

States In Motion

What's Happening In Indian States



1st April - 15th April

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Key Announcements

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

Reform Decisions

I. Gujarat

- A. **Gujarat Land Revenue (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026:** The Gujarat Government promulgated an Ordinance to amend Section 135-D of the Gujarat Land Revenue Code, 1879, effectively dismantling the mandatory 30-day public notice period for property transactions. It is designed to align land administration with modern real estate speeds and eliminate procedural bottlenecks prone to misuse.

II. Jammu And Kashmir

- A. **Jammu And Kashmir Jan Vishwas Second (Amendment Of Provisions) Bill, 2026:** The Bill decriminalises minor offences by amending 18 Acts, replacing imprisonment with fines, repealing 19 obsolete laws, and rationalising penalties to promote a trust-based governance model, reduce compliance burden, and ease pressure on courts with over 43,000 pending cases.
- B. **Jammu And Kashmir Private Universities Bill, 2026:** The J&K Assembly passed the Bill establishing a regulatory framework for private universities addressing the complete absence of a legal framework earlier with provisions for unitary institutions, strict eligibility norms, and UGC-aligned oversight to expand higher education capacity and improve GER.

III. Odisha

- A. **Odisha State Public Universities (Reservation In Teachers' Cadre) Bill, 2026:** The Odisha Assembly passed a Bill mandating a “one unit” approach, treating the university as a single unit instead of department-wise, for reservation in faculty recruitment, enabling effective implementation of the 50% reservation policy, streamlining hiring through a VC-led committee.

IV. Punjab

- A. **Punjab Government Industrial Reforms Package, 2026:** The Punjab Cabinet approved a comprehensive industrial reform package enabling conversion of leasehold plots to freehold at a fixed 5% fee with full stamp duty exemption till 30th April, 2026, simplifying compliance, subsuming property tax into service charges, and shifting maintenance of industrial areas to industry-led SPVs.

Policy Level Announcements

I. Rajasthan

- A. **Rajasthan Draft Litigation Policy, 2026:** The Rajasthan Government introduced a draft policy mandating an “Internal First” three-tier dispute resolution mechanism

Key Announcements

for Government employees and pensioners, with time-bound grievance redressal, dedicated legal cells, and coverage expanded to autonomous institutions.

II. Delhi

- A. **Draft Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy, 2026-30:** The Delhi Government released a draft EV policy with a ₹ 3,954 crore outlay proposing phased bans on petrol/CNG two-wheelers, and restrictions on fossil-fuel commercial fleets, alongside purchase incentives and ₹ 1,000 crore allocation for charging infrastructure to accelerate EV adoption.

Social Sector Schemes

I. Uttarakhand

- A. **Uttarakhand State Minority Education Authority:** The Uttarakhand Government announced the official dissolution of the Uttarakhand Madrasa Education Board, effective 1st July, 2026, transitioning all minority educational institutions under the newly established Uttarakhand State Minority Education Authority and mandates that all registered madrasas obtain mandatory affiliation with the Uttarakhand School Education Board.

II. Delhi

- A. **Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana:** The Delhi Government launched the Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana to enhance the social status and long-term economic security of girl children in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. It provides phased monetary support linked to educational milestones, ₹ 11,000 at birth, ₹ 5,000 in Classes I, VI, IX, XI, and XII, ₹ 10,000 for higher education and ₹ 25,000 for professional or diploma courses. This ensures girl children remain in the education system until they reach adulthood.

III. Assam

- A. **Orunodoi Scheme Expansion:** The Government of Assam has extended the scheme to increase coverage of financial assistance to women. The scheme will now allow two women from the same household to be eligible for financial assistance. This will enhance the delivery mechanism of women-centric welfare, particularly in larger households with multiple eligible beneficiaries.

IV. Uttar Pradesh

- A. **Hike In Minimum Wages:** The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved a retrospective minimum wage hike effective from 1st April, 2026, following violent industrial unrest in the Noida-Ghaziabad manufacturing belt. The Noida-Ghaziabad region received the highest hike of 21%, while other municipal areas saw up to 15% increase. It aims to align wages with inflation and rising cost of living in high-growth urban-industrial clusters.

Key Announcements

V. Haryana

- A. **Revised Basic Minimum Rates Of Wages:** The Haryana Cabinet formally approved a 35% increase in minimum wages across all worker categories, retrospectively effective since 1st April, 2026. It prohibits splitting of minimum wage and provides for gender pay-parity and 100% neutralisation of the Consumer Price Index.

Investment Announcements

I. Odisha

- A. **₹ 1 Lakh Crore Investment Proposals Across 27 Memoranda Of Understanding:** The Odisha Government secured over ₹ 1 lakh crore in investment commitments during its Kolkata industrial roadshow, spanning 27 MoUs and multiple proposals across steel, renewable energy, rare earth processing, and defence manufacturing, with an expected employment generation of over 90,000 jobs.

II. Karnataka

- A. **Investment Approval For ₹ 18,430 Crore Projects, 2026:** The Karnataka Government approved ₹ 18,430 crore worth of investments across 17 projects through the State High-Level Clearance Committee, covering sectors such as EVs, aerospace, solar, and pharmaceuticals, with a focus on regional industrial development and job creation.

Other Decisions

I. Rajasthan

- A. **Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission (RERC) (Framework for Resource Adequacy) Regulations, 2026:** The RERC notified a Resource Adequacy framework mandating a 10% planning reserve margin, improved demand forecasting, and integration of renewable energy with storage to ensure reliable, long-term power supply and reduce dependence on costly short-term procurement.

II. Andhra Pradesh

- A. **Water Security Action Plan, 2026:** The Government of Andhra Pradesh launched a 100-day statewide action plan to strengthen water conservation, improve groundwater levels, and enhance drought resilience through infrastructure repair, targeted interventions in 5,697 groundwater-stressed villages, and community-driven water management.

मुख्य घोषणाएँ

यह दस्तावेज राज्य सरकारों और केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों द्वारा **1 अप्रैल, 2026 से 15 अप्रैल, 2026** के बीच लिए गए विभिन्न महत्वपूर्ण नीति और सुधार निर्णयों का विवरण देता है।

सुधार निर्णय

I. गुजरात

- A. **गुजरात भू-राजस्व (संशोधन) अध्यादेश, 2026:** गुजरात सरकार ने गुजरात भू-राजस्व संहिता, 1879 की धारा 135-डी में संशोधन करने के लिए एक अध्यादेश जारी किया है। इसके अंतर्गत संपत्ति लेनदेन के लिए अनिवार्य 30-दिवसीय सार्वजनिक नोटिस अवधि को प्रभावी ढंग से खत्म कर दिया गया है। इसका उद्देश्य भूमि प्रशासन को आधुनिक रियल एस्टेट की गति के साथ जोड़ना और दुरुपयोग की संभावना वाली प्रक्रियात्मक बाधाओं को दूर करना है।

II. जम्मू और कश्मीर

- A. **जम्मू और कश्मीर जन विश्वास दूसरा (प्रावधानों का संशोधन) विधेयक, 2026:** यह विधेयक 18 अधिनियमों में संशोधन करके छोटे अपराधों को गैर-आपराधिक बनाता है। यह कारावास को जुर्माने से बदलता है, 19 पुराने कानूनों को खत्म करता है। साथ ही, दंड को तर्कसंगत बनाता है। इसका लक्ष्य एक विश्वास-आधारित शासन मॉडल को बढ़ावा देना, अनुपालन का बोझ कम करना और 43,000 से अधिक लंबित मामलों वाले न्यायालयों पर दबाव कम करना है।
- B. **जम्मू और कश्मीर निजी विश्वविद्यालय विधेयक, 2026:** जम्मू और कश्मीर विधानसभा ने निजी विश्वविद्यालयों के लिए एक नियामक ढांचा स्थापित करने हेतु यह विधेयक पारित किया। यह पहले से मौजूद कानूनी ढांचे की कमी को दूर करता है। इसमें एकात्मक संस्थाओं, सख्त पात्रता मानकों और यूजीसी-संरेखित निगरानी के प्रावधान हैं। इसका उद्देश्य उच्च शिक्षा क्षमता का विस्तार करना और सकल नामांकन अनुपात (GER) में सुधार करना है।

III. ओडिशा

- A. **ओडिशा राज्य सार्वजनिक विश्वविद्यालय (शिक्षक कैडर में आरक्षण) विधेयक, 2026:** ओडिशा विधानसभा ने संकाय भर्ती में आरक्षण के लिए 'एक इकाई' दृष्टिकोण अनिवार्य करने वाला विधेयक पारित किया। इसमें विश्वविद्यालय को विभाग-वार के बजाय एकल इकाई माना जाएगा। यह 50% आरक्षण नीति के प्रभावी कार्यान्वयन को सक्षम करेगा और कुलपति के नेतृत्व वाली समिति के माध्यम से भर्ती को व्यवस्थित करेगा।

IV. पंजाब

मुख्य घोषणाएँ

- A. **पंजाब सरकार औद्योगिक सुधार पैकेज, 2026:** पंजाब कैबिनेट ने एक व्यापक औद्योगिक सुधार पैकेज को मंजूरी दी। यह 30 अप्रैल, 2026 तक 5% की निश्चित फीस पर लीजहोल्ड प्लॉट को फ्रीहोल्ड में बदलने की अनुमति देता है, जिसमें पूर्ण स्टाम्प शुल्क छूट भी शामिल है। यह अनुपालन को सरल बनाता है, संपत्ति कर को सेवा शुल्कों में शामिल करता है, और औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों के रखरखाव को उद्योग के नेतृत्व वाले विशेष प्रयोजन वाहनों (SPVs) को सौंपता है।

नीति स्तर की घोषणाएँ

I. राजस्थान

- A. **राजस्थान प्रारूप मुकदमेबाजी नीति, 2026:** राजस्थान सरकार ने सरकारी कर्मचारियों और पेंशनभोगियों के लिए 'आंतरिक प्रथम' तीन-स्तरीय विवाद समाधान तंत्र को अनिवार्य करने वाली एक प्रारूप नीति पेश की है। इसमें समयबद्ध शिकायत निवारण, समर्पित कानूनी प्रकोष्ठ और स्वायत्त संस्थानों तक विस्तारित कवरेज शामिल है।

II. दिल्ली

- A. **प्रारूप इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (EV) नीति, 2026-30:** दिल्ली सरकार ने 3,954 करोड़ रुपये के परिव्यय के साथ एक प्रारूप ई.वी नीति जारी की है। इसमें पेट्रोल/सी.एन.जी दोपहिया वाहनों पर चरणबद्ध प्रतिबंध और जीवाश्म-ईंधन वाणिज्यिक बेड़ों पर प्रतिबंध लगाने का प्रस्ताव है। साथ ही, ई.वी अपनाने में तेजी लाने के लिए खरीद प्रोत्साहन और चार्जिंग बुनियादी ढांचे के लिए 1,000 करोड़ रुपये का आवंटन किया गया है।

सामाजिक क्षेत्र की योजनाएँ

I. उत्तराखंड

- A. **उत्तराखंड राज्य अल्पसंख्यक शिक्षा प्राधिकरण:** उत्तराखंड सरकार ने 1 जुलाई, 2026 से उत्तराखंड मदरसा शिक्षा बोर्ड को आधिकारिक रूप से भंग करने की घोषणा की है। सभी अल्पसंख्यक शिक्षण संस्थान नव स्थापित उत्तराखंड राज्य अल्पसंख्यक शिक्षा प्राधिकरण के अंतर्गत आ जाएंगे। यह अनिवार्य करता है कि सभी पंजीकृत मदरसे उत्तराखंड स्कूल शिक्षा बोर्ड से अनिवार्य संबद्धता प्राप्त करें।

II. दिल्ली

मुख्य घोषणाएँ

A. **लखपति बिटिया योजना:** दिल्ली सरकार ने राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र दिल्ली में बालिका शिशु के सामाजिक स्तर और दीर्घकालिक आर्थिक सुरक्षा को बढ़ाने के लिए लखपति बिटिया योजना शुरू की है। यह योजना शैक्षणिक पढ़ावों से जुड़ी चरणों में आर्थिक सहायता प्रदान करती है: जन्म पर ₹11,000, कक्षा I, VI, IX, XI और XII में ₹5,000, उच्च शिक्षा के लिए ₹10,000 और व्यावसायिक या डिप्लोमा पाठ्यक्रमों के लिए ₹25,000। यह सुनिश्चित करता है कि बालिकाएं वयस्क होने तक शिक्षा प्रणाली में बनी रहें।

III. असम

A. **ओरुणोदोई योजना का विस्तार:** असम सरकार ने महिलाओं को वित्तीय सहायता का कवरेज बढ़ाने के लिए इस योजना का विस्तार किया है। अब एक ही परिवार की दो महिलाएं वित्तीय सहायता के लिए पात्र होंगी। यह महिला-केंद्रित कल्याण की वितरण व्यवस्था को बढ़ाएगा, खासकर उन बड़े परिवारों में जहाँ कई पात्र लाभार्थी हैं।

IV. उत्तर प्रदेश

A. **न्यूनतम वेतन में वृद्धि:** नोएडा-गाजियाबाद विनिर्माण क्षेत्र में हुई औद्योगिक अशांति के बाद उत्तर प्रदेश कैबिनेट ने 1 अप्रैल, 2026 से प्रभावी न्यूनतम वेतन वृद्धि को पूर्वव्यापी रूप से मंजूरी दी है। नोएडा-गाजियाबाद क्षेत्र को सबसे अधिक 21% की वृद्धि मिली, जबकि अन्य नगर निगम क्षेत्रों में 15% तक की वृद्धि हुई। इसका उद्देश्य उच्च विकास वाले शहरी-औद्योगिक क्षेत्रों में मुद्रास्फीति और बढ़ती लागत के साथ मजदूरी को संरेखित करना है।

V. हरियाणा

A. **संशोधित मूल न्यूनतम मजदूरी दरें:** हरियाणा कैबिनेट ने सभी श्रमिक श्रेणियों में न्यूनतम मजदूरी में 35% की वृद्धि को औपचारिक रूप से मंजूरी दी है, जो 1 अप्रैल, 2026 से पूर्वव्यापी रूप से प्रभावी है। यह न्यूनतम मजदूरी को विभाजित करने पर रोक लगाता है और लिंग-समान वेतन तथा उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक का 100% निष्प्रभावीकरण प्रदान करता है।

निवेश घोषणाएँ

I. ओडिशा

A. **27 समझौता ज्ञापनों के अंतर्गत 1 लाख करोड़ रुपये के निवेश प्रस्ताव:** ओडिशा सरकार ने कोलकाता औद्योगिक रोड शो के दौरान 1 लाख करोड़ रुपये से अधिक के निवेश प्रतिबद्धता हासिल की। इसमें 27 समझौता ज्ञापन (MoUs) और इस्पात, नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा, दुर्लभ पृथ्वी प्रसंस्करण और रक्षा विनिर्माण सहित कई क्षेत्रों में प्रस्ताव शामिल हैं। इससे 90,000 से अधिक नौकरियों के सृजन की उम्मीद है।

II. कर्नाटक

मुख्य घोषणाएँ

- A. **18,430 करोड़ रुपये की परियोजनाओं के लिए निवेश अनुमोदन, 2026:** कर्नाटक सरकार ने राज्य उच्च-स्तरीय मंजूरी समिति के माध्यम से 17 परियोजनाओं में 18,430 करोड़ रुपये के निवेश को मंजूरी दी है। ये परियोजनाएँ इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन (ई.वी), एयरोस्पेस, सौर और फार्मास्यूटिकल्स जैसे क्षेत्रों को कवर करती हैं। इनका ध्यान क्षेत्रीय औद्योगिक विकास और रोज़गार सृजन पर है।

अन्य निर्णय

I. राजस्थान

- A. **राजस्थान विद्युत नियामक आयोग (RERC) (संसाधन पर्याप्तता के लिए ढाँचा) विनियम, 2026:** आर.ई.आर.सी ने 'संसाधन पर्याप्तता' ढाँचे को अधिसूचित किया है। यह 10% योजना आरक्षित मार्जिन, बेहतर माँग पूर्वानुमान और भंडारण के साथ नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा के एकीकरण को अनिवार्य करता है। इसका उद्देश्य विश्वसनीय, दीर्घकालिक बिजली आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित करना और महँगी अल्पकालिक खरीद पर निर्भरता कम करना है।

II. आंध्र प्रदेश

- A. **जल सुरक्षा कार्य योजना, 2026:** आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार ने जल संरक्षण को मजबूत करने। साथ ही, भूजल स्तर में सुधार करने और सूखे के प्रति लचीलापन बढ़ाने के लिए 100 दिवसीय राज्यव्यापी कार्य योजना शुरू की है। इसमें बुनियादी ढाँचे की मरम्मत, 5,697 भूजल-तनावग्रस्त गाँवों में लक्षित हस्तक्षेप और समुदाय-संचालित जल प्रबंधन शामिल है।

Reform Decisions

I. Gujarat

A. Gujarat Land Revenue (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026

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

1. On 1st April, 2026, the Gujarat Government promulgated an Ordinance to amend Section 135-D of the Gujarat Land Revenue Code, 1879,¹ effectively dismantling the mandatory 30-day public notice period for property transactions.
2. The reform is designed to align land administration with modern real estate speeds and eliminate procedural bottlenecks prone to misuse.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. For undisputed cases where the land record is over one year old, there is no pending litigation, and all stakeholders listed in the 7/12 extract² have signed the deed, sale entry will be certified immediately on the same day.
 - b. For higher-risk transactions, including those involving recent record changes (< 1 year), Power of Attorney (PoA), or missing signatories, the notice period has been reduced from 30 days to 7 days.
 - c. The Ordinance fully exempts urban areas under municipal corporations and development authorities from the Gujarat Prevention of Fragmentation and Consolidation of Holdings Act (Tukda Act), facilitating faster non-agricultural (NA) approvals.
 - d. Its implementation is facilitated through the e-Dhara system,³ allowing for the direct implementation of court orders and final entries without redundant notice cycles.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Maharashtra⁴ and Karnataka⁵ have made similar reforms, with Maharashtra implementing an electronic notice service system in 2025 to compress mutation timelines and improve transparency in 7/12 extract updates, and Karnataka utilising the BHOOMI portal⁶ to enable faster certification for certain transaction types.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. The 30-day window was frequently misused by anti-social elements to raise

¹ [The Gujarat Land Revenue Code, 1879. As Amended In 2017.](#)

² The 7/12 extract (Satbara Utara) in Gujarat is a vital rural land record document combining Village Forms 7 and 12, maintained by the revenue department. It serves as proof of ownership, detailing landowner names, survey numbers, area, land type, crop history, liabilities, and loans. It is essential for verifying property ownership and transactions.

³ e-Dhara Land Records Management System was conceptualised to manage land records by using IT as a tool.

⁴ [TOI, December, 2025.](#)

⁵ [The Hindu, February, 2026.](#)

⁶ Bhoomi is the official digital land records management system launched by the Government of Karnataka. It was created to digitise paper records, making them transparent, tamper-proof, and easily accessible to citizens.

A. Gujarat Land Revenue (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026**Source:** [The Government Of Gujarat](#), [Times Of India](#) | **Impact:** High

frivolous or old-ground objections specifically to extort money, removing this window for clean titles effectively eliminates this blackmailing ecosystem.

- b. There are approximately 50,000 cases pending in revenue courts primarily due to Section 135-D objections.⁷ The Ordinance is expected to clear a massive percentage of this judicial backlog.
- c. By reducing the mutation lag, which often took months even after a legal sale deed, the state unlocks fiscal liquidity in the agricultural and urban property markets, encouraging faster reinvestment and development.
- d. The exemption of urban areas from the Tukda Act is a supply-side reform. It allows developers in cities like Ahmedabad or Surat to merge small, irregular plots that were previously "un-mergeable" under the fragmented 1947-era law. This leads to better urban design, more green space, and higher Floor Space Index (FSI) utilisation.

⁷ [OB News, April, 2026.](#)

II. Jammu And Kashmir

A. Jammu And Kashmir Jan Vishwas (Amendment Of Provisions) Bill, 2026

Source: [The Government Of Jammu And Kashmir, Greater Kashmir](#) | **Impact:** High

1. On 2nd April, 2026, the Jammu and Kashmir Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026 was introduced in the J&K Legislative Assembly to decriminalise and rationalise minor offences.
2. The Bill serves as an extension of the **Jammu and Kashmir Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026**,⁸ continuing the state's efforts to modernise its regulatory framework by substituting imprisonment with financial penalties.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Bill amends 18 specific Acts to replace minor imprisonment terms with the compounding of fines for various regulatory violations.
 - b. It provides for a significant upward revision of fines in cases where the existing penalty structures were meager and had not been updated for several decades.
 - c. The Bill proposes the repeal of 19 Appropriation Acts and the Jammu and Kashmir Obsolete Laws (Repeal) Act, 2010,⁹ as these have outlived their utility.
 - d. It also amends other Acts, such as:
 - i. Jammu & Kashmir Municipal Act, 2000;¹⁰
 - ii. Municipal Ombudsman Act, 2010;¹¹
 - iii. Development Act, 1970;¹²
 - iv. Town Planning Act, 1963;¹³ and
 - v. Non-Biodegradable Material (Management, Handling & Disposal) Act, 2007.¹⁴
 - e. The Bill aims to create a trust-based governance model by differentiating between serious criminal intent and minor technical or procedural defaults.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The Bill directly aligns the legal framework of the Union Territory with the Central Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023,¹⁵ and Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026.¹⁶
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Jammu and Kashmir has joined nine other states/UTs such as Puducherry,¹⁷ Maharashtra,¹⁸ Haryana,¹⁹ Odisha,²⁰ Madhya

⁸ [Jammu And Kashmir Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2026.](#)

⁹ [The Jammu And Kashmir Obsolete Laws \(Repeal\) Act, 2010.](#)

¹⁰ [J&K Municipal Act, 2000.](#)

¹¹ [J&K Municipal Ombudsman Act, 2010.](#)

¹² [J&K Development Act, 1970.](#)

¹³ [J&K Town Planning Act, 1963.](#)

¹⁴ [The Jammu And Kashmir Non-Biodegradable Material \(Management, Handling And Disposal\) Act, 2007.](#)

¹⁵ [Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2023.](#)

¹⁶ [Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Bill, 2026.](#)

¹⁷ [The Puducherry Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Bill, 2025.](#)

¹⁸ [Maharashtra Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2025.](#)

¹⁹ [The Haryana Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Bill, 2025.](#)

²⁰ [The Odisha Jan Vishwas Act, 2025.](#)

A. Jammu And Kashmir Jan Vishwas (Amendment Of Provisions) Bill, 2026

Source: [The Government Of Jammu And Kashmir, Greater Kashmir](#) | **Impact:** High

Pradesh,²¹ Tripura,²² Gujarat,²³ Chhattisgarh,²⁴ and Uttarakhand²⁵ have undertaken similar reforms, strengthening India's broader compliance-reduction agenda.

6. Relevance -

- a. J&K courts are burdened with over 43,000 pending cases.²⁶ By moving minor paperwork mistakes out of criminal courts and into a system of simple fines, the Bill frees up judges to focus on serious crimes instead of small business errors.
- b. The Bill replaces potential imprisonment for "malafide complaints" with heavy financial penalties (up to ₹ 1 lakh), deterring false litigation without using jail time as per the existing Municipal Ombudsman Act, 2010.²⁷
- c. The Bill updates outdated fine amounts in the Jammu and Kashmir State Town Planning Act, 1963²⁸ (e.g., from ₹ 1,000 to ₹ 5,000) to ensure penalties remain a relevant deterrent against planning violations in a modern economic context.
- d. The Bill increased penalties (₹ 5 lakh for first offenses and up to ₹ 10 lakh for subsequent offenses) for handling non-biodegradable materials emphasising strict financial consequences over jail time under the Non-Biodegradable Material (Management, Handling & Disposal) Act, 2007.²⁹
- e. Further, the Bill repeals 19 old Appropriation Acts and other obsolete laws. Removing these obsolete laws makes it easier to do business in J&K, helping the state maintain its 'Fast Movers' status in BRAP ranking.³⁰
- f. J&K has high local savings but low local investment. By creating a trust-based governance model, the UT is encouraging local families to move their savings from Gold/Real Estate into Startups/Manufacturing, as the legal environment is now perceived as safe rather than predatory.

²¹ [Madhya Pradesh Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2024.](#)

²² [The Tripura Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2025.](#)

²³ [The Gujarat Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2025.](#)

²⁴ [The Chhattisgarh Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2025.](#)

²⁵ [Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Ordinance, 2025.](#)

²⁶ [National Judicial Data Grid.](#)

²⁷ [The Jammu And Kashmir Municipal Ombudsman Act, 2010.](#)

²⁸ [The Jammu And Kashmir State Town Planning Act, 1963.](#)

²⁹ [The Jammu And Kashmir Non-Biodegradable Material \(Management, Handling And Disposal\) Act, 2007.](#)

³⁰ [PIB, February, 2026.](#)

B. Private Universities Bill, 2026

Source: [Kashmir Observer](#) | Impact: High

1. On 6th April, 2026, the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly passed the Jammu and Kashmir Private Universities Bill, 2026.
2. The Bill seeks to provide a structured legal framework for the establishment, incorporation, and regulation of private universities in Jammu and Kashmir, thereby addressing the long-standing absence of a regulatory architecture for private higher education institutions in the Union Territory.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. A sponsoring body seeking to establish a private university must be registered for at least three years, have education as its primary objective, demonstrate sound financial capacity, maintain clean credentials, and possess lawful ownership of adequate land and infrastructure.
 - b. A non-refundable application fee of up to ₹ 25 lakh is prescribed.
 - c. Every private university shall operate as a unitary institution with its main campus within Jammu and Kashmir, and shall not have the authority to affiliate with or recognise any college or institution outside the Union Territory.
 - d. A private university may establish constituent colleges, regional centres, additional campuses, and study centres within the Union Territory, subject to compliance with University Grants Commission's (UGC) norms and other applicable regulations.
 - e. Sponsoring bodies must appoint qualified faculty, ensure adequate infrastructure, and adhere to Government and UGC standards as a condition for both establishment and continued operation.
 - f. The Bill requires maintenance of academic standards and provides a regulatory framework to safeguard student interests, including restrictions on capitation fees and commercialisation of education.
 - g. Oversight and inspection powers are vested in the Lieutenant Governor (as Visitor), the Government, and the UGC, ensuring institutional accountability.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The Bill aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020,³¹ which calls for expanding the private sector's role in higher education to increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) to 50% by 2035.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Haryana,³² Himachal Pradesh³³ and Rajasthan³⁴ have similar acts for the establishment, incorporation, and regulation

³¹ [National Education Policy, 2020.](#)

³² [Haryana Private Universities Act, 2006.](#)

³³ [The Himachal Pradesh Private Educational Institutions \(Regulatory Commission\) Act, 2010.](#)

³⁴ [The Rajasthan Private Universities Act, 2005.](#)

B. Private Universities Bill, 2026**Source:** [Kashmir Observer](#) | **Impact:** High

of private universities.

6. Relevance -

- a. Prior to this Bill, J&K lacked this legislative foundation entirely, meaning that no UGC-recognised private university could be legally constituted in the UT regardless of investor interest.³⁵ The Bill resolves this foundational gap, opening the UT to nationally recognised private institution investment for the first time.
- b. The Bill's unitary university model which prohibits affiliation power is a quality safeguard drawn from the NEP, 2020 framework.³⁶ By restricting private universities to direct, on-campus instruction with UGC-regulated programmes, the Bill reduces the risk of degree-mill proliferation that has undermined quality in some states.
- c. As per All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE),³⁷ J&K's Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)³⁸ in higher education stood at 25% in 2021-22, against a national average of 27.3%, and far below states such as Delhi (47.6%), Tamil Nadu (46.9%), Himachal Pradesh (38.7%), and Kerala (43.2%), a deficit that existing public university capacity has been insufficient to address.
- d. In light of the above, by enabling private institutions to enter the market, the Bill creates supply-side capacity to absorb the large cohort of students currently exiting the UT for higher studies.
- e. J&K universities are grappling with a severe faculty shortage, with around 40% of teaching posts lying vacant. Out of 3,300 sanctioned posts across 11 public universities, only around 1,900 are filled.³⁹ Private universities can help reduce the effective student-to-teacher burden on an already under-resourced system.
- f. Outmigrating students take with them household expenditure, future earning potential, and in many cases, never return.⁴⁰ By providing competitive private institutions locally, the Bill reduces this outmigration, retaining both spending power and skilled graduates within the UT economy.

³⁵ [Kashmir News Observer, February, 2026.](#)

³⁶ [The Hindu, March, 2026.](#)

³⁷ [AISHE Report, 2020-21.](#)

³⁸ The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in tertiary education is a measure of the total enrollment in higher education (universities/colleges), regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the eligible population (typically aged 18-23).

³⁹ [Indian Express, March, 2026.](#)

⁴⁰ [OECD Working Paper No. 160, January, 2015, Page No. 46.](#)

III. Odisha

A. State Public Universities (Reservation In Teachers' Cadre) Bill, 2026

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

1. On 31st March, 2026, the Odisha Legislative Assembly passed the Odisha State Public Universities (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Bill, 2026 to overhaul the recruitment framework for higher education faculty.
2. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Bill mandates treating the university as a single unit for the application of reservation quotas, rather than applying them department-wise.
 - b. Recruitment will be overseen by a formal appointment committee headed by the Vice-Chancellor, ensuring that hiring power is not exercised by a single individual.
 - c. The Bill provides for structured representation for SC, ST, SEBC, and other eligible categories in strict accordance with the state's reservation norms.
 - d. The Government has prioritised the expedited recruitment of faculty to fill the nearly 1,400 vacant positions to arrest the declining quality of higher education.
3. **Central Initiative Alignment -** This Bill aligns with the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Act, 2019 which established the principle of treating a University as a single unit rather than individual departments for faculty reservation.⁴¹
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Uttar Pradesh Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Act, 2021 was enacted to provide a similar legal framework. It mandates treating each state educational institution as one unit for reservation in direct recruitment of teachers.⁴²
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Currently, only 31.5% of sanctioned teaching positions (659 out of 2,086) are occupied in state public universities, establishing around 68.5% vacancy rate that forces a reliance on ad-hoc or guest faculty. The Bill aims to address this institutional crisis by restructuring the unit of reservation at the university level rather than the department level, thereby enabling the roster to operate over a larger pool of posts.⁴³
 - b. Reservation in faculty recruitment operates through a roster system that sequentially allocates posts across SC, ST, SEBC, and General categories in their prescribed proportions. In departments with very few sanctioned posts, this roster cannot complete a full cycle, leaving certain reserved categories with zero posts or distorting the required proportions entirely.⁴⁴ By treating the university

⁴¹ [Central Educational Institutions \(Reservation In Teachers' Cadre\) Act, 2019](#).

⁴² [Uttar Pradesh Educational Institutions \(Reservation In Teachers' Cadre\) Act, 2021](#).

⁴³ [Odisha TV, April, 2026](#).

⁴⁴ *Heera Lal v. State of Uttar Pradesh*, 2010 (11) ADJ 1 (All).

A. State Public Universities (Reservation In Teachers' Cadre) Bill, 2026**Source:** [The Government Of Odisha](#), [Odisha TV](#) | **Impact:** High

as a single unit, the Bill pools all posts into one roster, creating a large enough base for each category to receive its due share.

- c. This single unit approach is designed to ensure the feasibility of the 50% reservation policy, which the Government identified as impractical to implement in smaller departments with fewer than six sanctioned posts.
- d. Odisha's Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in tertiary education stood at 22.1% in 2021, below the national average of 28.4% for 2021-22.⁴⁵ With the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020⁴⁶ targeting a national GER of 50% by 2035,⁴⁷ filling the 1,430 vacant faculty posts is a prerequisite for expanding institutional capacity to absorb more students.
- e. Guest faculty typically have lower job security and less incentive for long-term research. By moving to permanent recruitment via this Bill, the state is potentially improving the Total Factor Productivity⁴⁸ of its universities. Permanent professors bring in research grants (from the DST, UGC), which adds non-tax revenue to the state's ecosystem.

⁴⁵ [Economic Survey 2025-26](#).

⁴⁶ [National Education Policy, 2020](#).

⁴⁷ [National Education Policy 2020](#).

⁴⁸ TFP measures an economy's or industry's efficiency by calculating the ratio of aggregate output to total inputs (typically capital and labor).

B. Amendments To The Odisha Labour Service (Method Of Recruitment And Conditions Of Service) Rules, 2019

Source: [Odisha TV](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 10th April, 2026, the Odisha Government approved key amendments to the Odisha Labour Service (Method of Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2019.⁴⁹
2. The amendments address two distinct objectives, resolving a long-pending service **regularisation issue** for Assistant Labour Officers (ALOs) and Rural Labour Inspectors (RLIs) appointed before the 2019 rules came into effect, and **updating the rules' legal references** to align with the three new national criminal laws that came into force on 1st July, 2024.
3. **Key Features** -
 - a. The amendment to the Odisha Labour Service Rules, 2019, provides a one-time exemption from departmental examinations for Assistant Labour Officers (ALOs) and Rural Labour Inspectors (RLIs) appointed prior to the commencement of the said rules.
 - b. The examination curriculum for labor officers has been formally updated to substitute the Indian Penal Code, Evidence Act, and Criminal Penal Code with the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS),⁵⁰ Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA),⁵¹ and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).⁵²
 - c. The Odisha ESI Scheme Ministerial Service Rules, 2026, establishes a dedicated cadre to regulate the recruitment, seniority, and promotion of ministerial staff specifically serving in ESI hospitals and dispensaries.
 - d. The Odisha ESI Medical Service Rules, 2014, have been amended to refine the evaluation process for medical officers, ensuring that state recruitment protocols align with current OPSC standards and administrative requirements.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The legal reference update directly responds to the enactment and coming into force of the BNS,⁵³ BNSS,⁵⁴ and BSA.⁵⁵
5. **Relevance** -
 - a. In a case, the Odisha High Court has held that keeping employees on contract for years despite sanctioned posts is an “unfair labour practice” and directed regularisation.⁵⁶ In another case, employees working for over two decades were

⁴⁹ [Odisha Labour Service \(Method Of Recruitment And Conditions Of Service\) Rules, 2019.](#)

⁵⁰ [The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.](#)

⁵¹ [The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam, 2023.](#)

⁵² [The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.](#)

⁵³ [The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.](#)

⁵⁴ [The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.](#)

⁵⁵ [The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam, 2023.](#)

⁵⁶ [The New Indian Express, December, 2025.](#)

B. Amendments To The Odisha Labour Service (Method Of Recruitment And Conditions Of Service) Rules, 2019**Source:** [Odisha TV](#) | **Impact:** Medium

denied regularisation, with the court calling such denial “unfair” and “arbitrary.”⁵⁷ This reflects a systemic rigidity in service frameworks, which this Amendment partially addresses within the Labour Department.

- b. Promotion pathways were functionally blocked due to non-fulfilment of exam requirements, based on the 2019 rules. The Amendment is described as providing relief by enhancing eligibility for future promotions and resolving issues related to career progression.
- c. The Amendment incorporates the BNS, BNSS and BSA into the Labour Service Rules, replacing the IPC, CrPC and Evidence Act, thereby ensuring that labour officers are trained and operate under the current national criminal law framework. This is essential for maintaining procedural validity of inspections, prosecutions and adjudicatory processes, and prevents administrative inconsistency arising from reliance on repealed statutes.

⁵⁷ [TOI, June, 2023.](#)

IV. Punjab

A. Punjab Government Industrial Reforms Package, 2026

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

1. The Punjab Cabinet approved a comprehensive reform package for the industrial sector, primarily addressing a 30-year-old demand regarding land ownership and administrative simplification.
2. The centerpiece of these reforms is a revamped policy for converting industrial plots and sheds from **leasehold to freehold status**, coupled with a shift toward industry-led maintenance of focal points.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The conversion fee has been fixed at 5% of the prevailing allotment price, to allow easier conversion of leasehold industrial plots and sheds into freehold.
 - b. A 100% stamp duty exemption has been granted for all leasehold-to-freehold conversions, provided the process is completed by the deadline of 30th April, 2026.
 - c. Documentation requirements have been simplified by replacing mandatory notarised affidavits with self-declarations and allowing bank letters as proof for properties with mortgaged lease deeds.
 - d. To reduce Inspector Raj, 18 post-allotment services previously managed by the Punjab State Industrial Export Corporation (PSIEC) have been reclassified as optional rather than mandatory.
 - e. To eliminate double taxation it has been stipulated that service charges collected from industrial units will now subsume property tax in municipal areas.
 - f. Maintenance of industrial focal points will transition to seven-member industry-led Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs), which will be entitled to 90% of the service charges collected for local upkeep.
 - g. The Cabinet has also approved the **Punjab Common Infrastructure (Regulation and Maintenance) Amendment Bill, 2026**, to streamline industrial infrastructure management.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The reform aligns with the Central Government's Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) framework, specifically the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP)⁵⁸ pillar of simplifying land administration and trust-based governance.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** The Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) operates a similar Estate Management Procedure⁵⁹ that allows for the transfer of plots and simplified freehold conversions.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Leasehold plots cannot be leveraged as collateral on the same terms as freehold

⁵⁸ BRAP 2024 is set to establish a seamless business regulatory framework across the country, enhancing the ease of doing business.

⁵⁹ [Estate Management Procedures \(EMP\), 2015 \(Amended In 2023\)](#).

A. Punjab Government Industrial Reforms Package, 2026

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

properties, creating a structural credit barrier for MSMEs that need capital for expansion. Punjab's MSME sector employs over 11.66 lakh people and forms the backbone of its industrial base.⁶⁰ By fixing conversion at 5% of price, the reform unlocks asset-backed financing for units that have been locked in leasehold status for decades, directly expanding their access to formal credit.

- b. Punjab's share in domestic nominal GDP has declined from 3.7% in 1990-91 to 2.4% by 2023-24⁶¹ with manufacturing stagnating since the early 2000s. This decline has been due to erratic power supply, high land costs, labour shortages and the absence of a clear industrial policy.⁶²
- c. The above has led to industries shifting to other states like Haryana, Gujarat, and Uttar Pradesh.⁶³ By resolving a 30-year-old demand on freehold conversion and cutting mandatory PSIEC compliances from a larger set to those truly necessary, the reforms address the land access and regulatory friction that has driven outward migration of industry.
- d. With industry contributing around 27% of Punjab's Gross State Value Addition (GSVA),⁶⁴ subsuming property tax within the service charge removes a structural cost overlay that disproportionately burdened units already operating on thin margins.
- e. Punjab's outstanding debt stood at 45.65% of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), the highest among major states.⁶⁵ This effectively rules out large direct subsidy packages as an investment attraction tool, making industrial reforms the principal instrument through which Punjab can improve industrial competitiveness without adding to its fiscal stress.

⁶⁰ [Compendium Of Msme Policy And Incentive Schemes Of Punjab.](#)

⁶¹ [Indian Express, September, 2024.](#)

⁶² [Economic Times, August, 2025.](#)

⁶³ [Policy Advisory And Network For Joint Progress \(PANJ\) Foundation, 2025.](#)

⁶⁴ [Punjab Economic Survey, 2023-24.](#)

⁶⁵ [The New Indian Express, March, 2026.](#)

V. Delhi

A. Digitisation Of Earnest Money Deposit Submission In Infrastructure Tendering

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

1. On 3rd April, 2026, the Delhi Government introduced a reform requiring the complete online submission of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)⁶⁶ for all tenders related to Public Works Department (PWD) and the Flood Control and Irrigation Department projects.
2. The reform aims to **modernise procurement** by removing physical touchpoints that historically allowed for administrative interference and information leaks during the sensitive bidding phase.
3. **Key Features** -
 - a. Bidders are now required to upload a scanned copy of the EMD on the state's e-procurement portal as a mandatory attachment to their digital tender documents.
 - b. Physical submission of the original EMD is now restricted exclusively to the L1 (lowest) bidder, who must present the document within three days of the bid opening.
 - c. The reform enforces a strict debarment clause where any L1 bidder failing to submit the original EMD within the stipulated 72-hour window will be barred from participating in any departmental tenders for a period of two years.
 - d. The system is designed to prevent officials or external entities from identifying specific bidders during the active tendering process, ensuring an anonymised and impartial environment.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States like Maharashtra⁶⁷ and Karnataka⁶⁸ have previously integrated online EMD modules within their unified e-procurement portals (MahaTenders and e-Procurement Karnataka) to centralise vendor security deposits.
5. **Relevance** -
 - a. Prior to this reform, the manual submission of EMD at specific department offices was identified as a major source of unnecessary human interface and potential information leaks.⁶⁹ By shifting to a 100% online process, the Government prevents officials or external entities from tracking or pressuring specific bidders during the active tendering phase, addressing long-standing concerns regarding fairness in public works.
 - b. The introduction of a two-year debarment for non-compliant L1 bidders aligns

⁶⁶ Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) is a sum of money a buyer provides to a seller to demonstrate a serious commitment to winning a tender.

⁶⁷ [Maharashtra EMD, 2014.](#)

⁶⁸ [Karnataka E-Procurement, 2024.](#)

⁶⁹ [Indian Express, April, 2026.](#)

A. Digitisation Of Earnest Money Deposit Submission In Infrastructure Tendering

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

with existing public procurement norms under the General Financial Rules (GFR) 2017,⁷⁰ which permit debarment for up to two years in cases of breach of integrity or non-performance. Such provisions are intended to deter practices like collusive or non-serious bidding, which can distort price discovery and lead to contract failure, delays, or retendering costs.

- c. The L1-only physical submission rule ensures that the identities of all other bidders remain protected even after the bid opening. This prevents bid-rigging⁷¹ and the harassment of competing contractors.
- d. By automating the EMD verification process, the PWD can reduce the tender cycle time by several days. This is particularly significant in infrastructure projects, where delays in procurement can postpone contract awards and slow project execution, thereby affecting timelines and the efficient utilisation of funds.
- e. In public procurement, information is the most valuable commodity. Knowing who is bidding allows cartels to threaten competitors or buy out their withdrawal. By moving EMD online, the Government creates an information blackout during the bidding phase. This increases market competition, which potentially leads to lower L1 prices and better fiscal savings for the Delhi Treasury.
- f. Further, under the old system, every bidder had to prepare and physically deposit an EMD. Now, only the winner has to deliver the original. This reduces the logistical and administrative burden for dozens of unsuccessful bidders, making the Delhi market more attractive for professional national-level firms that were previously deterred by local hurdles.⁷²

⁷⁰ [General Financial Rules, 2017.](#)

⁷¹ Bid rigging is an illegal, anti-competitive practice where bidders collude to manipulate the outcome of a tender or auction, ensuring a predetermined winner.

⁷² [Indian Express, April, 2026.](#)

VI. Karnataka

A. Amendment To Bengaluru City Corporation Building Bye-Laws, 2003

Source: [The Government Of Karnataka](#), [Deccan Herald](#) | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 1st April, 2026, the Government of Karnataka issued a draft notification amending the Bengaluru City Corporation Building Bye-Laws, 2003.⁷³
2. The Amendment provides a legal and fee-based avenue for owners of property built beyond sanctioned plans to regularise building violations.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Amendment proposes increasing the deviation of building plans from the existing 5% to up to 15%, which will be applicable across all five Bengaluru corporations.
 - b. For plots up to 500 square metres in area and buildings less than 15 metres in height, a deviation up to 15% of the total setback area on all sides is allowed along with up to 15% for ground coverage and up to 7.5% for floor area ratio (FAR).⁷⁴
 - c. Construction must not reduce any single side-yard (setback) by more than 50% of the legally required distance.
 - d. For plots above 500 square metres in area and height equal to or above 15 metres, the same deviations limits apply except for on FAR, where it is capped at 5%.
 - e. The fees associated with regularisation include a 0.01 or 0.02% scrutiny fee for residential and non-residential property, respectively.
 - f. Further, a 0.06% or 0.08% fee would be applied as a compounding fee for not obtaining a plinth certificate at the time of construction.
 - g. All fees would be calculated on the guidance value of the site, subject to a minimum consideration of ₹ 50,000 per sq m which is applied to the total built-up area.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Several other states have implemented such one-time regularisation schemes statewide such as Andhra Pradesh,⁷⁵ Telangana,⁷⁶ Tamil Nadu (only for Chennai Metropolitan Area)⁷⁷ and West Bengal,⁷⁸ among others.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Moving away from penalties based on construction cost, the Amendment ties compounding fees directly to the 2025-26 Guidance Values,⁷⁹ which were recently

⁷³ [The Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Building Bye – Laws, 2003.](#)

⁷⁴ Floor Area Ratio (FAR) is a zoning metric measuring building density by dividing a building's total gross floor area by the total plot area. It dictates the maximum permissible construction on a site, with higher ratios allowing denser, taller developments.

⁷⁵ [The Andhra Pradesh Gazette, November, 2025.](#)

⁷⁶ [Municipal Administration And Urban Development Department, Government Of Telangana.](#)

⁷⁷ [Application, Assessment And Collection Of Regularisation Fee \(Chennai Metropolitan Area\) Rules, 1999.](#)

⁷⁸ [Urban Development And Municipal Affairs Department, Government Of West Bengal.](#)

⁷⁹ The 2025-26 Guidance Values and the new amendments create a "penalty-based regularisation" framework that ties construction deviations directly to the updated property rates.

A. Amendment To Bengaluru City Corporation Building Bye-Laws, 2003**Source:** [The Government Of Karnataka](#), [Deccan Herald](#) | **Impact:** Medium

revised upwards.⁸⁰ With residential compounding fees set between 3% and 10% of these values,⁸¹ the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is projected to generate significant revenue, estimated at an average of ₹ 3 lakh per building, effectively creating a fiscal cushion for the newly formed GBA's infrastructure projects.⁸²

- b. The GBA could potentially net ₹ 4,200 crore in a single year.⁸³ This liquidity provides the state with a strategic alternative to debt, offering a self-sustaining funding mechanism to accelerate “Brand Bengaluru” infrastructure, such as Metro Phase 3 or the long-delayed Peripheral Ring Road (PRR).⁸⁴
- c. The Amendment serves as a corrective legislative measure to the Supreme Court’s December 2024 ruling in *Rajendra Kumar Barjatya & Others vs. U.P. Avas Evam Vikas Parishad & Ors*,⁸⁵ which barred utility connections (power and water) for buildings lacking an Occupancy Certificate (OC). By increasing the deviation limit to 15%, the Government estimates that at least 40% of the ~3.5 lakh properties currently stuck without OCs will now be eligible for regularization, bringing them back into the formal banking and utility fold.⁸⁶
- d. Notably, 1.4 lakh properties without OCs represent roughly ₹ 70,000–₹ 1 lakh crore in dead capital that cannot be leveraged for bank loans.⁸⁷ By granting OCs through this 15% deviation allowance, the state is performing a massive refinancing of the Bengaluru middle class, allowing them to take top-up loans or sell in a transparent market.

⁸⁰ [TOI, April, 2026.](#)

⁸¹ [One India, April, 2026.](#)

⁸² [TOI, April, 2026.](#)

⁸³ [The Hindu, March, 2026.](#)

⁸⁴ [The Hindu, April, 2026.](#)

⁸⁵ *Rajendra Kumar Barjatya & Others v. U.P. Avas Evam Vikas Parishad & Ors*, (2024) 1 2024 INSC 990.

⁸⁶ [The Hindu, April, 2026.](#)

⁸⁷ [The Hindu, April, 2026.](#)

VII. Himachal Pradesh

A. State Farmer's Commission Bill, 2026

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

1. On 2nd April, 2026, the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed the State Farmer's Commission Bill, 2026, to establish a **statutory advisory body** dedicated to the revitalisation of the state's primary sector.
2. The Commission will be an advisory body to strengthen agriculture and allied sectors. It will review existing agricultural policies and recommend evidence-based measures to ensure sustainable growth, focus on increasing farm income, and improve market access for hill-state produce.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The body will consist of a Chairperson and up to three non-official members, ensuring a lean but specialised advisory structure.
 - b. Eligibility for the Chairperson is restricted to practising or progressive farmers from Himachal Pradesh who possess a graduate degree and at least five years of administrative experience in agriculture or allied sectors.
 - c. Non-official members must also be bona fide farmers with similar educational and administrative backgrounds, with a provision to include PhD holders in fields such as Horticulture or Veterinary Sciences.
 - d. The Commission will function as a grievance redressal platform and a coordination hub for stakeholders to address challenges like fragmented landholdings and climate variability.
 - e. The financial outlay includes a non-recurring expenditure of ₹ 50 lakh and an annual recurring expenditure of approximately ₹ 85 lakh.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. Agriculture and Horticulture contribute around 13.73% to the state's GSDP and provide livelihood to about 54% of the total workers of the state,⁸⁸ but the sector faces a profitability crisis with traditional crops becoming less viable due to shifting weather patterns and limited cold-chain infrastructure. The Commission is mandated to review these issues and address these structural challenges by creating an institutional mechanism for evidence-based policy intervention.
 - b. Further, farmers in the state suffer from a mountain penalty, higher costs of transport and lack of flat land. The Commission's mandate to improve market access is an attempt to reduce this penalty by creating aggregated value chains (e.g., FPOs) that can negotiate directly with large retailers.
 - c. By including PhD holders and VCs, the Commission bridges the **lab-to-land gap**. It ensures that the ₹ 1,295 crore High-Density Plantation project (currently

⁸⁸ [Government Of Himachal Pradesh, Economic Survey, Page 145.](#)

A. State Farmer's Commission Bill, 2026**Source:** [Times Of India](#) | **Impact:** Medium

underway) is adjusted for ground-level soil and water realities, increasing the success probability of large state investments.

- d. Additionally, as the snowline shifts upward, traditional apple belts in lower altitudes (like Shimla/Kullu) are becoming less viable.⁸⁹ The Commission acts as a climate adaptation unit, recommending the shift to high-density plantation and stone fruits, protecting the state's **₹ 5,000 crore Horticulture (fruit) economy**.⁹⁰
- e. By institutionalising a progressive farmer as the Chairperson, the state moves toward a participatory governance model where policy recommendations are grounded in actual field experience rather than purely bureaucratic input.

⁸⁹ [101 Reporters, December, 2023.](#)

⁹⁰ [Tribune, March, 2026.](#)

VIII. Maharashtra

A. Farmer ID System For Subsidised Fertiliser Distribution

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

1. On 31st March, 2026, the Government of Maharashtra announced the implementation of a Farmer ID system for distributing subsidised fertilisers under the broader AgriStack initiative.⁹¹
2. The initiative aims to streamline fertiliser subsidy distribution, eliminate leakages, and ensure that benefits reach genuine farmers through a digitally verified identification system. It also seeks to build a comprehensive farmer database for targeted agricultural policymaking.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Each farmer will be assigned a unique Farmer ID, linked to land records and personal identification details.
 - b. Subsidised fertilisers will be distributed only after authentication, ensuring that benefits are not diverted to non-farmers or intermediaries.
 - c. The system will integrate with digital land records and crop data, enabling accurate identification of beneficiaries.
 - d. It aims to reduce duplicate or fake entries in subsidy databases, improving efficiency and transparency.
 - e. It is part of a broader move towards data-driven agriculture governance, enabling better planning, credit access, and input delivery.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The program is aligned with the Central Government's AgriStack framework. It triangulates unique farmer identities with land size and crop data to calculate precise fertilizer requirements. This integration prevents the diversion of subsidised urea to industrial use and ensures that distribution is based on actual farm needs rather than manual estimates, significantly reducing Government subsidy leakage.⁹²
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. As of March 2026, Maharashtra had already generated over 1.31 crore Farmer IDs, the highest for any state, facilitating a single source of truth for identity and landholding.⁹³ This system eliminates duplicate entries who historically siphoned off subsidised inputs for non-agricultural or industrial use.
 - b. Beyond fertilizers, the Farmer ID acts as a foundational key for Direct Benefit

⁹¹ The AgriStack initiative is a unified Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for agriculture launched by India's Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare to revolutionise the sector through technology.

⁹² [PIB, February, 2026.](#)

⁹³ [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

A. Farmer ID System For Subsidised Fertiliser Distribution**Source:** [Free Press Journal](#) | **Impact:** Medium

Transfer (DBT) in crisis scenarios.⁹⁴ Maharashtra demonstrated this by transferring over ₹ 14,000 crore to 89 lakh farmers for Kharif 2025 crop losses within just five days.⁹⁵ The unique ID enables pre-approved agricultural credit and insurance payouts by bypassing the traditional, time-consuming manual verification.

- c. Over-subsidised urea leads to soil acidification because farmers use it excessively.⁹⁶ By limiting purchases to scientifically recommended quantities via the Farmer ID, the state is indirectly performing environmental regulation, ensuring the long-term fertility of Maharashtra's black cotton soil.

⁹⁴ Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) is a Government of India initiative launched on January 1, 2013, to transfer subsidies and benefits directly into the Aadhaar-linked bank accounts of beneficiaries. It aims to eliminate intermediaries, reduce delays, enhance transparency, and curb fraud/leakage in social welfare schemes.

⁹⁵ [PIB, February, 2026.](#)

⁹⁶ [Lok Bhawan Maharashtra, Government Of Maharashtra, February, 2026.](#)

B. New Department For Electronics, Information Technology (IT) And Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Source: [News On Air](#), [Economic Times](#), [Deccan Herald](#) | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 7th April, 2026, the Maharashtra Cabinet approved the establishment of an independent Department of Electronics, Information Technology (IT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the state.
2. The initiative aims to strengthen IT, AI, and digital governance in the state by creating a structured cadre within the state Government.
3. **Financial Outlay** - The new department will receive an annual outlay of ₹ 133.35 crore for carrying out functions.
4. **Targets** -
 - a. A total of 427 posts will be established across the administrative headquarters (Mantralaya), departments and district offices.
 - b. 389 technical roles filled through an external mechanism, supported by the creation of a Maharashtra e-Mission Team (MeMT) which will focus on project management, monitoring, and ensuring smooth implementation of digital initiatives.
 - c. Aims to invest in future talent through an internship programme for 200 engineering graduates, aimed at building a skilled workforce aligned with emerging technologies like artificial intelligence.
5. **Key Features** -
 - a. The existing Information Technology Directorate will be transformed into the Electronics, Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence Commissionerate.
 - b. The Maharashtra Remote Sensing Application Centre (MRSAC) will now be converted into a company, which has the function of utilising and operationalising space technology for managing and monitoring the natural resources of the state, as well as the developments and changes in the urban society.⁹⁷
 - c. A Maharashtra Geotechnology Application Centre (MahaGeotech) company will also be established to enhance governance through the use of Geospatial Technology.
6. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The establishment of this department serves as the primary execution vehicle for synchronising state-level policy with Viksit Bharat 2047 national vision.⁹⁸ It transitions from traditional administration to a high-tech governance model through the strategic pillars such as, technological sovereignty via Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), quintuple data center capacity, and becoming a ₹ 1

⁹⁷ [Maharashtra Remote Sensing Application Centre](#).

⁹⁸ [Viksit India](#).

B. New Department For Electronics, Information Technology (IT) And Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Source: [News On Air](#), [Economic Times](#), [Deccan Herald](#) | **Impact:** Medium

lakh crore state economy.

7. Similar Initiatives In Other States -

- a. Telangana was one of the first states to have a dedicated vertical for Emerging Technologies within its Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (ITE&C) Department.⁹⁹
- b. Additionally, Karnataka launched the Centre of Excellence in Data Science and AI and proposed a dedicated AI Advisory Council under its Information Technology and Biotechnology (ITBT) Department to streamline the integration of AI into public services.¹⁰⁰

8. Relevance -

- a. The department is positioned as a primary engine for Maharashtra's goal to become a ₹ 1 lakh crore (\$ 1 trillion) economy,¹⁰¹ specifically targeting a five-fold expansion of the state's data center capacity, which already leads India with ~1 GW of capacity as of March, 2026 to support intensive AI and cloud workloads.¹⁰²
- b. The ₹ 133.35 crore annual outlay is strategically timed with Maharashtra's 2025-26 projections, which anticipate a robust 7.9% growth rate.¹⁰³ The new department is tasked with capturing the 28% wage premium associated with AI roles by training 200 engineering interns annually,¹⁰⁴ directly addressing the current labour market shift where AI-related job postings in hubs like Pune have reached 6.95% of all vacancies.¹⁰⁵
- c. Maharashtra leads India with 1 GW of data center capacity.¹⁰⁶ The new department is the regulatory anchor for that capacity. By creating AI-specific policies, the state is ensuring that the computation (i.e., the data center) and the intelligence (i.e., the software) both stay within Maharashtra, maximising the Value-Added Tax (VAT) and Professional Tax revenue.¹⁰⁷

⁹⁹ [Government Of Telangana, Page. 12.](#)

¹⁰⁰ [Deccan Herald, January, 2026.](#)

¹⁰¹ [ET, April, 2026.](#)

¹⁰² [ET, March, 2026.](#)

¹⁰³ [ET, March, 2026.](#)

¹⁰⁴ [Deccan Herald, April, 2026.](#)

¹⁰⁵ [PIB, February, 2026.](#)

¹⁰⁶ [ET, March, 2026.](#)

¹⁰⁷ [ANI News, March, 2026.](#)

Policy Level Announcements

I. Rajasthan

A. Rajasthan Draft Litigation Policy, 2026

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

1. The Rajasthan Government has prepared the draft Litigation Policy, 2026, replacing the State Litigation Policy, 2018¹⁰⁸ to systematically reduce the volume of state-related legal disputes pending in various courts.
2. The policy mandates an “Internal First” resolution strategy, requiring Government employees and pensioners to exhaust departmental remedies before approaching the judiciary for service-related grievances.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. It establishes **three tiers of internal resolution** within each department:
 - i. Tier 1 (Head of Department Level) - The head of department reviews and resolves matters within their authority and forwards unresolved cases;
 - ii. Tier 2 (Departmental Level Committee) - A committee led by the Joint Secretary examines the cases and those beyond its jurisdiction are escalated to the Chief Secretary, who holds the highest authority to grant relief; and
 - iii. Tier 3 (Chief Secretary Level Committee) - Serious matters, particularly those involving corruption or complex legal concerns, are handled at the Chief Secretary level, with decisions based on the gravity of the case.
 - b. **Grievance Redressal Process:**
 - i. Grievance redressal committees must be constituted across all departments and autonomous institutions within 14 days of notification.
 - ii. Action on complaints must begin within 7 days, and recommendations, where required, must be forwarded within 30 days.
 - iii. Each department must designate a senior administrative officer with a legal background as a Nodal Officer to monitor litigation, ensure timely responses, and communication from the Advocate General’s office, and facilitate filing of appeals and petitions. Compliance with court directions must be reviewed every 15 days.
 - iv. Dedicated legal cells will be established in all Government departments, including in both Jaipur and Jodhpur Advocate General offices, under unified control of the Advocate General.
 - v. Committees will identify pending departmental cases and refer suitable ones to Lok Adalats for expedited settlement through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁸ [State Litigation Policy, 2018.](#)

¹⁰⁹ Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) refers to processes for resolving disputes outside courts, offering a faster, cheaper, and cooperative alternative where parties work together for the best resolution.

A. Rajasthan Draft Litigation Policy, 2026

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

- vi. Overall responsibility for litigation management will rest with officers of the State Legal Service, creating a cadre-based accountability structure distinct from regular administrative officers.
- c. The policy expands to include autonomous institutions such as the Indira Gandhi Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Institute, Rajasthan State Finance Commission, State Election Commission, and various Akademis and Gram Seva Cooperative Societies, which were earlier outside its scope.
- 4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The policy aligns with **Directive for the Efficient and Effective Management of Litigation, 2025**¹¹⁰ which aims to transform the Government into an efficient and responsible litigant.
- 5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Haryana¹¹¹ and Chandigarh¹¹² have also established a three-tier structure to resolve disputes before they reach the courts.
- 6. **Relevance** -
 - a. Government is the lead litigant in approximately 46% to 50% of all pending cases in India. By mandating a 3-tier internal resolution, Rajasthan targets the root cause of “**Docket Explosion**”¹¹³ in its High Court, where service-related writ petitions historically constitute a major share of the backlog.
 - b. By incorporating autonomous institutions and Panchayati Raj bodies which were excluded from the 2018 framework, the policy closes the litigation gap for thousands of semi-Government employees who previously had no recourse but to approach the judiciary for basic salary or promotion grievances.
 - c. Further, service-related disputes involving pay fixation, promotions, pensions, and disciplinary matters have generated significant litigation among Rajasthan government employees and pensioners.¹¹⁴ By internalising these, the state increases the disposable income of its 8 lakh employees and 4.4 lakh pensioners without increasing the salary bill.¹¹⁵

¹¹⁰ [Directive For The Efficient And Effective Management Of Litigation \(2025\)](#).

¹¹¹ [Haryana State Litigation Policy, 2025](#).

¹¹² [Chandigarh Litigation Policy, 2025](#).

¹¹³ Docket explosion refers to the rapid, unsustainable increase in court case filings outpacing the rate of disposal, resulting in massive judicial backlogs.

¹¹⁴ [TOI, April, 2026](#).

¹¹⁵ [Business Standard, October, 2025](#).

II. Delhi

A. Draft Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy, 2026-30

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

1. On 11th April, 2026, the Delhi Government released the Draft EV Policy 2026-2030, proposing restrictions on petrol and diesel vehicles. The draft is open for public consultation for 30 days and carries a total outlay of ₹ 3,954.25 crore.
2. **Key Features -**
 - a. **Restriction Deadlines:**
 - i. New registrations of petrol and CNG two-wheelers will be banned from 1st April, 2028.
 - ii. Only electric three-wheelers will be allowed for new registrations from 1st January, 2027.
 - iii. Cab aggregators and delivery firms will be barred from adding new petrol or diesel two-wheelers and light goods carriers (up to 3.5 tonnes) from 1st January, 2026. Existing BS-VI petrol two-wheelers in commercial fleets can continue until 31st December, 2026.
 - iv. School institutions must electrify at least 10% of their bus fleets within two years of notification, 20% in three years, and 30% by 31st March, 2030.
 - b. Purchase incentives for electric two-wheelers (priced up to ₹ 2.25 lakh) and electric three-wheelers are structured on a **declining three-year scale:**
 - i. ₹ 30,000 and ₹ 50,000 in Year 1;
 - ii. ₹ 20,000 and ₹ 40,000 in Year 2; and
 - iii. ₹ 10,000 and ₹ 30,000 in Year 3, respectively.
 - c. Incentives:
 - i. Scrappage-linked incentives of ₹ 10,000 for two-wheelers, ₹ 25,000 for three-wheelers, and up to ₹ 1 lakh for cars apply on replacement of BS-IV or older vehicles.
 - ii. A 100% exemption on road tax and registration fees for eligible EVs is proposed until 31st March, 2030.
 - d. It emphasises building an environmentally sound battery recycling ecosystem by assigning clear responsibilities to the Environment Department and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee.
 - e. It mandates strict compliance with the Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022,¹¹⁶ particularly focusing on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).
 - f. ₹ 1,000 crore of the total outlay is allocated to charging and battery-swapping infrastructure, with Delhi Transco Limited designated as the nodal agency.
3. **Central Initiative Alignment** - This policy aligns with the National Clean Air

¹¹⁶ [Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022](#), [2023 Amendment](#), [2024 Amendment](#), and [2025 Amendment](#).

A. Draft Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy, 2026-30

Source: [The Government Of Delhi](#), [Economic Times](#) | Impact: Medium

Programme (NCAP), launched with an aim to improve air quality in 131 cities in 24 states by engaging all stakeholders.¹¹⁷

4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States like Tamil Nadu,¹¹⁸ Maharashtra¹¹⁹ and Uttar Pradesh¹²⁰ provide 100% road tax waivers and subsidies for EVs. Maharashtra also mandates 50% Aggregators (like Uber/Ola) and delivery providers to ensure 50% of their new fleet is electric by 2030.
5. **Relevance** -
 - a. Delhi already leads India in EV penetration, providing a real adoption base on which the mandate can credibly build. Delhi achieved an EV penetration rate of 13.91% of new vehicle registrations in FY 2025, the third-highest in the country and nearly double the national average of 8%.
 - b. The total number of motor vehicles on road in NCT of Delhi as on 19th March, 2026 is 87.61 lakh, showing an increase by 7.93% compared to 2024-25.¹²¹ Two-wheelers constitute approximately 67% of Delhi's total vehicle fleet.
 - c. When only Delhi's local sources are considered, vehicles consistently contribute 51-53% of Delhi's PM2.5 pollution,¹²² making transport the single largest local source ahead of industry, construction, and waste burning combined.¹²³
 - d. Road transport contributes approximately 60% of Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) and 35% of Carbon Oxide (CO) emissions in Delhi and its surrounding regions.¹²⁴ These emissions pose serious public health risks, including increased incidence of asthma attacks, persistent coughing, wheezing, chronic respiratory diseases, cardiovascular conditions, strokes, and lung cancer. Premature mortality in 2022 due to outdoor air pollution in India translated into a financial loss of \$ 339.4 billion (₹ 31,590.84 lakh crore), or 9.5% of domestic GDP.¹²⁵
 - e. In conclusion, despite the EV adoption rate of Delhi, the large vehicle volume in Delhi and the rising pollution demands electrification of vehicles which is addressed by the policy. Additionally, the tiered structure of bans and incentives provide for a smooth transition.

¹¹⁷ [National Clean Air Programme.](#)

¹¹⁸ [ET, January, 2026.](#)

¹¹⁹ [Maharashtra EV Policy, 2025.](#)

¹²⁰ [Purchase Incentives Under Uttar Pradesh Electric Vehicle Manufacturing And Mobility Policy, 2022.](#)

¹²¹ [Delhi Economic Survey, 2025-26.](#)

¹²² PM2.5 refers to atmospheric particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 micrometers or less, 1/20th the width of a human hair, which pose serious health risks by penetrating deep into the lungs and entering the bloodstream.

¹²³ [Down To Earth, December, 2025.](#)

¹²⁴ [Commission For Air Quality Management \(CAQM\), Delhi.](#)

¹²⁵ [The Telegraph, November, 2025.](#)

III. Odisha

A. Rural Drinking Water Operation And Maintenance (O&M) Policy, 2026

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

1. On 10th April, 2026, the Odisha Cabinet approved the O&M Policy for Rural Drinking Water Supply, 2026. It establishes a comprehensive framework to ensure uninterrupted, quality-compliant, and financially sustainable water service delivery across rural Odisha.
2. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy clearly delineates responsibilities across the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) department, district authorities, Gram Panchayats (GPs), and Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSCs), promoting community ownership and decentralised management of rural water assets.
 - b. It introduces structured **user charges for rural households** and establishes dedicated O&M funds at the village level, creating a self-sustaining fiscal architecture for scheme maintenance without drawing permanently on the state exchequer.
 - c. It mandates regular water quality testing and strict adherence to drinking water quality standards across all scheme types including single village schemes, solar-based systems, and mega piped water supply projects to ensure safe and potable supply.
 - d. The policy mandates digital monitoring through Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and Internet of Things (IoT) - based systems, with a centralised Command and Control Centre enabling real-time oversight of water supply infrastructure across the state.
 - e. It establishes preventive maintenance schedules and a formal asset management system to reduce reactive breakdowns, extend infrastructure life, and ensure continuous service delivery.
 - f. Structured grievance redressal mechanisms and disaster preparedness measures are embedded to protect service continuity during natural calamities, particularly in flood and cyclone-prone districts of Odisha.
 - g. The policy is designed to operate within existing financial provisions and explicitly states that it imposes no additional permanent financial burden on the state exchequer.
3. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy directly aligns with the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), under which all states and UTs have been advised to put a comprehensive O&M Policy in place with provisions for handing over of schemes to GPs and VWSCs, empowering them to levy user charges and ensuring sufficient financing of O&M.¹²⁶

¹²⁶ [PIB, December, 2025.](#)

A. Rural Drinking Water Operation And Maintenance (O&M) Policy, 2026

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

4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States like Uttar Pradesh,¹²⁷ Andhra Pradesh,¹²⁸ Haryana,¹²⁹ Himachal Pradesh,¹³⁰ Chhattisgarh,¹³¹ Goa¹³² and Gujarat¹³³ have signed “Reform-Linked MoUs” related to O&M of infrastructure and to ensure safe, sustainable, and community-led water supply.
5. **Relevance** -
- While 99.3% of rural Odisha households have tap connections under JJM, only 78.4% receive a regular and safe water supply.¹³⁴ This has led the policy to prioritise SCADA monitoring and quality testing to address the remaining functionality gaps
 - Among larger states, Odisha had only 19% of its villages certified as “Har Ghar Jal” as of January 2025,¹³⁵ one of the lowest among major states, reflecting that despite high infrastructure investment, the governance and certification pathway has lagged. Only 2.2% villages in Odisha levy water service delivery charges, thus the introduction of user charges is a critical fiscal design choice.¹³⁶
 - The policy’s promotion of community-ownership addresses the gap of Odisha’s large, geographically dispersed population across over 47,000 villages and only 47% villages in Odisha have skilled manpower for O&M,¹³⁷ which has led to deferred maintenance and scheme collapse.
 - Only **58.9% villages in Odisha have VWSC** and out of those only **36.2% have bank accounts**.¹³⁸ The new maintenance policy directly addresses this gap by strengthening VWSC-led systems and enabling structured fund flow mechanisms.
 - Odisha is more prone to cyclones where **nearly one third of cyclones of east coast visit Odisha**.¹³⁹ For a state with recurring flood and cyclone events, disaster preparedness provisions within the O&M policy are especially vital to prevent infrastructure damage from translating into prolonged water service disruption.

¹²⁷ [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

¹²⁸ [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

¹²⁹ [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

¹³⁰ [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

¹³¹ [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

¹³² [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

¹³³ [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

¹³⁴ [Functionality Assessment Of Household Tap Connection, National Report, 2024.](#)

¹³⁵ [Foundation For Responsive Governance, Jjm Budget Insights, February, 2025.](#)

¹³⁶ [Functionality Assessment Of Household Tap Connection, National Report, 2024.](#)

¹³⁷ [Functionality Assessment Of Household Tap Connection, National Report, 2024.](#)

¹³⁸ [Functionality Assessment Of Household Tap Connection, National Report, 2024.](#)

¹³⁹ [Odisha Review, 2016.](#)

IV. Haryana

A. Amendments To Affordable Housing Policy, 2013

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

1. On 8th April, 2026, the Haryana Government notified amendments to the **Affordable Housing Policy, 2013**,¹⁴⁰ revising parking norms and allotment rates.
2. It mandates one car parking space per unit and revises price caps across cities, with Gurugram rates increased to ₹ 5,575 per sq ft. The changes will apply to upcoming allotments and partially to ongoing projects, subject to buyer consent.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Developers are now required to provide one Equivalent Car Space (ECS)¹⁴¹ per dwelling unit, capped at 10% of the flat cost, doubling the earlier norm of half an ECS per unit under the original 2013 policy.
 - b. Any surplus parking beyond the mandatory ECS allocations can be earmarked for visitor car parking or two-wheelers and must be clearly demarcated at the building plan approval stage.
 - c. For projects where licences have already been granted but building plans were approved without the mandatory one ECS per unit, developers must obtain consent from at least two-thirds of allottees before seeking a plan amendment. The provision does not apply to projects where occupation certificates have been obtained for all towers.
 - d. Maximum allotment rates have been revised across cities, a 10–12% hike overall:
 - i. ₹ 5,575 per sq ft for Gurugram (up from ₹ 5,000);
 - ii. ₹ 5,450 for Faridabad and Sohna;
 - iii. ₹ 5,050 for other high and medium potential towns; and
 - iv. ₹ 4,250 for low potential towns.
 - e. Balcony charges have been revised to ₹ 1,300 per sq ft (up from ₹ 1,200), capped at 100 sq ft per unit with a maximum of ₹ 1.3 lakh per flat.
 - f. Revised rates apply to projects yet to make allotments. In the cases where applications have already been invited, developers may collect the differential from successful applicants, with a full refund option for unwilling consumers.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** It aligns with Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)¹⁴² which focuses on affordable, planned urban housing and basic infrastructure provisioning.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. The rate revision directly responds to a near-complete stalling of new affordable

¹⁴⁰ [Affordable Housing Policy, 2013](#).

¹⁴¹ An Equivalent Car Space (ECS) is a planning unit used to standardize parking requirements, roughly equating to a standard parking stall of 2.5m x 5.0m (12.5m²).

¹⁴² [PMAY \(U\)](#).

A. Amendments To Affordable Housing Policy, 2013

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

housing launches in Gurugram and Faridabad. Officials from Haryana's Town and Country Planning Department confirmed that no new licence for affordable housing projects had been granted in Gurugram for the preceding one-and-a-half to two years, and the Gurugram-Manesar Master Plan area saw no fresh affordable housing development during this period.¹⁴³

- b. Land prices in several sectors of Gurugram more than doubled over five years, while construction costs rose 25–30%, making projects financially unviable at the earlier ₹ 5,000 per sq ft cap.¹⁴⁴ The rate revision to ₹ 5,575 per sq ft in Gurugram directly addresses this structural viability gap.
- c. The original 2013 policy provided only half an ECS per dwelling unit and explicitly prohibited car parking allotments to apartment owners.¹⁴⁵ This design while reducing construction cost created chronic parking shortages in high-density affordable housing societies, leading to disputes, unauthorised encroachments of common areas, and degraded living conditions.
- d. The Amendment's mandate of one ECS per unit, at a capped cost of 10% of the flat price, corrects this structural deficiency without pricing parking out of the affordable segment.
- e. For projects already licenced without the one ECS norm, the amendment requires developer consent from at least two-thirds of allottees before any building plan modification.
- f. This prevents developers from unilaterally retrofitting parking at cost to buyers in already-subscribed projects, while still enabling willing communities to adopt the improved standard.

¹⁴³ [The Pioneer, February, 2026.](#)

¹⁴⁴ [The Pioneer, February, 2026.](#)

¹⁴⁵ [Affordable Housing Policy, 2013.](#)

B. Revised Policy For Retirement Housing

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

1. On 10th April, 2026, the Haryana Cabinet approved a structural amendment to the Retirement Housing Policy, 2021, significantly increasing building density for senior-focused residential projects, amending the policy for Retirement Housing, 2021.¹⁴⁶
2. The reform aims to address the scarcity of land in high-demand corridors like Gurugram by improving project viability and encouraging institutional developers to treat senior living as essential social infrastructure.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The permissible FAR retirement housing colonies have been raised from 2.25 to 3.0, a 33% increase in buildable area.
 - b. The additional FAR is accessible through the Transferable Development Rights (TDR) Policy, 2021,¹⁴⁷ allowing developers to optimise existing land parcels without the need for additional land acquisition.
 - c. Projects must incorporate barrier-free designs, geriatric physical therapy centers, medical rooms, and common recreational areas of at least 500 square meters.
 - d. The policy shifts the focus from simple residential sales to a “care-ecosystem,” requiring dedicated dining halls (min. 100 sqm) and 24/7 medical response systems.
 - e. The policy continues to apply to plot sizes ranging from 0.5 to 10 acres with a minimum road width requirement of 12 meters.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** It aligns with National Policy on Senior Citizens’ (2011)¹⁴⁸ objective of “Ageing in Place” or ageing in your own home.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Tamil Nadu has developed integrated complexes of special homes for senior citizens.¹⁴⁹
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. In markets like Gurugram, where land acquisition accounts for 40%–50% of total project costs, the FAR increase allows for 33% more saleable area on the same land, significantly lowering the break-even point for developers and making the projects viable, without proportional increase in land cost.¹⁵⁰
 - b. With a rapidly growing elderly population and changing family dynamics, the

¹⁴⁶ [Policy For Retirement Housing, 2021.](#)

¹⁴⁷ [Policy For Grant And Utilization Of Transferable Development Rights \(TDR\), 2021.](#) TDR is a planning tool that allows a landowner or developer to transfer unused development potential (FAR/FSI) from one plot to another.

¹⁴⁸ [National Policy On Senior Citizens, 2011.](#)

¹⁴⁹ [Tamil Nadu, Senior Citizen Welfare.](#)

¹⁵⁰ [Business Standard, April, 2026.](#)

B. Revised Policy For Retirement Housing

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

demand for organised senior living communities is rising steadily. In key urban hubs like Gurugram, where urban lifestyles are fast-paced, traditional family-based care systems are gradually being replaced by professional senior living communities.

- c. The abovementioned is creating a strong foundation for long-term demand in the retirement housing segment.¹⁵¹ By allowing larger utilisation of space, this policy is directly addressing this demand rise.
- d. The senior living market penetration in India is < 1%, as compared to over 6% in mature markets like the US. In India, southern cities account for a significant share of the senior living market at approximately 68%, followed by 14% in the west and only 10% in the north.¹⁵² This indicates a significant supply gap relative to the rapidly growing elderly population.
- e. Haryana is addressing this gap by increasing FAR through this amended policy. By allowing 33% more units on the same land, the Fixed Cost (Land) is distributed across more residents, lowering the per-unit price and making "Premium Care" accessible to the upper-middle-class retiree.
- f. It signals a shift from "niche" to "essential social infrastructure" which makes senior housing a recognised asset class, not just welfare housing.¹⁵³ This allows Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Insurance Funds to invest in these projects, providing the long-term, low-cost capital required for "essential social infrastructure."

¹⁵¹ [Hindustan Times, April, 2026.](#)

¹⁵² [Money Control, November, 2023.](#)

¹⁵³ [Hindustan Times, April, 2026.](#)

V. Punjab

A. Reward Policy Under “Gangstran Te Vaar” Campaign

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

1. On 11th April 2026, the Punjab Government introduced a comprehensive “**Reward Policy**” to incentivise citizens to provide actionable intelligence on organised crime, alongside the public release of a “Most-Wanted” list featuring 28 notorious gangsters.
2. The initiative is a cornerstone of the state’s “Gangstran Te Vaar” (War on Gangsters) campaign, aiming to dismantle the logistical and financial ecosystems of criminal networks through public participation.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy decentralises reward approvals across police ranks: up to ₹ 1 lakh by SSPs, ₹ 1.5 lakh by CPs/Range IGs, and ₹ 2 lakh by Wing Heads (Special DGPs/ADGPs); amounts exceeding ₹ 2 lakh require the DGP’s approval.
 - b. A cumulative bounty of approximately ₹ 2 crore has been placed on 28 fugitives, with top-tier gangsters like Goldy Brar and Harvinder Rinda carrying rewards of ₹ 10 lakh each.
 - c. Citizens can share information via the dedicated Anti-Gangster Helpline, with a legal guarantee that the informant’s identity will remain strictly confidential from the public and Government alike.
 - d. The policy leverages the newly established **Overseas Fugitive Tracking Cell** to monitor the 61 gangsters currently believed to be operating from foreign soil, including the US, Canada, and the UAE.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** The Uttar Pradesh Police maintains an active, tiered bounty system where reward amounts are correlated with the gravity of the crime and the offender's rank in criminal syndicates.¹⁵⁴
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. 2025 recorded the highest number of targeted killings in Punjab since the pattern re-emerged in 2016, against a backdrop of over 400 active gang modules. Gangster or terror-linked fatalities in Punjab rose sharply, from 9 in 2024 to 31 in 2025, the highest since 2016.¹⁵⁵
 - b. Since its constitution in April 2022, the Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) has conducted 324 encounters, neutralised 24 gangsters, arrested approximately 2,500 criminals, and recovered 2,090 weapons and 516 vehicles.¹⁵⁶ Yet extortion threats to businesses, traders, and public figures persist, specifically related to extortion demands from abroad and from prisons.¹⁵⁷

¹⁵⁴ [UP Police.](#)

¹⁵⁵ [Guardian, January, 2026.](#)

¹⁵⁶ [TOI, November, 2025.](#)

¹⁵⁷ [The Indian Express, July, 2025.](#)

A. Reward Policy Under “Gangstran Te Vaar” Campaign

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

- c. The reward policy’s targeting of informants with knowledge of gang associates and members addresses the local network layer that conventional enforcement has struggled to penetrate.¹⁵⁸
- d. Punjab recorded 163 drone-based drug trafficking incidents in 2024 alone, with 187 kg of heroin intercepted, indicating a sophisticated logistics infrastructure that cannot be disrupted without ground-level intelligence.¹⁵⁹
- e. Punjab has witnessed 24 grenade attacks since September 2024, primarily on security establishments, with recruits offered as little as ₹ 20,000–30,000 per attack.
- f. In light of the above, the reward policy’s graded incentive structure (₹ 1 lakh to ₹ 2 lakh) is materially higher than the amounts being offered to potential recruits, creating a competing financial calculus and a mechanism through which communities can protect themselves by turning in rather than facilitating such networks.¹⁶⁰
- g. Further, traditional intelligence gathering involves expensive surveillance and undercover operations. Crowdsourcing Intelligence via such a reward policy is a high-ROI strategy. If a ₹ 2 lakh reward leads to the recovery of 50 illegal weapons for instance, the cost per weapon recovered is significantly lower than a month-long AGTF operation.
- h. Lastly, from January 2023 to March 2025, Punjab registered 569 FIRs related to gangster threats, including extortion and intimidation, with over 600 extortion and threat calls reported in 2023 and 2024. Extortion threats to traders have led to capital flight and reduced local investment.¹⁶¹ By empowering the community to anonymously report the local collectors, the state is performing an economic stabilisation act for industry and investors.

¹⁵⁸ [The Print, December, 2025.](#)

¹⁵⁹ [Punjab Outlook, October, 2025.](#)

¹⁶⁰ [The Print, December, 2025.](#)

¹⁶¹ [The Indian Express, July, 2025.](#)

Social Sector Schemes

I. Uttarakhand

A. Uttarakhand State Minority Education Authority

Source: [The Government Of Uttarakhand](#), [Organiser](#) | **Impact:** High

1. On 2nd April, 2026, the Uttarakhand Government announced the official **dissolution of the Uttarakhand Madrasa Education Board**, effective 1st July, 2026, transitioning all minority educational institutions under the newly established Uttarakhand State Minority Education Authority.
2. The initiative mandates that all registered madrasas obtain mandatory affiliation with the Uttarakhand School Education Board and adhere to a standardised 11-point regulatory framework for continued operation and recognition.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Under Section 14 of the Uttarakhand Minority Education Bill, 2025, madrasas must be registered with the Registrar of Societies, and the land for the institution must be legally titled in the name of said society.
 - b. The curriculum is shifted to prioritising modern subjects such as Mathematics, Science, and Computer Science, while religious instruction is permitted only as a separate activity after regular school hours.
 - c. Institutions are required to maintain financial transparency by conducting all transactions through institutional bank accounts and providing audited financial reports for the preceding three years.
 - d. Staffing norms now mandate the appointment of trained teachers possessing recognised academic degrees, and institutions must provide physical infrastructure including accessible playgrounds for students.
 - e. The Bill strictly prohibits compelling any student or teacher to participate in religious activities and specifies that institutions must ensure communal harmony.
 - f. Certifications previously issued as Munshi or Maulvi will be replaced by standard High School and Intermediate certificates, ensuring academic equivalence for Government employment and higher education.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** The Assam Government in 2020 abolished the Assam Madrasa Education Board and converted all state-run madrasas into regular high schools to ensure uniform education.¹⁶²
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. By aligning with the state Board, the Government aims to bridge the certification gap that historically limited the career prospects of madrasa students in the formal job market. This ensures academic equivalence, allowing approximately 87,000 students to qualify for Government employment and higher education on

¹⁶² [The Hindu, January, 2021.](#)

A. Uttarakhand State Minority Education Authority

Source: [The Government Of Uttarakhand](#), [Organiser](#) | **Impact:** High

par with mainstream school graduates.¹⁶³

- b. By moving all minority institutions including those run by Sikhs, Jains, Christians, and Buddhists under a single unified authority, the Government is shifting from a community-specific model to a broader equity-based framework. This is designed to ensure that state benefits are distributed across all minority groups rather than being concentrated in one segment.
- c. Further, the mandatory **audited financial reports** and institutional bank account rules are designed to curb ghost schools and unregulated funding. This ensures that any state subsidies or scholarships are reaching **verified institutions** with a clear physical and digital footprint.
- d. By permitting religious instruction only after regular hours, the state is prioritising foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN).¹⁶⁴ This is a critical economic intervention, as early-childhood mastery of Math and Science is the strongest predictor of future wage-earning capacity.
- e. Finally, by enforcing norms that prohibit coercive religious participation and mandate qualified teachers and basic infrastructure, the reform seeks to align minority institutions with constitutional principles of secular education and child rights, while ensuring that public and private funding flows into institutions that meet verifiable academic and governance standards.

¹⁶³ [Outlook, October 2025](#).

¹⁶⁴ Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) is the ability to read, understand, and perform basic mathematics, considered essential for a child to master by Grade 3. It focuses on enabling children to read with comprehension and solve simple arithmetic problems, acting as a crucial building block for all future education and lifelong learning.

II. Delhi

A. Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana, 2026

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

1. The Lakhpati Bitiya Scheme, notified on 30th March, 2026, is a financial assistance program designed to enhance the social status and long-term economic security of girl children in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
2. The scheme provides phased monetary support linked to educational milestones from birth to graduation. It also aims to eliminate discrimination and ensure girls remain in the education system until they reach adulthood.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Benefits are distributed in installments at key milestones, including:
 - i. Birth: ₹ 11,000;
 - ii. School admission: ₹ 5,000 each upon entering Class I, VI, IX, XI, and XII;
 - iii. Higher education: between ₹ 10,000; and
 - iv. Professional diplomas or graduation courses: ₹ 25,000.
 - b. Funds are deposited in the girl's name but can only be encashed once she reaches 18 years (having passed Class XII) or 21 years (after completing a diploma or graduation).
 - c. Eligibility Criteria:
 - i. Residence: The applicant must be born in Delhi and be a bonafide resident of Delhi for at least three years.
 - ii. Income Limit: Family annual income must not exceed ₹ 1,20,000.
 - iii. Family Size: Benefits are limited to two girls in a family.
 - iv. Marital Status: The girl must remain unmarried until age 18 and marriage before the stipulated age results in immediate disqualification.
 - d. Further, continued benefits are contingent upon completing age-appropriate immunisations as per applicable Government norms.
 - e. For girls in Child Care Institutions (CCIs), the 3-year residence and income limit conditions are waived, with the institutional head acting as the guardian.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -**
 - a. States like Madhya Pradesh,¹⁶⁵ Karnataka,¹⁶⁶ Uttar Pradesh,¹⁶⁷ and West Bengal¹⁶⁸ have similar schemes for girls which provide financial assistance linked to education milestones and delayed marriage.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. According to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) around 9.9% of women

¹⁶⁵ [Ladli Laxmi Yojana](#).

¹⁶⁶ [Bhagyalaxmi Scheme](#).

¹⁶⁷ [Kanya Sumangala Yojana](#).

¹⁶⁸ [Kanyashree Prakalpa](#).

A. Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana, 2026

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

in Delhi (age 20-24) were married before the legal age of 18.¹⁶⁹ This scheme provides a direct financial incentive to delay marriage by tying the final maturity amount to the girl remaining unmarried until 18.

- b. The Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE+)¹⁷⁰ 2024-25 report identifies a high attrition rate during the transition to secondary school, with the secondary level dropout rate in Delhi recorded at 8.3%.¹⁷¹ By providing cash transfers at Classes IX, XI, and XII, the scheme aims to lower the financial burden that often forces girls out of school.
- c. Notably, Delhi's Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR)¹⁷² has historically lagged behind other metros. By specifically incentivising graduation and professional diplomas, the state is subsidising the transition from "schooling" to "skilled employment." This is a high-return investment, as educated women contribute significantly more to the city's GSDP.
- d. The ₹ 11,000 birth deposit is like a seed capital for a 20-year human development of a girl child. By linking benefits to immunisation and education, the scheme ensures that the next generation of mothers is healthier and more literate. This breaks the cycle of poverty.

¹⁶⁹ [National Family Health Survey \(NFHS-5\), Page 101.](#)

¹⁷⁰ UDISE+ is an educational management information system under the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, which functions as a Central platform that enables respective schools to efficiently record and submit data.

¹⁷¹ [UDISE Dashboard \(2024-25 Report\).](#)

¹⁷² FLFPR measures the proportion of women aged 15 and older who are employed or actively seeking employment, relative to the total female working-age population.

III. Assam

A. Orunodoi Scheme Expansion

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

1. On 1st April, 2026, the Chief Minister of Assam announced an expansion of the flagship Orunodoi scheme,¹⁷³ allowing two women from the same household to be eligible for financial assistance.
2. The expansion aims to increase coverage of financial assistance to women, enhance household income support, and strengthen women-centric welfare delivery, especially in larger families with multiple eligible beneficiaries.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The existing one family one beneficiary norm will be relaxed, enabling **two women per household to receive benefits**.
 - b. The scheme will be linked to ration card restructuring, allowing issuance of two ration cards in larger households for eligibility.
 - c. Newly married women (daughters in law) in eligible households will also be included as beneficiaries.
 - d. The scheme continues to provide direct benefit transfers (DBT) to women's bank accounts.
 - e. The current assistance under the scheme remains ₹ 1,250 per month per beneficiary.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. The scheme remains one of the largest DBT programs in India. The state Government executed the largest single-day DBT in the state's history, transferring funds to about 40 lakh women. Total cash disbursed in a single day reached ₹ 3,600 crore, which included a Bihu bonus and monthly arrears.¹⁷⁴
 - b. The scheme beneficiaries showed a 57% higher rate of high/complete financial empowerment compared to non-beneficiaries (25%), in terms of control over day-to-day economic resources. By permitting two beneficiaries, the state effectively doubles the capital available to the households.¹⁷⁵
 - c. By expanding coverage the state is covering nearly 90% of the eligible female population of Assam in the low-income bracket¹⁷⁶ and by linking eligibility to Restructured Ration Cards, it simplifies the verification process, ensuring that the 15 lakh missing beneficiaries from previous cycles are automatically captured by the system.¹⁷⁷

¹⁷³ [Government Of Assam, March, 2024.](#)

¹⁷⁴ [The Hindu, March, 2026.](#)

¹⁷⁵ [South India Journal Of Social Sciences, March, 2026.](#)

¹⁷⁶ [The Hindu, March, 2026.](#)

¹⁷⁷ [South India Journal Of Social Sciences, March, 2026.](#)

IV. Uttar Pradesh

A. Hike In Minimum Wages

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

1. On 13th April, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved a retrospective minimum wage hike effective from 1st April, 2026, following violent industrial unrest in the Noida-Ghaziabad manufacturing belt.
2. The revision aims to align wages with inflation and rising cost of living in high-growth urban-industrial clusters, particularly in NCR regions like Noida.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The revision introduces a three-tier structure. The Noida-Ghaziabad region received the highest hike of 21%, while other municipal areas saw upto 15% increase.
 - b. Revised Monthly Wage Rates:
 - i. Noida and Ghaziabad: ₹ 13,690 (Unskilled), ₹ 15,059 (Semi-skilled), and ₹ 16,868 (Skilled).
 - ii. Other Municipal Corporations: ₹ 13,006 (Unskilled), ₹ 14,306 (Semi-skilled), and ₹ 16,025 (Skilled).
 - iii. Remaining Districts: ₹ 12,356 (Unskilled), ₹ 13,591 (Semi-skilled), and ₹ 15,224 (Skilled).
 - c. Employers are mandated to ensure **compliance with revised wage floors**, with penalties applicable for violations under labour laws.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - It aligns with the Code on Wages, 2019,¹⁷⁸ which mandates a minimum income payable by the employers.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Haryana¹⁷⁹ has also raised their wage ceiling, a 35% increase in minimum wages, across all worker categories, retrospectively.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The recent wage revision in Uttar Pradesh is a direct response to escalating industrial unrest, punctuated by protests involving 40,000–45,000 workers across Noida's manufacturing belt.¹⁸⁰ This friction was primarily triggered by a widening wage gap within the National Capital Region (NCR) after neighboring Haryana implemented a 35% increase in minimum wages.¹⁸¹
 - b. Such inter-state disparity created a labor outmigration risk, forcing Uttar Pradesh to recalibrate its compensation structure to remain competitive and maintain industrial harmony.
 - c. Noida-Ghaziabad industrial belt boasts industries such as garments, electronics

¹⁷⁸ [Chapter 3: The Code on Wages, 2019, Page. No. 8.](#)

¹⁷⁹ [Haryana Government, Labour Department Notification, April, 2026.](#)

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

¹⁸¹ [The Hindu, April, 2026.](#)

A. Hike In Minimum Wages**Source:** [Times Of India](#) | **Impact:** High

assembly and packaging goods. Increase of wage floors across all criteria increases the likelihood of localised cost push in goods produced in this industrial belt because cost increase propagates through the production chain especially in these low-margin manufacturing and subcontracting ecosystems.¹⁸²

- d. The policy acknowledges the diverse economic landscapes within Uttar Pradesh by implementing variable wage hikes. The policy acknowledges that the cost of living in Noida and Ghaziabad is significantly higher than in Lucknow or Varanasi.
- e. Lastly, the wage gap between an unskilled (₹ 13,690) and a skilled (₹ 16,868) worker is roughly 23%. This technical spread is designed to incentivise upskilling within the manufacturing plants, encouraging workers to move from basic manual roles to machine operation.

¹⁸² [IPF Online, December, 2017.](#)

B. The Safe Mobility Program

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

1. On 5th April, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Government launched the Safe Mobility Program, a specialised livelihood and safety initiative centered on empowering female members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) as professional e-rickshaw pilots.
2. The program is being implemented by the Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihoods Mission (UPSRLM)¹⁸³ with technical assistance from the organisation development alternatives, focusing on creating a secure transportation ecosystem for women and girls.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The initiative targets the deployment of 1,000 e-rickshaws in its initial phase, specifically allocated to women belonging to registered SHGs to foster grassroots entrepreneurship.
 - b. The service has been operationalised in five districts, Ayodhya, Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Kaushambi, and Jhansi, with an immediate expansion plan for eight additional districts including Lucknow, Prayagraj, and Sonbhadra.
 - c. The program includes a comprehensive training module covering vehicle operation and maintenance, resulting in 629 women receiving operational training and 244 women being issued formal driving licenses to date.
 - d. The e-rickshaws are operated exclusively by female drivers, providing a “safe corridor” for female students and working women to commute to schools and workplaces, particularly in rural and peri-urban areas.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The program is aligned with Mission Shakti (Samarthya),¹⁸⁴ and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)¹⁸⁵ objectives of diversifying SHG livelihoods into the non-farm and service sectors.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - The State of Maharashtra has a similar scheme, Pink E Rickshaw Scheme,¹⁸⁶ to create employment opportunities for women and ensure safe travel options for women and girls.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. With Uttar Pradesh having one of the lowest female labour force participation rates (FLFPR) in India (around 19.8% as per PLFS estimates),¹⁸⁷ the Safe Mobility Program directly addresses a structural constraint, limited access to safe and

¹⁸³ [Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihoods Mission.](#)

¹⁸⁴ [Mission Shakti.](#)

¹⁸⁵ [Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission \(DAY-NRLM\).](#)

¹⁸⁶ [Pink E Rickshaw Scheme.](#)

¹⁸⁷ [PLFS, 2025, Pg. No. 142.](#)

B. The Safe Mobility Program

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

income-generating mobility-linked livelihoods for rural women.

- b. The deployment of 1,000 women-operated e-rickshaws creates a non-farm, service-sector livelihood pathway for SHG members, aligning with evidence that diversification beyond agriculture significantly increases rural household incomes and resilience under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission framework.¹⁸⁸
- c. Simultaneously, the initiative addresses a documented mobility-safety constraint, studies show that fear of harassment during transit is a major barrier to women's education and workforce participation, particularly in rural and peri-urban regions.¹⁸⁹
- d. By creating female-driven "safe corridors," the program reduces this constraint in the last-mile segment, which is often the weakest link in public transport systems. Women's safety can in turn improve the secondary school attendance rate of girls in rural clusters by reducing commute-related anxiety.
- e. Further, the reported average annual income of ₹ 3 lakh per beneficiary, which is 5.5 times the average per-capita income of Uttar Pradesh.¹⁹⁰ This indicates a transition from subsistence SHG activity to market-linked enterprise, strengthening women's financial autonomy and creditworthiness within rural households.¹⁹¹

¹⁸⁸ [PIB, October, 2025.](#)

¹⁸⁹ [ORE, May, 2021.](#)

¹⁹⁰ [UP Economic Survey, 2025-26, Page No. 37.](#)

¹⁹¹ [Hans India, April, 2026.](#)

V. Haryana

A. Revised Basic Minimum Rates Of Wages

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

1. On 8th April, 2026, the Haryana Cabinet formally approved a 35% increase in minimum wages across all worker categories, retrospectively effective since 1st April, 2026.
2. **Key Features -**
 - a. Revised minimum wages under the Code on Wages, 2019, are as follows:
 - i. Unskilled workers ₹ 15,220.71/month (₹ 585.41/day);
 - ii. Semi-skilled ₹ 16,780.74/month (₹ 645.41/day);
 - iii. Skilled ₹ 18,500.81/month (₹ 711.56/day); and
 - iv. Highly skilled ₹ 19,425.85/month (₹ 747.14/day).
 - b. The revision represents an increase of approximately ₹ 3,945 for unskilled workers (from ₹ 11,274.60) and ₹ 5,036 for highly skilled workers (from ₹ 14,389.52).
 - c. The notification explicitly prohibits splitting of the minimum wage into allowances, mandates equal wages for men and women, requires trainees to be paid at least 75% of the applicable category wage, and holds principal employers responsible for ensuring contractors also comply.
 - d. It provides for 100% neutralisation of the Consumer Price Index (CPI)¹⁹² on a pro-rata basis.
3. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The revision aligns with the Code on Wages, 2019,¹⁹³ which mandates a minimum income payable by the employers.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. The revised rates provide for 100% neutralisation of CPI, which is an indicator of inflation. Thus, the revision provides for adjustment in wages according to inflation. Consequently, providing workers with a safety net against inflation while preventing erosion of purchasing power.
 - b. It is applicable to all establishments, factories, contract labour and service providers, and the principal employer is made personally responsible for wage payment compliance. It thus addressed contract labour exploitation and wage under-reporting, and strengthens labour formalisation.
 - c. It assures pay parity among genders, thus addressing the historical gap in earnings for men and women. Evidently, women earn substantially lower wages than their male counterparts despite the same qualifications such as education, experience and other factors.¹⁹⁴

¹⁹² CPI is a key economic metric measuring the average change over time in prices paid by consumers for a basket of goods and services, indicating retail inflation.

¹⁹³ [Chapter 3: The Code on Wages, 2019, Page No. 8.](#)

¹⁹⁴ [Determinants Of Women's Workforce Participation In Haryana: An Empirical Analysis Using PLFS Data, Revista Electronica De Veterinaria, September, 2024.](#)

B. Targeted Public Distribution System (Licensing and Control) Amendment Order, 2026

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

1. On 8th April, 2026, the Haryana Cabinet approved the Targeted Public Distribution System (Licensing and Control) Amendment Order, 2026, overhauling the Haryana Targeted Public Distribution System (Licensing and Control) Order, 2022¹⁹⁵ to improve accountability and promote women's entrepreneurship in the food security sector.
2. **Key Features -**
 - a. It implements a **33% reservation for women in Fair Price Shops (FPS) licenses**¹⁹⁶ using a roster system where every third license is strictly reserved for women.
 - b. Within the 33% quota, priority is given to specific vulnerable groups: acid attack victims, Women's Self-Help Groups (at least one per block), widows, and divorced or single mothers.
 - c. Eligibility Criteria:
 - i. Education And Skills: Applicants must possess a minimum 10+2 qualification and basic computer knowledge for digital record-keeping.
 - ii. Age Bracket: The eligible age range is fixed between 21 and 45 years, with a retirement age of 60 (extendable to 65).
 - iii. Residency: Mandatory submission of a current-year Haryana Resident Certificate and residency in the specific ward or village of the shop.
 - d. It increased the minimum viability requirement for an FPS license to 500 beneficiaries/Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) IDs,¹⁹⁷ up from the previous 300 ration cards.
 - e. Government employees, existing license holders (including close family), and elected representatives of local bodies are disqualified from holding FPS licenses.
 - f. License holders who later join Government service or become elected representatives must surrender their license, failing which it will be cancelled.
 - g. It further establishes a new revision mechanism allowing appeals against a Deputy Commissioner's decision to be filed before the Divisional Commissioner within 30 days.
3. **Central Initiative Alignment -** It aligns its data with the National Food Security Act (NFSA)¹⁹⁸ mandates by precisely defining "commodity" and "family" through PPP records.

¹⁹⁵ [Haryana Targeted Public Distribution System \(Licensing and Control\) Order, 2022.](#)

¹⁹⁶ FPS license, or ration shop license, authorizes individuals or entities to distribute essential commodities (wheat, rice, sugar) at subsidised rates under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

¹⁹⁷ The Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) in Haryana, also known as the Family ID, is a unique 8-digit identification number issued to every family in the state.

¹⁹⁸ [National Food Security Act.](#)

B. Targeted Public Distribution System (Licensing and Control) Amendment Order, 2026

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

4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Rajasthan¹⁹⁹ has 30% reservation for women in allocation of Fair Price Shops in the state under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

5. Relevance -

- a. The 33% mandate effectively creates a pipeline for over 3,000 women-led enterprises within the PDS, specifically targeting the state's 60,485 registered self-help groups (SHGs).²⁰⁰ By mandating at least one SHG per block (314 blocks), the state is institutionalising community-led distribution.
- b. The minimum viability threshold raised to 500 beneficiaries from 300 ration cards addresses the problem of poor regulatory oversight and FPS units running on low profit margins. A Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs, and Public Distribution highlighted that FPS currently get a margin of ₹ 70 (in general category states) and ₹ 143 (in special category states) for every quintal of food grain sold.²⁰¹ The Committee recommended increasing the margin.
- c. Raising the viability floor to 500 PPP IDs consolidates the FPS base, improving both operational sustainability for licence holders and administrative manageability for supervisory authorities.
- d. The requirement for a current-year Resident Certificate and local residency (ward/village) addresses "absentee ownership,"²⁰² which has historically been a primary driver of leakages and ghost beneficiary creation.
- e. Lastly, the priority for acid attack victims, widows, and single mothers converts a generalised gender quota into a targeted livelihood instrument for the most economically vulnerable women.

¹⁹⁹ [India Today, November, 2020.](#)

²⁰⁰ [Ministry Of Rural Development.](#)

²⁰¹ [Standing Committee On Food, Consumer Affairs And Public Distribution, 12th Report, 2020-2021.](#)

²⁰² Absentee ownership in a Fair Price Shop (FPS) refers to a situation where the licensed shop owner does not personally manage or operate the shop. Instead, they lease or sublet the operation to a third party while continuing to enjoy the profits.

VI. Maharashtra

A. NCMC-Based Smart Card Scheme For Concessional Travel, 2026

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

1. On 1st April, 2026, the Government of Maharashtra rolled out the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) - based smart card scheme for concessional passengers, including senior citizens, to enable seamless and digital public transport access.
2. The initiative aims to digitise and streamline concessional travel, ensure transparent subsidy delivery, and provide cashless, convenient travel facilities, especially for vulnerable groups like senior citizens.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Introduction of a contactless NCMC smart card that functions as a prepaid mobility card for public transport.
 - b. Mandatory use of the card for availing travel concessions across categories such as senior citizens, students, women, and persons with disabilities.
 - c. Integration of eligibility verification (age, category, ID linkage) directly into the card system, reducing paperwork and fraud.
 - d. It enables cashless ticketing and automatic application of concessions, improving ease of travel.
 - e. It requires a minimum balance and recharge system, with multiple channels such as mobile apps, agents, and transport depots.
 - f. Further, it acts as a unified mobility solution, with potential integration across multiple transport modes in the future.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The scheme is part of the Central Government's NCMC program,²⁰³ which aims to enable One Nation, One Card for seamless travel across metros, buses, and other transport systems nationwide.
5. **Similar Initiative In Other States** - The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) in Mumbai was an early adopter of NCMC,²⁰⁴ along with the "One Pune" NCMC card,²⁰⁵ and even the Assam State Transport Corporation (ASTC) partnered with Chalo to launch NCMC-compliant cards. The NCMC system is also currently operational in Delhi (Pink Saheli Smart Card)²⁰⁶ creating a cross-country travel ecosystem.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The manual ticketing system often led to ghost trips where concessions were recorded without actual beneficiaries, inflating the subsidy burden on the state exchequer. By digitising the transaction at the Electronic Ticket Issuing Machine (ETIM) level, the state can now track every rupee of the subsidy in real-time. This

²⁰³ [PIB, July, 2019.](#)

²⁰⁴ [Chalo Card.](#)

²⁰⁵ [Pune Metro.](#)

²⁰⁶ [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

A. NCMC-Based Smart Card Scheme For Concessional Travel, 2026**Source:** [The Hindu](#) | **Impact:** Medium

creates a transparent audit trail, potentially saving the state from fraudulent subsidy claims annually.²⁰⁷

- b. While urban metros have had NCMC for years, its rollout in MSRTC is a major leap for Rural Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). The scheme utilises 3,000+ authorised centers and a RuPay On-The-Go offline wallet system, designed specifically for areas with poor network connectivity.²⁰⁸ The scheme essentially serves as a bridge to formal banking for many senior citizens who previously dealt only in cash.

²⁰⁷ [Mid-Day, February, 2026.](#)

²⁰⁸ [TOI, April, 2026.](#)

B. The “Majha Gaon, Arogyasampann Gaon” Rural Healthcare Initiative

Source: [News On Air](#), [Free Press Journal](#) | Impact: Medium

1. On 7th April, 2026, the Maharashtra Government launched a ₹ 65.25 crore rural healthcare initiative - “My Village, Healthy Village”.
2. The initiative aims to transform the healthcare landscape in rural areas and ensure quality health services at the grassroots level and promote a preventive healthcare approach.
3. **Key Features** -
 - a. The campaign will focus on areas including sanitation, access to clean drinking water, wastewater management, nutrition, and the control of communicable as well as non-communicable diseases.
 - b. It also prioritises maternal and child health, mental health, and lifestyle-related illnesses.
 - c. To ensure effective implementation, committees have been established at multiple administrative levels, from state to village.
 - d. Villages demonstrating exceptional performance based on predefined health indicators will be recognised as “Arogyasampann Gaon” (i.e., a Completely Healthy Village).
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - Aligns with the objectives of the National Rural Health Mission, which aims to provide quality healthcare to the rural population.²⁰⁹
5. **Similar Initiative In Other States** - Tamil Nadu has launched the ‘Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam Programme’ in August, 2021 aimed at preventive outreach against non-communicable diseases through 100% scanning and doorstep delivery of services.²¹⁰
6. **Relevance** -
 - a. The initiative introduces a multi-tiered committee structure that shifts healthcare accountability from centralised state machinery to local Gram Panchayats, addressing the chronic issue of urban-rural health disparity.
 - b. By establishing performance-based benchmarks to earn the “Arogyasampann Gaon” status.²¹¹ This initiative is critical given that, as of early 2026, rural Maharashtra still faces significant infrastructure gaps, and such localised monitoring is designed to optimise the utilisation of the ₹ 106,530 crore national health budget allocation for FY 2026-27 at the last mile.²¹²

²⁰⁹ [Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare, Government Of India.](#)

²¹⁰ [Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam \(MTM\).](#)

²¹¹ Arogya Sampann Gaon (Healthy Village) is a Maharashtra government initiative focused on enhancing rural health through preventative care, improved lifestyle, and early detection of diseases. The campaign promotes vaccination, sanitation, and awareness of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like hypertension, diabetes, and cancers, aiming for a healthier rural community.

²¹² [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

B. The “Majha Gaon, Arogyasampann Gaon” Rural Healthcare Initiative**Source:** [News On Air](#), [Free Press Journal](#) | **Impact:** Medium

- c. A critical pillar of the initiative is its response to the “silent emergency” of malnutrition in Maharashtra, which affects over six million children as of 2026.²¹³ It is also indicated that climate-driven stressors, such as droughts and heatwaves in agrarian districts are now primary drivers of malnutrition.
- d. By integrating nutrition into the Arogyasampann criteria, the state is attempting to break this intergenerational cycle, treating nutritional security not just as a food issue, but as a direct preventative measure against adult-onset diabetes and hypertension.²¹⁴

²¹³ [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

²¹⁴ [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

VII. Punjab

A. Mission Samrath 4.0

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

1. On 9th April, 2026, the Punjab Government launched Mission Samrath 4.0, the next phase of its “Sikhya Kranti” (education revolution) focused on foundational literacy and numeracy for students in grades 3 to 8.
2. The program marks a shift toward data-driven classroom accountability, backed by a record education budget of ₹ 19,279 crore for the 2026–27 fiscal year.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. It mandates a state-wide attendance tracking system which sends daily SMS alerts to parents of over 25 lakh students, confirming if their child has reached school or is absent.
 - b. Under the Mission, any student absent for seven consecutive days triggers a mandatory contact from district-level officials to the parents. Absence beyond 15 days will be flagged to state headquarters.
 - c. It aims for teachers to utilise a dedicated MIS app for real-time attendance management and performance monitoring.
 - d. The phase includes the release of a Compendium of 38 Best Classroom Practices to scale proven teaching methods across 19,000 Government schools.
 - e. The programme ensures that children in grades 3 to 8 master reading, writing and mathematics.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020’s emphasis on foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN).²¹⁵ It also supports the objectives of the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat), which targets universal FLN achievement by Grade 3.²¹⁶
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Assam²¹⁷ and Delhi²¹⁸ have similar initiatives to track student’s attendance in order to identify students at risk of dropping out and bring them back to school.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Punjab’s enrolment in Government schools fell by **78,955 between 2022–23 and**

²¹⁵ Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) is the ability to read, understand, and perform basic mathematics, considered essential for a child to master by Grade 3. It focuses on enabling children to read with comprehension and solve simple arithmetic problems, acting as a crucial building block for all future education and lifelong learning.

²¹⁶ [NIPUN Bharat Mission And FLN Lakshya.](#)

²¹⁷ [North East Now, December, 2025.](#)

²¹⁸ [Early Warning System, Government Of NCT Of Delhi.](#)

A. Mission Samrath 4.0

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

2023–24²¹⁹ per UDISE+ data,²²⁰ and dropout rates of 2.5% at the preparatory level and 5.3% at the secondary level.²²¹ While this reflects both demographic shifts and private school migration, irregular attendance is a documented precursor to formal dropout.

- b. The escalation mechanism, 7-day and 15-day absence triggers, assumes that administrative follow-ups can reverse absenteeism. In practice, district officials have limited capacity to conduct meaningful outreach at scale, especially across 59 lakh enrollments.²²² This risks the system becoming a compliance exercise where alerts are generated but not acted upon effectively.
- c. The reliance on real-time MIS reporting introduces additional administrative burden on teachers, who are already managing multi-grade classrooms and non-teaching duties. Without parallel staffing or time rationalisation, this can reduce actual teaching time, undermining the very learning outcomes the programme aims to improve.
- d. Punjab's lead in the PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024,²²³ where Grade 3 students scored 80 against a national average of 61, and Government school students outperformed the national benchmark by 28% in language and 26% in mathematics was built on the level-based pedagogy of Mission Samrath.²²⁴
- e. The assumption that attendance directly translates into learning outcomes is also overstated. While regular attendance is necessary, it is not sufficient, issues such as teacher quality, classroom transaction time, and learning heterogeneity remain unaddressed.
- f. The launch is part of a larger ₹ 3,500 crore “Sikhiya Kranti 2.0” project supported by a loan of ₹ 2,500 crore from the World Bank, aiming for global excellence in public schooling.²²⁵ By integrating accountability into safety, confirmed through SMS alerts, the state addresses both educational continuity and social security for rural families.

²¹⁹ [Economic Times, July, 2025.](#)

²²⁰ UDISE+ is an educational management information system under the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, which functions as a Central platform that enables respective schools to efficiently record and submit data.

²²¹ [UDISE Dashboard \(2024-25 Report\).](#)

²²² [Report on UDISE+, 2024-25, Pg. No. 31.](#)

²²³ PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan is a large-scale national competency-based assessment conducted by NCERT to measure learning levels across the Foundational, Preparatory, and Middle Stages, specifically aligned with the ambitious objectives outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

²²⁴ [Tribune, July, 2025.](#)

²²⁵ [India Today, March, 2026.](#)

B. Mukh Mantri Mawan Dhiyan Satikar Yojna, 2026

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

1. On 30th March, 2026, the Punjab Cabinet approved the launch of the Mukh Mantri Mawan Dhiyan Satikar Yojna, which was first announced in the Budget 2026-27.²²⁶ It is a comprehensive social protection initiative designed to provide unconditional monthly cash transfers to adult women across the state.
2. The Government has sanctioned a budgetary outlay of ₹ 9,300 crore for the FY 2026-27, positioning it as one of the largest women-centric DBT initiatives in the country.
3. **Key Features-**
 - a. The scheme provides monthly financial assistance of ₹ 1,000 to women in the general category and a higher amount of ₹ 1,500 specifically for women belonging to the SC category.
 - b. Eligibility is near-universal for all female permanent residents of Punjab aged 18 years and above, provided they possess a valid state Voter ID card.
 - c. Unlike traditional welfare schemes that cap benefits at one or two members per household, this policy allows every eligible woman in a single family to avail of the monthly assistance simultaneously.
 - d. The scheme is designed to be **non-exclusionary** regarding other social security benefits, existing pensioners (widow, old-age, or disability) will continue to receive their full pension amounts in addition to the benefit of this scheme.
 - e. To maintain a focus on lower and middle-income households, the policy excludes income tax payers, current or former Government employees, and high-ranking political representatives like MPs or MLAs.
4. **Similar Initiative In Other States** - States like Maharashtra,²²⁷ Madhya Pradesh,²²⁸ Karnataka,²²⁹ West Bengal,²³⁰ Tamil Nadu,²³¹ Chhattisgarh,²³² Telangana,²³³ Assam²³⁴ and Odisha²³⁵ have implemented similar DBT initiatives to provide financial assistance to women.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Over 230,000 people in Punjab were estimated to be opioid-dependent as early as

²²⁶ [Punjab Budget Speech, 2026-27, Page No. 45.](#)

²²⁷ [Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana.](#)

²²⁸ [Ladli Behna Yojana.](#)

²²⁹ [Gruha Lakshmi Yojana.](#)

²³⁰ [Lakshmir Bhandar.](#)

²³¹ [Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai.](#)

²³² [Mahtari Vandan Yojana.](#)

²³³ [Maha Lakshmi Scheme.](#)

²³⁴ [Urunodoi 3.0.](#)

²³⁵ [Subhadra Yojana.](#)

B. Mukh Mantri Mawan Dhiyan Satikar Yojna, 2026**Source:** [Punjab News Line](#) | **Impact:** Medium

2015, with a 2022 population survey finding 15.4% of residents reporting substance use.²³⁶ In households with male addicts, women typically bear both the caregiving burden and the household income gap. A monthly cash transfer provides a floor income to women in such households who currently have no independent financial safety net.

- b. Punjab has the highest SC population share among all Indian states at 31.94% of its total population.²³⁷ Despite this, SC population comprises 62.3% of all BPL families in Punjab, and the SC poverty rate of 15.6%²³⁸ in 2011-12 was nearly double the state average of 8.2%. The ₹ 500 additional monthly benefit for SC women, totalling ₹ 1,500 versus ₹ 1,000 for the general category, is calibrated to this documented disparity rather than being an arbitrary differentiation.²³⁹
- c. Punjab's outstanding debt is projected at 45.65% of GSDP for FY 2026-27. About 91.28% of the state Budget will go towards paying interest on loans, salaries of employees, pensions and power subsidies.²⁴⁰ In this context, a ₹ 9,300 crore, non-exclusionary, and recurring annual outlay risks compounding fiscal stress. The long-term viability of this scheme will depend on whether it is funded through increase of revenue or incremental borrowing.

²³⁶ [Springer Nature, 2025.](#)

²³⁷ [Census 2011.](#)

²³⁸ [World Bank, 2017.](#)

²³⁹ [Frontline, September, 2019.](#)

²⁴⁰ [The New Indian Express, March, 2026.](#)

VIII. Karnataka

A. Audit Mandate For Adolescent Pregnancy And Educational Retention

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

1. On 7th April, 2026, a Government Order (GO) was issued by the state Government mandating the audit of all pregnancy cases involving females aged between 10-18 years.
2. The initiative aims to tackle maternal health, neonatal and long-term socio-economic development issues associated with teenage pregnancies with more than 80,000 instances being recorded among females aged 14-19 from 2023-2026.²⁴¹
3. **Targets -**
 - a. A committee will be formed by Taluk Health Officers (THO) and will comprise of the Medical Secretary of Primary Health Centre, Health Inspector, Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) and Anganwadi supervisor and a school representative.
 - b. It will map vulnerable adolescent girls, including school dropouts, migrants and socially vulnerable households. Counselling for Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) for pregnant adolescent girls will also be provided.
 - c. Monitoring will be carried out by the District Health Officer at the district level and the Deputy Director under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) at the State level. Authorities have been tasked with classifying cases as preventable or non-preventable and recommending corrective measures.
4. **Key Features -**
 - a. Taluk Health Officers (THO) will be required to record all such pregnancies.
 - b. Both private and Government hospitals will be required to record all such pregnancies on the Rural Child Health (RCH) web portal.
 - c. The audit will examine the age at which the girl was married, educational status and her school attendance records. The audit will consider awareness on reproductive health and access to contraception and counselling services and the social and economic status of the family.
 - d. The District Health Officer (DHO) and Deputy Director for Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakrama at the state-level will be responsible for the audit and will monitor the auditing. The cases will be divided as preventable and non-preventable.
 - e. Sneha centres, which were established in rural areas to provide counselling services, will also provide counselling to the adolescent girls. A provision for contraceptives and pregnancy testing kits will also be made.
 - f. All cases will be handled with strict confidentiality and in accordance with applicable legal provisions.

²⁴¹ [The Hindu, August, 2025.](#)

A. Audit Mandate For Adolescent Pregnancy And Educational Retention

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

5. Composition And Process -

- a. A committee will be formed by THO and will comprise of the Medical Secretary of Primary Health Centre, Health Inspector, Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) and Anganwadi supervisor and a school representative.
- b. It will map vulnerable adolescent girls, including school dropouts, migrants and socially vulnerable households. Counselling for Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) for pregnant adolescent girls will also be provided.
- c. Monitoring will be carried out by the District Health Officer at the district level and the Deputy Director under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) at the state level.

6. Relevance -

- a. Karnataka recorded over 80,000 cases of adolescent pregnancy, among girls aged 14–19 between 2023 and 2026.²⁴² The audit is strategically critical because data reveals a severe geographical skew such as, Bengaluru Urban (8,891) and Belagavi (8,169) account for the highest volumes, while North Karnataka districts like Vijayapura (6,229) show vulnerabilities linked to socio-economic factors.²⁴³
- b. Karnataka faces a high school dropout rate at approximately 18.3%, which remains a challenge.²⁴⁴ Data illustrates that girls who drop out of school are three times more likely to become pregnant before age 18 compared to those who complete secondary education. Therefore, this mandate would assist the state in addressing the prevalent issues with more accuracy and reduce the school drop out rate.
- c. The audit committee's task of mapping socially vulnerable households is supported by the Kutumba Data Portal, which identifies 42,000 households across Karnataka as high-risk for early marriage based on economic distress and migrant status. By cross-referencing this with the RCH portal data, the state Government is moving toward predictive healthcare in lieu of auditing the case post-facto.²⁴⁵
- d. Adolescent pregnancies are high-risk by default. They are major contributors to Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)²⁴⁶ and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR).²⁴⁷ The state is performing a high-risk triage, ensuring these girls get tertiary-level care, which reduces the long-term cost of emergency obstetric complications.

²⁴² [The Hindu, August, 2025.](#)

²⁴³ [The Hindu, August, 2025.](#)

²⁴⁴ [The Hindu, February, 2026.](#)

²⁴⁵ [The Hindu, April, 2026.](#)

²⁴⁶ The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) measures the risk of death during pregnancy or childbirth, defined as the number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.

²⁴⁷ Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) measures the number of deaths of infants under one year old per 1,000 live births, representing a key indicator of child health and survival.

B. Establishment Of Samagra Samalochana Kendra (SSK)

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

1. On 1st April, 2026, the state Government issued a Government Order (GO), directing the establishment of Samagra Samalochana Kendra (SSK), integrated counselling centers associated with Sneha Centres, clinics designed to provide health counselling to adolescents.²⁴⁸
2. **Key Features -**
 - a. The initiative aims to address existing gaps in 14 districts of the state which lack dedicated Sneha clinics and aims to assist districts facing a shortage of trained counsellors.
 - b. Under the new SSK framework, the structure will move away from a programme-specific nature which restricted counsellors to specific areas such as mental health, HIV/AIDS, or non-communicable diseases.
 - c. All counsellors under the National Health Mission (NHM) will function as integrated counsellors, providing support to any patient.
 - d. To ensure privacy, health facilities will designate specific units where beneficiaries can seek one-on-one guidance.
 - e. The National Health Mission is also set to develop digital tools and learning resources to support these integrated staff members.
 - f. School screenings will be carried out by specialists on the 13th of every month to provide consultations for high-need children.
 - g. Additionally, a new post of Assistant Deputy Director has been created to monitor RKSK activities in the state.
3. **Similar Initiative In Other States -**
 - a. Rajasthan operates a network of **Ujala Clinics** (Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics) that provide non-judgmental counseling and clinical services for the 10-19 age group.²⁴⁹
 - b. In Madhya Pradesh, Adolescent Friendly Health Clinics (AFHCs) are branded as **Umang Health Centers** to make them more approachable for youth under the theme “Khul ke Pucho, Khul ke Jano” (Ask freely, Know freely).²⁵⁰
 - c. The **SAKHI program** in Andhra Pradesh addresses adolescent health through community, school, and college-level groups. It includes “Sakhi Corners” in Government offices that provide walk-in spaces for counseling on health, life skills, and career guidance.²⁵¹

²⁴⁸ [National Health Mission](#)

²⁴⁹ [Public Library Of Science \(PLOS One\), January, 2022.](#)

²⁵⁰ [Public Health and Medical Education Department, Government Of Madhya Pradesh.](#)

²⁵¹ [UNICEF, January, 2025.](#)

B. Establishment Of Samagra Samalochana Kendra (SSK)

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

d. Recently, Odisha inaugurated **Tarunya**, a multi-disciplinary youth wellness clinic at the Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS). Similar to the SSK model, it brings together specialists from Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and Obstetrics & Gynecology under one roof to provide holistic, confidential care.²⁵²

4. Relevance -

a. In Karnataka, adolescent girls face disproportionately high rates of anaemia, reporting 58.4% prevalence among girls aged 15-19.²⁵³ Unaddressed issues, specifically iron-deficiency anaemia, which impairs cognitive development, or substance misuse, which triggers long-term dependency are primary drivers of school dropouts and cognitive decline.

b. By establishing Samagra Samalochana Kendra (SSK), Karnataka is structurally addressing a healthcare vacuum in 14 of its 31 districts by transitioning siloed NHM counsellors into a multi-disciplinary and integrated workforce.²⁵⁴ This horizontal shift strategically aims to bridge a documented gap where clinical utilisation of counseling services has stagnated at just 3.75%.²⁵⁵

c. Karnataka currently operates ~ **512 adolescent-friendly clinics with only ~ 204 counsellors**, reflecting a high counsellor-to-facility mismatch (~ 1:2.5).²⁵⁶ Instead of expanding human resources, the SSK model optimises existing NHM manpower by converting program-specific counsellors into multi-domain providers.

d. This represents a task-shifting and task-integration approach, similar to global primary healthcare reforms, improving system efficiency without proportional budget escalation.

²⁵² [Kalinga Institute Of Medical Sciences](#).

²⁵³ [The International Journal Of Indian Psychology, October-December, 2024](#).

²⁵⁴ [Deccan Herald, April, 2026](#).

²⁵⁵ [Indian Journal Of Forensic And Community Medicine, March, 2026, Page. 161](#).

²⁵⁶ [Government Initiatives In School Mental Health In India: A Landscape Report, Sattva Knowledge Institute, September, 2024, Page. 51](#).

IX. Telangana

A. Notifying Cancer As A Reportable Disease And Launching Statewide Registry

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

1. On 6th April, 2026, the Health, Medical and Family Welfare Department of Telangana issued a Government Order (GO) declaring cancer as a notifiable disease and launched a cancer registry.
2. The policy aims to register every cancer case in the state (55-60,000 per year) in order to facilitate preparation of plans to tackle rising cancer cases using accurate data.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The state aims to set up Regional Cancer Centres and take measures to detect cancer through AI.
 - b. Potential cancer cases would be identified through screening programmes conducted across the state which would then be referred to Government general hospitals for confirmation.
 - c. All Government, private and cooperative hospitals along with other medical service providers in the state will be required to report all cancer cases diagnosed or registered within one month through a prescribed portal.
 - d. The initiative aims to establish a hub-and-spoke model,²⁵⁷ with the MNJ Institute of Oncology and Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) to function as hubs while district cancer care centres will serve as spokes.
4. **Similar Initiative In Other States -** Cancer has been both declared as a notifiable disease with a registry set up for data collection in Tamil Nadu,²⁵⁸ Andhra Pradesh,²⁵⁹ Karnataka²⁶⁰ in addition to 14 other states and Union Territories.²⁶¹
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. By mandating reporting within 30 days via centralised portal, Telangana is addressing a critical data gap where previously only institutional registries at NIMS and MNJ existed. The state is projected to record 46,762 adult cancer cases in 2026, with one in six women in Hyderabad at lifetime risk.²⁶²
 - b. This mandatory registry allows for district-level mapping of hotspots, which is essential for targeted intervention, particularly since **58.8% of all cancer cases diagnosed in men** across Telangana are linked to tobacco use and largely

²⁵⁷ A hub-and-spoke model in healthcare is a strategic organisational framework that connects a central, specialised medical facility (the hub) with a network of smaller, community-based clinics or hospitals (the spokes).

²⁵⁸ [Global Health Data Exchange](#).

²⁵⁹ [ETV Bharat, February, 2026](#).

²⁶⁰ [Deccan Herald, February, 2026](#).

²⁶¹ [India Today, April, 2026](#).

²⁶² [TOI, March, 2026](#).

A. Notifying Cancer As A Reportable Disease And Launching Statewide Registry**Source:** [Economic Times](#), [Medical Buyer](#) | **Impact:** Medium

preventable through such data-led policy.²⁶³

- c. A unique feature of this initiative is the integration of AI-powered screening to solve the late diagnosis crisis, where currently over 55-60% of lung cancer patients in Telangana present with distant metastasis (i.e., incurable stage).
- d. In April 2026, the state Government signed an MoU with AstraZeneca, under which the state is deploying Qure.ai technology across 20 public hospitals to flag pulmonary nodules on chest X-rays. This AI-first approach aims to achieve a stage-shift in diagnosis, moving treatment from expensive palliative care to curative early-stage intervention, directly supported by the ₹ 1.06 lakh crore national health budget for FY 2026-27 which prioritises NCD infrastructure.²⁶⁴

²⁶³ [Dailyhunt, April, 2026.](#)

²⁶⁴ [Astrazeneca, April, 2026.](#)

X. Meghalaya

A. Provident Fund Scheme For Non-Government School And College Staff, 2026

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

1. On 1st April, 2026, the Government of Meghalaya approved a Centralised Provident Fund (CPF) Scheme for employees of non-Government schools and colleges, aimed at strengthening post-retirement financial security.
2. The scheme aims to provide structured retirement savings and social security to teaching and non-teaching staff in aided and non-Government institutions, who often lack access to formal pension systems.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Establishment of a centralised provident fund system for employees of non-Government schools and colleges.
 - b. The fund will be managed through a dedicated institutional mechanism (Board and Trust-based structure) to ensure proper administration.
 - c. Mandatory contributions from both employees and employers, creating a contributory savings pool.
 - d. Funds will be maintained in a designated bank account, ensuring transparency and regulated fund management.
 - e. The scheme standardises and formalises earlier fragmented or inconsistently implemented provident fund arrangements.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. The new scheme mandates the appointment of **Pension Fund Managers (PFMs)** registered with the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority PFRDA.²⁶⁵ This shifts the investment risk from the school management committees to professional market experts, significantly improving the potential terminal corpus for retirees.
 - b. The rollout of the Structured Pay Framework (SPF)²⁶⁶ and the Centralised Provident Fund (CPF) Scheme, 2026²⁶⁷ provides deficit and fixed-pay teachers with seniority-based increments and a Government-backed retirement roadmap. By aligning these benefits with the National Pension System (NPS)²⁶⁸ architecture, the state effectively eliminates second-class status and curbs sector-wide brain drain through guaranteed financial security.²⁶⁹

²⁶⁵ [Government Of Meghalaya, March, 2026.](#)

²⁶⁶ A Structured Pay Framework (SPF) is a formalised compensation system defining pay ranges, seniority-based increments, and benefits, often implemented to ensure fairness and salary growth.

²⁶⁷ [Government Of Meghalaya, January, 2026.](#)

²⁶⁸ The National Pension System (NPS) is a voluntary, market-linked, defined-contribution retirement savings scheme regulated by the PFRDA in India. It allows individuals (aged 18–70) to invest systematically to build a retirement corpus, offering tax benefits and flexible asset allocation across equities and bonds.

²⁶⁹ [Government Of Meghalaya, February, 2026.](#)

A. Provident Fund Scheme For Non-Government School And College Staff, 2026**Source:** [Sentinel Assam](#) | **Impact:** Medium

- c. Further, by keeping provident fund contributions in savings accounts, the real value of a teacher's retirement was eroding due to inflation. By appointing PFRDA-registered PFMs, the state is moving this capital into a diversified portfolio (i.e., Government Bonds/Equity). This is expected to substantially improve the terminal corpus over a 25-year career.

XI. Odisha

A. Mukhyamantri Hastatanta Bikasha Yojana, 2026

Source: [Odisha TV](#) | Impact: Medium

1. The Odisha Government approved the Mukhyamantri Hastatanta Bikasha Yojana (MHBY), a comprehensive flagship initiative for the integrated development of the handloom sector.
2. The scheme has been sanctioned with a total financial outlay of ₹ 589.10 crore to be implemented over a five-year period (2025-26 to 2029-30), aimed at modernising traditional weaving practices while ensuring the socio-economic empowerment of weaver households.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme prioritises the construction of Karmashala (modern workspaces) and end-to-end infrastructure development across pre-loom and post-loom stages within handloom clusters.
 - b. It establishes Raw Material Banks to ensure a consistent and affordable supply of high-quality yarn and dyes, effectively mitigating the supply chain volatility that affects rural production.
 - c. The initiative incorporates modern machinery and IT-based solutions to enhance productivity and design innovation, aimed at increasing the market competitiveness of traditional textiles.
 - d. Comprehensive skill development programs and the continuation of the Mukhyamantri Baristha Bunakar and Karigara Sahayata Yojana²⁷⁰ ensure the upskilling of the workforce and the formal recognition of craftsmanship in tie-and-dye techniques.
 - e. The state will facilitate direct engagement with buyers through exhibitions and trade fairs while pursuing **Geographical Indication (GI)**²⁷¹ registration and brand-building to protect Odisha's unique handloom heritage.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The scheme is strategically aligned with the National Handloom Development Programme (NHDP),²⁷² which focuses on a cluster-based approach for the sustainable development of the handloom sector across India.²⁷³
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Telangana,²⁷⁴ Assam,²⁷⁵ and West

²⁷⁰ [Mukhyamantri Baristha Bunakar aAnd Karigara Sahayata Yojana.](#)

²⁷¹ A Geographical Indication (GI) tag is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities, reputation, or characteristics attributable to that location. It acts as an intellectual property right preventing unauthorized use of the name.

²⁷² NHDP is an attempt to facilitate the sustainable development of handloom weavers located in and outside identified handloom clusters into a cohesive, self managing and competitive socio-economic unit.

²⁷³ [Development Commissioner fFor Handlooms, Ministry oOf Textiles.](#)

²⁷⁴ [Telangana Today, September, 2023.](#)

²⁷⁵ [Swanirbhar Naari, Assam.](#)

A. Mukhyamantri Hastatanta Bikasha Yojana, 2026

Source: [Odisha TV](#) | Impact: Medium

Bengal²⁷⁶ have similar handloom related schemes offering raw material security, technological modernisation, and socio-economic safety nets for weaving communities.

6. Relevance -

- a. According to the 4th All India Handloom Census (2019-20), Odisha has 1,17,836 weavers and allied workers currently active in the sector.²⁷⁷ Additionally, 80% of handloom households in Odisha earn less than ₹ 5,000 per month,²⁷⁸ establishing the financial necessity for integrated support in raw materials and design.
- b. The focus on construction of modern workspaces (Karmashala Nirmana) addresses the fact that around 68% textile workers in Odisha work independently, usually using their homes as workplaces. Additionally, over 70% households working in the handloom sector in Odisha reside in kuchha or semi-pucca homes where domestic space for large looms is physically constrained.²⁷⁹
- c. By leveraging its high density²⁸⁰ of Geographical Indication (GI) tags,²⁸¹ the state aims to increase the value-added share of its handloom exports, which contributes to the national goal of \$ 100 billion (approximately ₹ 9.2 lakh crore) in handloom exports by 2030.²⁸²
- d. While the scheme introduces modern machinery, it is careful to focus on Pre-loom and Post-loom automation (like winding and finishing). This preserves the handmade label (crucial for GI and high-price positioning) while reducing the physical drudgery that leads to occupational health issues among weavers.

²⁷⁶ [West Bengal Handloom And Khadi Weavers Financial Benefit Scheme, 2024.](#)

²⁷⁷ [PIB, August, 2025.](#)

²⁷⁸ [Fourth All India Handloom Census 2019-2020.](#)

²⁷⁹ [Fourth All India Handloom Census 2019-2020.](#)

²⁸⁰ Odisha boasts a diverse heritage of handloom excellence, featuring prominent Geographical Indication (GI) tags such as Kotpad Handloom Fabric, Orissa Ikat, Khandua Saree, Gopalpur Tassar, Dhalapathar Parda, Sambalpuri Bandha, Bomkai Saree, Habaspuri Saree, and Berhampur Patta (Phoda Kumbha).

²⁸¹ [Directorate of Textiles, Odisha.](#)

²⁸² [Economic Times, January, 2026.](#)

Investment Announcements

I. Odisha

A. ₹ 1 Lakh Crore Investment Proposals Across 27 Memoranda Of Understanding

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

1. On 4th April, 2026, the Odisha Government concluded a two-day industrial roadshow in Kolkata, securing investment proposals totaling over ₹ 1 lakh crore.
2. The event served as a major follow-up to the 'Utkarsh Odisha 2025' outreach, aimed at positioning the state as a gateway for trade and innovation in Eastern India.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The commitment is divided into 27 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) worth ₹ 81,864 crore and 19 separate investment proposals valued at ₹ 18,453 crore.
 - b. The proposals are projected to create over **90,000 jobs**, with 63,161 coming from direct MoU-linked projects and 27,591 from broader investment intentions.
 - c. The steel sector dominates the influx with ₹ 28,000 crore, followed closely by Renewable Energy at ₹ 27,000 crore, highlighting a dual focus on traditional heavy industry and the green transition.
 - d. Specialised sectors observed significant interest, including ₹ 2,400 crore for Rare Earth mineral processing and ₹ 1,000 crore for Defence manufacturing.
 - e. The summit featured 130 CXO-level one-on-one meetings and four dedicated roundtables focusing on Hosiery/Apparel, Metal Ancillaries, Chemicals/Packaging, and Pharmaceuticals/Biotech.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. With the industry sector already accounting for 41.3% of Odisha's Gross State Value Added (GSVA), and this new influx strengthens a manufacturing ecosystem that is currently growing at 6.4%, above the national average of 6.2%.²⁸³
 - b. The sectoral composition of investments, ₹ 28,000 crore in steel and ₹ 27,000 crore in renewable energy, reflects a dual-track industrial strategy. Firstly, consolidation of Odisha's existing strength as India's largest producer of iron ore. Secondly, simultaneous transition toward green energy capacity expansion, aligned with India's 500 GW non-fossil fuel target by 2030.
 - c. Historically, mineral-rich states suffer from low employment and high poverty. By hosting roundtables on Hosiery, Apparel, and Biotech, Odisha is attempting a sectoral rebalancing, since, these light industries have a much higher labor-absorption rate per crore invested compared to steel mills.²⁸⁴
 - d. The success of the Utkarsh Odisha follow-up is rooted in the state's **Port-Led**

²⁸³ [Odisha Economic Survey, 2026, Page No. 6.](#)

²⁸⁴ [ET Manufacturing, August, 2024.](#)

A. ₹ 1 Lakh Crore Investment Proposals Across 27 Memoranda Of Understanding**Source:** [New Indian Express](#) | **Impact:** High

Development (i.e., Dhamra and Paradip).²⁸⁵ These ₹ 1 lakh crore commitments are essentially bets by CXOs on Odisha's ability to act as the primary maritime gateway for the entire ASEAN trade corridor.

- e. Lastly, while Steel provides the "Revenue Bulk," the focus on **Pharmaceuticals and Packaging** provides a recession shield. These sectors are less cyclical than metals and ensure that the state's tax revenue remains stable even if global commodity prices crash.²⁸⁶

²⁸⁵ [PIB, August, 2025.](#)

²⁸⁶ [PubMed Central, April-June, 2013.](#)

II. Karnataka

A. Investment Approval For ₹ 18,430 Crore Projects, 2026

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

1. On 13th April, 2026, the Government of Karnataka approved investment proposals worth ₹ 18,430 crore during the State High-Level Clearance Committee (SHLCC) meeting.
2. The initiative aims to boost industrial growth, attract investments, and generate large-scale employment, while promoting balanced regional development across districts.
3. **Investment Outlay** - Total investment approved stands at **₹ 18,430.44 crore**, with expected employment generation of over 15,000 jobs.
4. **Key Features** -
 - a. Approval has been granted to 17 project proposals, including 11 new projects and 6 expansion projects.
 - b. The 11 new projects alone account for ₹ 14,906.9 crore investment, expected to generate around 13,050 jobs.
 - c. The 6 expansion proposals will bring in ₹ 3,523.54 crore, creating nearly 2,000 additional jobs.
 - d. Investments span key sectors such as electric vehicles (EVs), automobiles, solar energy, aerospace, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and metals.
 - e. Major projects include investments by companies like River Mobility (EV sector), Genx PV (solar manufacturing), and aerospace manufacturing firms, indicating diversification across high-growth sectors.
 - f. Projects are distributed across multiple districts, promoting regional industrial development beyond Bengaluru.
5. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The investment aligns with Atmanirbhar Bharat²⁸⁷ and Make in India by shifting Karnataka from assembly to high-value R&D in Aerospace and EVs.²⁸⁸
6. **Relevance** -
 - a. By clearing key projects in Belagavi (Aerostructures Manufacturing, ₹ 1,356 crore), Kolar (River Mobility, ₹ 1,028 crore), and Chikkaballapura (Genx PV India, ₹ 1,000 crore),²⁸⁹ the state Government is utilising its New Industrial Policy, 2025-30²⁹⁰ to create specialised industrial corridors²⁹¹ and addressing the regional development gap by promoting regional industrial resilience.

²⁸⁷ [Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Institute For Management Development, November, 2022.](#)

²⁸⁸ [Invest India, January, 2026.](#)

²⁸⁹ [ET, April, 2026.](#)

²⁹⁰ [Invest Karnataka.](#)

²⁹¹ [Invest Karnataka.](#)

A. Investment Approval For ₹ 18,430 Crore Projects, 2026**Source:** [Economic Times](#) | **Impact:** High

- b. This investment will further assist the state to achieve an annual manufacturing **growth rate of 12%** and a total investment target of **₹ 7,50,000 crore** by 2030 to ensure economic parity across its 31 districts.²⁹²
- c. Most Indian solar projects rely on imported cells. The Genx PV's ₹ 1,000 Crore project in Chikkaballapura is a Backward Integration move.²⁹³ By manufacturing cells locally, Karnataka reduces the foreign exchange risk for its renewable energy targets and aligns with the national goal of energy independence.
- d. While direct employment is cited at 15,032, the policy relevance lies in the quality of labour demand.²⁹⁴ Unlike low-skill manufacturing, sectors such as Aerospace and EVs have a **multiplier effect of 4x to 6x**. This means for every specialised engineer hired, approximately five jobs are created in the ancillary ecosystem such as logistics, precision tooling, and service maintenance, thereby bolstering the local middle-class economy in Tier-2 cities.

²⁹² [Invest Karnataka](#).

²⁹³ [ET, April, 2026](#).

²⁹⁴ [The Hindu, April, 2026](#).

III. Gujarat

A. Investment-Linked Assistance For 23 Industrial Units

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

1. On 1st April, 2026, the Gujarat Government approved investment-linked assistance for 23 industrial units with a combined investment value of over ₹ 1,607 crore.
2. The approvals include the issuance of final eligibility certificates for state support, a move projected to generate approximately 5,634 employment opportunities across multiple industrial hubs in the state.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The assistance is bifurcated under two major frameworks:
 - i. 22 units involving an investment of ₹ 770.29 crore under the Industrial Policy, 2015;²⁹⁵ and
 - ii. one major unit in Panchmahal involving ₹ 837.67 crore under the Aatmanirbhar Gujarat Scheme, 2022.²⁹⁶
 - b. The incentive package comprises Net SGST support, interest subsidies, and Employee Provident Fund (EPF) reimbursements, specifically designed to reduce long-term operational costs for large and medium-scale enterprises.
 - c. The approvals reflect a diverse sectoral spread, including ₹ 186.77 crore for the auto sector in Ahmedabad, ₹ 186.57 crore for chemicals in Bharuch, and ₹ 148.34 crore for the textile, paper and allied sectors in Surat.
 - d. Regional allocations also include ₹ 81.09 crore for metals and minerals in Gandhinagar, ₹ 25.89 crore for engineering in Mehsana, and ₹ 26.07 crore for agro-products in Banaskantha.
 - e. Panchmahal district emerged as the primary beneficiary of this round, receiving total approvals worth ₹ 853.47 crore across two major proposals, representing over 53% of the total approved investment value.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu give similar packages under the Industrial Policy, 2019²⁹⁷ and Package Scheme of Incentives (PSI-2019),²⁹⁸ and Tamil Nadu Industrial Policy, 2021,²⁹⁹ respectively.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. The Aatmanirbhar Gujarat Scheme, 2022 was launched with a stated target of attracting ₹ 12.5 lakh crore in investments and generating employment for over 15 lakh people.³⁰⁰ The recent investment-linked benefits represent the scheme

²⁹⁵ [Gujarat Industrial Policy, 2015.](#)

²⁹⁶ [Aatmanirbhar Gujarat Scheme, 2022.](#)

²⁹⁷ [Maharashtra Industrial Policy, 2019.](#)

²⁹⁸ [Maharashtra Package Scheme Of Incentives, 2019.](#)

²⁹⁹ [Tamil Nadu Industrial Policy, 2019.](#)

³⁰⁰ [CMO Gujarat.](#)

A. Investment-Linked Assistance For 23 Industrial Units

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

functioning as designed, converting **intent into finalised eligibility** certificates with binding incentive commitments.

- b. The Aatmanirbhar Gujarat Scheme explicitly links EPF reimbursement, at 100% of employer contribution, capped at ₹ 1,800 per employee per month for 10 years to new employees without a prior Universal Account Number (UAN).³⁰¹ This is a targeted instrument to bring informal labour into the formal social security net.
- c. Further, Gujarat hosts over 35,00,000 MSMEs³⁰² and the industry sector contributes 41.5% of the state's Gross Domestic Product as of Financial Year 2022-23.³⁰³ Formalising even a fraction of the workforce attached to these 23 units adds to the EPF contributor base while reducing the per-unit cost of compliance for employers.
- d. Panchmahal is an underdeveloped district agriculture-dominated region with 75.88% workers engaged in agricultural work as per Census 2011.³⁰⁴ Concentrating ₹ 853.47 crore out of ₹ 1,607 crore in this single district, signals an active use of the incentive architecture of Industrial Policy, 2015 and Aatmanirbhar Gujarat Scheme, 2022, to redirect industrial capital toward the state's lagging regions.
- e. The sectoral spread across auto, chemicals, textiles, and agro-products reflects Gujarat's strategy of reinforcing cluster strengths. As per CHEMEXCIL,³⁰⁵ Gujarat already contributes 46.16% of India's total chemical exports as of 2024-25.³⁰⁶
- f. In lieu of the above, the ₹ 186.57 crore chemical sector approval in Bharuch, already home to one of India's densest chemical industrial clusters, deepens existing agglomeration rather than building greenfield capacity. This typically yields faster employment and output ramp-ups. Similarly, the auto sector approvals in Ahmedabad align with Gujarat's emergence as a car manufacturing hub following Tata, Suzuki, Honda, and MG Motor establishing plants in the state.³⁰⁷

³⁰¹ UAN is a 12-digit unique identifier assigned by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) to every PF contributor, remaining constant throughout an employee's career.

³⁰² [Industry Extension Bureau, Gujarat.](#)

³⁰³ [NITI Aayog 2025.](#)

³⁰⁴ [Census of India 2011.](#)

³⁰⁵ Basic Chemicals, Cosmetics & Dyes Export Promotion Council popularly known as CHEMEXCIL, is a non-profit organisation established by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, which promotes the export of chemicals, dyes, and related products.

³⁰⁶ [Polymer Update, May, 2025.](#)

³⁰⁷ [Gujarat Now, April, 2025.](#)

IV. Andhra Pradesh

A. ₹ 500 Crore Worth MoU For Tourism Infrastructure Development

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

1. On 11th April, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Authority signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Olive Hospitality to develop large-scale hospitality infrastructure across Andhra Pradesh.
2. The initiative aims to boost tourism infrastructure, attract private investment, and enhance the availability of quality branded accommodation, thereby supporting Andhra Pradesh's growth as a major tourism destination.
3. **Investment Outlay** - Estimated investment of around **₹ 500 crore**, primarily from third-party owners and private investors.
4. **Key Features** -
 - a. Development of a pipeline of approximately 2,000 branded hotel rooms (keys) across major destinations.
 - b. Focus on key tourism cities such as Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, Vijayawada, and Guntur.
 - c. Expected to generate around 700 employment opportunities, contributing to local economic development.
 - d. The Andhra Pradesh Tourism Authority will facilitate approvals, clearances, and access to land parcels and tourism zones.
 - e. Provision of incentives under the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Policy (2024-2029) to attract investment.
 - f. Support for investor outreach and public-private collaboration, creating a long-term development framework.
5. **Relevance** -
 - a. By establishing a 2,000-key pipeline, the initiative targets an increase in the Average Length of Stay (ALoS)³⁰⁸ and shifting the state to a multi-day leisure and MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) hub.
 - b. Such an infrastructure facilitates the state's goal of raising tourism's contribution to the state Gross Value Added (GVA) from **4.6% to 8% by 2029**,³⁰⁹ leveraging the new "Industry Status" granted under the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Policy, 2024-2029.³¹⁰
 - c. The MoU operationalises the fiscal levers to ensure project viability in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities. By providing **100% stamp duty reimbursement** and industrial power

³⁰⁸ Average Length of Stay (ALoS) in the hospitality and tourism industry is a key performance metric that measures the average number of nights guests spend at a hotel, resort, or specific destination during a given period.

³⁰⁹ [The Federation Of Hotel And Restaurant Associations Of India, January, 2025.](#)

³¹⁰ [Operational Guidelines Andhra Pradesh Tourism Policy 2024-2029, September, 2025.](#)

A. ₹ 500 Crore Worth MoU For Tourism Infrastructure Development

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

tariffs, the state effectively reduces the “Fixed Operating Costs”³¹¹ of a hotel by approximately 15%–20%.³¹²

- d. Furthermore, the 25% capital subsidy³¹³ for MSME-scale projects (up to ₹ 50 crore investment) serves as a viability gap funding mechanism, accelerating the Internal Rate of Return (IRR)³¹⁴ for third-party investors and making long-gestation hospitality assets attractive compared to traditional real estate.³¹⁵
- e. Historically, institutional investors shy away from Tier-2 cities due to low RevPAR (Revenue Per Available Room). Hence, the state’s 25% capital subsidy (up to ₹ 50 crore)³¹⁶ acts as a Viability Gap Funding (VGF) mechanism,³¹⁷ making these projects attractive by front-loading the return on Investment (ROI).

³¹¹ Fixed operating costs are business expenses that remain constant regardless of production volume or sales levels. These necessary, predictable, and recurring expenses, such as rent, salaries, and insurance, must be paid even if production is zero.

³¹² [Operational Guidelines Andhra Pradesh Tourism Policy 2024-2029, September, 2025, Page. 38.](#)

³¹³ [Operational Guidelines Andhra Pradesh Tourism Policy 2024-2029, September, 2025, Page. 38.](#)

³¹⁴ The Internal Rate of Return (IRR) is a financial metric used to evaluate the profitability of potential investments, representing the annual rate of growth an investment is expected to generate.

³¹⁵ [Operational Guidelines Andhra Pradesh Tourism Policy 2024-2029, September, 2025, Page. 38.](#)

³¹⁶ [Operational Guidelines Andhra Pradesh Tourism Policy 2024-2029, September, 2025, Page. 38.](#)

³¹⁷ Viability Gap Funding (VGF) is a Central Sector Scheme in India providing Government grants to support capital-intensive infrastructure projects that are economically justified but financially unviable.

Other Decisions

I. Rajasthan

A. Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission (RERC) (Framework For Resource Adequacy) Regulations, 2026

Source: [The Government Of Rajasthan](#), [Saur Energy](#) | Impact: High

1. The Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission (RERC) notified the **Resource Adequacy (RA) Framework**, establishing mandatory standards for distribution companies (Discoms) to ensure they have enough power supply to meet future demand.
2. The regulations move Rajasthan toward a long-term reliability planning model, specifically designed to handle the intermittency of the state's massive renewable energy (RE) capacity.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The framework mandates a 10% Minimum Planning Reserve Margin (PRM),³¹⁸ requiring Discoms to contract 10% more power than their peak demand to buffer against coal shortages or extreme weather.
 - b. Utilities must now use five years of historical data (increased from three) for demand forecasting, with separate assessments for summer, monsoon, winter, and evening peaks.
 - c. The definition of Capacity Credit has been updated to reflect actual performance; for example, solar power's contribution is now calculated based on technology and location rather than just its maximum capacity.
 - d. Hybrid projects (Renewable Energy and Storage) are treated as a single resource for planning, simplifying the integration of green energy into the grid.
 - e. Discoms are protected from penalties if power shortages are caused by factors outside their control, such as delayed transmission projects or national grid constraints.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The regulations are directly aligned with the Central Electricity Authority of India Guidelines for Resource Adequacy Planning Framework for India (2022), which suggest decreasing the dependence on short-term contracts, promote renewable energy and mandate that all states transition to a volumetric, long-term procurement strategy.³¹⁹
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Maharashtra (MERC)³²⁰ has already operationalised Resource Adequacy (RA) frameworks to ensure reliable, affordable, and sustainable power supply. The plan focuses on PRM, capacity building, and

³¹⁸ The Minimum Planning Reserve Margin (PRM) is the required excess generation capacity above the projected peak demand, ensuring system reliability, commonly ranging between 15% to 20% to avoid outages.

³¹⁹ [Guidelines For Resource Adequacy Planning \(2022\)](#).

³²⁰ [Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission \(Framework For Resource Adequacy\) Regulations, 2024](#).

A. Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission (RERC) (Framework For Resource Adequacy) Regulations, 2026

Source: [The Government Of Rajasthan](#), [Saur Energy](#) | Impact: High

integrating high renewable energy with battery storage.

6. Relevance -

- a. Rajasthan's power demand is highly seasonal, peaking at over 17,000 MW during the agricultural season. This framework prevents the state from relying on expensive spot market purchases³²¹ during peak hours.
- b. With over 22 GW of installed solar,³²² the state faces night-surge challenges³²³ when solar drops out. The new capacity credit rules incentivise Discoms to buy more storage and wind power to fill that gap.
- c. Power procurement costs constitute 70–80% of the costs of electricity that consumers pay, and effective resource planning can help significantly reduce those costs.³²⁴ By replacing emergency short-term buying with planned long-term contracts.
- d. The explicit inclusion of procurement entities (like Rajasthan Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd) ensures that the entities actually buying the power are legally accountable for the state's reliability, not just the Discoms.
- e. Rajasthan's agriculture depends on groundwater pumping. In drought years, demand surges while hydro/thermal reservoirs might struggle. The 5-year data requirement ensures the worst-case weather scenario is baked into the budget, preventing sudden fiscal shocks to the state treasury.
- f. Further, the regulations create a guaranteed demand for peaking power plants (like Gas or Storage). This signals to private investors that Rajasthan is a safe market to build flexible capacity, as Discoms are now legally mandated to buy it.

³²¹ The spot market is a wholesale trading platform where electricity is bought and sold for immediate or near-term delivery, usually within 24 hours to real-time. Spot prices are highly volatile compared to long-term contracts because they reflect immediate, real-time supply and demand imbalances.

³²² [Rising Rajasthan](#).

³²³ The night surge challenge in solar energy refers to the significant gap between when solar panels produce electricity (daylight hours) and when consumer demand peaks (evening/night).

³²⁴ [Strengthening The Resource Adequacy Framework For An RE-Rich Future, CSEP, November, 2024](#).

II. Andhra Pradesh

A. Water Security Action Plan, 2026

Source: [News On Air](#), [New Indian Express](#) | **Impact:** High

1. On 6th April, 2026, the Government of Andhra Pradesh launched a 100-day Water Security Action Plan, aimed at strengthening water conservation and management across the state.
2. The initiative aims to ensure water security for all sectors, enhance groundwater availability, and promote sustainable water usage, with the broader goal of making the state drought-resilient.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. It implements a 100-day statewide campaign (6th April - 14th July) in four phases—planning, approvals, execution, and reporting.
 - b. It focuses on water conservation measures such as desilting tanks, repairing canals, strengthening check dams, and clearing feeder channels.
 - c. It targets to increase groundwater levels by at least 1.5 metres and ensure availability at sustainable depths.
 - d. The plan identifies 5,697 groundwater-stressed villages for targeted interventions.
 - e. It promotes water budgeting and water audits by irrigation associations to improve efficiency. Further, it integrates multiple departments (Irrigation, Agriculture, Panchayat Raj, Forest, Animal Husbandry) for coordinated implementation.
 - f. It emphasises on community participation and making water conservation a people’s movement involving farmers and Gram Panchayats.
 - g. It uses technology such as satellite imagery and hydrological mapping for scientific planning and monitoring.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States like Maharashtra,³²⁵ Gujarat,³²⁶ Rajasthan³²⁷ and Telangana³²⁸ have already implemented high-impact and have already implemented the state-led water security models.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. The action plan is backed by the ₹ 18,224 crore allocation for the Water Resources Department in the 2026-27 State Budget.³²⁹ This ensures that the execution phase is financially de-risked and able to meet the 106.54 lakh acre irrigation target.³³⁰
 - b. There has been a net rise of groundwater depth at 1.22 metres since June 2025, the

³²⁵ [NITI Aayog](#).

³²⁶ [CMO Gujarat, April, 2025](#).

³²⁷ [Government Of Rajasthan](#).

³²⁸ [Government Of Telangana, Page. 12](#).

³²⁹ [TOI, February, 2026](#).

³³⁰ [The Hindu, February, 2026](#).

A. Water Security Action Plan, 2026**Source:** [News On Air](#), [New Indian Express](#) | **Impact:** High

identification of 5,697 groundwater-stressed villages highlights localised crises.³³¹ The plan's target to raise levels by 1.5 metres is a direct policy response to stabilise these vulnerable micro-aquifers before the 2026-27 water year.³³²

- c. The strategic focus on 5,697 groundwater-stressed villages represents a targeted economic intervention aimed at breaking the water-migration nexus. In Andhra Pradesh, these clusters primarily in regions like Rayalaseema and Prakasam are characterised by an extreme dependency on borewell-fed agriculture.³³³ When the water table recedes beyond critical thresholds, smallholder farmers face water bankruptcy, leading to immediate crop failure and forced rural-to-urban migration.

³³¹ [Andhra Pradesh Water Resources Information And Management Systems.](#)

³³² [Hindustan Times, April, 2026.](#)

³³³ [PIB, April, 2026.](#)

III. Himachal Pradesh

A. Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Members (Allowances And Pension) Amendment Bill, 2026

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

1. On 2nd April, 2026, the Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha passed the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Members (Allowances and Pension) Amendment Bill, 2026, becoming the first state to **link financial penalties to curb defection**.
2. The Bill amends the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly (Allowances and Pension of Members) Act, 1971,³³⁴ by incorporating provisions that bar pension benefits for any member disqualified under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Bill introduces a new sub-section (2-A) overriding existing provisions that currently grant former MLAs a monthly pension of ₹ 50,000 for their first term, with an additional ₹ 1,000 for every extra year served.
 - b. It will apply to members of the current 14th Legislative Assembly and all future assemblies, effectively rendering disqualified legislators ineligible for these financial benefits for the term in which they were disqualified.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. The anti-defection law under the Tenth Schedule, introduced through the 52nd Constitutional Amendment in 1985,³³⁵ only provides for disqualification from the House. It carries no financial consequence. For a first-time MLA, a lifelong pension of ₹ 50k/month is an income security worth approximately ₹ 1.2 Crore (in present value terms over 20-25 years).³³⁶
 - b. Losing this income security is a significant deterrent. It strengthens the Party Whip system, leading to more stable state Governments and reducing the cost of political instability. The Bill closes this gap by making pension eligibility conditional on completing a term without disqualification.
 - c. With Himachal Pradesh facing fiscal stress (42.5% Debt-to-GSDP),³³⁷ the continuation of lifelong pensions for individuals disqualified on constitutional grounds reflects a **misallocation of limited public resources**. While the immediate fiscal savings from restricting such pensions may be modest, the measure carries significant signalling value, reinforcing fiscal prudence and accountability at a time when the state is reliant on enhanced Central support and grants. Additionally, it ensures ethical allocation of public funds.

³³⁴ [The Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Members \(Removal Of Disqualifications\) Act, 1971](#)

³³⁵ [Tenth Schedule, Constitution Of India](#).

³³⁶ [The New Indian Express, April, 2026](#).

³³⁷ [The Print, March, 2025](#).

B. Uniform Pricing System For All Water Consumers

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

1. On 4th April, 2026, the Himachal Pradesh Government, via the Jal Shakti Vibhag, issued a notification abolishing the existing slab-based water tariff structure in favor of a uniform pricing system for all urban consumers and commercial entities.
2. The new policy is in supersession of the September 2024 notification,³³⁸ effectively simplifying the billing process and standardising rates across 74 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in the state.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Domestic consumers in ULBs will now be charged a flat rate of ₹ 14 per kilolitre (kL), regardless of their consumption volume, removing previous slab-based concessions.
 - b. Hotels, restaurants, bars, and both Government and private institutions across urban and rural areas are now subject to a uniform charge of ₹ 30 per kL.
 - c. Newly constituted ULBs have been temporarily kept outside the purview of these revised rates to allow for infrastructure stabilisation.
 - d. Water supply in rural areas currently remains free of charge, as the latest notification specifically targets urban and commercial stabilisation.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** Standardising water tariffs is a key reform under AMRUT 2.0,³³⁹ which incentivises states to adopt volumetric billing to ensure the financial sustainability of urban water utilities. Manual on Water Supply and Treatment Systems (Drink from Tap)³⁴⁰ released by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs India (MoHUA) recognises uniform volumetric tariff as an ideal model to be followed.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Jal Shakti Vibhag suffered ₹ 4,000 crore loss during the last three years.³⁴¹ By abolishing slab-based concessions, the state seeks to reduce the mounting revenue deficit of the Jal Shakti Vibhag, which has historically struggled with high operational costs and low recovery rates in difficult terrain.
 - b. The introduction of a uniform ₹ 30/kL tariff for commercial and Government consumers replaces differentiated rate structures, aligning with established water pricing principles that emphasise simple and transparent tariff structures. Standardised tariffs are recognised to improve billing efficiency, reduce administrative complexity, and provide clearer price signals to users.³⁴²

³³⁸ [Government Of Himachal Pradesh, Jal Shakti Vibhag, Notification No. Jsv-B\(C\) 9-1/2024, September, 2024.](#)

³³⁹ [AMRUT 2.0.](#)

³⁴⁰ [Manual On Water Supply And Treatment Systems, 2024.](#)

³⁴¹ [Government Of Himachal Pradesh.](#)

³⁴² [World Bank, June, 1988, Pg. No. 7.](#)

B. Uniform Pricing System For All Water Consumers

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

- c. In hilly states like Himachal Pradesh, water supply requires high-head pumping due to large elevation differences, making it significantly more energy-intensive than in plains regions, where average elevation is just 200 metres.³⁴³ By charging a uniform ₹ 14/kL, the state is still subsidising the cost of supply, but it is finally capturing the marginal cost of consumption.³⁴⁴
- d. By leveling commercial charges at ₹ 30/kL, the state is effectively using the tourism industry to cross-subsidise the maintenance of urban infrastructure. This ensures that the float from high-paying commercial entities can be reinvested into fixing leaky pipelines in older urban cores like Shimla.³⁴⁵

³⁴³ [Physical Geography of India, NIOS, Pg. No. 9.](#)

³⁴⁴ Marginal cost of consumption is the additional cost incurred to supply or consume one extra unit of a good or service.

³⁴⁵ [Green Growth Profiles Of Ten Indian Cities, Volume 2, 2015, Page No. 63.](#)

IV. Odisha

A. Atal Bus Stand Scheme

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

1. On 10th April, 2026, the Odisha Cabinet, approved the Atal Bus Stand (ABS) scheme with a total budgetary outlay of ₹ 3,400 crore to be implemented over six years until FY 2031-32.
2. The primary objective is to bring all upcoming and existing public bus stands in the state including those managed by ULBs and those built under previous initiatives under a single, unified management framework to ensure uniformity in service delivery and maintenance.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme categorises bus stands into three classes (A, B, and C) based on passenger demand, transport volume, and regional significance.
 - b. Infrastructure upgrades will include digital information display boards, hygienic waiting rooms, and dedicated commercial spaces to boost revenue generation.
 - c. Modern facilities will be established at district headquarters, sub-divisional towns, block headquarters, and strategic tourist locations.
 - d. The bus stands will be designated as official “Public Transport Infrastructure,” making them accessible to both government and private bus operators for integrated services.
 - e. The project incorporates environmental sustainability standards, such as solar energy integration, rainwater harvesting, and green infrastructure designs.
 - f. The Odisha State Road Transport Corporation (OSRTC), under the Commerce and Transport Department, has been designated as the implementing agency for the project.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Rajasthan³⁴⁶ and Delhi³⁴⁷ have umbrella authorities for the management and maintenance of physical bus terminal infrastructure.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. OSRTC’s current bus fleet of 577 mainline and 1,422 rural buses is spread across a state with 314 blocks and 30 districts, yet there is no uniform bus stand infrastructure to anchor this network.³⁴⁸
 - b. OSRTC connects 130+ towns within Odisha and 68 cities outside the state, and its Mukhyamantri Bus Seva fleet serves over 6,720 Gram Panchayats, carrying approximately 3.5 lakh daily passengers.³⁴⁹ However, this route density has

³⁴⁶ [Rajasthan State Bus Terminal Development Authority Act, 2015.](#)

³⁴⁷ [Delhi Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited \(DTIDC\).](#)

³⁴⁸ [My City Links, November, 2024.](#)

³⁴⁹ [The Week, September, 2025.](#)

A. Atal Bus Stand Scheme**Source:** [New Indian Express](#) | **Impact:** Medium

historically operated without a standardised physical terminal infrastructure as most bus stands across sub-divisional and block towns are informal, fragmented, and unmanaged.

- c. The Mukhyamantri Bus Seva scheme, previously known as Location Accessible Multi-modal Initiative (LACMI), allocated ₹ 3,278 crore over three years to expand bus services but service provision without standardised waiting areas, ticketing points, digital information, and commercial facilities cannot deliver reliable public transport at scale.³⁵⁰
- d. By including commercial spaces in the Class A and B bus stands, the OSRTC aims to generate non-fare box revenue, offsetting the operational liabilities of a corporation that has faced losses of ₹ 45.46 crore from 2022-2024.³⁵¹

³⁵⁰ [The Odisha Gazette, May, 2025.](#)

³⁵¹ [Odisha TV, March, 2025.](#)

V. Maharashtra

A. Establishment Of The Maharashtra State River Rejuvenation Authority

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

1. On 1st April, 2026, the Maharashtra Government approved the establishment of the Maharashtra State River Rejuvenation Authority.
2. The authority aims to carry out rejuvenation projects for 54 polluted river stretches in the state.
3. **Financial Outlay -**
 - a. The Government has approved a required fund of ₹ 2,000 crore over 5 years for the authority through the Pollution Control Board, along with a Government contribution of ₹ 100 crore.
 - b. 10% of the revenue collected from minor mineral excavation annually will be allocated to the authority.
4. **Key Features -**
 - a. The authority will carry out both regulatory and developmental work for reducing pollution and ensuring the conservation and rejuvenation of rivers in the state.
 - b. Decisions regarding the pollution control and rejuvenation of rivers such as Mithi, Kalu, Mula, Mula-Mutha, Mutha, Bhima, Pawana, Nag, Chandrabhaga, and Panchganga will now be taken.
 - c. It will function as the apex decision-making body and nodal agency to promote all aspects of river rejuvenation in the state including preparing and implementing river basin management plans, and resolving land acquisition, encroachments, power supply, and contract issues.
 - d. Funds for the authority will be raised through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds from various companies and blended finance from various financial institutions.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The authority has been established on the lines of the National River Conservation Plan which aims to reduce the pollution load in rivers through implementation of various pollution abatement works, thereby improving their water quality.³⁵²
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -**
 - a. States such as Uttar Pradesh have operationalised State Ganga River Conservation Authority (SGRCA).³⁵³
 - b. Gujarat operationalises Sabarmati Riverfront Development Corp. (SRFDCL).³⁵⁴
 - c. Tamil Nadu institutionalised Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust (CRRT).³⁵⁵

³⁵² [National River Conservation Plan, Ministry Of Environment, Forest And Climate Change.](#)

³⁵³ [Department Of Nanami Gange And Rural Water Supply, Government Of Uttar Pradesh.](#)

³⁵⁴ [Sabarmati Riverfront.](#)

³⁵⁵ [Chennai Rivers Restoration Trust \(CRRT\).](#)

A. Establishment Of The Maharashtra State River Rejuvenation Authority

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

d. States in general have also established a River Rejuvenation Committee to monitor and identify the polluted rivers.³⁵⁶

6. Relevance -

- a. Only 51.4% of the sewage generated in the state is currently treated, with nearly half of the wastewater discharged directly into water bodies.³⁵⁷ Therefore, the plan is designed to prioritise the most critically polluted rivers, by implementing integrated sewage and industrial effluent management policies.³⁵⁸
- b. The allocation of **10% of annual revenue from minor mineral excavation** creates a unique self-funding mechanism where resource extraction directly funds ecological repair.³⁵⁹ This is particularly relevant as sand mining is a major contributor to riverbed degradation in Maharashtra.
- c. The authority will use these funds, alongside ₹ 4,500 crore already collected as Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) fines, to move from punitive measures to active restoration projects.³⁶⁰
- d. Further, sand mining is often a grey market in Maharashtra as they are operated by the sand mafias.³⁶¹ By formalising the 10% revenue link, the state is creating an economic incentive for regulation. The more the state regulates and collects revenue from legal mining, the more it has to fix the rivers damaged by illegal mining.

³⁵⁶ [PIB, March, 2021.](#)

³⁵⁷ [The Hindustan Times, March, 2026.](#)

³⁵⁸ [The Hindustan Times, March, 2026.](#)

³⁵⁹ [The Indian Express, April, 2026.](#)

³⁶⁰ [Deccan Chronicle, April, 2026.](#)

³⁶¹ [The New Indian Express, March, 2026.](#)

B. JICA Healthcare Infrastructure Project, 2026

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

1. On 14th April, 2026, the Government of Maharashtra approved a major healthcare initiative with financial assistance of ₹ 3,708 crore from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to strengthen medical education, nursing, and healthcare systems across Maharashtra.
2. The project aims to strengthen tertiary healthcare delivery, improve medical and nursing education infrastructure, and ensure affordable and quality healthcare access for citizens.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The project, titled “Strengthening Tertiary Health Care Delivery, Medical Education System and Nursing System in Maharashtra”, focuses on infrastructure development and modern equipment for medical institutions.
 - b. Funding will support new Government Medical Colleges in districts such as Wardha, Palghar, Ratnagiri, and Ahilyanagar.
 - c. Under this program, the hospital administrators will be trained in “Kaizen” (continuous improvement) and Japanese standards of hospital hygiene and patient-flow management.
 - d. Upgradation of existing nursing colleges across multiple locations including Mumbai, Dhule, Solapur, and Nagpur.
 - e. Establishment of new nursing colleges in Baramati, Sangli (Miraj), and Kolhapur to expand training capacity.
 - f. Provision of advanced medical equipment to Government medical colleges across several districts to enhance treatment capabilities.
 - g. Inclusion of human resource development and capacity-building programs, particularly through the Indo-Japan Academic Exchange Program.
4. **Similar Initiative In Other States -**
 - a. Tamil Nadu received JICA’s ODA loan for about ₹ 1,634 Crore (JPY 25,537 million) for a comprehensive urban health overhaul.³⁶²
 - b. The Assam project is one of JICA’s largest health interventions in Northeast India. It aims to improve tertiary care and medical education by constructing a super-specialty wing at the Guwahati Medical College Hospital and several other district hospitals.³⁶³
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. The state has about 4.18 lakh registered doctors (including AYUSH) serving a population of roughly 1.47 crore, implying an overall **doctor-to-population ratio of**

³⁶² [JICA, March, 2016.](#)

³⁶³ [JICA, March, 2022.](#)

B. JICA Healthcare Infrastructure Project, 2026

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

about 1:343, improving from earlier levels but still unevenly distributed across districts.³⁶⁴ The project aims to address such asymmetries and improve the capacity building within the ambit of the healthcare sector of Maharashtra.

- b. By upgrading 10 nursing colleges and establishing 3 new ones in hubs like Baramati and Sangli, Maharashtra is departing from the averages of ~ **1.96 nurses per 1,000 population**, towards the World Health Organisation (WHO)-recommended ratio of three nurses per 1,000 population.³⁶⁵
- c. This project prioritises nursing autonomy, providing advanced training in critical care and oncology, which reduces the workload on primary physicians and improves patient survival rates in tertiary units. Standard Indian healthcare is physician-centric, leading to doctor burnout. By providing advanced training in Oncology and Critical Care to nurses, the JICA project is promoting task-shifting. This allows nurses to handle 80% of routine tertiary care, freeing up doctors for complex surgeries and improving the overall Operational Efficiency of the hospital.³⁶⁶
- d. By financing new Government medical colleges in rural districts and expanding MBBS-seat capacity, the JICA-linked project is designed to systematically reduce the district-level doctor-shortfall index, thereby advancing the state's 2047-aligned human-capital-in-health-targets.³⁶⁷
- e. JICA loans typically carry very low interest rates of 1% and long repayment periods (of around 30–40 years).³⁶⁸ This allows Maharashtra to build massive assets today when the cost of construction is lower, while paying back in future. This is a superior financing model compared to high-interest commercial borrowing or immediate budgetary depletion.

³⁶⁴ [Maha ENews, March, 2026.](#)

³⁶⁵ [Hindustan Times, May, 2024.](#)

³⁶⁶ [PubMed Central, May, 2024.](#)

³⁶⁷ [NDTV, April, 2026.](#)

³⁶⁸ [JICA, April, 2026.](#)

VI. Punjab

A. Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Bill, 2026

Source: [The Government Of Punjab](#), [The Hindu](#) | **Impact:** Low

1. On 13th April, 2026, the Punjab Assembly unanimously passed the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which introduces life imprisonment as a maximum penalty for sacrilege (beadbi) of the Guru Granth Sahib.
2. The Bill amends the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Act, 2008³⁶⁹ to plug legal loopholes and create a toughest-ever deterrent framework specifically for the Sikh holy book, which is considered a “living Guru” in Sikhism.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Bill prescribes a minimum of 10 years to life imprisonment for criminal conspiracy to commit sacrilege with the intent to disturb communal harmony
 - b. Direct acts of sacrilege involving Saroops (sacred scriptures)³⁷⁰ are punishable by 7 to 20 years in prison, along with fines ranging from ₹ 5 lakh to ₹ 25 lakh.
 - c. The definition of “sacrilege” has been expanded to include any willful act of desecration, like physical damage, burning, tearing, or theft, as well as acts committed through electronic or digital means.
 - d. All offences are classified as cognizable, non-bailable, and non-compoundable, with trials mandated to be conducted by Courts of Sessions.
 - e. The **Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee** (SGPC) is designated as the exclusive custodian and must maintain a central, digital register with unique identification numbers for all Saroops.
 - f. Probes must be conducted by police officers not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) or Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP).
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. As per state Government data, nearly 597 cases of sacrilege were reported over the last one decade. Of these, 480 involve sacrilege of Sikh religious scriptures and shrines, 92 involve Hindu religious places, 14 Muslim shrines and scriptures and 11 Christian places of worship. So far, out of 597 FIRs, only 44 have ended in conviction.³⁷¹
 - b. The legal framework governing sacrilege-related concerns in Punjab originates from the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Act, 2008, which was enacted to ensure the sanctity, preservation, and respectful handling of the Sri Guru Granth Sahib. The Act primarily regulated the printing, publication, storage, and distribution of the Guru Granth Sahib, reflecting concerns that improper handling

³⁶⁹ [Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Act, 2008.](#)

³⁷⁰ A saroop (or bir) is the physical, handwritten, or printed copy of the Guru Granth Sahib, the holy scripture and eternal living Guru of Sikhism.

³⁷¹ [Hindustan Times, April, 2026.](#)

A. Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Bill, 2026**Source:** [The Government Of Punjab](#), [The Hindu](#) | **Impact:** Low

and misprinting were causing religious hurt and instances perceived as sacrilegious. It was designed as a preventive statute to institutionalise custodial responsibility and safeguard religious sentiments linked to the Sikh faith.³⁷²

- c. Attempts in 2016 and 2018 to introduce similar legislation, including provisions for life imprisonment, did not become law. In the case of the 2016 bill, saying that the Guru Granth Sahib could not be singled out, the Centre asked the Punjab Government to either withdraw the Bill or include all religions in the proposed amendment. In 2018, a similar legislation had been passed in the Assembly but it remained inoperational due to non-receipt of President's assent.³⁷³
- d. In this context, the proposed amendment relating to sacrilege in Punjab represents a religion-specific criminal law intervention, as they are primarily concerned with offences relating to the Sri Guru Granth Sahib, rather than being framed as a generalised statute covering sacrilege across all religious texts. This is subject to constitutional requirements including Presidential assent under Article 200 for enforceability.

³⁷² [Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Act, 2008.](#)

³⁷³ [Indian Express, December, 2022.](#)



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