

States In Motion

What's Happening In Indian States



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Key Announcements

This document tracks the various key policy and reform decisions taken by State Governments and UTs between **1st December, 2025 to 15th December, 2025**.

Reforms Decisions

I. Andhra Pradesh

A. **Restructuring Of Andhra Pradesh Into Three Economic Zones:** The Andhra Pradesh Government reorganized the state into three Economic Development Zones i.e North Coastal (Visakhapatnam), Central Coastal (Amaravati), and Rayalaseema (Tirupati) shifting from a **uniform approach to zone-specific industrial development for balanced growth**. The model **decentralizes governance** by vesting Zonal CEOs with financial and administrative powers, **including single-window clearances**, to enable faster project execution **aligned with each zone's economic strengths**.

II. Bihar

A. **Municipal Property Tax Incentive And Waiver Scheme 2025:** Bihar has implemented a Property Tax Interest and Penalty Waiver Scheme for urban areas, valid until 31st March 2026, allowing **defaulters to clear outstanding property tax dues by paying only the principal amount**. The scheme covers current and past dues for all property categories, including Government-owned, litigated, and unassessed properties (with conditions).

III. Rajasthan

A. **Rajasthan Jan Vishwas (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025:** The Rajasthan Government approved the Rajasthan Jan Vishwas (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025, which decriminalises **minor regulatory offences by replacing imprisonment with graded monetary penalties** to ease compliance and improve ease of doing business.

IV. Delhi

A. **Formation Of Task Force To Establish The DUMTA:** The Delhi Government announced the formation of a high-level **task force to establish the Delhi Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (DUMTA)** as a single nodal body for integrated urban mobility planning and execution across the capital.

B. **Single Window For Delhi Trade Licence And Property Tax:** The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has integrated General Trade Licence (GTL) payments with annual property tax through a **single-window system, making the tax receipt a valid licence subject to statutory norms**. The policy replaces complex fee structures with a uniform 15% levy on property tax, adopts self-declaration to cut inspections and rent-seeking, and streamlines annual licence renewals.

C. **CM-Pragati Portal:** Delhi Government has approved **CM-Pragati, a PM-Pragati-style digital platform to fast-track major infrastructure projects**. The portal will **monitor all projects above ₹ 5 crore in real time**, enable direct coordination between the Chief

Key Announcements

Minister and senior officials, and **ensure swift decision-making and accountability**, including for Yamuna cleaning initiatives.

V. Haryana

A. **Haryana Municipal Bill, 2025**: The Haryana Government approved the Haryana Municipal Bill, 2025 to unify urban governance by replacing the **two existing municipal laws with a single legal framework** covering all 87 urban local bodies in the state.

VI. Odisha

A. **Odisha Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2025**: The Odisha Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2025 **modernises labour regulation by easing compliance for establishments with 20 or more employees**, while enabling 24×7 operations. It **extends daily working hours** and overtime limits, **allows women to work night shifts with safeguards**, and simplifies rest interval norms.

VII. Maharashtra

A. **Community Service As Official Punishment For Minor Offences**: Maharashtra has institutionalised community service for minor offences by prescribing a **1-31 day duration, court-specified supervision, and clearly defined public, civic, and environmental service activities**. The move promotes restorative justice by **reducing recidivism, easing severe prison overcrowding and preventing loss of productive human capital** due to short-term imprisonment.

Policy Level Announcements

I. Karnataka

A. **Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025**: The Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025 criminalises hate speech and hate-motivated offences, **imposing 1-7 years' imprisonment and ₹ 50,000 fine for first offences, 2-10 years and up to ₹ 1 lakh for repeat or subsequent offences**.

II. Tamil Nadu

A. **Tamil Nadu Toy Manufacturing Policy, 2025**: The Tamil Nadu Toy Manufacturing Policy, 2025 **aims to position the state as a global, design-led toy manufacturing hub** by attracting 10 anchor investors, developing a dedicated Toy Manufacturing Park, and fostering R&D-intensive design studios.

III. Telangana

A. **Telangana Quantum Strategy**: Telangana has **launched India's first long-term quantum strategy to position Hyderabad as a global quantum hub**. Centred at IIIT Hyderabad, it aims to create a Quantum Centre Of Excellence, deploy a ₹ 1,000 crore deep-tech Fund of Funds, **mainstream quantum education**, skill 10,000+ youth annually, and **target a \$ 20 billion quantum economy by 2035**.

IV. Rajasthan

Key Announcements

- A. **Trade Promotion Policy, 2025:** Rajasthan has approved the Trade Promotion Policy, 2025 to strengthen the retail and wholesale ecosystem by **easing compliance, expanding credit access for traders and MSMEs**, and integrating small businesses with modern and digital markets.
- B. **The Rajasthan Tourism Policy, 2025:** Rajasthan launched the Rajasthan Tourism Policy, 2025 to **streamline approvals, attract private investment, and upgrade infrastructure** to position the state as a global tourism destination. The policy **emphasises diversification by developing Special Tourism Zones** and new thematic circuits beyond traditional hubs, **alongside digital tourism and improved connectivity**.

V. Odisha

- A. **Pharma And MedTech Policy, 2025:** Odisha approved the Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Policy, 2025 to **establish the state as a strategic healthcare and life sciences manufacturing hub** in Eastern India. The policy **offers capital and wage subsidies, tax exemptions, and dedicated parks to boost domestic production** of bulk drugs and high-tech medical devices,

Social Sector Announcements

I. Odisha

- A. **Enhanced Support Under MGNREGA Extended To 2028–29:** Odisha has approved the extension of enhanced state support under MGNREGA till 2028–29, **ensuring up to 300 days of annual wage employment for rural households**, with state-funded wage support supplementing central MGNREGA wages to strengthen livelihood security.

II. Chhattisgarh

- A. **Mukhyamantri Urja Rahat Abhiyan, 2025:** Chhattisgarh rolled out the Mukhyamantri Urja Rahat Abhiyan (M-URJA) to **provide 50% electricity bill relief to domestic consumers** using up to 200 units per month, easing household costs.
- B. **Mukhyamantri Nagarotthan Yojana, 2025:** The Chhattisgarh Government has approved 26 urban infrastructure projects worth **₹ 429.45 crore across all 13 municipal corporations under the Mukhyamantri Nagarotthan Yojana**, initiating statewide rollout of the scheme announced in the 2025–26 Budget.

Other Decisions

I. Andhra Pradesh

- A. **Multi-Pronged Strategy To Curb Human Elephant Conflict:** The Andhra Pradesh Forest Department announced a **multipronged strategy to manage wild elephant incursions in North Andhra** by deploying kumki elephants, **creating translocation camps, and coordinating with Odisha to safely redirect herds**. The approach aims to reduce human–elephant conflict, **prevent crop and property damage**, and safeguard lives through **habitat management and behavioural monitoring**.

Reform Decisions

I. Andhra Pradesh

A. Restructuring Of Andhra Pradesh Into Three Economic Zones

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

1. On 1st December, 2025, the **Andhra Pradesh Government announced** that the state will be restructured into three economic development zones.
2. The zone-wise model aims to **replace a one-size-fits-all approach with customised policies and targeted investments** to speed up infrastructure growth, drive industrialisation, and **ensure balanced regional development**.
3. **Proposed Zones -**
 - a. **North Coastal Zone** - Headquartered in **Visakhapatnam**, this zone will focus on **port-based industrialisation, information technology hubs, fisheries, pharmaceuticals and tourism**.
 - b. **Central Coastal Zone** - Headquartered in **Amaravati**, this zone will focus on **agro-based industries, food processing, logistics, textiles and cement**.
 - c. **Rayalaseema Zone** - Headquartered in **Tirupati**, this zone will focus on **renewable energy, mining, horticulture, and spiritual tourism**.
4. **Salient Features -**
 - a. For each zone, there will be **zonal committees made up of regional ministers and legislators**.
 - b. **A state-level steering committee** (chaired by the Chief Minister) will oversee the overall framework.
 - c. Implementation at the ground level will be carried **out by dedicated committees per zone, headed by a CEO** (with district collectors as members).
 - d. The zonal CEOs will have **substantial financial and administrative powers**, including land allocation and single window clearance for projects.
 - e. **Advisory committees** composed of MPs, MLAs, and industry representatives will guide strategic decisions for each zone.
5. **Major Collaborations - NITI Aayog** will formulate zone-specific vision plans, inspired by **Singapore's Central Coastal Zone** blueprint.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The restructuring aligns with the state Government's broader strategy to transform key regions, particularly Visakhapatnam, into major growth engines, **as reflected in earlier announcements targeting a \$ 120-billion economy for the Visakha region by 2032.**¹ It forms part of a wider push to **accelerate industrial growth, upgrade infrastructure**, and strengthen the overall investment climate

¹ [TNIE, June 2025](#).

A. Restructuring Of Andhra Pradesh Into Three Economic Zones**Source:** [The Times Of India](#) | **Impact:** High

across Andhra Pradesh.²

- b. With the target of **15% GSDP growth**,³ its success (or failure) could provide **empirical evidence on how much zonal customisation, administrative decentralisation**, and targeted investment zones can contribute to economic growth relative to the more **common SEZ cluster model**.
- c. Collaboration with **NITI Aayog** (for Vizag and Rayalaseema Zones) and the **Government of Singapore** (for the Central Coastal Zone) is a strategic move to secure **global best practices** in urban and economic planning. This non-fiscal **incentive signals regulatory commitment and de-risks investment** in these specific zones for foreign capital.

² [TNIE, November 2025](#).

³ [Deccan Chronicle, June 2025](#).

B. Amendments To The Fire Services Act, 1999

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

1. The Andhra Pradesh Government **approved major amendments to the Fire Services Act, 1999** on **2nd December, 2025**, aligning it with the **National Building Code, (NBC) 2016⁴** and the **AP Building Rules, 2017⁵** amid the rapid growth of high-rises.
2. These aim to **streamline compliance, speed up approvals, enhance audits**, and ensure **continuous monitoring** to prevent structural and fire risks.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. No Objection Certificates (NOCs) will now be issued entirely online, with approval timelines reduced from **60 days to 21 days**.
 - b. A three-stage system has been introduced comprising a **provisional NOC** before construction, a **Fire Safety Certificate** post completion, and **periodic renewals** thereafter.
 - c. NOCs have been made mandatory for all **commercial, residential, educational, and industrial buildings**, and the amendments introduce **empanelled third party agencies** to conduct audits and ensure continuous compliance.
 - d. The framework imposes **heavy penalties** for violations, and provides the Fire Department with **clearer enforcement powers**.
4. **States With Similar Initiatives - Gujarat⁶ and Tamil Nadu⁷** Fire Service Acts align their fire safety rules with the NBC for high rises and public buildings, adopting **streamlined NOC processes** and audit mechanisms.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. The existing process for obtaining a Fire NOC took up to **60 days**. By mandating an **entirely online NOC issuance** and reducing the approval timeline to **21 days**, the Government aims to improve the state's **Ease of Doing Business (EoDB)**, attracting **faster investment in real estate and infrastructure**.
 - b. To support thorough and professional inspections, the state is **engaging empanelled third-party agencies**. This is a **necessary step to address compliance gaps**, such as those seen in Nagpur earlier this year, where **139 of 390 buildings did not meet safety standards**.⁸ This model would help Andhra Pradesh to prevent similar lapses through consistent, expert led compliance rather than relying solely on limited fire department staff.
 - c. By **clarifying enforcement powers** under the Fire Services Act, 1999 and Andhra

⁴ [National Building Code Of India, 2016.](#)

⁵ [Andhra Pradesh Building Rules, 2017.](#)

⁶ [Gujarat Fire Prevention And Life Safety Measures Act, 2013.](#)

⁷ [Tamil Nadu Fire And Rescue Services Act, 2025.](#)

⁸ [Times Of India, October 2025.](#)

B. Amendments To The Fire Services Act, 1999**Source:** [The Times Of India](#) | **Impact:** Medium

Pradesh Building Rules, 2017, the Amendments enable **decisive action against violations**, helping AP avoid gaps as seen in the Prakasam district in 2021, where it was found that **around 60% of hospitals and 30% of industries lacked NOCs**, reflecting non-compliance.⁹ The strengthened framework ensures **consistent oversight of high risk establishments**.

⁹ [TNIE, May 2021](#).

II. Bihar

A. Municipal Property Tax Incentive And Waiver Scheme 2025

Source: [The Government Of Bihar](#), [Lokmat Times](#) | Impact: High

1. Bihar has implemented the **Property Tax Interest and Penalty Waiver Scheme** on the 1st December, 2025, under which property **tax defaulters in urban areas** can settle outstanding dues **without paying any interest or penalty**. The scheme is valid until **31st March, 2026**.
2. The scheme aims **to encourage compliance among property owners** by offering a time-limited opportunity to **clear long-pending municipal tax dues, reduce municipal tax arrears**, and **improve overall revenue collection from property taxes** across Bihar's urban areas.
3. **Salient Features -**
 - a. The waiver scheme offers a **full waiver of interest and surcharge** on outstanding municipal property tax dues for defaulters who pay only the principal amount.
 - b. It applies across **all categories of property, residential, commercial, industrial, institutional**, and even properties owned by the central or state Government.
 - c. The waiver covers dues from **current and previous years**, including those under **litigation or unassessed properties** (subject to withdrawal of court cases or assessment as per norms).
 - d. Property owners can settle dues via **online portal, municipal offices, or dedicated payment camps**, making payment convenient and accessible.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. It is pertinent to note that property tax is the core source of revenue for ULBs. Bihar's urban bodies are heavily transfer-dependent and under pressure to show **improved OSR to qualify better under the 15th Finance Commission performance-linked grants**.¹⁰ A focused arrears-clearing window can help convert dead arrears into immediate cash flow and reset taxpayer accounts.
 - b. The scheme tackles Bihar's chronic **municipal tax non-compliance by turning unpaid property and holding taxes into a financial relief opportunity**. Waiving all accrued interest and penalties eliminates the compounding debt barrier, making it easier and more attractive for previously non-compliant citizens to pay.
 - c. As of now, **more than ₹ 1.5 crore**¹¹ **in property tax** arrears remains outstanding, with **3,000-4,000 residents**¹² reportedly not having paid holding tax even once since 2006, owing to which the scheme **creates a one-time window for citizens to regularise their dues**, improving municipal revenue flows needed for urban services and infrastructure.

¹⁰ [15th Finance Commission \(FC-XV\) Final Report \(2021-26\), Pg 16](#).

¹¹ [Lokmat Times, December 2025](#).

¹² [Lokmat Times, December 2025](#).

III. Rajasthan

A. Cabinet Approval To Rajasthan Jan Vishwas (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025

Source: [The New Indian Express](#), [The Times Of India](#) | Impact: High

1. The Rajasthan Government, on 4th December 2025, **approved the Rajasthan Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Ordinance, 2025** to decriminalise minor offences and replace imprisonment provisions with monetary penalties to strengthen ease of doing business.
2. The Ordinance reduces the **burden on citizens and businesses by removing jail provisions** for small, procedural mistakes and treating them as civil penalties instead.
3. **Scope** - The Ordinance amends provisions in 11 state Acts, including the **Rajasthan Forest Act, 1953**,¹³, the **Rajasthan State Aid to Industries Act, 1961**,¹⁴, and the **Jaipur Water Supply and Sewerage Board Act, 2018**.¹⁵ These amendments **replace imprisonment with monetary penalties** for minor offences to reduce the compliance burden.
4. **Salient Features** -
 - a. Imprisonment provisions for minor regulatory violations are replaced with **graded monetary penalties**.
 - b. Offences such as delays in filings, documentation errors, or technical lapses are converted into **compoundable or civil violations**.
 - c. Criminal liability is limited only to serious offences that involve **fraud, harm, or safety violations**.
 - d. The Ordinance forms part of a broader state exercise to **review and revise obsolete criminal provisions** across multiple departments.
5. **Central Scheme Alignment** - The Ordinance aligns with the **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023**¹⁶ of the Central Government, which decriminalised **183 provisions under 42 Central Acts** to reduce compliance burden and improve the business environment.
6. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - With the approval of the **Rajasthan Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Ordinance, 2025**, Rajasthan has joined states such as **Maharashtra**,¹⁷ **Haryana**,¹⁸ **Odisha**,¹⁹ **Madhya Pradesh**,²⁰ **Tripura**²¹ and **Uttar Pradesh** that have undertaken similar reforms, strengthening India's broader

¹³ [The Rajasthan Forest Act, 1953](#).

¹⁴ [The Rajasthan State Aid To Industries Act, 1961](#).

¹⁵ [The Jaipur Water Supply And Sewerage Board Act, 2018](#).

¹⁶ [Jan Vishwas \(Amendment of Provisions\) Act, 2023](#).

¹⁷ [The Times Of India, November 2025](#).

¹⁸ [Haryana Jan Vishwas \(Amendment of Provisions\) Ordinance, 2025](#).

¹⁹ [Odisha Jan Vishwas Ordinance, 2025](#).

²⁰ [Madhya Pradesh Rajpatra, January 2025](#).

²¹ [The Tripura Gazette, May 2025](#).

A. Cabinet Approval To Rajasthan Jan Vishwas (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025**Source:** [The New Indian Express](#), [The Times Of India](#) | **Impact:** High

compliance-reduction agenda.

7. Relevance -

- a. The Rajasthan Jan Vishwas Ordinance, 2025 was required to address the compliance load and litigation pressure created by the existing state laws on businesses and judicial system. **Before the Ordinance, minor lapses under 11 state Acts**, such as the **Forest Act, 1953** (leading to 23-year case backlogs²²) and **the Industries Act, 1961**, carried criminal penalties, subjecting **Rajasthan's approximately 41 lakh MSMEs²³ to the disproportionate threat of imprisonment.**
- b. By removing these jail provisions and substituting them with **swift monetary penalties and administrative adjudication**, the Ordinance aims to **clear court backlogs, reduce the high compliance costs**, and replace fear with trust to foster economic growth.
- c. Also, delays in key approvals like **Consent to Operate (CTO)²⁴ and environmental clearances were a known challenge for MSMEs in the state.** This improved regulatory environment aligns with a **key pillar of the DPIIT's** (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) BRAP (Business Reforms Action Plan) **reforms²⁵ potentially bolstering Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) in the state.**
- d. By shifting minor regulatory violations from criminal courts to **administrative adjudication**, the ordinance improves **enforcement efficiency** and allows authorities to focus on **serious environmental, safety, and economic offences.**
- e. The reforms will also remove the entry **barriers for micro and informal enterprises** by reducing the perceived risk of criminal prosecution, encouraging **greater formal registration, licensing, and participation in the regulated economy.**

²² [SCC Online, February 2025.](#)

²³ [MSME \(Udyam\) Registration Including Udyam Assist Platform Dashboard.](#)

²⁴ The term Consent to Operate (CTO) is a critical environmental authorization required for industrial and commercial facilities in India before they can legally begin production or operational activities.

²⁵ [DPIIT BARP Reforms, 2022.](#)

IV. Delhi

A. Formation Of Task Force To Establish The Delhi Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (DUMTA)

Source: [Government Of NCT Delhi](#), [Hindustan Times](#) | Impact: High

1. The **Delhi Government on 6th December, 2025**, announced the formation of a high level task force to set up **Delhi Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (DUMTA)** as a **unified transport authority to streamline planning and execution** across multiple transport agencies in the capital.
2. **Aim** - The aim is to create a **single nodal body that brings together public transport operators, municipal bodies, police, and road agencies** under one institutional framework to optimise urban mobility and improve the public transport system.
3. **Key Features** -
 - a. The task force will be chaired by the chief secretary and include senior officials from transport, urban development, finance, planning, Delhi Police, **Public Works Department (PWD), Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), Delhi Transportation Corporation (DTC)** and other stakeholders, with scope to include urban transport experts.
 - b. The task force has been mandated to submit recommendations within three weeks, **including the institutional structure of DUMTA**, stakeholder consultations, a draft DUMTA Bill, and the authority's vision, mission, and operational objectives.
 - c. DUMTA is envisaged to **oversee integrated mobility planning, coordination across modes, unified ticketing**, feeder connectivity and reduction of overlapping jurisdictions in Delhi's transport ecosystem.
 - d. A dedicated financial body, namely, the **Delhi Urban Transport Fund (DUTF)** is also proposed. Its primary role would be to manage the finances of the **Delhi Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (DUMTA)** and centralize funding for transport projects in Delhi-NCR
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Tamil Nadu established **Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority²⁶** (CUMTA) in 2010 which acts as a unified transport nodal body coordinating multiple agencies.
5. **Relevance** -
 - a. In Delhi, **overlapping responsibilities among agencies** - Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DDMRC), Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC), Public Works Department (PWD), Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), and Delhi Police, **have created major inefficiencies**. Fewer than 10% of Metro stations have formal feeder bus connectivity, forcing most

²⁶ [Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority](#).

A. Formation Of Task Force To Establish The Delhi Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (DUMTA)

Source: [Government Of NCT Delhi](#), [Hindustan Times](#) | Impact: High

commuters, especially in middle-income neighborhoods, **to rely on unregulated e-rickshaws and shared autos with inconsistent pricing, poor safety standards, and no accountability.**²⁷ The main issue DUMTA aims to solve is this **lack of coordination and the resulting operational overlap** between different transport agencies.

- b. Vehicular emissions contribute to **more than 50% of pollution in Delhi.**²⁸ Furthermore, a recent study found that evening commuters face a **39% higher dose of PM2.5**²⁹ compared to morning commuters, underscoring the severe **health risk of congested, vehicle-dependent mobility.** By integrating metro, bus, and feeder services under one authority, **DUMTA will improve public transport's reliability and attractiveness, helping shift commuters away from private vehicles, thereby reducing the largest local source of pollutants.**
- c. Further, **traffic congestion** on Delhi roads **costs around ₹ 60,000 crore annually** and this is **projected to increase to ₹ 98,000 crore by 2030.**³⁰ The setting up of a dedicated authority will **help directly target the massive financial drain** caused by traffic congestion, a problem **prone to be amplified by uncoordinated functions of road authorities, police, and municipal agencies.**
- d. Lastly, the DUMTA mandate includes designing and managing a **Delhi Urban Transport Fund (DUTF).** By channeling all urban transport funds through a single authority, the state ensures **fiscal accountability** and **prevents the wasteful duplication of infrastructure projects** that result from agencies working in silos (e.g., PWD building roads that conflict with DMRC station exits).

²⁷ [DUMTA And Delhi's Transport Future: Unified Governance For Seamless Urban Mobility, CX QUEST, December 2025.](#)

²⁸ [TNIE, December 2025.](#)

²⁹ [India Today, December 2025.](#)

³⁰ [TOI, February 2017.](#)

B. Single Window For Delhi Trade Licence And Property Tax

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

1. On **9th December, 2025**, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) approved a policy **integrating General Trade Licence (GTL) payments³¹ with annual property tax through a single window system.**
2. The policy simplifies compliance by subsuming GTL issuance under Section 417 of the **Delhi Municipal Corporation (DMC) Act, 1957³² into the property tax system**, where the **payment receipt will serve as a valid licence** upon meeting pollution, fire safety, and other norms.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. This policy replaces a complex fee structure based on trade type, area, and locality with a **fixed 15% of applicable property tax**, ensuring fairness and predictability.
 - b. It reduces field inspections and **curbs rent seeking** by shifting to a **trust based self-declaration system.**
 - c. Licences are streamlined through an **endorsement on the tax receipt**, which also serves as validation for annual renewals.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. The policy is a direct attempt to maximise the MCD's **Own Source Revenue (OSR).**³³ The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has **struggled to collect its targeted property and other local taxes**, with revenue often **falling significantly short of budgeted targets.** In FY 2024-25, MCD had collected around ₹1,908 crore against a **property tax target of ₹ 4,300 crore,**³⁴ highlighting a substantial compliance/fiscal gap in its own revenues.
 - b. With **only 34,048 GTLs issued** and **₹ 56.66 crore collected against a ₹ 289 crore** property-tax base, **compliance remains below 40%.** The reform aims to address this gap by **introducing a simpler, bundled payment system to boost uptake.**³⁵
 - c. General licence fees are **only about 20% of the corresponding property-tax amount**, while special licence fees are even **lower at just 6%,**³⁶ showing that a large share of traders are either not taking licences or under-declaring them,

³¹ General Trade Licence (GTL) payments involve various fees like application/processing fees and annual license fees, primarily for local trade in cities like Delhi (MCD), calculated based on trade type, establishment size (sq. meters), and location (conforming/non-conforming areas).

³² [Delhi Municipal Corporation Tax, 1957](#),

³³ Own Source Revenue (OSR) is the income that a local government body, such as a Gram Panchayat in India, generates independently from local sources, rather than relying on grants from central or state governments. A strong OSR is crucial for financial independence and sustainable local development.

³⁴ [ANI News, February 2025](#).

³⁵ [Hindustan Times, December 2025](#).

³⁶ [Hindustan Times, December 2025](#).

B. Single Window For Delhi Trade Licence And Property Tax

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

leading to major revenue loss and an **uneven compliance burden** on those who comply with the rules. A **uniform 15% fee** aims to correct these disparities and stabilise MCD revenues.

- d. In May 2022, the three municipal corporations of Delhi—North, South, and East Delhi Municipal Corporations, **were merged into a single body, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)**. Significant relief from the **unification** has been reported, noting that **uniform South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) fee slabs** had disproportionately burdened small establishments such as pan shops.³⁷
- e. Traders, especially small shops in areas like **Kamla Nagar**, faced harassment through duplicate notices, high SDMC based slabs, and penalties up to **₹ 25,000**.³⁸ The new **system reduces inspections and removes redundant processes**, easing compliance pressures.
- f. By validating licences through **endorsement on standard tax receipts**, the **initiative builds trust**, cuts paperwork, and enhances transparency, this invariably **increases the ease of doing business** for multiple traders across Delhi.

³⁷ [Indian Express, December 2025](#).

³⁸ [Times Of India, April 2025](#).

C. CM-Pragati Portal: Time Bound Infrastructure Delivery

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

1. On 1st December, 2025, Delhi Government gave **in-principle approval** to launch CM-Pragati, a **PM-Pragati-like portal**³⁹ for monitoring major projects.
2. CM-Pragati aims to **ensure faster, hassle-free rollout** of infrastructure projects like Yamuna cleaning by resolving coordination issues, reducing delays, and **enforcing departmental accountability**.
3. **Key Features** -
 - a. A real-time digital dashboard will track all **projects with budgets of ₹ 5 crore and above**, ensuring end-to-end monitoring from initiation to completion.
 - b. The system will establish a **direct communication channel** linking the Chief Minister, secretaries, departmental heads, and heads of Government agencies to enable **seamless updates and coordination**.
 - c. This platform will allow officials to share **real-time information**, take swift decisions, and **respond promptly to implementation challenges**.
 - d. The Chief Minister will **regularly chair review meetings** to closely monitor the progress of **key infrastructure and Yamuna cleaning projects**.
4. **Relevance** -
 - a. Delhi, as a **hub of large infrastructure works** such as **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) Phase-III and the ongoing road concretisation programme**, is prone to delays in project implementation. CM-Pragati's provision for **monitoring projects above ₹ 5 crore**, along with its inter-departmental coordination channels, can help **pre-empt delays through proactive issue resolution**.
 - b. Delhi has spent **₹ 5500 crore on Yamuna cleanup projects** over the past three years,⁴⁰ yet only **21 out of 44 planned new** or upgraded sewage treatment plants (STPs) have been completed.⁴¹ This has resulted in a **41.4 crore litres per day gap in sewage treatment** as of August 2025.⁴² CM-Pragati's real time dashboard and reviews conducted by the Chief Minister can **enforce timelines and coordination** to close STP gaps faster.

³⁹ PM-PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation) is an innovative, ICT-enabled platform launched in 2015 to ensure fast, effective project delivery and address public grievances by integrating central and state Government efforts through video conferencing, fostering transparency, and resolving issues in real-time.

⁴⁰ [Construction World.in, December 2025.](#)

⁴¹ [NDTV, December 2025.](#)

⁴² [DDNews, August 2025.](#)

V. Haryana

A. Haryana Municipal Bill, 2025

Source: [Chief Minister Office Haryana](#), [Hindustan Times](#) | Impact: High

1. The **Haryana Government**, on **8th December 2025**, approved the **Haryana Municipal Bill, 2025** to unify and modernise urban governance in the state.
2. The Bill aims to replace the **Haryana Municipal Act, 1973** and the **Haryana Municipal Corporation Act, 1994**,⁴³ under which 87 municipalities currently function, with a **single unified legal framework** for all urban local bodies.
3. **Scope** – The Bill covers **municipal corporations, municipal councils, and municipal committees** across Haryana, bringing all **87 urban local bodies (ULBs)**⁴⁴ under a **single law** to streamline administration, service delivery, and regulatory processes.
4. **Key Features** -
 - a. The Bill establishes a single, **unified legal framework for all urban local bodies** by merging the previously separate municipal acts.
 - b. It **eliminates the inconsistencies and administrative ambiguities** arising from the two separate Acts.
 - c. The Bill enhances financial autonomy by **authorising municipalities to set taxes and fees within a Government-prescribed range**.
 - d. The Bill introduces new statutory mandates for **urban transport** and **urban forestry** to ensure that urban development aligns with sustainable practices.
 - e. The Bill proposes **common service rules** for municipal staff to reduce litigation over transfers and promotions under different frameworks.
 - f. It introduces the role of **municipal magistrates** to try municipal offences and **enhances penalties/fines** for violations.
5. **Relevance** -
 - a. Haryana's 87 ULBs were earlier governed by two separate statutes- the **1973 Act and the 1994 Act creating a fragmented regulatory framework and inconsistent enforcement** across the state. A key historical issue was the disparity in penalties for identical offences: **violations under Municipal Committees (1973 Act) could attract imprisonment, while the same offences under Municipal Corporations (1994 Act) often resulted only in fines**. The transition to a single, **unified legal framework eliminates these inconsistencies, ensuring complete uniformity in regulatory standards** and penalties across all 87 ULBs, supported by the introduction of specialised Municipal Magistrates to strengthen compliance.
 - b. Further, Municipalities historically lacked the autonomy to fix user charges and fee rates that truly reflected the cost of service delivery, leading to chronic fiscal

⁴³ [CMO Haryana, December 2025](#).

⁴⁴ [The Tribune, December, 2025](#).

A. Haryana Municipal Bill, 2025

Source: [Chief Minister Office Haryana](#), [Hindustan Times](#) | **Impact:** High

weakness. **Between 2015-16 and 2019-20, fiscal transfers (Grants) from Central and state Governments constituted over 50%** of the total revenue of Haryana's ULBs, demonstrating high dependency. Notably, the state's Own Revenue accounted for **approximately 30%**.⁴⁵

- c. This constraint was particularly evident in non-tax revenues, where the inability to revise rates for services **such as trade licences curtailed Own-Source Revenue (OSR) mobilisation**. In the Real Estimated budget of 2023-24, own non-tax revenue was estimated to be **32% lower than budgeted**, driven largely by **significant shortfalls in urban development collections** (₹ 1,450 crore) and **road transport revenues** (₹ 1,086 crore).⁴⁶
- d. Empowering ULBs to fix taxes and fees within minimum/maximum limits is a direct measure to boost OSR. Crucially, **provisions for a Credit Rating mechanism are introduced to help ULBs achieve investment grade status**, thereby accessing market borrowings and reducing reliance on state budgetary transfers.

⁴⁵ [Chapter VI: Financial Resources Of Urban Local Bodies Of Performance Audit Of Efficacy Of Implementation Of The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act.](#)

⁴⁶ [Haryana Budget Analysis 2024-25.](#)

VI. Odisha

A. The Odisha Shops And Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2025

Source: [The Odisha Shops And Commercial Establishments \(Amendment\) Bill, 2025](#)

Impact: High

1. On 3rd December 2025, the Odisha Legislative Assembly passed the **Odisha Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2025**.
2. The Bill aims to modernise the 1956 Act by introducing reforms to **boost productivity, enhance ease of doing business, and promote gender inclusivity**. The amended provisions will apply specifically to **establishments employing 20 or more persons**, reducing the compliance burden on smaller businesses.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Bill extends the maximum **daily working hours for employees from 9 to 10 hours**, while maintaining the weekly cap at 48 hours.
 - b. It removes the **prohibition on women working night shifts**, allowing them to be engaged between 7 PM and 6 AM, subject to their **written consent** and employer-provided safety and dignity measures.
 - c. The quarterly overtime limit has been significantly increased from **50 hours to 144 hours**, with overtime wages mandated at double the ordinary rate.
 - d. Establishments are now permitted to remain open **24x7 and 365 days a year**, provided employees are given **one weekly off and appropriate overtime compensation**.
 - e. The mandatory rest interval requirement has been simplified, allowing up to **six hours** of continuous work before a **break of at least 30 minutes is required**.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -**
 - a. The amendments introduced by the Odisha Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2025, reflect a nationwide trend in labour reforms, aligning the state with others like **Telangana and Maharashtra by raising the quarterly overtime limit to the 144-hour standard set by the central OSH Code**.⁴⁷
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. The most significant change is the increase in the **quarterly overtime limit from 50 hours to 144 hours (a nearly 188% increase)**. This allows the organised sector establishments (those with more than 20 employees) to manage **high peak-season demand** without incurring high costs associated with **short-term, temporary hiring**.
 - b. Also, the extension of the **maximum daily shift from 9 to 10 hours** (while retaining the 48-hour weekly cap) enables **more efficient scheduling and better**

⁴⁷ [Playroll, December 2025](#).

A. The Odisha Shops And Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2025

Source: [The Odisha Shops And Commercial Establishments \(Amendment\) Bill, 2025](#)

Impact: High

utilisation of costly fixed assets and capital goods in sectors like organised retail and logistics.

- c. It is important to note that female labour force participation rates (FLPRs)⁴⁸ in Odisha have historically remained low in both rural and urban areas. In rural Odisha, the FLPR stands at **15.2%, below the all-India average of 18.2%, while in urban areas it is 13.4%, which is 2.5 percentage points lower than the national average.**⁴⁹ The Bill aims to boost the participation of women in the higher-paying Urban Organised Service Sector, where currently **over 53% of urban women** in Odisha are employed (mainly in education, health, and social work).⁵⁰
- d. By removing the prohibition on women working between 7 PM and 6 AM, **the Bill unlocks shifts in key 24x7 industries like ITES/BPO, hospitality, and organised retail.** This is expected to create thousands of new opportunities in regular, salaried employment, especially for urban women who make up **46.5% of regular wage workers** in urban Odisha.⁵¹

⁴⁸ Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR) refers to the percentage of women aged 15 years and above who are either employed or actively seeking employment, as a share of the total female population in the same age group.

⁴⁹ [Women's Work Participation Rates Odisha.](#)

⁵⁰ [Initiative For What Works To Advance Women And Girls In The Economy Fact Sheet.](#)

⁵¹ [Initiative For What Works To Advance Women And Girls In The Economy Fact Sheet.](#)

VII. Maharashtra

A. Community Service As Official Punishment For Minor Offences

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

1. On 1st December, 2025, the Maharashtra Government notified the **Maharashtra (Community Service as Punishment for Certain Offences) Rules, 2025** making community service the official alternative punishment for minor offences under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023
2. **Salient Features -**
 - a. The rules fix the duration of community service between **1 and 31 days (or 40 to 240 hours)** with a maximum of **8 hours per day**.
 - b. Courts imposing community service must clearly specify the **nature, location, duration, and supervising officer** for the punishment.
 - c. Approved forms of community service include cleaning and support work in **Government hospitals, libraries, schools, laboratories, public buildings, municipal areas, beaches, parks, old age homes, mental health institutes, police stations**, and other public spaces.
 - d. Community service may also involve **traffic and crowd regulation, assistance to municipal sanitation teams**, and **environmental tasks** such as tree planting and maintenance.
 - e. The punishment applies to specific minor offences under the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023**,⁵² including **first-time theft under ₹ 5,000, public misconduct while drunk, defamation, non-appearance after proclamation, unlawful trade by public servants**, and similar minor infractions.
3. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The bill formally operationalises community service as an alternative punishment for minor offences under the **BNS and BNSS, 2023, and introduces a structured, supervised, and restorative justice-oriented system** for non-custodial penalties in Maharashtra.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States/UTs -**
 - a. **Delhi:** Delhi's Home Department notified guidelines pursuant to High Court directions, specifying 12 categories of community service such as roadside weeding, book binding in public libraries, and maintenance work in hospital wards.⁵³
 - b. **Goa:** Goa Government has announced that first-time offenders involved in minor crimes would be assigned community service in government facilities, including

⁵² [The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita \(BNS\), 2023.](#)

⁵³ [Time of India, June 2025](#)

A. Community Service As Official Punishment For Minor Offences

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

beaches and municipal offices, following consultation with the High Court.⁵⁴

5. Relevance -

- a. Criminological and psychological research indicates **that sentencing minor offenders to short prison spells is detrimental, potentially increasing recidivism (re-offending)**.⁵⁵ Conversely, studies consistently show that offenders sentenced to community service **recidivate significantly less in both the short and long term** when compared to those given short-term imprisonment.⁵⁶
- b. India continues to face **severe overcrowding in its prisons** with an **occupancy rate of 120.8%**.⁵⁷ For **Maharashtra**, the State reported **60 prisons** with an official capacity of **26,281** and an actual inmate population of **40,808**. This translates to an **occupancy rate of approximately 155.3%**,⁵⁸ indicating one of the highest congestion levels among major States. Using community service for infractions **prevents minor offenders from entering the prison system, thereby reducing the burden on state correctional facilities**.
- c. Further, it is estimated that the cost of **maintaining a prisoner in India ranges from ₹2,000 to ₹3,000 per month**,⁵⁹ whereas community service can be administered at **only a fraction of this expense**. This makes the decision not just administratively effective but also economically prudent.
- d. As of December 2023, nearly **87% of India's prison population is between 18 and 50 years of age**,⁶⁰ the core working-age group. The confinement of such a large proportion of individuals during their most productive years represents a **significant loss of potential human capital for the nation's economy**.

⁵⁴ [Times of India, November 2025](#)

⁵⁵ [The Hindu, July 2024](#)

⁵⁶ [Comparing The Effects Of Community Service And Short-Term Imprisonment On Recidivism: A Matched Samples Approach, Journal of Experimental Criminology, June 2010](#)

⁵⁷ [Prison Statistics India, National Crime Records Bureau, 2023 Report.](#)

⁵⁸ [Prison Statistics India, National Crime Records Bureau, 2023 Report.](#)

⁵⁹ [Evaluating the Introduction of Community Service as a Form of Punishment in India: Legal Framework, Social Impact, and Comparative Analysis with Global Practices, International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews, October 2024.](#)

⁶⁰ [Prison Statistics India, National Crime Records Bureau, 2023 Report.](#)

Policy Level Announcements

I. Haryana

A. Land Acquisition Policy For Gurugram Metro (GMRL)

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

1. The **Haryana Government**, on **1st December 2025**, approved a new **land-acquisition policy for the Gurugram Metro**, allowing **GMRL** to acquire private land for metro tracks and stations through **direct negotiations** with landowners.
2. **Acquisition Mechanism -**
 - a. Under this policy, the entire **cost of land acquisition will be borne by GMRL**, removing the financial burden from the state Government.
 - b. The acquisition process will be overseen by a **land-acquisition committee chaired by the Gurugram Deputy Commissioner**, ensuring administrative supervision and coordination.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy allows **direct negotiations with landowners** for the purchase of land, and the cost of acquisition will be borne by GMRL.⁶¹
 - b. For **title-holders**, **compensation and rehabilitation benefits** are to follow schedules under the **Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013**⁶² (RFCTLARR Act, 2013) and land price will be **fixed by mutual consent**.
 - c. For **non-titleholders** (tenants, informal occupants), rehabilitation and resettlement will be handled as per the **project relief and resettlement plan** under the new policy.
 - d. The land acquisition committee comprises **11 officials**, chaired by the Gurugram Deputy Commissioner, to **oversee acquisition, negotiation, and compensation**, aiming for **faster clearances and reduced delays**.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. The Gurugram Metro delay has nearly doubled the project costs, from the original **₹5,453 crore (approved in 2023 using 2019 rates) to ₹10,266 crore in the revised DPR, resulting in a financial loss of over ₹ 4,813 crore**.⁶³ To prevent further escalation, the current Land Acquisition Policy aims to replace the slow, litigation-heavy eminent domain processes with faster mutual-consent land purchases to quickly secure key parcels, finalise alignment, and ensure uninterrupted execution of civil works.

⁶¹ [Hindustan Times, November, 2025.](#)

⁶² [Right To Fair Compensation And Transparency In Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation And Resettlement Act, 2013.](#)

⁶³ [The Times Of India, June 2025.](#)

A. Land Acquisition Policy For Gurugram Metro (GMRL)**Source:** [Hindustan Times](#), [The Tribune](#) | **Impact:** Medium

- b. The working population number of working people in Gurugram is rising fast, from **12.63 lakh in 2022-23 to 14.8 lakh in 2023-24**,⁶⁴ which increases the need for better metro connectivity for daily travel.
- c. Earlier attempts at land acquisition in Gurugram for road or infrastructure projects **have forced agencies to “descope” or postpone infrastructure projects when land-acquisition/transfer lags**, thereby undermining timely urban infrastructure development in Gurugram.⁶⁵
- d. Further, the primary economic objective is to drastically reduce the project’s **Interest During Construction (IDC)**⁶⁶ costs. By replacing the time-consuming, litigation-prone **eminent domain process** with **direct negotiation** (the mutual consent model), the state aims to complete acquisition for key sites (e.g., houses/shops in Basai village, depot land in Sector 33) in a matter of months rather than years. This accelerates the deployment of **₹ 5,452 crore** in public capital, improving the overall **Return on Investment (ROI)** of the metro.

⁶⁴ [The Employees’ State Insurance Corporation \(ESIC\), March 2025.](#)

⁶⁵ [Hindustan Times, November 2023.](#)

⁶⁶ Interest During Construction (IDC) is the interest incurred on project debt during the construction phase, typically capitalized into the project cost until the asset becomes operational and starts generating revenue.

II. Karnataka

A. Hate Speech And Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025

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

1. On 4th December, 2025, the **Government of Karnataka** approved the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025.
2. This Bill aims to **prevent hate speech and hate-motivated offences** by providing a robust legal framework for penalising individuals and organisations that promote **hatred, disharmony, or violence** against people or communities on grounds such as **religion, caste, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, place of birth, language, disability or tribe**.
3. **Salient Features -**
 - a. The Bill **defines hate speech broadly** to include any public expression verbal, written or electronic intended to **incite hatred or disharmony** against a person or group based on prejudicial factors.
 - b. Under the proposed law, a first-time offence can result in **imprisonment from 1 to 7 years** plus a fine of **₹ 50,000**.
 - c. For repeat or subsequent offences, the penalty increases to **2 to 10 years' imprisonment** along with a fine of up to **₹ 1,00,000**.
 - d. All offences under the Bill are **cognizable, non-bailable**, and will be tried by a **First Class Judicial Magistrate**.
 - e. Organisations (institutions, groups, bodies) can also be held liable. Further, office bearers may be punished unless **they prove lack of knowledge or due diligence regarding the offence**.
 - f. It provides for **victim compensation**, Courts can award **appropriate compensation** to victims harmed by hate crimes or hate speech.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. Karnataka has emerged as the **first state in India** to introduce a dedicated Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) law. However, the Bill **risks substituting legal certainty with discretionary power**, potentially **undermining both civil liberties and enforcement credibility unless accompanied by detailed rules**.
 - b. The Bill's **strict penalties and cognizable, non-bailable provisions may act as a deterrent for repeat offenders**. However, given the **broad definitions of hate speech**, enforcing the law without misinterpretation or **selective targeting could be extremely challenging in practice**.
 - c. Notably, convictions in speech-related offences (earlier under Section 153A of the Indian Penal Code, 1860) were **approximately 20%**, signifying that a **large majority of those arrested are ultimately acquitted**. Against this backdrop, **reclassifying these offences as non-bailable risks causing disproportionate**

A. Hate Speech And Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025**Source:** [The Hindu](#), [The Medianama](#) | **Impact:** High

harm, i.e., individuals who may later be found innocent could nonetheless spend **extended periods in custody** while their cases are pending. Such a move effectively **imposes punishment before guilt is established**, raising concerns about fairness, liberty, and procedural justice.

III. Goa

A. Land Policy For Mobile Towers And Telecom Infrastructure

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

1. On 20th November, 2025, the Goa Government formally notified a new **Telecom Infrastructure Policy** designed to fast-track the **rollout of 5G services** across the state.
2. **Objective** - The policy aims to **create a streamlined regulatory framework** that accelerates 5G deployment, **promotes efficient use of telecom infrastructure**, **ensures uniformity in approval processes**, and enhances **digital connectivity across both urban and rural regions of Goa**.
3. **Key Provisions** -
 - a. **Standardised Rental Charges:**
 - i. **Urban areas** - Ground-based telecom towers will be charged **₹ 3 lakh for a five-year term**, while rooftop towers will be charged **₹ 60,000 for the same duration**.
 - ii. **Rural areas** - 50% of urban rates for both ground-based and rooftop towers.
 - b. The policy establishes **uniform guidelines for installation**, outlining clear rules for setting up towers, poles, and small cells on Government land, with mandatory adherence to all **prescribed safety, structural, and environmental norms**.
 - c. The policy introduces a **streamlined approval system**, requiring all applications to be submitted through the **Central Right-of-Way (RoW) Portal**⁶⁷ to enable faster, paperless, and transparent clearances.
 - d. It also strengthens **penalties and compliance measures** by imposing stricter action against **unauthorised or illegally installed towers** and **increasing renewal charges** for existing infrastructure by **50%**.
 - e. Lastly, it promotes **infrastructure sharing** by encouraging telecom companies to share towers and passive infrastructure, thereby **reducing duplication, lowering operational costs**, and **improving overall coverage efficiency**.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States-**
 - a. **Gujarat** - Gujarat's Telecom Infrastructure Policy 2022⁶⁸ aims to **fast-track 5G and digital connectivity** by streamlining tower and fibre permissions through a **single window system with time-bound approvals**, promoting online processes and reducing procedural delays.
 - b. **Tamil Nadu** - Released a **Tamil Nadu Telecom Infrastructure Policy, 2022**⁶⁹ that

⁶⁷ The Central Right-of-Way (RoW) Portal, is a unified digital platform by the Department of Telecom (DoT) that streamlines applications for telecom companies to install infrastructure (fiber, towers) by providing a single window for approvals from central/state Governments, fostering 'Ease of Doing Business' and faster 5G rollout.

⁶⁸ [Gujarat Telecom Infrastructure Policy 2022](#).

⁶⁹ [Tamil Nadu Telecom Infrastructure Policy, 2022](#).

A. Land Policy For Mobile Towers And Telecom Infrastructure

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

simplifies approval and **installation procedures for telecom infrastructure.**

5. Relevance -

- a. While 5G services have been rolled out across **99.6% of districts** nationwide, as of February 2025, Goa had 5G coverage in only **two of its districts** with **111 total 5G Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs)** installed.⁷⁰ The new policy with a streamlined regulatory framework is **likely to increase 5G coverage in the state.**
- b. Tourism directly contributes **16.43% to Goa's GDP** and employs about **35% of the population.** Goa also attracts nearly **14 million visitors** annually.⁷¹ **5G connectivity** is essential for **high-quality digital experiences demanded by modern tourists** (seamless payments, virtual reality tourism, real-time navigation) and **for the smooth operation of hospitality and digital services** (e-governance, IT and ITeS, biotechnology).
- c. Goa is actively pushing initiatives like the **One Map Goa GIS portal**⁷² and **free public Wi-Fi hotspots**,⁷³ all of which require robust, high-density network infrastructure that only **5G small cells** and high fiberisation can provide. The policy's provisions for **uniform guidelines for small cell/pole installation** and the encouragement of **infrastructure sharing** are crucial for achieving the density needed for smart city services in its urban centres.
- d. The policy directly addresses the problem of "**RoW friction,**" which accounts for a significant portion of Capital Expenditure (CapEx) and deployment delays for telecom companies. **Standardised rental charges** (e.g., ₹ 3 lakh for urban ground towers) and the **single window clearance via the Central RoW Portal** provide **cost certainty and time predictability**, which are non-negotiable for large scale infrastructure investment, thereby accelerating the 5G rollout.

6. Things To Watch Out For -

- a. Coastal belts, forest areas and CRZ-regulated regions **may face slow approvals, limited grid power and weak fibre backhaul.** **Hybrid deployment models** (macro towers combined with small cells, Wi-Fi offload and satellite backhaul) **will be essential, but coordinating these technologies at scale could be complex.**
- b. While the policy encourages **tower and passive infrastructure sharing**, it **remains largely voluntary and partially incentivised.** Currently, **absence of standardised cost-sharing templates** may lead to inter-operator disputes. In shared sites, **unclear maintenance and accountability norms also risk**

⁷⁰ [PIB, March 2025.](#)

⁷¹ [India Brand Equity Foundation, July 2025.](#)

⁷² [One Map One Goa GIS, Government of Goa.](#)

⁷³ [TOI, December 2024.](#)

A. Land Policy For Mobile Towers And Telecom Infrastructure**Source:** [The Government Of Goa, Goamkarponn](#) | **Impact:** Medium

blame-shifting and service degradation.

- c. Although Government assets such as panchayat buildings, tourism sites and **public infrastructure can be leveraged for tower hosting, effective inter-departmental coordination** and partnerships with tourism stakeholders will be critical.
- d. Beyond formal charges (municipal fees, power and maintenance), **informal payments and local-level rent-seeking can materially affect deployment costs.** These factors disproportionately impact smaller operators and **discourage rapid rollout in rural or semi-urban areas.**

IV. Tamil Nadu

A. Tamil Nadu Toy Manufacturing Policy, 2025

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

1. On 7th December, 2025 the Tamil Nadu Government announced the **Toy Manufacturing Policy, 2025**.
2. This policy aims to position Tamil Nadu as a global hub for **design, development, and production of new age toys** by attracting leading domestic and international manufacturers.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The framework focuses on **onboarding at least 10 anchor investors**.
 - b. The focus would be setting up a **dedicated Toy Manufacturing Park**, and promoting creative design studios to support **Research and Development (R&D) led, high skill employment** in priority segments such as Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (**STEM**) **toys, electronic and interactive toys**, puzzles, board and action games, action figures, and plush dolls.
 - c. The policy provides enhanced incentives for investments above **₹ 50 crore** creating **50+ jobs**. including **fixed capital subsidy, concessional land**, stamp duty exemption, training support, quality certification, IP facilitation, **and electricity tax relief**.
 - d. **MSMEs** will receive up to **₹ 1.5 crore capital subsidy**, support for **women/SC/ST/PwD/transgender entrepreneurs**, incentives for **sustainable technologies**, power tariff support, **Employee Provident Fund reimbursement**, interest subsidy, innovation vouchers, listing support, and **marketing assistance**.
 - e. Focused support is extended to **experiential learning toys** and **inclusive toys for children with special needs**, and **creative design studios** are eligible for a **30% payroll subsidy for 12 months**.
4. **Focus Areas -** A major focus is on **revitalising the artisanal toy ecosystem through the Kalaingar Kaivina Thittam**,⁷⁴ cluster development, Common Facility Centres, GI tag support, skilling programmes, and **market access including e-commerce**.
5. **Central Initiatives -**
 - a. The Government of India **formulated a comprehensive National Action Plan for Toys in 2020**, implemented in coordination with 14 Central Ministries and Departments, to **promote domestic manufacturing and position India as a global toy hub**. The initiative has delivered strong outcomes; **toy imports declined by 52%, exports increased by 239%**, and the overall quality of toys in the domestic

⁷⁴ Kalaingar Kaivina Thittam is a Government of Tamil Nadu artisan development scheme aimed at supporting traditional artisans, including those engaged in toy and doll making, by improving access to credit, skills, and modern infrastructure.

A. Tamil Nadu Toy Manufacturing Policy, 2025

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

market significantly improved in FY 2022–23 compared to FY 2014–15.⁷⁵

- b. The Central Government notified the Toys (Quality Control) Order, 2020, **making Bureau For Indian Standard (BIS) certification mandatory for all toys sold in India (domestic and imported) from 1st January 2021**, to ensure safety and curb sub-standard imports.⁷⁶

6. Relevance -

- a. The global toy market is valued at **\$ 180 billion (₹ 16,162,857,000)**, but India's share remains **less than 1%**,⁷⁷ underlining a clear opportunity for Tamil Nadu to capture a larger role.
- b. The State's toy sector is **highly fragmented, with 70% unorganised manufacturing**⁷⁸ concentrated in clay, wooden, and papier-mâché toy categories across districts like Cuddalore, Madurai, Thanjavur, Kanchipuram, and Tirunelveli. This indicates that while **artisanal clusters exist**, they **lack scale, formalisation, and compliance capacity**. The policy's Common Facility centres (CFCs), GI support, and e-commerce integration aim to **convert this dispersed cultural craftsmanship into formal economic value**, lifting artisan incomes while safeguarding heritage.
- c. Tamil Nadu's annual influx of **1 million educated graduates**⁷⁹ provides a labour surplus ideal for **labour intensive toy manufacturing**, but the real advantage is the **workforce's high STEM density**. With over **70% of students in science and technical streams**,⁸⁰ the State is well positioned to **move beyond assembly into high value segments like STEM toys, robotics, and IP-driven design**, directly aligning with the **policy's focus on R&D, design studios, and innovation-led manufacturing**.

⁷⁵ [PIB, June 2024](#).

⁷⁶ [TOI, March 2023](#)

⁷⁷ [ET, December 2025](#).

⁷⁸ [Toy Manufacturing Tamil Nadu, MSME Trade And Investment Promotion Bureau](#).

⁷⁹ [Toy Manufacturing Tamil Nadu, MSME Trade And Investment Promotion Bureau](#).

⁸⁰ [TNIE, January 2024](#).

V. Manipur

A. End-Of-Life Vehicles Policy

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

1. On 3rd December, 2025, The Manipur Government adopted the Central framework for End of Life Vehicles (ELVs) **under Section 65 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988**,⁸¹ aligning state transport rules with national standards.
2. The policy ensures **environmental safety and roadworthiness** by regulating unfit vehicles and **mandating their scrapping through authorised facilities**, reducing road hazards and pollution.
3. **Salient Features -**
 - a. The policy defines ELVs (whose registrations are cancelled under Chapter IV of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988) as those:
 - i. Whose registration is no longer valid;
 - ii. Which have been cancelled by an authority or court;
 - iii. Which has failed fitness tests;
 - iv. Or which has been declared irreparable by the owner due to fire, accidents, calamities, or severe damage.
 - b. It establishes a regulated framework for **collection, dismantling, and scrapping** through **Authorised Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (AVSFs)** in accordance with the Motor Vehicle (Registration and Functions of Vehicle Scrapping Facility) Rules, 2021.⁸²
 - c. The policy permits the **renewal of registrations for vehicles older than 15 or 20 years** if they successfully pass fitness certification and all required taxes and fees are paid.
4. **States With Similar Initiatives -** Delhi's **Transport Department issued guidelines (2024)** to manage **end-of-life vehicles**, where petrol vehicles **over 15 years old** and diesel vehicles **over 10 years old** are treated as ELVs.⁸³
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Permitting renewal of registrations for vehicles older than 15 or 20 years subject to fitness certification and payment of due taxes strikes a **pragmatic balance between environmental concerns and economic realities**. It ensures that only **roadworthy and compliant vehicles** continue to operate, thereby **improving safety and emissions outcomes without imposing a blanket scrappage burden** on owners, particularly small transporters and lower-income households.
 - b. Estimates reveal that close to **65% of motor vehicle pollution in India** is

⁸¹ [Motor Vehicle Act, 1988](#).

⁸² [Motor Vehicle \(Registration And Functions Of Vehicle Scrapping Facility\) Rules, 2021](#).

⁸³ [TOI, December 2025](#).

A. End-Of-Life Vehicles Policy

Source: [The Government Of Manipur](#), [India Today](#) | Impact: High

contributed by aged **commercial vehicles over 15 years old**.⁸⁴ By defining **clear rules for scrapping and renewal**, the policy creates a **financial disincentive** (higher fees for renewal) for maintaining old, polluting vehicles and encourages their replacement with **newer, more fuel-efficient vehicles**. This is a necessary step to meet **national targets for cleaner air**.

- c. The new **ELV system replaces informal scrapyards, which often dumped hazardous materials like battery acid, engine oil, brake fluid**, and coolants onto the ground, contaminating soil and groundwater and **posing risks to ecosystems and human health**.⁸⁵ AVSFs follow strict environmental rules, **ensuring safe handling and disposal of these toxic substances**.
- d. Lastly, the renewal process requires all **outstanding taxes and fees** to be paid **before certification**. This formalisation enhances **fiscal compliance** and generates **revenue for the state**, which was previously lost due to **non-compliant or illegally operated old vehicles**.

⁸⁴ [India's Vehicle Scrapping Policy: A Roadmap To Sustainable Mobility, RGNUL Student Research Review, September 2025.](#)

⁸⁵ [Report On Scrapping Of End Of Life Vehicles, National Green Tribunal, September 2025.](#)

VI. Telangana

A. Telangana Quantum Strategy

Source: [The Government Of Telangana](#), [The Deccan Chronicle](#) | **Impact:** High

1. On 4th December, 2025, the **Telangana Government** unveiled India's first long term quantum strategy at IIIT Hyderabad, aiming to transform Hyderabad into a "**Quantum City**" and position the state as a global hub for quantum technologies.
2. The strategy seeks to advance research and innovation in **quantum computing, communication, sensing, cryptography, cybersecurity, life sciences, and human capital development**.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy establishes a dedicated **Centre of Excellence in Quantum Technologies at IIIT Hyderabad** to support national level research, testing, and skills development.
 - b. It launched a **₹ 1,000 crore Fund of Funds** from **FY 2025-26** to finance deep-tech startups in quantum and other emerging technologies.
 - c. It introduces **quantum-focused curricula** in state universities from 2025-26 and partners with IITs and IISc to skill **over 10,000 youth annually**.
 - d. It adopts a **phased rollout**, with 2025-26 dedicated to Centre Of Excellence (CoE) setup and fund launch, 2026-30 targeting **100 startups and 25 sectoral pilots**, and 2030-35 aiming to build a **\$ 20 billion (₹ 1.66 lakh crore) quantum economy**.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** It directly supports the goals of the **National Quantum Mission (NQM)**.⁸⁶ With a budget of **₹ 6003.65 Cr** the mission aims to **boost research, development, and adoption of quantum technologies**. It focuses on quantum computing, communication, sensing, and materials to **make India a global leader in this field**, building national capacity, **startups, and skilled workforce**.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. The global quantum computing market size, valued at **\$ 1.16 billion (₹ 9,628 crore) in 2024**, is projected to grow exponentially at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of **34.8%** to reach **\$ 12.62 billion by 2032**.⁸⁷ The total quantum technology market is projected to exceed **\$ 44 billion (₹ 3.65 lakh crore) by 2028**.⁸⁸ By fostering initiatives in this sector, Telangana is strategically positioning itself to capitalise on the **rapid growth and opportunities offered by the emerging quantum technology industry**.
 - b. The launch of a **₹ 1,000 crore Fund of Funds** is the critical economic signal. Quantum technology is pre-commercial and highly capital-intensive, making private investment scarce. The state is acting as the necessary "**patient capital**" to

⁸⁶ [PIB, December 2025](#).

⁸⁷ [Forbes Business Insights, November 2025](#).

⁸⁸ [Deloitte, February 2023](#).

A. Telangana Quantum Strategy

Source: [The Government Of Telangana](#), [The Deccan Chronicle](#) | Impact: High

de-risk the sector and attract later-stage private and venture capital, enabling the growth of **100 startups** and the **\$ 20 billion (₹1.66 lakh crore) quantum economy target** by 2035.

- c. Industry analysis indicates that there is a **severe global talent shortage**, with demand for quantum-skilled workers potentially exceeding supply by a ratio of **2:1 (10,000 demanded v. under 5,000 supplied by 2025)**.⁸⁹ The commitment to introduce **quantum-focused curricula** and partner with premier national institutions (IITs and IISc) to **skill over 10,000 youth annually** directly addresses this gap.
- d. Lastly, by positioning **Hyderabad as a “Quantum City”** and centering the effort at the **Centre of Excellence in Quantum Technologies at IIIT Hyderabad**, the strategy aims to create an **agglomeration economic cluster**. This draws in **talent, anchor labs, and manufacturing units**, leading to spillover effects for the state’s existing IT, life sciences, and cybersecurity sectors.

6. Things To Watch Out For -

- a. Telangana currently **lacks a critical mass of quantum startups**, specialised suppliers, testbeds and early markets. **Building a viable ecosystem** will require patience, anchor institutions and **deliberate demand creation** by the state.
- b. While India produces a large number of quantum-related graduates, **only a small fraction possess hands-on quantum engineering and hardware expertise**. Without **focused skilling, fellowships and lab-to-industry pipelines**, talent availability may remain a binding constraint.
- c. Quantum hardware and communications **require ultra-specialised infrastructure** (superconducting and cryogenic labs, photonics facilities, secure optical networks). India currently has limited capacity in these areas, and **Telangana will need sustained public investment to bridge this foundational gap**.

⁸⁹ [Forbes Business Insights, November 2025](#).

B. The Road Sector Policy, 2025

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

1. The **Government of Telangana on 9th December, 2025**, launched a dedicated road sector policy at Telangana Rising Global Summit.
2. The policy aims to create a **long term, dedicated road sector framework for Telangana that strengthens connectivity** from villages to mandal headquarters, to district centres, and finally to the Hyderabad core urban area, thereby supporting the state's broader **economic growth vision**.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy is **Telangana's first standalone "road sector policy"**, intended to guide road infrastructure development in the state over the next **20 years**.
 - b. Introduction of a **Road Asset Management System** to enable systematic inventorying, maintenance planning, performance monitoring, and timely upgradation of road infrastructure.
 - c. The emphasis on **integrated road planning**, ensuring road networks are designed to complement mass transit systems such as metro, suburban rail, and bus corridors by **improving last mile and feeder road connectivity**.
 - d. Adoption of the **Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM)⁹⁰** for select road projects to balance public funding with private execution, improving construction quality and **long term maintenance outcomes**.
 - e. Strategic strengthening of the **road network for economic connectivity**, linking industrial hubs, **rural markets, logistics nodes, and tourism destinations** to support trade, investment, and regional economic growth.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. **Hyderabad's traffic density has increased by 35%,⁹¹** pushing congestion, the policy's focus on **roads, bus corridors and last mile connectivity** aims to **shift travel to high capacity public transport** and **reduce pressure on saturated roads**.
 - b. Despite the expansion of double lane roads from **6,093 km in 2014 to 12,060 km in 2023** and four lane roads from **669 km to 1,154 km,⁹²** growth has remained uneven, and the **Road Sector Policy, 2025**, through a **20 year roadmap and Road Asset Management System**, aims to correct this by prioritising high traffic corridors and upgrading rural industrial, logistics and tourism links in under served districts.

⁹⁰ The Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) in India is a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) for infrastructure, mainly highways, blending EPC (Engineering, Procurement, Construction) & BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer), where the government pays 40% of project cost during construction, and the private developer funds the remaining 60%, getting repaid via annuities (fixed payments + interest + O&M) over years, sharing risk and boosting private investment by reducing toll risk.

⁹¹ [Times Of India, June 2024](#).

⁹² [Telangana Today, March 2023](#).

VII. Rajasthan

A. Rajasthan Trade Promotion Policy, 2025

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

1. On **3rd December 2025**, the Rajasthan Government approved the **Rajasthan Trade Promotion Policy, 2025** which aims to strengthen retail and wholesale sectors, improve credit availability, support Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and simplify compliance norms for traders and businesses.
2. The policy is part of a broader set of reforms expected to improve the state's **trade ecosystem and business environment**.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Aims to provide **equal opportunities** for small traders by enhancing access to markets and modern retail networks.
 - b. Improves **credit access** for traders and MSMEs to support business expansion and working capital needs.
 - c. Promotes **MSME growth within the trade ecosystem**.
 - d. Encourages **investment expansion in retail and wholesale sectors** and improves credit access for small traders, including digital and e-commerce integration.
 - e. Proposes **relaxation of provisions** under the **Rajasthan Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958**⁹³ to simplify business operations.
 - f. Promotes growth in **supply chains, logistics linkages**, and **trader participation in organised markets**.
 - g. Enhances employment opportunities by **leveraging a growing consumer market**.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. It is pertinent to note that the policy's proposal to relax provisions under the **Rajasthan Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958**, is a **critical EoDB reform**. The erstwhile Act of 1958 is known to **impose rigid hours, burdensome paperwork, and the threat of inspections**, which disproportionately hurt smaller businesses.
 - b. The trade and **services sector as a whole contributes the largest share** to the state's economy, accounting for over 45.92 % of the Gross State Value Added (GSVA).⁹⁴ **The trade sector in Rajasthan includes over 10.5 lakh retail outlets**,⁹⁵ making it a significant contributor to the state's economy and employment. The policy aims to **enhance employment opportunities** by leveraging this massive, growing consumer base, **ensuring that small traders receive equal opportunities** to participate in modern retail networks and the digital economy.

⁹³ [Rajasthan Shops And Commercial Establishments Act, 1958](#).

⁹⁴ [Rajasthan Economic Review 2024-25](#).

⁹⁵ [ETGovernment, December, 2025](#).

A. Rajasthan Trade Promotion Policy, 2025

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

- c. Furthermore, greater MSME participation in trade channels **can enhance value chains** and **support local manufacturing, craftsmanship, and traditional trade clusters**. The policy, thus, assists Rajasthan in **competing with neighbouring states** by making its trade environment more predictable and facilitative.

B. Rajasthan Tourism Policy, 2025

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

1. The **Rajasthan Government**, on 10th December 2025, launched the **Rajasthan Tourism Policy, 2025** to strengthen **tourism infrastructure, streamline project approvals**, and position the state as a **premier global tourism destination**.
2. The policy seeks to **boost investment, enhance tourist experience through digital initiatives**, and **improve connectivity and safety** across key tourism circuits.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Introduces a **single-window clearance system** for all tourism-related approvals to reduce delays and attract faster private investment.
 - b. Promotes **private-sector participation** through **PPP projects and Viability Gap Funding (VGF) support** for improving air connectivity.
 - c. Establishes **Special Tourism Zones (STZs)** and develops new themes such as religious routes, bravery circuits, forest tourism hubs, bird-watching circuits and light-sound shows.
 - d. Expansion of **home-stays, paying-guest units, and eco-friendly mobility options** like e-vehicle tours.
 - e. Enhances digital tourism through **mobile apps, digital museums, virtual and immersive experiences, projection mapping, and new tourism portals**.
 - f. Improves cultural tourism by developing **heritage craft museums** and platforms for local art and crafts.
 - g. Strengthens **tourist safety** with a **24×7 call centre, Tourist Assistance Force, panic button systems, CCTV coverage, and structured feedback mechanisms**.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. Tourism contributes **around 12% to Rajasthan's GDP⁹⁶**, and **job creation underscores the need for accelerated capital injection**. The introduction of the single-window system directly removes bureaucratic friction and delays, **which were previously a major deterrent, thus ensuring faster private investment flows for Rajasthan**.
 - b. Rajasthan recorded an immense volume of **18 crore domestic tourists and 17 lakh foreign tourists in 2023⁹⁷**, reflecting the need for a modern policy to handle high tourist volume. **This volume often leads to saturation in traditional hubs like Jaipur and Udaipur**. The policy addresses this by establishing Special Tourism Zones (STZs) and **developing new themes (like bravery and religious circuits), which decentralises tourism activity**, reduces pressure on core cities, and

⁹⁶ [TOI, September, 2025.](#)

⁹⁷ [Business Standard, January, 2024.](#)

B. Rajasthan Tourism Policy, 2025

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

promotes balanced regional development in underserved areas.

- c. The policy's focus on **Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** for air connectivity upgrades directly supports the growth in both domestic and foreign arrivals. For example, the **free allotment of land for the Kishangarh airport approach-lighting system** aims to ensure safe movement during fog/night, directly facilitating more flights and tourist access.⁹⁸
- d. Lastly, Rajasthan's unique heritage is the core tourist draw. Developing **heritage craft museums and promoting local art links the tourism growth directly to the lakhs of jobs** created in the traditional crafts and local services sector, ensuring that tourism benefits are inclusive and sustainable.

⁹⁸ [The Week, December 2025.](#)

C. Non-Resident Rajasthani (NRR) Policy, 2025

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

1. The Rajasthan Government, on **4th December 2025**, approved the **Non-Resident Rajasthani (NRR) Policy, 2025** to strengthen engagement with the Rajasthani diaspora and encourage long-term social and economic linkages with the state.
2. The policy aims to **attract investments, promote cultural exchange**, and create an **institutional mechanism for supporting NRR communities globally**.
3. **Scope** - The policy applies to **Rajasthani diaspora communities within India and overseas**, covering investment facilitation, cultural outreach, diaspora support services, and long-term engagement mechanisms.
4. **Key Features** -
 - a. The Non-Resident Rajasthani (NRR) Policy, 2025 establishes a structured **institutional and engagement framework to maximize** the contribution of the Rajasthani diaspora globally.
 - b. Establishment of the **NRR Investment Facilitation Cell** and appointment of **NRR Investment Liaison Officers** for coordinated handling of investment proposals.
 - c. Rajasthan Foundation Chapters will appoint **Investment Coordinators** to identify investment leads and share policy information.
 - d. Formation of **NRR Investment Advisory Councils** comprising diaspora experts to design sector-specific investment roadmaps.
 - e. Celebration of **Pravasai Rajasthani Day and NRR Honour Awards** to recognise diaspora contributions.
 - f. Creation of a **diaspora database** covering skills, businesses, locations, and investment capacity.
 - g. New initiatives such as **Global Youth Connect, Celebrate Rajasthan, and Diaspora for Development**.
 - h. A structured **grievance-redressal system for overseas Rajasthanis**.
5. **Relevance** -
 - a. The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) experience demonstrates the economic value of structured diaspora engagement, reflected in India's annual remittance inflows **exceeding \$ 125 billion** and in **PBD-linked state investors' summits** that generate significant MoUs and accelerate project implementation.⁹⁹ Drawing on these outcomes, Rajasthan seeks to leverage its diaspora's capital and expertise through NRR Investment Advisory Councils.
 - b. Further, the most recent Pravasi Rajasthani Diwas successfully drew participation from over **8,700 NRRs¹⁰⁰** owing to which the state announcement of **₹ 1 lakh**

⁹⁹ [PIB, December 2023](#).

¹⁰⁰ [The Pioneer, December 2025](#).

C. Non-Resident Rajasthani (NRR) Policy, 2025

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

crore worth of new projects through 421 MoUs. This data highlights the necessity for formal, year-round engagement, which the NRR Investment Advisory Councils and Global Youth Connect programs are designed to provide.

- c. The state already benefits from **26 operational Rajasthan Foundation Chapters**¹⁰¹ spread across major global and domestic cities. The policy **mandates that these chapters appoint Investment Coordinators**, leveraging this existing global network to systematically identify and vet investment leads, thereby transforming the chapters from purely cultural hubs into economic intelligence units.
- d. The new diaspora database will not just count heads but map skills, business interests, and investment capacity. This data allows the **NRR Investment Advisory Councils to design sector-specific investment roadmaps (e.g., in tourism, renewable energy, mining)** that align precisely with the expertise and capital of the diaspora, maximising the socio-economic impact of schemes like Diaspora for Development.¹⁰²

¹⁰¹ [Times Of India, December 2025](#).

¹⁰² [NRR Policy Document, December 2025](#).

VIII. Uttar Pradesh

A. One District, One Cuisine (ODOC) Initiative

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

1. The Uttar Pradesh Government on 5th December, 2025 launched a “One District, One Cuisine” (ODOC) initiative aimed at identifying, branding, and promoting the **distinctive traditional culinary heritage** of each of the state’s 75 districts to boost food tourism, local culture, and economic opportunities.
2. The programme builds on the success of the **One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme**¹⁰³ launched in 2018 to revive indigenous industries and turn every district into a specialized export hub. The new initiative intends to replicate this model by integrating district specific cuisines into broader marketing, tourism, and economic ecosystems.
3. **Scope** – The initiative covers **all 75 districts** of Uttar Pradesh, focusing on **documenting signature local dishes, improving quality and hygiene standards, facilitating brand building, and creating market linkages for culinary products** at state, national and international levels.
4. **Key Features** –
 - a. Mapping and branding of **one signature cuisine per district** to showcase unique local food culture.
 - b. Promotion of dishes through improved **quality control, hygiene, packaging, and marketing** for broader reach.
 - c. Support for **small food enterprises, restaurants, cafés and food startups** linked to district cuisines.
 - d. Encouragement of **food tourism and culinary experiences** as part of district identity campaigns.
 - e. Integration of the **initiative with festivals, tourism events, and promotional platforms** to attract domestic and international visitors.
5. **Relevance** –
 - a. Despite Uttar Pradesh possessing a **diverse and rich culinary heritage, much of its tourism potential remains untapped**. The ODOC initiative strategically provides each district with a platform to promote its **signature cuisine, converting local food culture into a compelling new draw** for culinary tourism.
 - b. The policy essentially creates a new, high-value segment within the state’s massive tourism economy: culinary tourism. **Food and beverage spending constitutes a significant portion (approximately 25%)**¹⁰⁴ of a tourist’s expenditure. By branding 75 unique cuisines and integrating them into tourism

¹⁰³ [ODOP Scheme](#).

¹⁰⁴ [The Economic Impact Of Food Tourism, World Food Travel Association \(WFTA\)](#).

A. One District, One Cuisine (ODOC) Initiative

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

circuits, the state ensures that a higher share of tourist revenue flows directly to local food businesses, vendors, and farmers. Culinary tourism is a **high-yield spend category, and this policy is a strategic attempt to capture that revenue.**

- c. Further, Leveraging Lucknow's recent designation as a **UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy immediately grants the policy an anchor point.**¹⁰⁵ This global recognition acts as a high benchmark, validating the state's culinary heritage and emphasizing a commitment to quality and authenticity across the ODOC initiative.
- d. The strong results of the ODOP programme including **1.25 lakh toolkits** distributed, **over ₹ 6,000 crore** in sanctioned loans, **8,000+ entrepreneurs** supported, **30 CFCs** approved, and **44 products geo-tagged** shows that district based branding works well in Uttar Pradesh.¹⁰⁶ ODOC essentially applies the same **model to food culture**, giving each district a chance to **create a unique identity, enhance tourism appeal, and generate jobs.**

¹⁰⁵[UNESCO, October 2025](#)

¹⁰⁶[ETGovernment, December, 2025.](#)

IX. Gujarat

A. Draft Of Science, Technology, And Innovation Policy (2025–30)

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

1. On 9th December, 2025 the Government of Gujarat unveiled the draft of **Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Policy 2025–30** to accelerate self-reliance ('Atmanirbharata') in critical technologies and reduce dependence on imports.
2. The policy focuses on achieving **self-reliance ('Atmanirbharata') in critical sectors** by reducing dependence on **imported technologies**.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy aims to **establish a ₹ 500 crore innovation fund** to financially support **researchers, start-ups, and academic institutions**.
 - b. A separate **corpus of ₹ 1,500 crore** will be established to drive **long-term technological development** aligned with the **Viksit Gujarat@2047 vision**.¹⁰⁷
 - c. The policy prioritises the development of **frontier technologies** like **AI, machine learning, 5G-6G, and semiconductors** while upgrading traditional sectors such as **chemicals and textiles**.
 - d. Ambitious goal to raise total Science, Technology, and Innovation expenditure in **key sectors to at least 1% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) by 2030**, significantly higher than the national average of approximately 0.6%
 - e. Mandate for all state government departments to **earmark 1% of their annual budgets specifically for Research and Development (R&D)** by the end of the policy cycle, ensuring a widespread, sustained focus on innovation across the administration.
 - f. Set an ambitious target of **1,000 Intellectual Property (IP) filings annually over the policy period**. This includes patents, designs, trademarks, and technology transfers to promote commercialization of indigenous research.
 - g. Dedicated **Science and Technology clusters will be established**, starting with the **Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar region as a flagship model** to integrate academia and industry.
 - h. A **single window digital portal** is planned to provide innovators with seamless access to **R&D infrastructure and testing facilities**.
 - i. The Government aims to build a talent pool of **1 lakh highly skilled scientific personnel by 2030** to support these emerging sectors.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. Gujarat's manufacturing sectors, including **chemicals and textiles**, are embedded in an industrial ecosystem where **India imports over 80% of critical technology**

¹⁰⁷ [Viksit Gujarat@2047 Vision](#).

A. Draft Of Science, Technology, And Innovation Policy (2025–30)**Source:** [The Times Of India](#) | **Impact:** High

inputs,¹⁰⁸ creating cost and supply chain vulnerabilities. By prioritising **self-reliance**, the policy can **reduce import dependence, stimulate local R&D**, lower production costs, and strengthen resilience for traditional industries.

- b. Currently, India faces **severe semiconductor talent gap, reflecting a national shortfall of 2.5–3 lakh skilled professionals**¹⁰⁹ in chip design, fabrication, and AI, compounded by a **10% deficit in technical roles** and declining inter-state migration.¹¹⁰ In response, Gujarat has set a major policy objective to train 1 lakh skilled scientists by 2030, aiming to build a robust local talent ecosystem, retain expertise, and support the Viksit Gujarat@2047 vision.

¹⁰⁸ [India Heavily Reliant on Imports for Component Manufacturing and Design Capabilities in Electronics: Niti Aayog Report, 2024.](#)

¹⁰⁹ [Livemint, June 2024.](#)

¹¹⁰ [Contract Staffing India.](#)

X. Odisha

A. Pharma And MedTech Policy, 2025

Source: [The Voice Of Healthcare](#), [The Enterprise Of Healthcare](#) | Impact: High

1. The **Odisha Cabinet** on 6th December, 2025 approved the **Odisha Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Policy, 2025** to position Odisha as a strategic manufacturing hub for healthcare and life sciences in Eastern India.
2. It targets bridging the gap in **domestic production of bulk drugs and high-tech medical devices**.
3. **Key Features** -
 - a. Offers a **30% capital investment subsidy** on plant and machinery with no upper cap for large projects.
 - b. Development of dedicated zones like the **Odisha Pharma Park** and **Odisha MedTech Park** with plug-and-play facilities.
 - c. Provides a wage subsidy of **₹ 12,500 per month for male workers** and **₹ 15,000 per month for female workers** for five years.
 - d. Includes **100% exemption on stamp duty** and land conversion charges, plus a power tariff reimbursement of **₹ 2 per unit**.
 - e. The **Odisha Pharmaceutical Development Cell (OPDC)** will serve as the single-window nodal agency for implementation.
4. **Relevance** -
 - a. India's pharmaceutical industry, though the **world's third largest by volume, remains heavily import-dependent** for Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) and bulk drugs. In FY 2023-24, **bulk drug imports stood at ₹ 37,721.88 crore,¹¹¹ with China accounting for 71.72%.¹¹²** Odisha's policy addresses this vulnerability by **offering a 30% capital investment subsidy on plant and machinery**, with no upper cap for large projects.
 - b. The **100% exemption on stamp duty/land charges** and the **₹ 2 per unit power tariff reimbursement** significantly reduce the initial fixed **operational and transaction costs** for new units. These non-fiscal incentives are essential for boosting the **Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortisation (EBITDA)** margins of companies, improving the long-term viability of the investment.
 - c. The pharmaceutical industry exhibits **strong employment spillover** effects, with global evidence indicating an **employment multiplier of about 8.54**. This implies that **every direct job in pharmaceutical manufacturing generates roughly 8.5 additional jobs across** logistics, packaging, chemicals, utilities, R&D, and allied

¹¹¹ [Pharmbiz, May 2024](#).

¹¹² [Unstarred Question, Rajya Sabha, December 2025](#).

A. Pharma And MedTech Policy, 2025

Source: [The Voice Of Healthcare](#), [The Enterprise Of Healthcare](#) | **Impact:** High

services.¹¹³ Accordingly, the creation of 1,000 direct jobs under the policy could yield over 8,500 indirect and induced jobs, substantially boosting industrialisation and employment in Eastern India.

¹¹³ [The Economic Impact Of The Global Pharmaceutical Industry, Wif0r Institute, November 2024.](#)

Social Sector Schemes

I. Himachal Pradesh

A. The 'Chitta' Information Reward Scheme

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

1. On 1st December 2025, Himachal Pradesh announced a **Chitta (synthetic-heroin drug) Information Reward Scheme** as part of the state's **intensified campaign to eradicate "Chitta"** and other narcotics from the state.
2. **Objective** - This reward scheme aims to **mobilise public support and citizen participation** in unmasking drug traffickers by **incentivising credible information on "chitta" trade**, thereby strengthening enforcement, dismantling drug networks, and ultimately eliminating narcotics from the state.
3. **Target Cohorts-**
 - a. **Citizens who provide actionable intelligence** on drug trafficking stand to receive monetary rewards up to **₹ 10 lakh**.
 - b. **Youth and students**, who were drawn into the **awareness walkathon**, were targeted for greater engagement and sensitisation against drug use.
4. **Key Provisions -**
 - a. A **cash reward scheme** for informants, offering between **₹ 10,000 and ₹ 10 lakh**, depending on the quantity of narcotics involved, as specified below:
 - i. **₹ 10,000 for up to 2 grams;**
 - ii. **₹ 25,000 for up to 5 grams;**
 - iii. **₹ 50,000 for up to 25 grams;**
 - iv. **₹ 5 lakh for up to 1 kg;**
 - v. **₹ 10 lakh for more than 1 kg.**
 - b. Citizens can submit information via the **emergency number 112** or contact the **nearest police station**, and **informants' identities** will be kept anonymous.
 - c. Government agencies, including the **Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF)**, the **Special Task Force (STF)**, police, and departments of health, education, and social justice, have been directed to coordinate efforts under this scheme.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -**
 - a. **Gujarat Informant Reward System:** Initiated in 2021, Gujarat's Informant reward system offers **informants up to 20% of the value of seized drugs, and over three years the state** has paid more than ₹ 11 crore to 970 informants, underscoring its impact on drug-law enforcement.¹¹⁴
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. Himachal's rugged, remote terrain makes drug trafficking hard to detect, as

¹¹⁴ [Hindustan Times, January 2025.](#)

A. The 'Chitta' Information Reward Scheme**Source:** [The Illustrated Daily News](#) | **Impact:** Medium

synthetic drugs like chitta often enter through **Punjab-bordering districts such as Una, Kangra, and Chamba using lateral, less-monitored routes.**¹¹⁵ These geographic constraints slow down conventional policing and ANTF surveillance. The new reward scheme strengthens enforcement by **tapping local knowledge, turning residents into reliable intelligence sources** who can identify suspicious movement in areas that formal agencies struggle to monitor

- b. The reward mechanism **improves intelligence flow to the police and ANTF**, enabling faster crackdowns and reducing the supply of synthetic **drugs circulating among young people.**

¹¹⁵ [Tribune India, August 2018.](#)

II. Odisha

A. Enhanced Support Under MGNREGA Extended To 2028–29

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

1. The Odisha Government on 2nd December, 2025 approved the **extension of enhanced state support** under the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** till the **financial year 2028–29**.
2. **Objective** - The decision aims to provide **sustained wage employment to rural households** across the state by ensuring up to **300 days of employment annually**, with **additional state-level wage assistance** over and above the **central MGNREGA wages**.
3. **Beneficiaries** - The extended support will benefit **5.57 lakh rural families across 30 blocks in nine districts**, strengthening **livelihood security** and **reducing distress migration**.
4. **Key Features** -
 - a. Eligible rural households will receive up to **300 days of wage employment per year**, significantly higher than the standard 100-day guarantee under MGNREGA.
 - b. For the **first 100 days**, workers will receive a **state wage top-up of ₹ 98 per day** in addition to the central MGNREGA wage.
 - c. For the remaining **200 days**, beneficiaries will continue to **receive regular MGNREGA wages** with continued state support.
 - d. The scheme covers **30 blocks across nine districts**, targeting areas with high vulnerability to distress migration.
5. **Relevance** -
 - a. Notably, over **three to five lakh labourers migrate to different states** from Odisha every year in search of work.¹¹⁶ Further, **18–31% of households in migration-prone blocks** of districts of western and southern Odisha, which experience migration for **longer than six months**.¹¹⁷
 - b. Under the current policy apparatus, eligible rural households will receive up to 300 days of wage employment per year, significantly higher than the standard 100-day guarantee under MGNREGA. **The extended support will benefit 5.57 lakh rural families across 30 blocks in nine districts**, targeting areas with high vulnerability to distress migration.¹¹⁸
 - c. The Central MGNREGA wage rate for unskilled workers in Odisha for FY 2025–26 is ₹ 273 per day. **For the first 100 days**, workers will receive a state wage top-up of **₹ 98 per day** in addition to the Central MGNREGA wage. Thus, **the total daily**

¹¹⁶ [Times Of India, October 2025](#).

¹¹⁷ [Idronline, November 2022](#).

¹¹⁸ [The News Indian Express, December 2025](#).

A. Enhanced Support Under MGNREGA Extended To 2028-29**Source:** [Pragativadi](#), [The New Indian Express](#) | **Impact:** High

wage for the first 100 days will be ₹ 371/day. For the remaining 200 days, beneficiaries will continue to receive **regular MGNREGA wages.**

- d. The combined provision of up to **300 days of work and a ₹ 98 daily state top-up effectively raises the reservation wage in Odisha**, making high-risk, low-security migration to distant brick kilns or construction sites far less attractive and directly **helping curb distress migration from western and southern districts.**

B. Textile And Sericulture Development Schemes

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

1. The **Odisha Cabinet** on **6th December, 2025** approved two flagship schemes, the **Mukhyamantri Bayan Shilpa Bikas Yojana (MBSBY)** and **Mukhyamantri Resham Bikas Yojana (MRBY)** to boost the state's textile, handloom, and sericulture sectors
2. These align with the broader vision of positioning Odisha as a **major textile hub in Eastern India**.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Government has allocated **₹ 490 crore** over five years under **MBSBY** to **incentivise new textile manufacturing units and expand employment opportunities**.
 - b. A separate provision of **₹ 274 crore** has been allocated under **MRBY** specifically for **strengthening the sericulture industry infrastructure over the next five years**.
 - c. The schemes promote the **production of non-violent "Ahimsa" silk** while **providing support for silkworm seed preparation and species conservation**.
 - d. Cooperative societies will be empowered to **facilitate better marketing of silk products** to prevent distress sales by farmers and ensure fair pricing.
 - e. These initiatives are aligned with the **Odisha Apparel And Technical Textile Policy, 2022¹¹⁹** and **Industrial Policy Resolution, 2015¹²⁰** to ensure integrated industrial growth.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. The allocation of **₹ 490 crore** (under MBSBY) and **₹ 274 crore** (under MRBY) represents a massive, targeted capital expenditure injection into the **rural, decentralised economy**. This funding is designed to transition the textile and sericulture sectors **from low productivity cottage industries to modern manufacturing** by providing **necessary infrastructure, machinery, and market linkages**.
 - b. Promoting **non-violent 'Ahimsa' silk** is a **strategic economic opportunity for Odisha**, as it taps into India's **rapidly growing sustainable and ethical fashion market**. This is significant as the **vegan clothing segment is expanding at over 23.5% CAGR¹²¹** with **ethical apparel gaining significant market share by 2031**.
 - c. Handloom provides livelihoods to around **1.17 lakh workers across 63,223 households in Odisha (2019 Census)¹²²**, yet **low incomes and economic distress** have driven substantial migration, including **up to 12,000 Odisha weavers to**

¹¹⁹ [Odisha Apparel And Technical Textile Policy, 2022](#).

¹²⁰ [Odisha Industrial Policy, 2015](#).

¹²¹ [Sustainable Fashion Market Analysis 2025](#).

¹²² [Livelihood Opportunities of Sambalpuri Handloom Weavers in Western Odisha: An Analysis, 2025](#).

B. Textile And Sericulture Development Schemes

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

Tiruppur¹²³ and tens of thousands annually to Surat's textile hubs from Ganjam district; MBSBY and MRBY are projected to generate large scale local employment by improving infrastructure and market access, thereby reducing distress driven migration.

- d. **Odisha's handloom and sericulture sectors face significant market access challenges, with many weavers cut off from direct markets due to limited cooperative reach and weak digital adoption. Only about 5% of handloom collectives use e-commerce as a sales channel, restricting their reach and leaving small producers vulnerable to intermediaries and distress sales. The new schemes explicitly aim to strengthen primary cooperatives with working capital, marketing support, and collective branding to bridge these gaps.¹²⁴**

¹²³ [India Express, December 2022](#)

¹²⁴ [Rethinking the Digital Shift for Weavers and Handloom Collectives: Opportunities and Challenges in India's Handloom Sector, March 2024.](#)

III. Chhattisgarh

A. Mukhyamantri Urja Rahat Abhiyan

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

1. On 1st December 2025, the Chhattisgarh Government rolled out **Mukhyamantri Urja Rahat Abhiyan (M-URJA Scheme)**, providing major tariff relief to **domestic electricity consumers** across the state.
2. Under the revised structure, households consuming up to **200 units of electricity per month will pay only 50% of the billed amount.**
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Consumers using **up to 200 units per month** will receive a **50% subsidy.**
 - b. Approximately **6 lakh consumers using between 200 and 400 units** will also receive the half-bill benefit for **up to 200 units for the next one year** as a **transition measure.**
 - c. As per a previous decision of the Government dated **1st August 2025, the Government had sharply curtailed** the subsidised limit from the previous 400 units (under the old scheme) down to 100 units.¹²⁵ This latest modification to 200 units represents a significant policy reversal aimed at restoring relief and providing stability to middle- and lower-income households.
 - d. Power distribution companies have started **updating billing systems**, and consumers will see revised bills from the **next billing cycle.**
 - e. **Dedicated help desks** have been set up to **handle billing and subsidy-related queries** during the transition.
4. **Target Beneficiaries -**
Domestic electricity consumers across Chhattisgarh, particularly **low and middle-income households**, cover more than **42 lakh families.**¹²⁶
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. It is pertinent to note that the previous scheme 'Half Electricity Bill Scheme' gave domestic electricity consumers a 50% rebate on their energy consumption which previously covered up to 400 units per month. Further, performance metrics from the prior scheme¹²⁷ revealed that **more than 40 lakh domestic consumers** benefited, saving approximately **₹ 2,145 crore** over a few years.
 - b. The one-year transition benefit **serves as a strategic nudge for the 6 lakh middle-income consumers in the 200–400 unit slab** to adopt rooftop solar. With substantial subsidies under the **PM Suryaghar Muft Bijli Yojana** and the potential for zero bills through net metering, the policy **shifts consumers from short-term subsidy dependence to long-term clean energy generation** and self-reliance.

¹²⁵ [Peoples Update, August 2025.](#)

¹²⁶ [Economic Times, November 2025.](#)

¹²⁷ [The Journalist, February 2022.](#)

B. Mukhyamantri Nagarotthan Yojana

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

1. The **Chhattisgarh Government** on 2nd December, 2025 approved **26 infrastructure projects worth ₹ 429.45 crore** across **13 municipal corporations** under the **Mukhyamantri Nagarotthan Yojana**.
2. Announced in the 2025–26 Budget, the scheme aims to develop **iconic urban infrastructure and cover all 13 municipal corporations in its first phase**, followed by municipal councils and nagar panchayats.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme allocates funds for **high-impact civic projects** including marine drive expansions, hi-tech bus terminals, auditoriums, lake beautification, and water supply strengthening.
 - b. Implementation will occur in phases, starting with **municipal corporations in Phase-I** and subsequently extending to **smaller urban bodies** like municipal councils and nagar panchayats.
 - c. **District level committees headed by Collectors** have been formed to oversee project execution, ensuring adherence to quality standards and timelines.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Many urban households in Chhattisgarh relied on partial piped water and **septic tanks** rather than **full sewer connections**; piped network and sewerage coverage lagged behind urban needs (national **MOHUA diagnostics show** basic services often don't keep pace with urbanisation).¹²⁸ The targeted investments (₹429.45 crore for 26 projects) enable **strengthening of water networks and sewerage upgrades** in municipal corporations, reducing dependence on groundwater septic systems and **improving service reliability**.¹²⁹
 - b. The funding directly supports the development of hi-tech bus terminals (e.g., in Dhamtari and Raigarh) and auditoriums. These projects are essential for improving **inter-city connectivity for the state's growing urban population and creating quality public spaces**, thereby establishing a modern, vibrant urban identity.
 - c. Raipur's STP system has a total capacity of **206 MLD** with several units **operating at or near full utilisation** and processing ~179 MLD on average indicating limited headroom for rising wastewater loads.¹³⁰ **The scheme components** free up capacity and justify **additional STP augmentation investments to avoid environmental stress**.¹³¹

¹²⁸ [Ministry Of Housing And Urban Affairs](#).

¹²⁹ [The Economic Times, December 2025](#).

¹³⁰ [Times Of India, December 2025](#).

¹³¹ [Times Of India, November 2025](#).

IV. Bihar

A. Subsidy Scheme For Plastic Crates, Leno Bags And Fruit Trap Bags

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

1. On 1st December, 2025, the Bihar Government approved the “**Special Intervention Scheme**” under the fourth Agricultural Roadmap 2024-25.
2. **Outlay** - The scheme has a financial outlay of ₹ 22.25 crore.
3. The scheme aims to **reduce post-harvest losses and improve storage** and transport for Bihar’s fruit and vegetable farmers by providing subsidised packaging materials to help **raise their incomes**.
4. **Target Beneficiaries** -
 - a. **Fruit and vegetable farmers** across all **38 districts** of Bihar who are registered on the **State’s DBT portal**, and have not already benefited from this scheme in the **past three years**, are eligible for plastic crates and leno bags.
 - b. **Banana growers** get additional benefit of subsidised fruit trap bags to protect produce from pests.
5. **Key Provisions** -
 - a. Under the scheme, a total budget of ₹ 22.25 crore has been approved for 2024-25 to subsidise plastic crates, leno bags, and fruit trap bags for eligible farmers.
 - b. The scheme offers an **80% subsidy on plastic crates and leno bags** and a **50% subsidy on fruit trap bags for banana growers**, with fixed unit costs of ₹ 400 per plastic crate, ₹ 20 per leno bag, and ₹ 30 per fruit trap bag.
 - c. Each farmer can receive **10-50 plastic crates, 100-1,000 leno bags, and 300-10,000 fruit trap bags** under the scheme.
6. **Target Beneficiaries - Permanent Bihar residents** registered on the state agriculture department’s DBT portal who have not availed scheme benefits in the last three years.
7. **Relevance** -
 - a. Notably, the most critical economic benefit is the direct increase in the **saleable yield and quality realisation** for farmers. By preventing **10% of post-harvest losses**, the scheme effectively increases the farmer’s **gross revenue** without requiring an increase in crop area or output. This is a highly efficient way to boost **farmgate income** and is **more direct than traditional price subsidies**.
 - b. Also, the ‘Special Intervention Scheme’ addresses Bihar’s **severe post-harvest crisis which causes over ₹10,700 crore in annual wastage** due to poor handling, and lack of proper packing. The scheme directly intervenes by an **80% subsidy on high-quality e-packaging (plastic crates/leno bags)**. This aims to reduce high recorded losses (e.g., 22%-30% for fruits, up to 39% for tomatoes), boosting the

A. Subsidy Scheme For Plastic Crates, Leno Bags And Fruit Trap Bags**Source:** [The Indian Masterminds](#) | **Impact:** Medium

saleable yield and income for eligible farmers.¹³²

- c. Furthermore, the Special Intervention Scheme aligns perfectly with Bihar's Fourth Agricultural Roadmap of 2023-28¹³³, which explicitly emphasizes developing post-harvest infrastructure and strengthening Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). This scheme **provides a low-cost, high-impact intervention by subsidizing modern** handling and packaging where Bihar is weak, effectively creating a strong pipeline for value chain convergence.

¹³² [An Economic Analysis Of Demand, Supply Prospects And Post-Harvest Losses Of Major Fruits And Vegetables In Bihar.](#)

¹³³ [Fourth Agricultural Roadmap, 2023-28](#)

V. Uttar Pradesh

A. Establishment Of Divyang Rehabilitation Centres

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

1. On 2nd December, 2025, Uttar Pradesh approved the **establishment and operation of District Divyang Rehabilitation Centres (DDRCs) in all 18 divisional headquarters** of the state to strengthen services for persons with disabilities.
2. The initiative aims to shift the State towards **self-reliance in disability rehabilitation infrastructure**, reducing dependence on irregular central funding.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. DDRCs will be set up and run using **state Government funds**.
 - b. The centres will provide services such as **identification of persons with disabilities, disability camps, assistive device repair, prosthetic fitment, gait training, and early intervention**.
 - c. They will also help beneficiaries access **Government welfare schemes, disability certificates, and Unique Disability Identity Document (UDID) cards**.
 - d. Clinical services like **counselling, physiotherapy, and speech therapy** will be available at these centres.
4. **Issues with Current Model -** At present, only **11 out of 37 existing DDRCs** are located in divisional headquarters, while many face operational issues due to **irregular Central grants and low staff honorarium**.
5. **Public Investment Planned -** The centres will be **fully financed by the Uttar Pradesh Government**, replacing partial and inconsistent central funding support.
6. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The initiative aligns with the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016**¹³⁴ by operationalising its **mandate for accessible rehabilitation and assistive services**.
7. **Relevance -**
 - a. Uttar Pradesh accounts for **15.5% of India's 2.68 million persons with disabilities which is highest among all Indian states**.¹³⁵ The decision enhances institutional rehabilitation support by strengthening services at the divisional level.
 - b. Further, the DDRCs under the **Central umbrella District Disability Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)** have historically faced fund-unpredictability and delays in grant release, which adversely impacted staff retention and the continuity of essential services.¹³⁶ This new state-funded model directly fixes those issues by ensuring consistent financial allocation.

¹³⁴ [Rights Of Persons With Disabilities \(RPwD\) Act, 2016](#).

¹³⁵ [Mapping Disability Prevalence And Patterns In Uttar Pradesh, India: A Comprehensive District-Wise Analysis, International Journal Of Research Publication And Reviews, August 2025](#).

¹³⁶ [Lok Sabha, Unstarred Question No. 5324/2022](#).

A. Establishment Of Divyang Rehabilitation Centres

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

- c. Also, placing fully functional DDRCs in all **18 divisional headquarters** drastically **reduces the travel burden and indirect costs** for beneficiaries in surrounding districts. This brings specialised services like **prosthetic fitment, gait training, and early intervention** closer to the rural and underserved population.
- d. **It is pertinent to note that Uttar Pradesh has a high pendency, with 1,68,363 UDID applications pending, including 1,14,652 pending for more than six months¹³⁷, many for more than six months.¹³⁸ By localising UDID services at the divisional level**, the policy speeds up identification, certification, and enrollment, **enabling faster access to education, employment, and financial welfare schemes.**
- e. The DDRCs are institutional tools for implementing the **RPwD Act, 2016**. By localising the issuance of **UDID cards and disability certificates** (a mandatory prerequisite for all welfare schemes), the initiative directly attacks the **systemic exclusion errors** that prevent PwDs from **accessing their entitlements** (employment, education, financial aid).

¹³⁷ [Unique Disability ID.](#)

¹³⁸ [The Hindu, September 2025.](#)

VI. Maharashtra

A. Mukhyamantri Baliraja Shet-Panadan Rasta Yojana

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

1. The **Maharashtra Cabinet** approved the ‘**Mukhyamantri Baliraja Shet Pandan Rasta Yojana**’ on 7th December, 2025.
2. **Aim** - The scheme aims to **provide all weather, motorable farm-to-field roads across rural Maharashtra** to improve connectivity between farmers’ fields and villages. It seeks to ensure timely movement of agricultural produce, and make access to markets more affordable and convenient for farmers.
3. **Target Beneficiaries** -
 - a. The primary beneficiaries are **farmers in rural Maharashtra** who currently face muddy, broken approach roads that obstruct sowing, harvesting, and timely transport to markets, **especially during the monsoon**.
 - b. In the first phase, the scheme is targeted to **benefit about 50,000 farmers covering around 1 lakh acres of agricultural land**.
4. **Key Provisions** -
 - a. **Approval of 100% mechanised construction** to accelerate project execution, enhance construction quality, and reduce reliance on manual labour.
 - b. **Systematic removal of encroachments** from roads identified in village maps to ensure unobstructed and durable connectivity.
 - c. **Compulsory tree plantation along both sides of all roads**, adopting the Bihar model or leveraging MGNREGA support for implementation.
 - d. **Dedicated financial provisioning through cluster-based tendering** (25-km clusters), with statewide execution and oversight by a **high-level committee chaired by the state’s Revenue Minister**.
5. **Relevance** -
 - a. **Poor rural roads and weak logistics are one of the major reasons which cause nearly 22% post-harvest foodgrain losses** in India¹³⁹ directly reducing farmer incomes. The scheme addresses this by converting muddy, seasonal farm tracks into **reliable all-weather, motorable access up to the field level**.
 - b. **Evidence from rural road expansion shows around 15% increase in agricultural output**.¹⁴⁰ Maharashtra’s farm-to-field road scheme will **improve connectivity, lower transport costs, and ease market access, likely boosting agricultural output, crop diversification, and use of modern inputs**.
 - c. The mandate for **100% mechanised construction** is a key economic decision aimed at **efficiency and quality assurance**. Mechanisation **accelerates project**

¹³⁹ [National Economic Forum, January 2025](#)

¹⁴⁰ [Rural Road Infrastructure And Agricultural Production: Evidence From India, 2021](#).

A. Mukhyamantri Baliraja Shet-Panadan Rasta Yojana**Source:** [The Indian Express](#) | **Impact:** Medium

execution (reducing the time cost of capital), ensures standardised, durable road quality, and reduces dependence on low-productivity manual labor, which aligns with modern infrastructure standards.

VII. Madhya Pradesh

A. Revision Of The Ladli Behna Scheme

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

1. The Madhya Pradesh Government on **4th December 2025**, announced a revised version of the **Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana**, increasing the monthly assistance to **₹ 1,500** for eligible women.
2. The scheme will be expanded to include a **lump-sum advance option**, proposed for rollout on **8th March, 2026 (International Women's Day)**.
3. The revision aims to help women access **upfront funds for household needs, micro businesses, and livelihood activities**.
4. **Target Beneficiaries** - Covers **1.26-1.30 crore women** who are residents of Madhya Pradesh and meet the scheme's eligibility criteria (age 21-60 and household income limits as per scheme rules).
5. **Key Features** -
 - a. The monthly assistance under the scheme has been **increased from ₹ 1,250 to ₹ 1,500** per month for eligible women.
 - b. The scheme will now follow a **two-part payment structure**, consisting of a regular monthly transfer and a separate lump-sum component to be announced by the state.
 - c. Beneficiaries may **choose between monthly payments** and a **lump-sum advance** under the updated system.
 - d. The proposed lump-sum amount ranges from **₹ 18,000 to ₹ 50,000**, equal to one-year or three-year advance payments.
 - e. Women who prefer monthly support will continue receiving the existing **₹ 1,500 Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**.
 - f. An **expert committee** under the Women and Child Development Department will design eligibility rules, utilisation norms, and fund-disbursement procedures.
 - g. All payments will continue through the **Ladli Behna portal** and the state's existing **DBT infrastructure**.
6. **Relevance** -
 - a. Among those unable to access formal credit, **37% rely on moneylenders and 35% on friends and family, with informal loans carrying an average interest rate of ~28% per annum and no fixed repayment terms**,¹⁴¹ pushing households into financial vulnerability. In this context, the **₹ 18,000-₹ 50,000 lump-sum advance** under the revised Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana **can act as a zero-interest substitute for high-cost informal borrowing**, improving household balance

¹⁴¹ [Evaluation Of Access To Finance For Microenterprises In Madhya Pradesh, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute Of Good Governance And Policy Analysis.](#)

A. Revision Of The Ladli Behna Scheme

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

- sheets, reducing debt stress, and strengthening women's financial resilience
- b. The scheme is one of the largest women focused welfare programmes in Madhya Pradesh, covering **about 1.26–1.30 crore women**¹⁴² (equivalent to around **15% of the state's entire population**) across the state, making benefit changes significant for household income.
 - c. The increase in monthly assistance from ₹ 1,250 to ₹ 1,500 represents a **20% increase** in the **direct financial benefit**. This translates to an additional ₹ 3,000 **per year** per woman, injecting several thousand crores annually directly into the household economy, which stimulates local demand and consumption, especially in rural areas.

¹⁴² [Times Of India, November 2025](#).

VIII. Haryana

A. Extension Of Retirement And Death Gratuity To UPS Employees

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

1. The Haryana Government, on **5th December 2025**, issued an office memorandum extending **retirement gratuity and death gratuity** benefits to state government employees covered under the **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)**.¹⁴³
2. **Beneficiaries** - This order applies to all state Government employees enrolled under the UPS, primarily employees recruited on or after **1st January, 2006**, who had been under the National Pension System (NPS)¹⁴⁴ earlier.
3. **Key Features** -
 - a. The Government has extended **retirement gratuity** and **death gratuity** benefits to all state employees covered under the **UPS**.
 - b. These gratuity benefits will now apply to employees who were **earlier under NPS** and **have been shifted to UPS**, covering those recruited **on or after 1st January, 2006**.
 - c. The office memorandum ensures that UPS employees receive a **lump-sum payout at retirement or to the family in case of death during service**, bringing them closer to defined-benefit security comparable to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS).¹⁴⁵
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Himachal Pradesh,¹⁴⁶ and Punjab have already restored the OPS. **By extending both retirement and death gratuity within its contributory UPS**, Haryana has become a notable first mover in providing OPS-like defined-benefit protections to its Post-2006 Recruits without abandoning the core principle of contributory pension reform.
5. **Relevance** -
 - a. The order directly benefits an estimated **over 2 lakh state Government employees** who were recruited **on or after 1st January, 2006**, and **moved to UPS from the market-linked NPS**. This large workforce segment lacked the assured **lump-sum gratuity benefits provided under the OPS**.¹⁴⁷

¹⁴³ The Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), effective in Haryana from 1st August 2025, replaces NPS with a hybrid contributory model offering a guaranteed pension of 50% of average basic pay (for 25 years of service) or a minimum of ₹ 10,000 per month, funded by a 10% employee contribution and an 18.5% government contribution (10% individual corpus and 8.5% pooled corpus).

¹⁴⁴ The National Pension System (NPS) is a defined-contribution pension system launched by the Central Government in 2004 (and adopted by Haryana for its post-2006 employees). Under NPS, the final retirement corpus and resulting pension are determined by the market returns on the contributions made by the employee and the government, offering no guaranteed minimum return.

¹⁴⁵ The Old Pension Scheme (OPS) is a non-contributory, defined-benefit pension system, under which an employee receives a pension equal to 50% of their last drawn basic salary, adjusted for inflation (Dearness Relief).

¹⁴⁶ [The Times Of India, April, 2023](#).

¹⁴⁷ [Outlook Money, June 2025](#).

A. Extension Of Retirement And Death Gratuity To UPS Employees**Source:** [The Government Of Haryana](#), [The News Drum](#) | **Impact:** Medium

- b. Gratuity benefits offer a vital, immediate financial safeguard. The maximum limit for **Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity (DCRG)** for Haryana Government employees was already **enhanced to ₹ 25 lakh in January 2025.**¹⁴⁸ Extending this **₹ 25 lakh protection to UPS employees** immediately secures their families against death in service and provides a substantial lump sum at retirement.
- c. Unlike the full restoration of OPS (which creates an unfunded future liability equivalent to an **estimated 1-2% of GDP if done nationally**), this measure is an **incremental, cost-managed step** within the contributory UPS framework, which already requires the Haryana Government to make an **additional 8.5% contribution to a pool corpus.**¹⁴⁹

¹⁴⁸ [Haryana Government Gazette.](#)

¹⁴⁹ [Indian Express, June 2025.](#)

Investment Announcements

I. Telangana

A. Telangana Rising Global Summit 2025

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

1. The Telangana Rising Global Summit 2025 commenced on **8th December, 2025**, with the state Government formalising **35 investment commitments worth ₹ 1.88 lakh crore on Day 1**, among the largest single day investment mobilisations by any state.
2. The summit marked a strategic push to reposition Telangana as a **future ready investment hub**, with commitments spanning **deep technology, renewable energy, smart infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, and data driven industries**, aligned with the state's long-term development roadmap.
3. **Targets -**
 - a. Build a strong **industrial and technology baseload for Telangana**, anchored in deep tech, clean energy, and advanced manufacturing.
 - b. **₹ 75,000 crore** have been allocated to scale up deep tech sectors, strengthening R&D, innovation clusters, and high end technology capabilities.
 - c. **₹ 1.04 lakh crore** have been committed to future technologies and **net-zero, smart urban infrastructure**, supporting sustainable and tech driven urban growth.
 - d. Investments focus on expanding **renewable power capacity** and advancing **green hydrogen** to support long-term energy security and decarbonisation.
 - e. Significant investments targeted at **electronics, EVs, steel, textiles, PCBs, and defence manufacturing** under the **Bharat Future City initiative**, positioning Telangana as a diversified manufacturing hub.
4. **Key Investors -** Major MoUs include **Vin Group's ₹ 27,000 crore investment** in renewable energy and EVs, **Krishna Power's ₹ 5,000 crore steel plant**, **Seetharam Spinners' ₹ 3,000 crore textile unit**, and strategic investments by global funds and infrastructure players such as **Brookfield and Axis Ventures**.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. The commitments place **Telangana as a national leader in next generation investments**, extending its strong IT and services base into **manufacturing, clean energy, and deep tech ecosystems**.
 - b. Expanded **energy, manufacturing, and infrastructure capacity** directly supports data centres, deep tech, and other **capital intensive industries** that require reliable power and industrial depth.
 - c. The investments are closely aligned with Telangana's ambition to achieve a **\$ 1 trillion (₹ 1 lakh crore) economy by 2034** and **\$ 3 trillion (approximately ₹ 3 lakh crore) by 2040**.

A. Telangana Rising Global Summit 2025**Source:** [The Hindu](#) | **Impact:** Medium

- crore) by 2047,**¹⁵⁰ providing early momentum toward these milestones.
- d. Further, total commitments of ₹ 5.75 lakh crore by the summit's conclusion signal strong **investor confidence in the state's policy stability, growth potential, and execution capacity**, strengthening long term economic resilience.

¹⁵⁰ [The Hindu, December 2025.](#)

II. Tamil Nadu

A. The Rising Investors Conclave

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

1. On 8th December, 2025, at the **Tamil Nadu Rising Investors Conclave in Madurai**, the Tamil Nadu Government secured major investment commitments of ₹ **36,000 crore** aimed at **accelerating industrial and regional development**.
2. **Target** - Generate **approximately 56,000–56,766 new jobs** across **industrial and services sectors**, strengthening workforce absorption and broad based economic growth across Tamil Nadu.
3. **Sectorial Projects** -
 - a. **PM MITRA Integrated Textile Park** in **Virudhunagar** (joint with the Central Government), expected to create **~1 lakh jobs once operational**.
 - b. Development efforts in **engineering and mega food parks** in **Theni** and **Technology, Information, Development, Environment and Entertainment Park (TIDEL) Parks** (including a new facility in **Madurai**).
 - c. Expansion of **TIDEL NEO parks** in **Sivaganga, Virudhunagar, Tirunelveli, and Kanyakumari**.
 - d. **HD Hyundai MoU** for establishing a **shipyard in Tuticorin** (Thoothukudi).
 - e. Emerging sectors highlighted include **AI and technology industries**, adding **approximately 2,500 jobs** in Madurai's expanding industrial ecosystem.
4. **Relevance** -
 - a. Over the past four years, Tamil Nadu has attracted ₹ **11.83 lakh crore** in investments, creating opportunities for **approximately 34 lakh people**, with **over 80% of MoUs already implemented**.¹⁵¹
 - b. Investments will be **strategically distributed across Madurai, Thoothukudi, Hosur, Coimbatore, and other districts**, promoting more balanced regional development. This approach **aims to reduce the long-standing over-dependence on Chennai** by strengthening industrial and economic activity in **multiple growth centres across the state**, while also improving local employment opportunities and infrastructure in these regions.
 - c. There's more emphasis on **clearances, infrastructure support, law and order, skilled human resources, and administrative efficiency** de-risks investments without heavy fiscal giveaways.
 - d. Sustained execution and policy consistency strengthen Tamil Nadu's **manufacturing, IT, and infrastructure base**, laying the foundation for long term, inclusive growth.

¹⁵¹ [The Economic Times, December 2025.](#)

Other Decisions

I. Andhra Pradesh

A. Multi-Pronged Strategy To Curb Human Elephant Conflict

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

1. The Andhra Pradesh Forest Department on **8th December, 2025**, announced a **multipronged strategy to tackle the wild elephant issue** troubling North Andhra (Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts) for 15 years since elephants entered from Odisha's Lakheri forests in 2007.
2. The aim is to **mitigate crop damage, human casualties**, and fear by driving elephants back to forests or Odisha or **translocating them safely**.
3. **Key Strategies -**
 - a. The state is planning to **deploy 4 kumki elephants from Karnataka** to drive wild herds back to forests **toward the Odisha borders**.
 - b. They seek to **open negotiations with Odisha's cooperation or Government** to take back some of the elephants.
 - c. The strategy includes diverting some elephants to the Gucchimi elephant camp in Parvathipuram Manyam district, **which spans 400 acres and is equipped with solar fencing**, before **translocating them to Sri Venkateswara National Park** located in the Seshachalam Hills of Chittoor district.
 - d. Herd behaviour will be **studied over the next 2 months to inform the strategy**, with wildlife expert **Raman Sukumar having already assessed the sites** and priority will be given to translocating **mostly female herds**.
 - e. If translocation efforts fail, the elephants will be housed at the Gucchimi camp as a **fallback measure**, noting that the deployment of kumki elephants has been delayed until the **camp is fully prepared**.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Kerala addresses **human-elephant conflict through Rapid Response Teams**,¹⁵² Kumki Elephant Units in Wayanad and Thrissur, and **AI-based**¹⁵³ **early warning systems at forest-village interfaces**, supported by community **participation in reporting elephant movements and protecting habitats**.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Andhra Pradesh records an average of **30 human deaths annually due to wildlife conflict**,¹⁵⁴ with elephants accounting for a major share in northern districts. A **multi-pronged mitigation strategy** combining kumki deployment, early warning systems, fencing, and habitat-based management can **substantially reduce human elephant encounters across the state**.

¹⁵² [Human Wildlife Interface, Kerala Forest Department.](#)

¹⁵³ [The Hindu, June 2024.](#)

¹⁵⁴ [News Meter, July 2022.](#)

A. Multi-Pronged Strategy To Curb Human Elephant Conflict

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

- b. Over the past decade, elephant incursions have caused crop and property damage exceeding ₹ 6 crore.¹⁵⁵ Deploying **kumki elephants**, along with **solar-powered fencing**, has proven effective in deterring crop raids, safeguarding agricultural livelihoods, and **reducing recurring economic losses**.
- c. **Elephant translocation**, supported by **behavioural monitoring of herds**, can redirect movement away from habitation zones and significantly reduce the risk of human casualties.
- d. **Between 2013 and 2024**, elephant incursions led to **26 human deaths** and damage to **5,947 acres of cropland**, highlighting the urgent need for preventive intervention.¹⁵⁶ Establishing **behavioural study units and elephant camps** has shown potential in pre-empting raid patterns, mitigating agricultural losses, and preventing fatalities.¹⁵⁷

¹⁵⁵ [Deccan Chronicle, October 2024.](#)

¹⁵⁶ [MongaBay, October 2024.](#)

¹⁵⁷ [Best Practices Management in India Project Elephant Division Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change Best Practices of Human Elephant Conflict Management in India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, 2020.](#)

II. Maharashtra

B. Toll Exemption For Electric Vehicles

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

1. On 14th December, 2025, the **Maharashtra Assembly Speaker** directed the state Government to ensure **full implementation of toll exemptions for electric vehicles (EVs)** across all major highways within **eight days**, reinforcing the state's commitment to **green mobility under the Maharashtra Electric Vehicle Policy, 2025**.
2. The directive, issued following widespread complaints from EV owners, declaring continued toll collection **illegal** and ordering its **immediate cessation with refunds** of wrongly collected amounts.
3. **Salient Features -**
 - a. The exemptions apply to **key highways**, including the **Mumbai-Pune Expressway, Samruddhi Mahamarg, and the Atal Setu**, among others.
 - b. The initiative addresses **backend integration issues between FASTag systems and the VAHAN database**, which led to EVs being **misclassified and wrongly charged**.
 - c. The state was directed to **expand EV charging infrastructure** and upgrade **existing facilities to reduce range anxiety** and encourage wider adoption.
 - d. Authorities are drafting **operational protocols for toll refunds, compliance monitoring, and technical updates** to ensure correct EV classification at toll plazas.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. Maharashtra is a national leader in EV adoption, achieving the **second-highest overall EV sales in India** in FY 2024-25, contributing approximately **12% of the country's total EV sales** (2,46,221 units). With a large and **growing base of EV users, inconsistent toll enforcement directly undermines consumer trust**. Full implementation of toll waivers therefore aligns regulatory practice with Maharashtra's market leadership in EVs, and **removes a key cost barrier for existing users**.
 - b. Maharashtra aims for **30% of all new vehicle registrations** to be electric by 2030, including **40% for two-wheelers and three-wheelers**.¹⁵⁸ Illegal tolling an EV directly contradicts this goal. The full enforcement of the waiver is a necessary step to meet these ambitious penetration targets.
 - c. The correction of **FASTag VAHAN mismatches** and parallel investments in **public charging infrastructure** signal a shift from policy intent to **on ground execution**, supporting **green mobility and lower commuting costs**.

¹⁵⁸ [The Economic Times, May 2025](#)

C. Bamboo Biomass Mandate In Thermal Power Projects

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

1. On 2nd December, 2025, the Maharashtra Government **issued a resolution under the Bamboo Industry Policy 2025**, mandating all public and private thermal power projects to blend **5-7% bamboo biomass (bamboo coal) with conventional coal**.
2. The mandate seeks to **cut pollution from coal plants, advance green energy adoption, reduce fossil fuel reliance, and stimulate bamboo cultivation** and entrepreneurship statewide.
3. **Key Provisions -**
 - a. The policy mandates **5-7% bamboo biomass co-firing** in all public and private thermal power plants beginning **December 2025**.
 - b. The Government has allocated **₹ 50 crore** this fiscal for bamboo entrepreneurship, committed **₹ 1,534 crore** between 2025 and 2030 for cultivation, processing, and infrastructure, and established a **₹ 300 crore venture capital fund** to support startups and MSMEs.
 - c. The plan establishes **15 bamboo clusters** targeting **1.572 crore tonnes** of annual production, sets up **micro-CFCs** for artisans, and extends incentives including interest subsidies and electricity and stamp duty waivers.
 - d. The policy leverages **Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Artificial Intelligence (AI), blockchain, and drones** to strengthen supply chains, encouraging industry adoption through **Public Linked Incentives (PLI) schemes**.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment-** It aligns with the National Bamboo Mission¹⁵⁹ by positioning bamboo as a **sustainable cash crop** for farmers on wastelands via the MGNREGA scheme.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. The policy creates **markets for 5 lakh jobs and ₹ 50,000 crore investment over 10 years**,¹⁶⁰ aiding rural farmers amid coal import dependence. It tackles stubble burning alternatives and **boosts energy security**, with clusters **enabling scalable biomass supply** for reliable co-firing.
 - b. Maharashtra's **27063 MW thermal capacity**¹⁶¹ stands to benefit from reduced emissions, as **bamboo's rapid growth and strong carbon sequestration potential** contribute to India's **net-zero 2070** targets without requiring **significant structural or engineering changes to existing thermal power plant boilers** that would normally be required when switching fuels.

¹⁵⁹ [PIB, August 2025.](#)

¹⁶⁰ [Times Of Indian, October 2025.](#)

¹⁶¹ [PIB, December 2023.](#)

C. Bamboo Biomass Mandate In Thermal Power Projects**Source:** [The Government Of Maharashtra](#), [The Economic Times](#) | **Impact:** Low

- c. The policy is backed by enormous fiscal support: ₹ **1,534 crore** for cultivation/processing, a ₹ **300 crore venture capital fund** for startups, and a large ₹ **4,271 crore proposal for a training pilot**. This strategic public investment is designed to leverage private capital for a targeted ₹ **50,000 crore investment over 10 years**, demonstrating a clear public-private partnership model.

III. Bihar

A. Illegal Mining Informer Reward Scheme

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

1. The **Bihar Government, under the Mines and Geology Department**, has launched a new reward scheme on **9th December 2025** to curb illegal sand mining.
2. The scheme encourages public participation by **offering cash rewards for information** leading to the seizure of vehicles involved in illegal mining. Further, the scheme **emphasises strict accountability for law enforcement, warning of disciplinary action against police officers** who fail to check illegal activities.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Informers will **receive a cash reward of ₹ 5,000 for providing information** that leads to the seizure of tractors involved in illegal mining.
 - b. A higher reward of **₹ 10,000** is offered for information leading to the **seizure of larger vehicles like trucks or heavy machinery such as JCBs**.
 - c. The administration has **guaranteed the confidentiality of the informers' identities** to protect them from potential retaliation by the mining mafia.
 - d. The scheme mandates strict disciplinary action, including the **filing of FIRs**, against local **Station House Officers (SHOs)** if illegal mining is found continuing in their jurisdiction.
 - e. The Government has also introduced a hefty fine of **₹ 10 lakh** on vehicle owners found involved in illegal mining activities to **act as a strong deterrent**.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. Demonstrating the policy's immediate implementation, the state Government has already **rewarded 24 individuals¹⁶² with cash prizes of ₹ 10,000 (for trucks) and ₹ 5,000 (for tractors)** for providing credible intelligence on sand mafias.
 - b. The scheme addresses the massive financial drain on the state exchequer, with Enforcement Directorate investigations revealing that illegal sand mining syndicates have caused a revenue loss of **approximately ₹ 400 crore¹⁶³ to the Government**.
 - c. To curb illegal practices, a **Mining Task Force** operates at the district level, conducting regular raids and reviews. Notably, in FY 2024-25 alone, over **33,000 raids** were carried out, leading to **3,475 FIRs, 1,252 arrests, 10,702 vehicle seizures, and ₹ 136.37 crore collected in penalties.¹⁶⁴** The Informer Reward Scheme **significantly aids this Task Force by providing the precise, real-time intelligence** necessary to convert generalised enforcement efforts into **highly effective, targeted raids**, thereby increasing the **rate of seizures and penalty**

¹⁶² [Tripura Chronicle, December 2025](#).

¹⁶³ [Hindustan Times, February 2025](#).

¹⁶⁴ [Patna Press, April 2025](#).

A. Illegal Mining Informer Reward Scheme

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

collection.

- d. By mandating strict disciplinary action and the filing of First Information Reports (FIRs) against local Station House Officers (SHOs) if **illegal mining persists in their jurisdiction, the Government establishes a top-down pressure mechanism**. This measure is designed to ensure official vigilance and reduce potential complicity in illegal activities.
- e. The scheme serves as a direct, community-led intelligence response to the escalating threat of violence against state personnel. By enabling a **confidential public intelligence approach, it reduces the need for constant overt engagement by police** and mining officers in high-risk areas, thereby mitigating the frequent attacks by sand mafias.



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