair compensation, transparency in acquisition procedures, and minimising disputes in land acquisition for public infrastructure and development projects.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** The measure complements Andhra Pradesh's land pooling and compensation-based acquisition framework adopted for

¹³⁹ [The Right To Fair Compensation And Transparency In Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation And Resettlement Act, 2013](#).

A. Bihar Raiyati Land Purchase Policy, 2026

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

Amaravati¹⁴⁰ region development,¹⁴¹ and Gujarat's town planning and land readjustment model¹⁴² focused on faster land availability¹⁴³ for infrastructure and urban development projects.¹⁴⁴

6. Relevance -

- a. Land acquisition disputes and compensation-related litigation have repeatedly delayed highway, railway, and infrastructure projects in Bihar.¹⁴⁵ By guaranteeing compensation at twice the market/circle rate in urban areas and four times the market/circle rate in rural areas, along with an additional 10% incentive, the policy directly improves the attractiveness of voluntary land transfer. This can reduce disputes, lower project delays, and accelerate delivery of public infrastructure projects.
- b. Bihar approved acquisition of 2,627 acres across five new industrial areas and 1,300 acres for the Integrated Manufacturing Cluster under the Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor.¹⁴⁶ By improving land availability through enhanced compensation and incentives, the policy strengthens the state's investment readiness and industrial expansion pipeline.
- c. Further, Large infrastructure projects often face fragmented land acquisition processes and uneven compensation practices. By establishing a common framework for both Central and state government projects, the policy standardises compensation and procedures, improving coordination and accelerating infrastructure and industrial investments.
- d. Several infrastructure projects have required intensive district-level surveys and land handover exercises because acquisition delays continue to affect project timelines, including the ₹ 700-crore Ara-Sasaram rail doubling project.¹⁴⁷ By offering compensation at twice the market value in urban areas and four times in rural areas, the policy increases landowner participation in acquisition processes.

¹⁴⁰ [Amravati District](#).

¹⁴¹ [Niti Aayog](#).

¹⁴² [Town Planning And Valuation Department, Government Of Gujarat](#).

¹⁴³ [Revenue Department, Government Of Gujarat](#).

¹⁴⁴ [The Gujarat Town Planning And Urban Development Act, 1976](#).

¹⁴⁵ [MORTH, December, 2025](#).

¹⁴⁶ [The Times Of India, August, 2025](#).

¹⁴⁷ [The Times Of India, December, 2025](#).

VI. Kerala

A. Vision 2031 Policy Roadmap

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

1. On 23rd May, 2026, the Kerala Government unveiled the Vision 2031 Roadmap which aims to provide a long-term policy framework for infrastructure development, welfare delivery, social inclusion, and regulatory reforms in Kerala.
2. The roadmap seeks to guide Government decision-making through targeted investments, institutional reforms, and welfare measures aligned with the state's development priorities through 2031.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The roadmap proposes metro and light metro projects in Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode to expand urban transport infrastructure.
 - b. It introduces statutory status for welfare pensions and provides for establishment of a dedicated commission to oversee pension distribution and administration.
 - c. It mandates the cancellation of land acquisition notifications for major projects if construction does not commence within five years and proposes a new comprehensive land assignment law.
 - d. It provides welfare measures including clearance of pending Dearness Relief arrears for Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) pensioners, Dearness Allowance disbursement and wage revision for employees, tax exemption on vehicles up to ₹ 15 lakh for persons with disabilities, and aided status for all special schools.
 - e. The roadmap also introduces social and governance reforms including incentives for women-friendly hotels and restaurants, Phase II of Operation Kubera against usurious lending, a new fruit-based wine policy, district-level senior citizen helplines, and health, housing, and recruitment benefits for transgender persons.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The roadmap aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030 framework, NITI Aayog's efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda,¹⁴⁸ and the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047¹⁴⁹ through investments in infrastructure, social welfare, and inclusive development.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Bihar adopted a similar approach through the Saat Nischay 3.0 program (2025–30), a long-term development roadmap focused on infrastructure, welfare, and economic development.¹⁵⁰
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Kerala's welfare pensions previously rested on executive discretion, leaving

¹⁴⁸ [NITI Aayog.](#)

¹⁴⁹ [Viksit Bharat@2047.](#)

¹⁵⁰ [Times Of India, December, 2025.](#)

A. Vision 2031 Policy Roadmap

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

disbursement and arrears vulnerable to fiscal pressure. Multiple instances of delays and protests have happened in the state owing to delay in pensions.¹⁵¹ Land-acquisition notifications could remain open-ended without construction commencing, locking up land and inviting litigation as seen during the LDF Government led Silver line project.¹⁵² Commercial construction restrictions in Idukki and contested land-assignment amendments compounded regulatory uncertainty.

- b. The roadmap maps directly onto these gaps. It converts welfare pensions into a statutory entitlement backed by an oversight commission, introduces a five-year lapse trigger on stalled acquisitions, and proposes replacement legislation for land assignment, substituting discretionary practice with codified rules and time-bound conditions.
- c. Furthermore, moving away from traditional restrictive alcohol manufacturing models, the roadmap introduces a specialised Fruit-Based Wine Policy. This regulatory change allows local cooperative societies to directly monetise surplus agricultural output, such as cashew apples, pineapples, and bananas, that would otherwise spoil. Turning local agricultural waste into high-margin consumer goods provides a vital source of alternative income for farming communities.
- d. By sequencing the policy address and budget around the roadmap, the Government positions Vision 2031 as the medium-term framework for capital projects, employee dues, and equity entitlements. As an unlegislated roadmap, its impact depends on the statutory and budgetary instruments that follow.

¹⁵¹ [The Hindu, February, 2024.](#)

¹⁵² [The News Minute, May, 2026.](#)

Social Sector Announcements

I. Chhattisgarh

A. The 'Jan Bhagidari – Sabse Door, Sabse Pehle' Campaign In Tribal Areas

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

1. On 18th May, 2026, the “Jan Bhagidari – Sabse Door, Sabse Pehle” campaign was launched to improve the last-mile delivery of welfare schemes in remote tribal regions across Chhattisgarh.
2. The campaign aims to ensure greater outreach of Government services in tribal villages by facilitating direct access to welfare benefits, grievance redressal, healthcare services, and awareness programs in underserved areas.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The campaign is being conducted from the 18th to 25th May, 2026 across tribal-dominated and remote regions of the state.
 - b. It covers villages identified under PM-JANMAN¹⁵³ and Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan.¹⁵⁴
 - c. The campaign focuses on delivering benefits related to healthcare, education, nutrition, drinking water, and social security schemes.
 - d. Further, during the campaign, Government officials will conduct village visits, public hearings, and grievance-redressal camps in remote areas.
 - e. Health camps for screening of diseases such as sickle cell anaemia and tuberculosis are also planned under the campaign.
 - f. Lastly, “Aadi Seva Kendras” will be used for registration of grievances and on-ground service delivery.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment** - The campaign aligns with the objectives of the Pradhan Mantri Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (PMVKY)¹⁵⁵ and the Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan¹⁵⁶ focused on improving welfare delivery and socio-economic inclusiveness.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Tamil Nadu¹⁵⁷ and Rajasthan¹⁵⁸ have implemented similar outreach initiatives aimed at strengthening last-mile delivery of welfare schemes, improving grievance redressal, and expanding access to Government services through village-level camps and direct administrative

¹⁵³ The Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) is a central Government program focused on the welfare and development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) across India.

¹⁵⁴ The Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan is a tribal welfare initiative focused on improving infrastructure, basic services, and socio-economic development in tribal-majority villages across India.

¹⁵⁵ [PIB, October, 2024.](#)

¹⁵⁶ [Operational Guidelines By Ministry Of Tribal Affairs, GOI, October, 2024.](#)

¹⁵⁷ [The Hindu, July, 2025.](#)

¹⁵⁸ [The Times Of India, June, 2025.](#)

A. The 'Jan Bhagidari – Sabse Door, Sabse Pehle' Campaign In Tribal Areas**Source:** [News On Air](#) | **Impact:** High

engagement.

6. Relevance -

- a. Remote tribal habitations had limited physical access to the state, leaving eligible families unaware of or unable to claim healthcare, nutrition, water, and social security benefits before the PM-JANMAN's three-year window got closed. The campaign addresses this by taking officials into villages for public hearings and grievance-redressal camps, converting a passive, application-based model into active doorstep delivery to ensure no eligible beneficiary is left out.
- b. Further, sickle cell anaemia carries a disproportionate tribal burden, with India bearing one of the world's largest sickle cell disease burdens, while states such as Chhattisgarh are among the worst affected,¹⁵⁹ yet screening had not reached the remotest populations. The campaign addresses this by embedding health camps for sickle cell anaemia and tuberculosis screening in the outreach, aligning with the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission¹⁶⁰ and bringing early detection to the populations that need it most.
- c. Bringing together departments like Health, Education, Nutrition, and Jal Shakti under a unified 8-day window eliminates typical inter-departmental delays. For example, if a family registers for an automatic housing allocation, the health team can simultaneously register them for an Ayushman Bharat Card, while the grid representative tracks their clean drinking water connection, saving months of piecemeal paperwork.
- d. Lastly, beyond its immediate social welfare value, protecting the health and economic security of the tribal workforce is a key driver for the state's primary sector. Ensuring local access to nutrition and disease management potentially helps stabilise the rural and forest-dependent labor force, securing the baseline productivity of the state's collection networks for non-timber forest produce (NTFP).

¹⁵⁹ [Deccan Herald, July, 2023.](#)

¹⁶⁰ [National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission.](#)

B. The 'Dweepti Yojana' (Rural Clean Energy Mobilisation) To Promote Women's Participation

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

1. On 15th May, 2026, the “Dweepti Yojana” was launched to strengthen the participation of rural women in the clean energy sector through skill development, entrepreneurship support, and community-level energy initiatives.
2. **Key Features** -
 - a. The scheme will run from 2026 to 2031 and train rural women to own, operate, and maintain decentralised solar energy assets across Chhattisgarh.
 - b. A village-level cadre of “Solar Didis” will be created to install and service solar mills, cold storage units, irrigation pumps, and other renewable energy systems.
 - c. Existing Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) will be converted into women-led energy cooperatives and authorised vendors under PM-Surya Ghar Yojana.
 - d. The state has reserved 25% of panchayat maintenance contracts for women-led energy cooperatives, with implementation through the Bihan network covering around 2.7 lakh self-help groups.
3. **Central Initiative Alignment** - Integrates seamlessly with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's (MNRE) PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana and the National Bioenergy Programme. It also scales up the core vision of the central Namu Drone Didi and Lakhpati Didi initiatives by moving women into high-value engineering and technology-delivery pipelines.
4. **Similar Initiative In Other States** - Similar women-led decentralised clean energy initiatives have also been implemented in Uttar Pradesh through “Surya Sakhi” program,¹⁶¹ and in Delhi through the “Solar Sakhi” rooftop solar awareness campaign.¹⁶²
5. **Relevance** -
 - a. Women remain significantly underrepresented in the clean energy sector, accounting for only around 11% of India's rooftop solar workforce, compared with a global renewable-energy average of roughly 32%,¹⁶³ leaving rural women as passive energy consumers rather than participants. The scheme addresses this by training rural women in clean-energy activities and services and supporting clean-energy entrepreneurship, shifting them from end-users to skilled workers and enterprise owners in the sector.
 - b. Rural skilling and livelihood programs have rarely been linked to the fast-growing

¹⁶¹ [The FPJ, August, 2025.](#)

¹⁶² [Times Of India, October, 2025.](#)

¹⁶³ [Clean Energy Wire, November, 2024.](#)

B. The 'Dweepati Yojana' (Rural Clean Energy Mobilisation) To Promote Women's Participation

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

clean-energy sector, and most green-skills training has gone to men, who form around 85% of those trained.¹⁶⁴ The scheme addresses this by tying skill development to self-employment and entrepreneurship in clean energy, aligning with women-led development goals and positioning rural women to capture green jobs as decentralised renewable energy expands.

- c. As decentralised solar expands rapidly across rural India, it brings a major long-term waste threat, with thousands of tonnes of legacy solar e-waste projected by 2030.¹⁶⁵ Training Urja Sakhis to not only fix but systematically collect, dismantle, and route expired batteries and Photo Voltaic cells into formal recycling networks creates an essential, closed-loop circular economy at the grassroots.
- d. Lastly, traditional gender budgeting focuses heavily on basic consumption transfers (like the Annapurna Bhandaar).¹⁶⁶ The scheme signals a pivot toward production-asset endowments. In essence, capitalising women through specialised technical knowledge and green assets delivers a lasting GVA contribution to the local rural Gross Domestic Product, permanently altering local financial decision-making power.

¹⁶⁴ [Clean Energy Wire, November, 2024.](#)

¹⁶⁵ [CEEW, March, 2024.](#)

¹⁶⁶ [Annapurna Bhandar.](#)

II. Tamil Nadu

A. Renovation And Modernisation Of Amma Unavagams (Amma Canteens)

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

1. On 18th May, 2026, the Government of Tamil Nadu directed renovation and modernisation of Amma Canteens across the state to improve food quality, hygiene, and infrastructure standards.
2. The initiative aims to strengthen one of the state's flagship welfare schemes that provides affordable meals to daily wage workers, urban poor, and economically weaker sections.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Tamil Nadu currently operates 383 Amma Canteens under the Greater Chennai Corporation and 237 additional canteens through municipal corporations and municipalities across the state.¹⁶⁷
 - b. As per the initiative, officials have been directed to replace damaged utensils and outdated kitchen equipment, modernise cooking facilities, and improve maintenance systems for safer and more efficient food preparation.
 - c. Further, local bodies have been instructed to assess immediate infrastructure requirements of each canteen and prioritise procurement, repair, and renovation works.
 - d. The Government has also directed regular monitoring of food quality, hygiene standards, kitchen cleanliness, and timely redressal of public complaints through periodic inspections.
 - e. The initiative also seeks to ensure uninterrupted access to affordable and nutritious meals for daily wage labourers, urban workers, and economically vulnerable populations across urban areas.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The initiative aligns with the National Food Security Act, 2013, which aims to ensure affordable access to food and nutritional security for economically vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of the population.¹⁶⁸
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Similar subsidised community kitchen and affordable meal initiatives have also been implemented in states such as Odisha through the Aahaar Scheme¹⁶⁹, Karnataka through the Indira Canteen¹⁷⁰ and Delhi through the Atal Canteen¹⁷¹ program to provide low-cost meals to urban workers and economically weaker sections.

¹⁶⁷ [India Today, May, 2026.](#)

¹⁶⁸ [National Food Security Act, 2013.](#)

¹⁶⁹ [State Urban Development Agency.](#)

¹⁷⁰ [The Indian Express, May, 2023.](#)

¹⁷¹ [The Hindu, December, 2025.](#)

A. Renovation And Modernisation Of Amma Unavagams (Amma Canteens)

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

6. Relevance -

- a. The Periodic Labour Force Survey 2022-23, highlights Tamil Nadu as one of the states with the highest concentrations of urban casual labour in India.¹⁷² This large urban informal workforce, comprising construction workers, daily wage earners, sanitation workers, drivers, and migrant labourers, remains highly vulnerable to food inflation and income instability.
- b. In this context, a full three meals at an Amma Canteen is priced at ₹ 5-15,¹⁷³ against a market rate of ₹ 60-120 for an equivalent meal in urban Tamil Nadu, representing a subsidy absorption of 80-90% per meal by the state exchequer.
- c. Renovation and equipment replacement will essentially reduce contamination risks and improve caloric adequacy of meals served directly affecting nutritional outcomes for daily wage workers who often consume Amma Canteen meals as their primary or sole structured meal of the day.
- d. In May 2026, urban food inflation across India remained volatile due to unseasonal heatwaves disrupting supply chains.¹⁷⁴ By keeping its 620 community canteens fully operational and strengthening supply logistics, Tamil Nadu has positioned the system as an effective macroeconomic buffer. This helps stabilise urban living costs and reduces the risk of inflation-driven pressure for sharp increases in minimum casual wage payouts.
- e. Poor sanitation in high-density urban kitchens can lead to outbreaks of water-borne diseases such as Gastroenteritis and Typhoid.¹⁷⁵ For casual labourers without paid medical leave, illness often results in immediate income loss. Upgrading drainage and automated washing systems across all 620 canteens therefore serves as a pre-emptive urban public health strategy.
- f. If equipment failure or unhygienic conditions force a canteen to shut down, workers are pushed back into the expensive informal market. This sudden change strips ₹ 1,500-₹2,500 per month from their disposable income, directly reducing household spending on healthcare and education. Regular kitchen renovation and equipment upgrades reduce downtime risks, improve hygiene compliance, and ensure uninterrupted operations, thereby preventing income shocks.
- g. By empowering municipal bodies to conduct local infrastructure assessments and procure parts through regional vendors, the policy decentralises maintenance, reduces repair delays, and enables quicker responses to local needs and demand.

¹⁷² [Periodic Labour Force Survey, 2022-23.](#)

¹⁷³ [BBC, July, 2016.](#)

¹⁷⁴ [NDTV, May, 2026.](#)

¹⁷⁵ [Times Of India, February, 2026.](#)

III. Kerala

A. Free Bus Travel For Women In KSRTC

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

1. On 18th May, 2026, the Kerala Government approved free bus travel for women in Kerala State Road Transportation Corporation (KSRTC) services.
2. **Key Features -**
 - a. Women will be eligible for free travel on KSRTC bus services from 15th June, 2026, reducing commuting expenses.
 - b. The scheme applies to women passengers travelling on KSRTC services across Kerala.
 - c. The Government stated that detailed implementation guidelines and operational modalities will be notified separately.
 - d. The measures are part of the UDF Government's election commitments under the "Indira Guarantee"¹⁷⁶ program.
 - e. Nonetheless, the Government had stated that the decisions were taken despite fiscal constraints and financial limitations faced by the state.
3. **States With Similar Initiatives -** Karnataka introduced the Shakti Scheme in 2023, providing free travel for women in state-run non-premium buses,¹⁷⁷ while Delhi rolled out Pink Saheli Smart Cards to expand digital access to free bus travel for women commuters in DTC buses.¹⁷⁸
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. Notably, KSRTC Kerala is among the most financially distressed state transport corporations in India, carrying accumulated losses exceeding ₹ 17,235.47 crore as of FY24 and requiring annual budgetary support of approximately ₹ 1,500-₹ 2,000 crore merely to sustain operations.¹⁷⁹ The corporation operates roughly 5,500¹⁸⁰ buses serving an average daily ridership of approximately 30 lakh passengers.¹⁸¹
 - b. In Kerala's urban and semi-urban corridors where KSRTC competes with private buses and autorickshaws, the zero-fare option may shift modal choice toward KSRTC, temporarily improving ridership numbers even as per-passenger revenue collapses.
 - c. Shifting to a zero-fare option will cause a rapid Modal Shift, pulling female commuters away from private alternatives and packing them into KSRTC buses.

¹⁷⁶ The "Indira Guarantee" program is a flagship welfare initiative launched by the United Democratic Front (UDF) in Kerala.

¹⁷⁷ [The Hindu, October, 2025.](#)

¹⁷⁸ [India Today, May, 2026.](#)

¹⁷⁹ [Mathrubhumi, January, 2026.](#)

¹⁸⁰ [Times Of India, December, 2025.](#)

¹⁸¹ [Times Of India, May, 2026.](#)

A. Free Bus Travel For Women In KSRTC**Source:** [The New Indian Express](#) | **Impact:** Medium

While this aggressively inflates ridership metrics, it drives down the corporation's Passenger Revenue per Kilometre (EPKM), worsening its cash-flow mismatch.

- d. Women constitute over 63% of KSRTC ridership,¹⁸² meaning free travel for this segment effectively removes fare revenue from nearly one-third of the passenger base.
- e. Karnataka's Shakti Scheme,¹⁸³ the closest comparable initiative in Karnataka imposed an annual financial burden of several thousand crore rupees on the state transport corporations, including a substantial impact on KSRTC Karnataka despite its comparatively stronger financial position than its Kerala counterpart.¹⁸⁴
- f. Kerala's KSRTC absorbs this revenue loss from a structurally weaker base, with no parallel fleet modernisation or operational efficiency program announced alongside the scheme.

¹⁸² [Times Of India, May, 2026.](#)

¹⁸³ [Karnataka Shakti Scheme, February, 2025.](#)

¹⁸⁴ [Times Of India, March, 2026.](#)

B. ASHA Workers Honorarium Revision

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

1. On May 18th, 2026, the Kerala Cabinet approved a revision in the monthly honorarium of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers.
2. The honorarium revision aims to enhance financial support for ASHA workers by increasing their monthly remuneration and addressing long-standing protests related to service conditions.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Government increased the monthly honorarium of ASHA workers by ₹ 3,000, from ₹ 9,000 to ₹ 12,000.
 - b. The Government stated that the honorarium revision constituted the first phase of support measures for ASHA workers.
 - c. The Government announced that retirement benefit measures for ASHA workers would be announced separately.
 - d. The Government increased the salary of Anganwadi employees by ₹ 1,000.
 - e. The Government increased the honorarium of school cooking staff and pre-primary teachers by ₹ 1,000 each.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The honorarium revision aligns with welfare measures announced by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji in 2018 for frontline healthcare and nutrition workers. The Union Government announced doubling of routine incentives for ASHA workers, provision of insurance coverage under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana.¹⁸⁵
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Haryana increased the monthly honorarium of Anganwadi workers to ₹ 14,000 and doubled retirement benefits from ₹ 1 lakh to ₹ 2 lakh¹⁸⁶, while Bihar increased the honorarium of ASHA workers from ₹ 1,000 to ₹ 3,000 and doubled incentives for Mamta workers from ₹ 300 to ₹ 600 per delivery.¹⁸⁷
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. ASHA workers handle critical grassroots healthcare metrics, including maternal and child health tracking, immunisation drops, and managing the state's high burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Increasing the baseline honorarium by 33% is a crucial retention strategy, as it directly answers months of continuous street protests, stabilising the primary care delivery network ahead of the high-risk monsoon disease cycle.
 - b. Further, the ₹ 3,000 honorarium hike raises Kerala's ASHA monthly compensation to ₹ 12,000, still short of the ₹ 18,000 minimum wage benchmark demanded by

¹⁸⁵ [PIB, September, 2018.](#)

¹⁸⁶ [Directorate Of Information, Public Relations And Languages, Government Of Haryana.](#)

¹⁸⁷ [NDTV, July, 2025.](#)

B. ASHA Workers Honorarium Revision

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

worker unions and wage floor recommended by the 7th Pay Commission for unskilled Government work.

- c. Lastly, on the demand side, eliminating transit costs acts as a direct economic boost for lower-income women, particularly domestic workers, casual laborers, and daily commuters. Saving ₹ 600–1,200 per month on transit fares frees up immediate disposable cash that is usually spent on local household nutrition and education, providing a localised consumption stimulus.
- d. However, since ASHA workers are honorary community health volunteers rather than full-time government employees, extending higher honoraria and welfare benefits could increase the recurring fiscal burden on the state.¹⁸⁸

¹⁸⁸ [Bar and Bench, April, 2026.](#)

IV. Odisha

A. Model Village Mission And Mahapurusha Adarsha Grama Yojana (MAGY)

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

1. On 26th May, 2026, the Odisha Government launched the Model Village Mission (MVM) and Mahapurusha Adarsha Grama Yojana (MAGY) to strengthen rural infrastructure, improve access to essential amenities, and promote holistic development across villages in the state.
2. The initiatives aim to transform rural areas into self-sustaining growth centres through infrastructure expansion, social development, and livelihood-oriented interventions.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. **Model Village Mission (MVM) -**
 - i. Headquarters villages of nearly 6,733 gram panchayats will be covered through targeted infrastructure and public service delivery interventions.
 - ii. Baseline surveys will identify gaps in village-level infrastructure and essential amenities to facilitate need-based development planning.
 - iii. State-level and district-level task forces have been constituted to supervise implementation, coordination, and monitoring.
 - iv. Focus areas include strengthening civic infrastructure, improving public service delivery, and enhancing the overall quality of life in rural areas.
 - b. **Mahapurusha Adarsha Gram Yojana (MAGY) -**
 - i. The scheme covers selected gram panchayats linked to notable personalities from across the state.
 - ii. Development interventions include roads, piped water supply, healthcare facilities, anganwadi centres, playgrounds, digital connectivity, solar energy infrastructure, skill development, social security, and livelihood generation.
 - iii. Special emphasis is placed on preserving cultural and historical heritage through the creation of memorial parks and the restoration of ancestral houses associated with eminent personalities.
 - iv. The scheme seeks to combine infrastructure development with heritage conservation and local economic development.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The initiatives align with the Ministry of Rural Development's Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM),¹⁸⁹ which promotes development of rural growth clusters through integrated infrastructure, economic activity, and urban-level amenities in village areas. It also aligns with the Ministry of

¹⁸⁹ [PIB, December, 2021.](#)

A. Model Village Mission And Mahapurusha Adarsha Grama Yojana (MAGY)

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

Panchayati Raj's Localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs)¹⁹⁰ framework focused on village-level planning, basic service delivery, and sustainable rural development.

5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - The schemes complement Punjab's Smart Village Campaign¹⁹¹ focused on strengthening rural civic infrastructure and public amenities at the gram panchayat level, and Vazhndhu Kaatuvom Project,¹⁹² which promotes rural infrastructure development, livelihood generation, local entrepreneurship, and community-based economic growth.¹⁹³

6. **Relevance** -

- a. Despite multiple welfare schemes, large sections of rural Odisha continued to face gaps in basic infrastructure and public amenities, with disparities in services and community infrastructure persisting across villages. The MVM responds by targeting all 6,733 Gram Panchayat headquarters villages for saturation by 2029 with integrated infrastructure and service-delivery interventions.
- b. The above will enable urban-like facilities in rural areas and fostering self-sustaining communities. This improves rural living standards and works to narrow the urban-rural development gap.
- c. Notably, bringing together departments like Health, Education, Energy, and Jal Shakti under a unified state-level task force eliminates traditional administrative delays. For instance, when an all-weather road is laid out under the MVM, the Green Energy wing can simultaneously install solar street lighting, while the Information Technology department strings fiber lines along the same right-of-way, dropping project execution costs.
- d. Furthermore, MAGY's focus on restoring ancestral homes and building memorial parks for eminent historical figures goes beyond mere sentimental value. This strategy builds a decentralised network of cultural and historical tourism circuits across the 12 initial districts. This local tourism engine drives demand for rural homestays, transport logistics, and native handicrafts, generating alternative sources of non-farm income.

¹⁹⁰ [PIB, December, 2023.](#)

¹⁹¹ [Times Of India, January, 2019.](#)

¹⁹² [Vazhndhu Kaatuvom, Government Of Tamil Nadu.](#)

¹⁹³ [PIB, January, 2018.](#)

V. Telangana

A. New Employees Health Scheme

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 19th May, 2026, the Telangana Finance Department initiated implementation of the New Employees Health Scheme (EHS), 2026.¹⁹⁴
2. The EHS aims to establish a cashless health security framework for Government employees, pensioners, and their dependents through a digitally integrated health administration system.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. EHS proposes cashless healthcare coverage for Government employees, pensioners, and their eligible family members across the state.
 - b. It introduces digital health cards linked through the IFMIS-HR module for identification and service access under the scheme.
 - c. The Government mandates all Heads of Departments, pension sanctioning authorities, and Drawing and Disbursing Officers to upload beneficiary data by 31st May, 2026.
 - d. It provides for establishment of the Employee Health Care Trust (EHCT) for implementation and administration of the scheme.
 - e. It enables integration of beneficiary records as defined under the Telangana Integrated Medical Attendance Rules, 1972¹⁹⁵ for standardised healthcare eligibility verification.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** EHS aligns with the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) and broader digital healthcare reforms focused on cashless treatment, integrated healthcare administration, and accessible medical services for central Government employees and pensioners.¹⁹⁶
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Karnataka implemented the Karnataka Arogya Sanjeevini Scheme for cashless healthcare services,¹⁹⁷ while Uttar Pradesh introduced the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay State Employees Cashless Medical Scheme with pay scale-linked treatment benefits.¹⁹⁸
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The previous employee health scheme relied on reimbursements, resulting in delayed claims, cumbersome referrals, and significant out-of-pocket expenses for nearly 17 lakh beneficiaries. Many employees and pensioners were forced to

¹⁹⁴ [Government Of Telangana, Finance \(EBS-V\) Department Memo Number 3739367-Q/113/A2/EBS.V/2026.](#)

¹⁹⁵ [The Andhra Pradesh Integrated Medical Attendance Rules, 1972.](#)

¹⁹⁶ [Central Government Health Scheme.](#)

¹⁹⁷ [Karnataka Arogya Sanjeevini Scheme.](#)

¹⁹⁸ [India Today, October, 2022.](#)

A. New Employees Health Scheme

Source: [Deccan Chronicle](#) | Impact: Medium

- arrange emergency referrals themselves or take loans to meet medical costs.
- b. The model is a deliberate shift away from paper reimbursement as it provides cashless treatment at empanelled hospitals. The funding is routed through a dedicated EHCT financed by a 1.5% employee contribution matched by the state. The trust will have an annual outlay of ₹ 1056 crore (₹ 528 crore each by employees and Government).¹⁹⁹
 - c. Further, a primary structural challenge flagged by labor unions during the 15th May joint staff council sessions was the potential technical exclusion of retirees under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS).²⁰⁰ The EHS resolves a key gap for CPS retirees by allowing Permanent Retirement Account Numbers (PRAN IDs)²⁰¹ in place of Pension Payment Order (PPO) numbers, preventing registration barriers and ensuring uninterrupted health coverage.
 - d. By integrating IFMIS-HR records with digital health cards, the scheme streamlines beneficiary verification, eliminating delays in claims and referrals.
 - e. The EHS establishes a shared health fund with contributions from employees, pensioners, and the state, making healthcare financing more predictable while enabling better cost management, fraud monitoring, and data-driven planning. Its effectiveness, however, depends on timely settlement of hospital claims.²⁰²

¹⁹⁹ [The News Minute, February, 2026.](#)

²⁰⁰ A Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) is a retirement plan where both the employee and the employer make regular financial contributions. These pooled funds are invested in financial markets to build a corpus, which provides a pension to the employee upon retirement, rather than relying on a fixed, guaranteed payout by the employer

²⁰¹ A Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN) is a unique 12-digit identification number assigned to subscribers of the National Pension System (NPS) in India. Issued by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), it acts as a lifelong, portable account that manages your pension contributions and retirement savings across jobs and locations.

²⁰² [Telangana Today, October, 2023.](#)

Investment Announcements

I. Odisha

A. Establishment Of Intel-3DGS Semiconductor Substrate Facility

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

1. On 29th May, 2026, the Odisha Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Intel Corporation and 3D Glass Solutions (3DGS).
2. The MoU focuses on establishing a semiconductor substrate²⁰³ manufacturing facility in the Bhubaneswar–Khurda region with an estimated investment of \$ 3.3 billion (₹ 31,347.57 crore).
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The project entails an estimated investment of \$ 3.3 billion (₹ 31,347.57 crore), making it one of India's largest high-technology manufacturing investments and Intel's first semiconductor manufacturing project in the country.
 - b. The facility will be established in the Bhubaneswar–Khurda region and implemented in phases over five to six years, focusing on advanced glass-core and high-density interconnect (HDI)²⁰⁴ semiconductor substrates.
 - c. Intel will provide technology know-how and process expertise, while 3DGS will contribute specialised glass-substrate technologies for advanced semiconductor packaging.
 - d. The project is expected to create over 1,800 direct high-skilled jobs across semiconductor manufacturing, materials engineering, packaging technologies, and allied technical operations.
 - e. The facility will manufacture semiconductor substrates, a critical component used for connecting and packaging integrated circuits.
1. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The project aligns with the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)²⁰⁵ and Semicon India Program, which aims to develop an end-to-end semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem in India.²⁰⁶
2. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Gujarat,²⁰⁷ Assam,²⁰⁸ and Uttar Pradesh²⁰⁹ have also attracted semiconductor investments under the India

²⁰³ A substrate is essentially a supporting component upon which or within which the elements of a semiconductor device are fabricated or attached. This component provides a stable foundation and high integration that helps to make sure that the semiconductor device functions properly.

²⁰⁴ HDI substrates are advanced semiconductor components that enable compact, high-performance electronic devices through dense electrical connections.

²⁰⁵ [Ministry Of Electronics And Information Technology](#).

²⁰⁶ [PIB, February, 2026](#).

²⁰⁷ [Gujarat Semiconductor Policy, 2022-27](#).

²⁰⁸ [PIB, November, 2024](#).

²⁰⁹ [Uttar Pradesh Semiconductor Policy, 2024](#).

A. Establishment Of Intel-3DGS Semiconductor Substrate Facility

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

Semiconductor Mission. While Gujarat hosts semiconductor fabrication and ATMP projects²¹⁰ by Tata Electronics, Micron Technology, CG Power and Renesas; Assam²¹¹ is developing Tata Electronics' semiconductor assembly and testing facility at Jagiroad,²¹²

3. Relevance-

- a. India imports nearly 90 to 95% of its semiconductor demand, a dependence which is a strategic vulnerability that exposes critical sectors to supply disruptions and foreign exchange outflows.²¹³ The \$ 3.3 billion (₹ 31,347.57 crore) Intel-3DGS plant onshores the substrate layer as domestic demand heads toward roughly \$ 200 billion (₹ 18.99 lakh crore) by 2035. This trims import reliance and hardens supply-chain resilience for AI, high-performance computing, telecom and defence.
- b. India's electronics import bill crossed \$ 100 billion (₹ 9.50 lakh crore) for the first time in FY2025-26, hitting a record \$ 116.17 billion,(₹ 11.04 lakh crore) up 17.76% over \$ 98.65 billion (₹ 9.37 lakh crore) the year before, roughly 15% of all merchandise imports and a major driver of the \$ 333.19 billion (₹ 31.65 lakh crore) trade deficit.²¹⁴
- c. The facility essentially localises a layer New Delhi is chasing through ISM 2.0 and the expanded ₹ 40,000 crore Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme.²¹⁵ It will help reduce import dependence by localising semiconductor substrate manufacturing within India.
- d. India is a global chip-design hub yet imports the actual products, manufacturing technologies and supply-chain control, a services-led semiconductor economy that exports talent while intellectual property (IP) and production stay overseas. Here Intel provides process expertise, technology licensing, quality systems and workforce capability-building, shifting India from assembly toward IP-intensive manufacturing. It adds over 1,800 direct high-skilled jobs in materials engineering and packaging technologies.

²¹⁰ ATMP (Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging) facilities assemble semiconductor chips, test their functionality, and package them for use in electronic devices.

²¹¹ [Assam Electronics \(Semiconductor etc.\) Policy, 2023.](#)

²¹² [PIB, December, 2025.](#)

²¹³ [Business Today, May, 2026.](#)

²¹⁴ [The Week, April, 2026.](#)

²¹⁵ [The Economic Times, February, 2026.](#)

II. Andhra Pradesh

A. Royal Enfield Manufacturing and Automotive Expansion Project

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

1. On 18th May, 2026, Royal Enfield announced a ₹ 2,500 crore investment to establish a motorcycle manufacturing facility in Tada, Tirupati district, Andhra Pradesh.
2. The project aims to expand the company's manufacturing capacity, strengthen the automotive supply ecosystem, and generate large-scale employment in the state.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The proposed project involves an investment of nearly ₹ 2,500 crore and an annual manufacturing capacity of around 9 lakh motorcycles.
 - b. The facility will include a state-of-the-art manufacturing unit, testing track, research and development (R&D) centre, and a dedicated vendor park ecosystem.
 - c. The project is expected to generate around 15,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities in the region.
 - d. The Andhra Pradesh Government has assured support for faster approvals and accelerated project execution, targeting completion within 18 months instead of the proposed 24 months.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The initiative aligns with the Government of India's Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Automobile and Auto Components (PLI ACC), approved by the Union Cabinet with a budgetary outlay of ₹ 25,938 crore. The scheme aims to boost domestic manufacturing of Advanced Automotive Technology (AAT) products, encourage fresh investments in indigenous automobile manufacturing, strengthen automotive supply chains, and generate additional employment in the sector.²¹⁶
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Historically, high-value automotive engineering has been heavily gatekept inside the Chennai-Pune-NCR industrial triangle. By building a state-of-the-art OEM-level R&D Centre in Tada, Royal Enfield is creating a secondary tech cluster. This essentially attracts human capital, pulling in Tier-1 engineering talent, materials research firms, and specialised fabless software providers into the Tirupati-Tada corridor.
 - b. The proposed Tada facility's annual capacity of 9 lakh motorcycles effectively doubles Royal Enfield's current installed capacity, signalling a structural bet on sustained volume growth in both domestic premium and international markets rather than a marginal capacity addition. This context makes the ₹ 2,500 crore investment strategically significant beyond its headline number.²¹⁷

²¹⁶ [PIB, March, 2025.](#)

²¹⁷ [Fortune India, May, 2026.](#)

A. Royal Enfield Manufacturing and Automotive Expansion Project**Source:** [The New Indian Express](#) | **Impact:** Medium

- c. Tada, located in Tirupati district along the Andhra Pradesh-Tamil Nadu border on the Chennai-Kolkata National Highway corridor, sits within the established Chennai-Bengaluru automotive manufacturing belt, one of the most concentrated auto-component supply ecosystems in India.²¹⁸ The 15,000 direct and indirect employment figure, if realised, represents one of the larger single-facility employment commitments in Andhra Pradesh's recent industrial history.
- d. Tada's close proximity to the Krishnapatnam, Ennore, and Chennai ports turns it into an exceptional export base. For a brand that has surpassed 12 Lakh global sales and exports to over 80 countries, shipping crated motorcycles directly to its international Completely Knocked Down (CKD) assembly lines (such as Brazil, Colombia, and Thailand)²¹⁹ through multiple proximate ports creates a vital logistical shield against regional rail disruptions or local port congestion.
- e. Lastly, the state's 18-month completion target is intended to strengthen investor confidence, but it will require parallel development of critical utility infrastructure, particularly dedicated industrial water pipelines and specialised waste-management systems for paint and electroplating operations, to avoid costly implementation delays.

²¹⁸ [Realty Plus, March, 2026.](#)

²¹⁹ [Moneycontrol, May, 2026.](#)

Other Decisions

I. West Bengal

A. Discontinuation of Religion-Based Welfare Assistance Schemes

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

1. On 18th May, 2026, the West Bengal cabinet approved the discontinuation of welfare assistance schemes based on **religious categorisation**, including monthly honoraria for imams, muezzins, and temple priests. The decision will come into effect from June 2026.
2. **Key Features -**
 - a. Monthly honorarium payments to nearly 65,000 imams and muezzins will be discontinued from June 2026 onwards.
 - b. Financial assistance schemes for temple priests administered through the Information and Cultural Affairs Department will also be withdrawn.
 - c. Notably, religion-based welfare programs operating under the Minority Affairs and Madrasa Education Department are proposed to be phased out.
 - d. Existing budgetary allocations under religion-linked honorarium schemes are expected to be restructured towards broader welfare delivery mechanisms.
 - e. The state Government has clarified that student scholarship schemes and general social welfare programs will continue unaffected.
3. **Relevance -**
 - a. The schemes created a visible disparity in state support, with imams receiving ₹ 2,500 per month while Hindu priests received only ₹ 1,000.²²⁰ The decision addresses this by ending religion-specific honoraria altogether rather than expanding them, replacing faith-segmented entitlements with a broader review of beneficiary classification in welfare delivery.
 - b. Spending public money on religious stipends acts as a simple consumption transfer with minimal economic return. Shifting these funds into Merit-based Scholarships acts as a long-term Gross Value Added (GVA) multiplier, as it directs state capital into human capital formation, boosting formal labor readiness and economic mobility.
 - c. The honorarium regime had become a recurring fiscal commitment, with more than 45,000 imams and muezzins receiving monthly state-supported payments and repeated demands for higher allowances over time.²²¹ Phasing out these religion-linked transfers while retaining broader welfare support will shift delivery toward need-based rather than identity-based benefits.

²²⁰ [India TV, August, 2023.](#)

²²¹ [The Telegraph, August, 2023.](#)

B. In-Principle Approval For The Implementation Of The 7th Pay Commission

Source: [News On AIR](#) | Impact: High

1. On 18th May, 2026, the Government of West Bengal gave in-principle approval for the implementation of the 7th Pay Commission for state Government employees, Government-aided institutions, boards, corporations, and pensioners.
2. The decision addresses a long-pending demand to revise salaries, pensions, and service-related benefits.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The decision will replace the existing Revision of Pay and Allowances (ROPA), 2019²²² framework with a new pay matrix and salary structure for state employees and pensioners.
 - b. It is expected to revise entry-level basic pay, fitment factors, grade pay structure, pensions, and allowance components for serving and retired employees.
 - c. The decision will extend to employees of state departments, statutory bodies, Government corporations, aided institutions, and state-run educational institutions.
 - d. It will also modernise compensation and retirement benefit structures in line with updated inflation and salary parameters.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** It aligns with the foundational methodology of periodic pay rationalisation established by the 7th Central Pay Commission (CPC).²²³
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States including Maharashtra²²⁴ and Karnataka²²⁵ have also implemented salary and pension revisions based on the 7th Pay Commission framework for state Government employees and pensioners.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Public sector compensation in West Bengal has long been uncompetitive compared to private or Central alternatives. This gap led to severe talent drains within technical engineering wings, state health cadres, and higher education faculties. Moving toward 7th CPC baseline parameters serves as a human capital retention strategy to restore the technical execution depth of state departments.
 - b. The ultimate scale of the state's fiscal exposure will be governed by the entry-level grade changes. Under standard 7th CPC structural modeling, different fitment choices yield divergent liability graphs.²²⁶
 - i. Level 1 (Entry Core): Moves from a baseline of ₹ 17,000 to ₹ 34,000 (at 2.0x) or

²²² [Revision Of Pay And Allowances \(ROPA\), 2019.](#)

²²³ [Department Of Expenditure, 2016.](#)

²²⁴ [The Hindu, December, 2018.](#)

²²⁵ [Times Of India, July, 2024.](#)

²²⁶ [The Economic Times, May, 2026.](#)

B. In-Principle Approval For The Implementation Of The 7th Pay Commission

Source: [News On AIR](#) | Impact: High

- up to ₹ 42,500 (at 2.5x).
- ii. Level 10 (Middle Management): Moves from a baseline of ₹ 32,100 to ₹ 64,200 (at 2.0x) or ₹ 80,250 (at 2.5x).
 - iii. Level 24 (Top End Peak): Moves from ₹ 1.28 lakh basic pay to potentially over ₹ 3.22 lakh, fundamentally transforming the purchasing power of the state's executive leadership.
- c. West Bengal state employees continued under the 6th Pay Commission even after the Centre adopted the 7th CPC, creating a Dearness Allowance (DA) gap of about 42% between state and Central staff.²²⁷ The decision addresses this by granting in-principle approval for the 7th CPC across departments, aided institutions, boards, and corporations, moving the state closer to parity with the Central pay structure.

²²⁷ [Times Of India, May, 2026.](#)

II. Uttar Pradesh

A. Gram Pradhans To Act As Administrators Until Panchayat Elections

Source: [PTI News](#), [Nav Bharat Times](#) | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 25th May, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Government decided that outgoing gram pradhans will continue as administrators of gram panchayats until the formation of new village panchayats or for a maximum period of six months.
2. The arrangement has been taken ahead of the completion of the current gram panchayat tenure on 26th May, 2026.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. District Magistrates across the state have been authorised to appoint outgoing gram pradhans as administrators of gram panchayats following the completion of the existing tenure.
 - b. The administrators will continue to manage routine administrative and governance related functions of gram panchayats until new panchayats are constituted.
 - c. The arrangement will remain in force either until completion of panchayat elections or for a maximum period of six months, whichever is earlier.
 - d. The current tenure of gram panchayats in Uttar Pradesh is scheduled to end on 26th May, 2026, while fresh panchayat elections are expected later this year.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. Historically, when a local body's 5-year term expired without consecutive elections, states routinely weaponised the UP Panchayat Raj Act, 1947,²²⁸ to appoint block-level bureaucrats, such as Assistant Development Officers (ADOs), as administrators. This step usually severed the direct community connection and paralysed local developmental momentum.
 - b. The arrangement thus marks the first time in Uttar Pradesh's administrative history that incumbent political heads are systematically co-opted as state administrators, transforming their legal status from autonomous elected representatives into accountable state delegates.
 - c. Gram Panchayats are the core execution nodes for the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY-G)²²⁹ and the Central Finance Commission (CFC)²³⁰ rural grants. If the state had chosen to hand control to a small pool of over-stretched block bureaucrats, the processing of daily muster rolls and digital signatures would have stalled. Keeping the Pradhans in place as administrators potentially ensures that a significant amount of seasonal rural wages and development liquidity continues to

²²⁸ [UP Panchayat Raj Act, 1947.](#)

²²⁹ [Pradhan Mantri Gram Awas Yojana, Government Of India.](#)

²³⁰ [Ministry Of Finance, Government Of India.](#)

A. Gram Pradhans To Act As Administrators Until Panchayat Elections

Source: [PTI News](#), [Nav Bharat Times](#) | **Impact:** Medium

flow cleanly into the local economy, avoiding rural labor shocks.

- d. To prevent unelected political caretakers from influencing local public finance allocations ahead of the forthcoming elections, the arrangement incorporates a strict statutory safeguard. The appointed administrators are restricted to routine, day-to-day administrative functions and are expressly barred from taking policy decisions, with any exceptional matter requiring prior approval from the District Magistrate. This ensures continuity in service delivery while limiting discretionary financial or political interventions during the interim period.²³¹
- e. Notably, the expiry of the five-year gram panchayat tenure on 26th May, 2026 without immediate constitution of new bodies risked administrative disruption across 57,694 gram panchayats,²³² appointing outgoing gram pradhans as administrators ensures continuity of routine governance and public service delivery until elections are completed.

²³¹ [Akashvaani News, May, 2026.](#)

²³² [The Times Of India, May, 2026.](#)

III. Delhi

A. Yamuna Rejuvenation And Sewage Saturation Projects

Source: [ETV Bharat](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 24th May, 2026, the Delhi Government sanctioned multiple projects worth over ₹ 1,000 crore related to sewage treatment, water management, and water supply infrastructure.
2. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Government approved establishment of 12 new Decentralised Sewage Treatment Plants (DSTPs) in the Najafgarh region at an estimated cost of nearly ₹ 860 crore with a combined treatment capacity of 46.5 MGD.
 - b. The sewage treatment projects will be developed under the Central Government's AMRUT Mission²³³ and are expected to benefit over 121 unauthorised colonies, 35 villages, and nearly 7 lakh residents.
 - c. The projects aim to prevent discharge of untreated sewage into the Najafgarh Drain, thereby supporting Yamuna river cleaning efforts in the capital.
 - d. The first phase of the Keshavpur Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) will undergo upgradation at an estimated cost of ₹ 122 crore, the plant's capacity will be increased from 12 MGD to 18 MGD.
 - e. In Rohtas Nagar, a new underground reservoir and booster pumping station with a capacity of 0.72 MGD will be established at a cost of around ₹ 27 crore to strengthen water supply infrastructure.
3. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The projects align with the objectives of the AMRUT Mission,²³⁴ the Ministry of Jal Shakti's Namami Gange Programme²³⁵ and Yamuna Action Plan Phase-III guidelines,²³⁶ while supporting compliance with the water-quality standards prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).²³⁷
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States including Uttar Pradesh²³⁸ and Gujarat²³⁹ have also undertaken large-scale sewage treatment, river rejuvenation, and urban water management projects focused on reducing untreated sewage discharge, strengthening wastewater treatment infrastructure, and improving recycled water utilisation under urban sanitation programs.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. For decades, Delhi's 121 unauthorised colonies existed completely outside the

²³³ [PIB, December, 2022.](#)

²³⁴ [PIB, December, 2022.](#)

²³⁵ [PIB, February, 2026.](#)

²³⁶ [PIB, May, 2016](#)

²³⁷ [Central Pollution Control Board, Government Of India.](#)

²³⁸ [The Hindu, May, 2026.](#)

²³⁹ [Gujarat Pollution Control Board.](#)

A. Yamuna Rejuvenation And Sewage Saturation Projects

Source: [ETV Bharat](#) | Impact: Medium

formal civic grid, relying on unvetted septic setups that leaked directly into groundwater channels and stormwater drains. Deploying an ₹ 860 crore decentralised layout folds these settlements directly into the formal infrastructure framework, lowering local water-borne disease rates while protecting the region's broader environmental health.

- b. The Najafgarh drain is the single largest source of pollution in the Yamuna, accounting for 68.71% of the total wastewater and pollution entering the river.²⁴⁰ The 12 new DSTPs will intercept the flow at the river's biggest pollution node directly advances Yamuna rejuvenation while folding previously excluded unauthorised colonies into the formal sanitation grid.
- c. Delhi's STPs have run chronically below par, in 2024 the city generated 792 million gallons a day (MGD) of sewage but its plants utilised only 71% of their installed capacity, treating only 565 MGD, an operations-and-upkeep failure that let the balance reach the Yamuna.²⁴¹ The Keshopur STP Phase I project upgrades treatment capacity from 12 MGD to 18 MGD that will improve treatment efficiency, and reduce underutilisation of installed sewage-treatment capacity.
- d. Additionally, increasing Delhi's domestic treatment capacity produces a high-value economic byproduct, i.e., treated non-potable water. Bringing Keshopur up to strict biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) standards allows the state to sell this recycled supply to thermal power plants, industrial zones, and civic gardening agencies. This strategy lowers the city's reliance on fresh water imports from neighboring states, keeping valuable liquidity inside the local utility loop.

²⁴⁰ [The Hindu, March, 2026.](#)

²⁴¹ [Deccan Herald, January, 2024.](#)

B. Revision Of Infrastructure Related Charge Framework For Water And Sewer Connections

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

1. On 22nd May, 2026, the Delhi Government revised the infrastructure charge framework for water and sewer connections to simplify the existing system, reduce financial burden on property owners, and encourage sustainable water management practices across the capital.
2. The revised framework introduces lower infrastructure charges, category-based concessions, and incentives for adoption of compliant wastewater treatment systems.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. **Demand-Based Charge Calculation:**
 - i. Water and sewer Infrastructure Financing Charges (IFC) will be calculated on the basis of actual water demand.
 - ii. The revised charges will apply only to new developments and additional construction within existing properties.
 - b. **Targeted Exemptions and Concessions:**
 - i. The revised IFC framework applies only to properties or units built on plots larger than 200 sq. m., exempting smaller plots from the charge structure.
 - ii. Institutions registered under Section 12AB of the Income Tax Act, 2025²⁴² and recognised religious places will receive an additional 50% concession.
 - c. **Incentives for Sustainable Wastewater Management**
 - i. Institutional and commercial properties operating compliant Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD)²⁴³ systems and Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) will receive a 50% rebate on sewer infrastructure charges.
 - ii. These concessions will be withdrawn if ZLD or STP systems are found inactive or non-functional, along with a penalty of 0.5% per day for non-compliance.
 - d. **Relief for Residential Areas**
 - i. Residential properties located in E and F category colonies will receive a 50% rebate in infrastructure charges.
 - ii. Properties in G and H category colonies will be eligible for concessions of up to 70%.
 - e. **Reduced Charges for Key Property Categories**
 - i. The revised Infrastructure Financing Charges (IFC) applies only to properties or units on plots larger than 200 sq m, exempting smaller plots from the charge framework.

²⁴² [The Income Tax Act, 2025](#).

²⁴³ Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) is a wastewater management system in which all wastewater is treated and reused, leaving no liquid waste discharged into the environment.

B. Revision Of Infrastructure Related Charge Framework For Water And Sewer Connections

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

- ii. Under the revised framework, residential properties located in E and F category colonies will receive a 50% rebate in infrastructure charges, while properties in G and H category colonies will be eligible for concessions of up to 70%.
 - iii. Further, infrastructure charges for multiple residential and industrial property categories have been substantially reduced under the revised policy, including significant reduction in charges applicable to industrial units and high Floor Area Ratio (FAR)²⁴⁴ residential properties.
4. **Centre Initiative Alignment** - The revised infrastructure charge framework aligns with the objectives of the Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban)²⁴⁵ and the AMRUT 2.0 Mission,²⁴⁶ which focus on sustainable urban water management, universal sewerage coverage, wastewater recycling, promotion of treated water reuse, and strengthening urban water infrastructure through demand-based and environmentally sustainable service delivery systems.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Gujarat²⁴⁷ and Maharashtra²⁴⁸ has also implemented concession and incentive frameworks linked to reuse of treated wastewater, sewage treatment systems, and sustainable urban water management practices for institutional and industrial establishments.
6. **Relevance-**
- a. Delhi continues to face severe wastewater management stress, generating nearly 792 million gallons a day (MGD) of sewage while treatment utilisation remained around 71% of installed capacity in 2024.²⁴⁹ Granting 50% sewer charge rebates for compliant STPs and ZLD systems incentivises decentralised wastewater treatment and reduces pressure on public sewer infrastructure.
 - b. Delhi's earlier area-based infrastructure charge system imposed disproportionately high costs even where actual water demand remained limited, with A and B category colonies²⁵⁰ paying up to ₹ 255.27 per sq ft for domestic

²⁴⁴ Floor Area Ratio (FAR) refers to the ratio between the total built-up floor area of a building and the total area of the plot on which it is constructed.

²⁴⁵ [PIB, February, 2021.](#)

²⁴⁶ [PIB, March, 2022.](#)

²⁴⁷ [Policy For Reuse Of Treated Waste Water, Government Of Gujarat, May, 2018.](#)

²⁴⁸ [Water Today, November, 2025.](#)

²⁴⁹ [Deccan Herald, January, 2024.](#)

²⁵⁰ In Delhi, colonies are classified into A to H categories mainly for purposes such as circle rates, property valuation, stamp duty, property tax, and some civic charges. Category A is the highest-value/most premium category, while H is the lowest-value category. The MCD colony list also records each colony's category along with ward and zone details.

B. Revision Of Infrastructure Related Charge Framework For Water And Sewer Connections

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

connections under the old framework.²⁵¹

- c. The revised demand-based model directly links charges to real water usage and cuts costs substantially, improving affordability and reducing compliance distortions in urban development approvals.
- d. The shift to a demand-based framework significantly reduces the financial burden across residential and industrial development categories.²⁵²
 - i. High-FAR Residential Development (Plot >200 sqm, 4 Floors): In Category A and B colonies, the infrastructure charge falls from ₹ 13.18 lakh to ₹ 5.4 lakh, significantly reducing the cost of vertical residential expansion.
 - ii. Industrial Development (1,000 sqm Plot, 150 FAR): The applicable infrastructure charge declines sharply from ₹ 57.67 lakh to ₹ 8.91 lakh, eliminating a major cost burden on new industrial projects and improving the ease of setting up businesses in Delhi's industrial areas.
- e. By aligning the framework with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi's (MCD) colony classification system, the revision incorporates a targeted and progressive concession structure that protects lower-income households and underserved communities:
 - i. **Category E And F Colonies (Lower-Middle-Income And Rural Areas):** Receive an automatic 50% concession on applicable infrastructure charges.
 - ii. **Category G And H Colonies (Resettlement Colonies And Underdeveloped Settlements):** Benefit from concessions of up to 70%, substantially lowering the cost of legal construction and regularisation.

²⁵¹ [The Times Of India, November, 2025.](#)

²⁵² [India Today, May, 2026](#)

IV. Uttar Pradesh

A. Regulatory Framework For Inland Shrimp Farming

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

1. On 15th May, 2026, Uttar Pradesh Government issued a regulatory framework for inland shrimp farming and aquaculture activities to promote scientific aquaculture practices, improve regulatory oversight, and strengthen inland fisheries-based economic activity.
2. The framework aims to support aquaculture expansion, improve farmer incomes, encourage sustainable shrimp farming practices, and facilitate growth of the inland fisheries sector.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The framework regulates inland farming of *Litopenaeus vannamei* (Pacific white shrimp) in saline areas of Uttar Pradesh.
 - b. Prior Government permission and mandatory registration have been made compulsory for inland shrimp farming operations.
 - c. The framework prescribes bio-security, disease prevention, and environmental safeguard standards for aquaculture units.
 - d. Further, shrimp production and farming practices are required to comply with international quality standards for export-oriented aquaculture.
 - e. The framework establishes monitoring, approval, and compliance mechanisms for shrimp farming activities in inland saline regions.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)²⁵³ and the central push toward horizontal expansion in inland saline areas. It also capitalises on the Union Budget 2026–27 customs duty reductions on aquafeed ingredients, maximising the profit margins of newly registered inland units.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Uttar Pradesh possesses an estimated 1.37 lakh hectares of inland saline aquaculture potential across districts such as Mathura, Agra, Hathras, and Raebareli, yet the sector has operated without a dedicated state-level regulatory framework.²⁵⁴ The framework addresses this gap by establishing a formal institutional structure for registration, operational standards, monitoring, and compliance, thereby enabling the systematic conversion of identified saline lands into productive aquaculture zones.
 - b. Traditional agriculture in Uttar Pradesh's saline belt delivers low returns due to poor soil yields. Intensive inland shrimp farming can generate net profits of ₹ 4

²⁵³ [Pradhanmantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.](#)

²⁵⁴ [PIB, April, 2025.](#)

A. Regulatory Framework For Inland Shrimp Farming

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

lakh to ₹ 5 lakh per acre per year.²⁵⁵ By integrating 1 lakh farmers via the UP-AGREES²⁵⁶ training pipelines, the state is creating a structural shield against climate-induced crop failures.

- c. Uttar Pradesh has already secured a ₹ 4,000 crore investment commitment from UAE-based Aqua Bridge Group for a \$ 461 million (₹ 4,391 crore) aquaculture project in Unnao, comprising a 1 million tonne aquafeed plant, a 300 million fish fry hatchery, and farmer training programs covering 1 lakh farmers in partnership with the World Bank-supported UP-AGREES program.²⁵⁷ The framework strengthens the state's ability to anchor North India's contribution to India's aquaculture expansion by providing the regulatory certainty, compliance architecture, and operational standards required for large-scale private investment.
- d. In May 2026, India successfully secured re-inclusion in the European Union's approved aquaculture export list by maintaining rigid standards against antibiotic residues.²⁵⁸ By embedding automated monitoring and strict quality checks into the state framework, UP ensures that its landlocked production can flow directly into premium EU, US, and Chinese markets via the upcoming Jewar (Noida) Cargo Hub.

²⁵⁵ [ICSF](#).

²⁵⁶ The Uttar Pradesh Agriculture Growth and Rural Enterprise Ecosystem Strengthening (UP-AGREES) programme is a World Bank-backed initiative to modernise agriculture and strengthen rural enterprises in Uttar Pradesh.

²⁵⁷ [Invest UP, February, 2025](#).

²⁵⁸ [The Tribune, May, 2026](#).

V. Karnataka

A. ₹ 5,000 Crore Action Plan For Kalyana Karnataka Region

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

1. On 18th May, 2026, the Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board (KKRDB) approved the action plan for utilisation of the ₹ 5,000 crore allocation made by the Karnataka Government for 2026–27.
2. The initiative aims to accelerate regional development, strengthen infrastructure, improve social sector outcomes, and support balanced economic growth in the Kalyana Karnataka region.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. KKRDB has approved utilisation of ₹ 5,000 crore for the 2026–27 financial year, including ₹ 2,900 crore for micro and macro development projects across the region.
 - b. Under the development allocation, 70% of funds will be spent on micro-level works and 30% on major infrastructure and macro-development projects.
 - c. KKRDB has also approved ₹ 1,500 crore for schemes announced in the State Budget, ₹100 crore for higher education and universities, ₹ 450 crore under regional and discretionary funds, and ₹ 50 crore for administrative expenses.
 - d. For the first time, 40% of macro-project funds were earmarked for healthcare, education, and malnutrition eradication programs in line with State Budget priorities.
 - e. Under the micro-development component, 25% of institutional sector funds will be allocated for “Akshara Aavishkara” initiatives aimed at improving Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) examination outcomes.
 - f. KKRDB has also passed a resolution seeking Central and State Government support for the proposed ₹ 8,200 crore Bidar–Bengaluru Economic Corridor project spanning around 400 km.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** In 2023, a similar region-focused development initiative was undertaken in Maharashtra, where the state Government announced a ₹ 45,000 crore development package for the drought-affected Marathwada region covering districts such as Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Nanded, Latur, Jalna, Beed, Parbhani, Dharashiv, and Hingoli to support infrastructure and regional development projects.²⁵⁹
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Kalyana Karnataka, comprising Bidar, Kalaburagi, Raichur, Yadgir, Koppal, Ballari, and Vijayanagara districts, is one of Karnataka’s most socio-economically

²⁵⁹ [The Hindu, September, 2023.](#)

A. ₹ 5,000 Crore Action Plan For Kalyana Karnataka Region

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

disadvantaged regions, owing in part to its historical legacy under Nizam rule.²⁶⁰ The region consistently underperforms on human development and multidimensional poverty indicators, despite the special constitutional provisions under Article 371J²⁶¹ with 21 of the state's 38 most backward taluks and several of Karnataka's lowest-ranked districts located within Kalyana Karnataka.²⁶²

- b. The recent Karnataka Regional Imbalances Redressal Committee (2026) report, led by economist M. Govinda Rao, highlighted that the state's growth remains overwhelmingly concentrated around Bengaluru. While the capital boasts a per capita income of ₹ 7.39 lakh, parts of Kalyana Karnataka lag far behind at under ₹ 1.5 lakh. Directing KKRDB funds into localised industrial hubs across Raichur and Koppal works to build secondary urban engines, helping de-congest the capital while decentralising state GDP creation.²⁶³
- c. The Karnataka Government allocated ₹ 19,778 crore to KKRDB from 2013-14 to 2024-25, of which ₹ 13,229 crore was released and ₹ 11,174 crore spent, with 8,621 projects still in progress.²⁶⁴ A pre-approved action plan with defined fund splits, rather than ad hoc project-by-project approvals, reduces the planning delays that caused this absorption gap.
- d. Lastly, the push for the ₹ 8,200 crore Bidar-Bengaluru Economic Corridor (400 km) will enhance connectivity, potentially unlocking economic potential in a mineral-rich but underdeveloped area.

²⁶⁰ [Government Of Karnataka.](#)

²⁶¹ [Article 371J, Constitution of India](#)

²⁶² [KKRDB, Consolidated Report, Page 12.](#)

²⁶³ [National Council Of Applied Economic Research, 2025.](#)

²⁶⁴ [Deccan Herald, September, 2024.](#)

VI. Maharashtra

A. Dearness Allowance (DA) Arrears Clearing And Revised NPS Framework

Source: [Live Mint](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 19th May, 2026, the Maharashtra Government approved a ₹ 800 crore financial outlay to pay pending DA arrears for state Government employees under the 5th, 6th, and 7th Central Pay Commissions (CPCs).
2. The state Government also introduced a revised, optional National Pension Scheme (NPS)²⁶⁵ framework designed on the lines of the Central Government's Unified Pension Scheme (UPS).²⁶⁶
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. **Dearness Allowance (DA) Arrears And Relief Updates -**
 - i. The Government has approved the total payment of pending DA arrears under the 5th, 6th, and 7th CPCs.
 - ii. The total financial payout for DA arrears is estimated at around ₹ 800 crore.
 - iii. The ₹ 800 crore cumulative arrears payment will be distributed directly along with regular employee salaries in May 2026.
 - iv. Further, retired All India Services officers will simultaneously receive a 2% increase in Dearness Relief (DR).
 - v. This adjustment raises their total revised DA component to 60% with effect from 1st January, 2026.
 - b. **Revised National Pension Scheme -**
 - i. The state Government also introduced its revised NPS on an optional basis for eligible state Government employees.
 - ii. This revised framework allows workers to evaluate their retirement profiles before the final choice deadline on 31st December, 2026.
 - iii. It mandates a deposit of 60% of the accumulated Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) fund back to the state Government at the time of retirement.
 - iv. The remaining 40% of the accumulated retirement fund will be used to buy a commercial annuity.
 - v. Further, it permits early withdrawals from the corpus only if the borrowed amount is returned with a 10% interest charge.
 - vi. The new framework maintains standard gratuity provisions in line with previous March 2023 orders to ensure full continuity of benefits.

²⁶⁵ National Pension System is a market-linked defined contribution pension scheme in which employees and employers contribute towards a retirement corpus, with pension benefits determined by accumulated contributions and investment returns.

²⁶⁶ Unified Pension Scheme is a contributory pension framework that provides an assured pension linked to the last drawn salary, subject to prescribed service conditions.

A. Dearness Allowance (DA) Arrears Clearing And Revised NPS Framework

Source: [Live Mint](#) | Impact: Medium

4. **Central Scheme Alignment** - The DA arrears decision aligns with the Central Government's Dearness Allowance and pension revision framework.²⁶⁷ The revised NPS framework aligns with the Central UPS²⁶⁸ model, which aims to provide predictable pension while remaining tied to a contributory fund rather than returning to an unfunded Old Pension Scheme (OPS).²⁶⁹
5. **Relevance** -
- Maharashtra's DA arrears approval is relevant as an employee-welfare and inflation-indexation measure, clearing pending salary-linked dues for state employees under the 5th, 6th and 7th CPCs and extending revised DR benefits to eligible pensioners. It also aligns with the Centre's January 2026 DA/DR revision, where rates were raised by 2 percentage points from 58% to 60%.²⁷⁰
 - The DA payout adds to Maharashtra's already high committed-expenditure burden. In FY27, the state is estimated to spend ₹ 3,38,385 crore on salaries, pensions and interest, equal to 55% of revenue receipts, including ₹ 1,75,951 crore on salaries and ₹ 92,379 crore on pensions.²⁷¹
 - However, the ₹ 800 crore DA payout is a one-time clearing of accumulated arrears rather than a recurring commitment, limiting its fiscal impact while clearing a morale and legal obligation to 18 lakh state employees.
 - The opt-in revised NPS requiring employees to deposit 60% of their PFRDA corpus with the state and use 40% to buy an annuity protects the state from the full UPS liability while giving employees a defined benefit guarantee. This is a fiscally better than reverting to the old pension scheme which several other states like Himachal Pradesh,²⁷² Rajasthan²⁷³ and Jharkhand²⁷⁴ have done.
 - The 10% interest charge on early corpus withdrawals for those opting into the revised scheme is a notable deterrent clause. It penalises employees who accessed NPS funds mid-career and now wish to switch, effectively making the revised framework most accessible to employees with clean, unencumbered corpus accounts.

²⁶⁷ [PIB, April, 2026.](#)

²⁶⁸ [Unified Pension Scheme.](#)

²⁶⁹ [Old Pension Scheme.](#)

²⁷⁰ [Money Control, May, 2026.](#)

²⁷¹ [Budget In Brief 2026-27, Government Of Maharashtra.](#)

²⁷² [The Indian Express, January, 2023.](#)

²⁷³ [The Hindu, February, 2022.](#)

²⁷⁴ [The Economic Times, September, 2022.](#)

VII. Andhra Pradesh

A. Approval Of 2,250 MW Gandikota-2 Pumped Storage Project

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

1. On 20th May, 2026, the Government of Andhra Pradesh approved the allocation of 2,250 MW Gandikota-2 Pumped Storage Project (PSP) in YSR Kadapa district to Adani Hydro Energy Eleven.
2. The project aims to strengthen renewable energy integration, improve grid stability, and support Andhra Pradesh's clean energy and industrial infrastructure strategy.
3. **Key Features -**
 - ii. The project is scheduled for completion within 72 months and is among the largest pumped storage projects currently planned in India.
 - iii. The Andhra Pradesh Government approved allocation of 29.20 million cubic metres (MCM) of water from the Gandikota reservoir for one-time initial filling and 2.20 MCM annually towards evaporation losses.
 - iv. The project is expected to support integration of renewable energy by storing surplus solar and wind power during off-peak periods and supplying electricity during peak demand.
 - v. The project will be eligible for incentives under the Andhra Pradesh Integrated Clean Energy Policy, 2024,²⁷⁵ which targets investments worth nearly ₹ 10 lakh crore and employment generation for around 7.5 lakh people across the clean energy sector.
 - vi. The project is expected to strengthen Andhra Pradesh's clean energy ecosystem linked to green hydrogen, advanced manufacturing, electric mobility, and hyperscale data centre infrastructure.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The initiative aligns with the Ministry of Power's 2023 "Guidelines to Promote Development of Pumped Storage Projects (PSP)" issued to accelerate development of large-scale energy storage infrastructure for renewable energy integration.²⁷⁶
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Similar pumped storage expansion initiatives have also been undertaken in Uttar Pradesh, where the state approved development of nine pumped storage projects with a combined capacity of around 14,450 MW across Sonbhadra, Mirzapur, and Chandauli districts.²⁷⁷
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Andhra Pradesh is among the states most prone to renewable curtailment, with DISCOMs curtailing solar and wind power without prior notice to generators, and

²⁷⁵ [Andhra Pradesh Integrated Clean Energy Policy, 2024.](#)

²⁷⁶ [Ministry Of Power, Government Of India.](#)

²⁷⁷ [Hindustan Times, May, 2024.](#)

A. Approval Of 2,250 MW Gandikota-2 Pumped Storage Project**Source:** [Business Standard](#) | **Impact:** Medium

- the situation worsening as renewable capacity grows faster than grid absorption capacity. More than 5% of wind and solar is curtailed annually in the state.²⁷⁸ A 2,250 MW PSP acts as a giant rechargeable buffer absorbing midday solar surplus and returning it as dispatchable power when demand peaks in the evening
- b. The state has set a target of 72.60 GW of renewable energy by 2030, including 12 GW of pumped storage.²⁷⁹ The 2,250 MW Gandikota-2 PSP alone covers nearly 19% of the 12 GW pumped storage target, making this a strategically critical project rather than increment.
 - c. The state's Integrated Clean Energy Policy, 2024 explicitly targets green hydrogen, data centres, and EV manufacturing as downstream industrial uses of clean power.²⁸⁰ All requiring 24/7 firm power supply that intermittent solar and wind alone cannot provide, Gandikota-2's output fills this round-the-clock supply requirement capacity addition.
 - d. This approval is a key step in Andhra Pradesh's aggressive push to become a national leader in renewable energy and storage. In a country racing to balance record renewable energy addition with grid reliability, large PSPs like Gandikota-2 are critical enablers.

²⁷⁸ [National Renewable Energy Laboratory.](#)

²⁷⁹ [Deccan Herald, September, 2024.](#)

²⁸⁰ [Andhra Pradesh Integrated Clean Energy Policy, 2024.](#)

VIII. Rajasthan

A. Transmission Investment Plan For FY 2026–27

Source: [Solar Quarter](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 21st May, 2026, the Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission (RERC) cleared a capital investment plan worth ₹ 6,312.20 crore for Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited (RVPN) for FY 2026–27.
2. **Key Features -**
 - a. The approved investment plan includes transmission infrastructure and grid expansion projects aimed at supporting rising electricity demand and renewable energy integration in the state.
 - b. The plan prioritises grid security by authorizing the replacement of legacy static relays with modern numerical protection systems and upgraded Substation Automation Systems (SAS).²⁸¹
 - c. It includes capacity augmentation projects, including installation of 500 MVA transformers in renewable-energy regions such as Bhadla and Ramgarh to strengthen power evacuation infrastructure.
 - d. It upholds the RERC (Terms and Conditions for Determination of Tariff) Regulations, 2025,²⁸² by promoting the Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) model²⁸³ over traditional Regulated Tariff Mechanism (RTM).²⁸⁴
 - e. Further, the plan prevents the division of interconnected elements into smaller projects to bypass bidding rules, applying this mandate directly to the high-voltage 765 kV Hindaun substation upgrade.
 - f. Lastly, RERC also granted in-principle approval for asset hypothecation²⁸⁵ to secure loans worth up to ₹ 6,108.32 crore for financing the approved transmission projects.
3. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The investment plan aligns with the objectives of the Green Energy Corridor²⁸⁶ Program and broader national efforts focused on grid modernisation,²⁸⁷ renewable energy evacuation,²⁸⁷ and transmission infrastructure expansion. The recommendation for the TBCB model aligns with the National Tariff

²⁸¹ Substation Automation Systems (SAS) refers to a network of hardware and software components used to monitor, control, and protect power grid substations. It is critical for modernising electrical infrastructure, enhancing grid resilience, and integrating renewable energy sources.

²⁸² [Rerc \(Terms And Conditions For Determination Of Tariff\) Regulations, 2025.](#)

²⁸³ Tariff Based Competitive Bidding refers to a procurement process where developers compete to secure infrastructure projects by offering the lowest electricity tariff.

²⁸⁴ Regulated Tariff Mechanism (RTM) refers to a method where regulators set energy prices based on a developer's capital costs and a guaranteed return on investment.

²⁸⁵ Asset hypothecation refers to the practice of pledging a specific asset as collateral to secure a loan, without giving up ownership, possession, or operational control of that asset.

²⁸⁶ [Ministry Of Power, Government Of India.](#)

²⁸⁷ [PIB, December, 2023.](#)

A. Transmission Investment Plan For FY 2026–27

Source: [Solar Quarter](#) | Impact: Medium

Policy, 2016,²⁸⁸ which requires states to develop projects using competitive bidding.

4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Gujarat²⁸⁹ and Tamil Nadu²⁹⁰ have also undertaken large-scale transmission infrastructure and grid modernisation projects to support renewable energy integration and rising power demand.

5. **Relevance** -

a. An 18-month delay in transmission commissioning has stranded 8.1 GW of renewable energy in Rajasthan's REZs, with solar curtailment reaching 48%²⁹¹ during peak hours.²⁹² The ₹ 6,312 crore investment, including 500 MVA transformers at Bhadla and Ramgarh, aims to bridge this evacuation infrastructure gap and enable greater renewable energy integration into the grid.

b. In FY25, India added only 7,392 circuit kilometres of transmission lines against a target of 12,506 ckm, a 40.9% gap.²⁹³ Approving ₹ 6,312 crore for intra-state transmission is a state-level intervention that complements the Centre's objective of expanding transmission infrastructure for renewable energy evacuation and grid strengthening.

c. Even after the 765 kV Khetri–Narela line was commissioned, the commissioned renewable capacity of Rajasthan sees near-total shutdown during peak solar hours.²⁹⁴ The ₹ 6,312.20 crore RVPN plan installs 500 MVA transformers precisely in these renewable zones Bhadla and Ramgarh to strengthen evacuation at the congested nodes.

d. Rajasthan's transmission build-out has a chronic delay problem. The 400 kV Suratgarh TPS–Babai line was delayed by over a decade,²⁹⁵ causing significant cost overruns. RERC examined large-project compliance with TBCB norms under the RERC Tariff Regulations 2025 and cleared asset hypothecation to raise up to ₹ 6,108.32 crore.

²⁸⁸ [National Tariff Policy, 2016.](#)

²⁸⁹ [Energy And Petrochemicals Department, Government Of Gujarat.](#)

²⁹⁰ [Down To Earth, October, 2025.](#)

²⁹¹ Solar curtailment refers to the forced reduction in the generation of solar electricity below what a facility is actually capable of producing. This typically happens when a transmission grid lacks the physical capacity or infrastructure to safely absorb and transport the surging volume of clean energy being generated.

²⁹² [Mercom India, September, 2025.](#)

²⁹³ [TND India, February, 2026.](#)

²⁹⁴ [Business Standard, January, 2026.](#)

²⁹⁵ [Solar Quarter, May, 2026.](#)

IX. Mizoram

A. “MizoTaxi” Digital Transport Platform

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

1. On 30th May, 2026, the Mizoram Government launched the MizoTaxi Digital Transport Platform which aims to regulate public transport fares, prevent overcharging, and establish a unified digital platform for passengers and transport operators.
2. The initiative seeks to improve fare transparency, strengthen accountability among service providers, and promote digitalisation of urban transport services.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The platform provides a Government-approved fare verification and digital payment system for taxis, bike taxis, and auto-rickshaws operating in Aizawl.
 - b. It mandates registration of all four-wheeler taxis, two-wheeler taxis, and auto-rickshaws on the platform for continued operation under the system.
 - c. The initiative introduces an annual registration fee of ₹ 600 for operators registering within the notified period and ₹ 1,000 for late registrations.
 - d. The initiative enables transparent fare calculation, cashless transactions, and digital billing to reduce fare disputes and arbitrary pricing practices.
 - e. The initiative provides for phased expansion of the platform from Aizawl to other districts of Mizoram based on adoption and operational performance.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The platform aligns with the Government of India’s efforts to strengthen the cooperative sector through the launch of Bharat Taxi, India’s first cooperative-led ride-hailing platform, in line with the vision of “Sahkar Se Samriddhi” and citizen-centric mobility solutions.²⁹⁶
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Odisha launched the state-owned Odisha Yatri ride-booking platform,²⁹⁷ while Kerala introduced Kerala Savari,²⁹⁸ a Government-backed taxi service with regulated fares and service charges.
6. **Relevance-**
 - a. Public transport in Aizawl operated without a unified fare-verification mechanism, leaving commuters exposed to arbitrary pricing and fare disputes across taxis, bike taxis and auto-rickshaws. The absence of a digital billing and payment layer limited accountability among service providers and offered no standardised record of approved rates.
 - b. The platform maps directly onto this gap. It anchors billing to Government-approved fares, makes operator registration mandatory for continued operation, and consolidates multiple transport modes onto a single

²⁹⁶ [PIB, February, 2026.](#)

²⁹⁷ [Odishatv, January, 2025.](#)

²⁹⁸ [Mint, July, 2022.](#)

A. “MizoTaxi” Digital Transport Platform

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

digital system with cashless payment, replacing discretionary cash pricing with verifiable, rate-bound transactions.




- c. Structuring the entry pipeline around a tiered ₹ 600 concessional annual registration fee operates as an effective regulatory incentive. By keeping the initial cost low (equivalent to just ₹ 50 per month) but scaling it up to a punitive ₹ 1,000 for post-June registrations, the state accelerates fleet onboarding. This process helps the Directorate of Transport build a complete registry of active commercial operators, making it easier to weed out unvetted or uninsured vehicles.
- d. Co-developing the e-transport software with NIT Mizoram represents an important model for regional technology deployment. Rather than outsourcing public service software to expensive, mainland corporate vendors (which often results in high recurring licensing costs and rigid systems that fail to match unique local needs) the state is leveraging its local academic centers to build custom, self-reliant digital public infrastructure.
- e. Nonetheless, the primary operational risk to the platform’s success is the region’s vulnerable digital infrastructure. Heavy monsoons and high-altitude geographical barriers frequently cause localised cellular network drops or data lag. If the application requires a continuous high-speed internet connection to clear rides, network drops can freeze transactions on the road, prompting drivers to revert to informal cash pricing.
- f. To insulate the platform from this vulnerability, the software developers must integrate a robust offline validation framework, using localised QR codes and SMS-based fallback channels to clear trip summaries when mobile data fails.



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