

# 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 **1<sup>st</sup> February, 2026 and 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2026**.

### Reforms Decisions

#### I. Goa

- A. **Corrigendum On Streamlining Mandatory Documentation To Improve Ease Of Doing Business:** The Government of Goa issued a corrigendum to simplify tourism registration norms by expanding **No-Objection eligibility to Resident Welfare Associations, builders or 50% resident consent**, and standardising approvals for Hotels and Water Sports.

#### II. Madhya Pradesh

- A. **Amendment To The Sand Mining Rules, 2019:** The Government of Madhya Pradesh amended the Sand Rules 2019 to tighten sand extraction by doubling the **base quarry price from ₹ 125 to ₹ 250 per cubic metre** and introducing a **Mine Developer-cum-Operator framework** to curb arbitrary exits and strengthen environmental compliance.

### Policy Level Announcements

#### I. Haryana

- B. **State Innovation Mission (SIM):** The Government of Haryana approved the State Innovation Mission under the **Department of the Future** to integrate government, industry and academia, launch the H-HUB incubator for **5,000+ startups**, run **district entrepreneurship competitions with ₹ 1 lakh grants**, and provide data-driven inputs for future-ready infrastructure planning.

#### II. Uttar Pradesh

- A. **The Excise Export Policy, 2026-29:** The Government of Uttar Pradesh introduced the **Excise Export Policy 2026-29**. The framework **cuts bottling and export-related fees for up to 25% production capacity**, eases brand and label norms, creates a **Green Channel for clearances**, and **permits heritage liquor exports** with tasting taverns to drive export-focused distillery investment.

#### III. West Bengal

- A. **Banglar Yuva Sathi Scheme:** The Government of West Bengal announced the **Banglar Yuva Sathi Scheme**, providing **₹ 1,500 per month to unemployed residents aged 21-40**, who are at least **Class 10 pass or higher**. The **duration** of the scheme is for **five years**. The policy seeks to **ease short-term financial distress and formalise beneficiary identification** and eligibility screening.

#### IV. Tamil Nadu

- A. **New Integrated Textile Policy, 2025-26:** The Tamil Nadu Government has

## Key Announcements

announced the New Integrated Textile Policy 2025–26 to **modernise textile manufacturing and promote technical textiles**. The policy offers **spindle and loom upgradation support**, a **₹ 15 crore Technical Textile Mission** with **50% consultancy reimbursement up to ₹ 50 lakh**, capital subsidies, interest subvention, ESG support, and single-window clearances.

- B. **Tamil Nadu Urban Greening Policy, 2026**: The Tamil Nadu Government has announced the Urban Greening Policy 2026 mandating a minimum **15% green cover** in all Urban Local Bodies. The policy **embeds urban forests and blue-green assets into master plans**, adopts the **3-30-300 principle**, and enables GIS-based monitoring for climate-resilient city planning.

### V. Maharashtra

- A. **Land Acquisition and Allotment Policy, 2026**: The Maharashtra Cabinet has approved the **land policy enabling acquisition for ‘Third Mumbai’ in the Atal Setu influence area**, offering compensation in cash, a **22.5% land refund**, “as-is-where-is” allotment and **FDI projects investing over ₹ 250 crore per 100 acres**. The policy aims to **reduce delays and formalises land supply**.

### VI. Chhattisgarh

- A. **Innovation And Startup Promotion Policy, 2025–30**: The Chhattisgarh Government has launched a **startup policy to support 5,000 startups by 2030 through seed funding, a ₹ 100 crore capital fund**, collateral-free credit support, relaxed procurement norms, and statewide incubation infrastructure.

## Social Sector Schemes

### I. Bihar

- A. **Karpoori Thakur Kisan Samman**: The Bihar Government launched the Karpoori Thakur Kisan Samman Scheme to provide **₹ 3,000 annual income support** to farmers in three **₹ 1,000 instalments synced with PM Kisan Samman Nidhi**, automatically covering verified beneficiaries and raising total assistance to **₹ 9,000 per farmer**.

### II. Kerala

- A. **Personal Accidental Death Assurance Scheme For Employees Of Private Establishments**: The Government of Kerala launched an accidental death assurance scheme for private workers under the Wage Protection System, offering a **₹ 5 lakh payout at ₹ 150 annual contribution**, covering around **25 lakh workers**.

### III. Delhi

- A. **Delhi Food Security Rules, 2026**: The Delhi Government has issued the **Delhi Food Security Rules, 2026**, to **redefine “priority households” under the National Food Security Act, 2013** by setting a **₹ 1.20 lakh annual income cap**, mandating income certification and district-level verification. It aims to **reduce inclusion errors and**

## Key Announcements

**ensure subsidised foodgrain delivery** reaches low-income households within a time-bound accountability framework.

### Other Decisions

#### I. Karnataka

- A. **AI-based Social Media Analytics Solution (SMAS) To Tackle Misinformation:** The Karnataka Government has approved a ₹ 67.20-crore AI-driven SMAS to monitor social media platforms to detect hate speech, deepfakes and cyber threats, and enable origin-tracking of coordinated misinformation networks.

#### II. Andhra Pradesh

- A. **Operational Guidelines for Andhra Pradesh's Circular Economy Policy:** The Andhra Pradesh Government has published guidelines to operationalise the Circular Economy by formalising 11 NITI Aayog waste streams. It is projected to add ₹ 15,000 crore annually to GSDP, generate ₹ 3,000 crore in GST revenue and create up to 10 lakh direct jobs and positioning as a resource-recovery hub.

#### III. Arunachal Pradesh

- A. **Hydropower Expansion And Localisation Initiative:** The Government of Arunachal Pradesh approved a hydropower expansion package granting GST reimbursement for the 1,200 MW Kala II and 680 MW Attunli projects, mandating local job reservations, rehabilitation and introducing a Renovate-Own-Operate-Transfer model for small projects.

#### IV. Uttar Pradesh

- A. **Mandatory Permanent Account Number For Property Registrations:** The Government of Uttar Pradesh has made PAN mandatory for all property registrations, disallowing Form 60 and linking transactions with Aadhaar-based biometric verification to curb benami deals, tax evasion, and fraudulent transfers.

## Reform Decisions

### I. Madhya Pradesh

#### A. Amendment To The Sand Mining Rules, 2019

Source: [The Government Of Madhya Pradesh](#) | Impact: High

1. The Madhya Pradesh Government notified **Amendment to the Madhya Pradesh Sand (Mining, Transportation, Storage and Trading) Rules, 2019**.<sup>1</sup>
2. The Amendment seeks to **streamline and regulate sand mining operations in Madhya Pradesh** by ensuring systematic extraction from designated sand groups.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The Amendments revise the base price of the quarry from **₹ 125 per cubic metre to ₹ 250 per cubic metre**.
  - b. The Amendments have **increased the time period for paying the fees after receiving the tender**, from **three working days to seven working days**.
  - c. The Amendments have **introduced a new position of Mine Developer cum Operator**, who will be responsible for mine auctions and operations. The **operator has been given the power to cancel contracts or take any other decision** in case there is a violation of statutory provisions concerning **environmental clearance conditions, mining lease terms, safety regulations**.
  - d. Under Rule 16, the **time period for the surrender of a sand group** has been **extended from six months to one year**.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Mining control rules have already been implemented in states such as **Maharashtra<sup>2</sup> and Karnataka<sup>3</sup>**. These states have introduced **structured regulatory frameworks to curb illegal mining, ensure scientific extraction of minerals, enhance transparency in auctions and transportation, and strengthen monitoring through technology-driven surveillance mechanisms**.
5. **Relevance -**
  - a. Recent enforcement actions in Madhya Pradesh relating to **irregular sand mining practices indicate that certain syndicates allegedly involved in forging Electronic Transit Permits (ETPs)<sup>4</sup> generated proceeds of crime estimated at over ₹ 30 crore**, alongside tax evasion, with seizures of cash, vehicles, and equipment reported in 2026. The **Amendment seeks to strengthen centralised oversight** through the **Mine Developer-cum-Operator mechanism and tighter**

<sup>1</sup> [Madhya Pradesh Sand \(Mining, Transportation, Storage and Trading\) Rules, 2019](#).

<sup>2</sup> [TOI, October, 2025](#).

<sup>3</sup> [The New Indian Express, December, 2024](#).

<sup>4</sup> Electronic Transit Permits (ETPs), specifically referred to in mineral and forestry contexts as Electronic Transit Passes (eTPs), are digital documents designed to ensure the lawful transportation of raw materials.

**A. Amendment To The Sand Mining Rules, 2019****Source:** [The Government Of Madhya Pradesh](#) | **Impact:** High**contractual enforcement.**

- b. Unregulated sand extraction in Madhya Pradesh, particularly in the **Barwani and Dhar districts along the Narmada River** has led to **significant removal of riverbed sand in excess of 6,000 tonnes over recent years.**<sup>5</sup> Formalising sand mining can help restrict unsustainable extraction practices and by **shifting sand mining from informal or illegal networks to regulated operators** subject to penalties and compliance audits.

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<sup>5</sup> [Press Institute, February, 2023.](#)

## II. Rajasthan

### A. Draft Occupational Safety, Health And Working Conditions Rules, 2026

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

1. On **3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2026**, the Labour and Factories and Boilers Department of Government of Rajasthan issued the **Draft Rajasthan Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Rules, 2026**.
2. The aim of the Rules is to regulate worker safety and health by laying down provisions regarding **registration of establishments, engagement of contract labour and inter-state migrant workers**.
3. **Key Provisions -**
  - a. The rules provide for a **single electronic application** (Form-1) to register establishments and factories.
  - b. Every Factory needs to apply to the **Registering Authority for a single common license, which will be valid for ten years**.
  - c. For worker protection, the rules mention that a **worker will not be allowed to work for more than 48 hours in a week**.
  - d. If a **worker works for more than eight hours in a day or more than 48 hours in a week**, then he will be entitled to overtime pay.<sup>6</sup>
  - e. The **maximum overtime work** which is **allowed to any worker is 144 hours**.
  - f. Every **factory employer will provide free medical examinations annually** for every employee.<sup>7</sup>
  - g. Every **employer will issue wage slips to the factory workers** (either electronically or manually). The **wage slips need to be maintained under the Social Security Code, 2020**.<sup>8</sup>
  - h. **Women can be employed in factories at night between 7:00 PM and 6:00 AM** after meeting certain conditions:
    - i. **Written consent of women**.
    - ii. **Adequate transport facilities** are provided for pick-up and drop.
    - iii. The **workplace has facilities** such as washrooms, drinking water, well-lit entry and exit, and **CCTV surveillance should be available near the facilities** to ensure their safety.
    - iv. Provisions of **Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, 2013**<sup>9</sup> are enforced.
4. **Implementation Architecture -**
  - a. For Occupational Safety and Health, the rules provide for an **Occupational Safety**

<sup>6</sup> Overtime Pay Calculation: OT = 2 X Ordinary Rate.

<sup>7</sup> Free medical examination will be done within 120 days of the start of the year, for those who are above the age of 40 years.

<sup>8</sup> [Social Security Code 2020](#).

<sup>9</sup> [Sexual Harassment At Workplace Act, 2013](#).

### A. Draft Occupational Safety, Health And Working Conditions Rules, 2026

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

and Health Advisory Board, which will be chaired by the Principal Secretary/Secretary of the Labour Department.

- b. A **mandatory safety committee** in all the **establishments which employ more than 500 workers**. It needs to be informed of:
  - i. **Potential safety and health hazards** to which the workers may be exposed at the workplace.
  - ii. Data on **accidents from a survey of the working environment of the factory**, collected at such establishments.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Several states have already drafted rules for worker safety in factories and other establishments such as **Karnataka**,<sup>10</sup> **Andhra Pradesh**<sup>11</sup> and **Maharashtra**.<sup>12</sup>
6. **Relevance** -
  - a. Rajasthan has emerged as a major industrial state, particularly in the **mining, cement, textiles and industry sector contributing 27.16% to Rajasthan's Gross State Value Added (GSVA)** at current prices. Within the sector, **manufacturing made up about 42.62%**<sup>13</sup> of industry output, indicating a significant role for manufacturing industries in the state economy.
  - b. All accident reports and electronic registers will now automatically sync with **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) databases**.<sup>14</sup> **This interoperability would ensure that if an accident occurs, the worker's social security claims are triggered automatically**, reducing the bureaucratic delay that historically left injured workers without immediate financial support.

<sup>10</sup> [Occupational Safety, Health And Working Conditions \(Karnataka\) Rules, 2021.](#)

<sup>11</sup> [The Occupational Safety, Health And Working Conditions Code, 2020.](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Occupational Safety, Health And Working Conditions \(Labour\) Rules, 2022.](#)

<sup>13</sup> [Government Of Rajasthan, 2024-25, Pg. 132.](#)

<sup>14</sup> EPFO focuses on long-term retirement savings, whereas ESIC provides immediate medical care and cash benefits during sickness, maternity, or disability.

### III. Goa

#### A. Corrigendum On Streamlining Mandatory Documentation To Improve Ease Of Doing Business

Source: [The Government Of Goa](#) | Impact: High

1. On 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2026, the Government of Goa issued a **corrigendum** aimed at **streamlining mandatory documentation requirements** under the state's Ease of Doing Business framework.
2. The policy clarifies **documentation requirements** for tourism-related registrations to simplify compliance, reduce delays, and improve predictability for businesses.
3. **Key Features** -
  - a. The corrigendum specifically clarifies the **mandatory documentation required when residential units (apartments, villas, or flats) are proposed to be used for tourism or commercial hospitality purposes**.
  - b. It expands the list of acceptable **No-Objection authorities** by allowing applicants to obtain approvals not only from a **registered and functional housing society**, but also from a **Resident Welfare Association or Homeowners' Association**, and from the **builder or promoter** in cases where no society or association has been constituted.
  - c. Where formal bodies are absent or inactive, the corrigendum allows **written consent from more than 50% of residents** of the building or complex.
  - d. The revised documentation requirements apply uniformly to both **Hotel Registration** and **Water Sports Registration**, ensuring consistency across tourism-related approvals and avoiding parallel or conflicting compliance standards.
4. **Relevance** -
  - a. With **1.08 crore tourist arrivals in 2025<sup>15</sup>** and **hotels frequently at near full occupancy<sup>16</sup>**, Goa faces a structural accommodation shortage. By expanding No Objection eligibility to Resident Welfare Associations, builders, or 50% resident consent, the policy **unlocks idle villa and apartment inventory, adds bed capacity without new construction, formalises informal rentals**, strengthens safety and compliance, and broadens the state's tax base.
  - b. The corrigendum **supports the Goa Tourism 2.0 vision<sup>17</sup>** by **unlocking private villas and apartments across the predominantly rural hinterland** through expanded No Objection eligibility to Resident Welfare Associations, builders, or

<sup>15</sup> [The Times Of India, January, 2026.](#)

<sup>16</sup> [Business Today, July, 2025.](#)

<sup>17</sup> Vision Goa Tourism 2.0 is the state's strategy to reposition Goa as a 365 day, high value and sustainable destination, shifting from beach centric mass tourism to hinterland, culture and heritage led experiences, supported by diversified infrastructure such as caravans and homestays.

### A. Corrigendum On Streamlining Mandatory Documentation To Improve Ease Of Doing Business

Source: [The Government Of Goa](#) | Impact: High

50% resident consent. This converts idle housing stock into regulated hospitality capacity without new construction, **supports the shift from coastal seasonality to a 365 day high value tourism model, formalises rural homestays, enables long stay and digital nomad demand,**<sup>18</sup> and expands safety compliant, tax registered inventory.

- c. A large portion of Goa's apartment rentals operated in a legal gray area.<sup>19</sup> By making the No Objection Certificate process predictable, the Government is incentivising these owners to **register formally**. This not only increases state revenue through registration fees and luxury taxes but also ensures that these units comply with **Fire Safety and C-Form (Foreigner Registration) protocols**.

<sup>18</sup> [The Economic Times, October 2023.](#)

<sup>19</sup> [Herald Goa, October 2022.](#)

## Policy Level Announcements

### I. Haryana

#### A. State Innovation Mission (SIM)

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

1. On 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2026, the **Haryana Government** approved the establishment of the **Haryana State Innovation Mission (SIM)** under the newly created **Department of the Future**.
2. The primary objective of the mission is to **develop a customised State Innovation Model** that integrates **public institutions, industry, academia, and international partners** to **drive innovation, foster entrepreneurial activities, and contribute to growth across sectors**, including technology, manufacturing, and agriculture.
3. **Key Features** –
  - a. **SIM** has been set up to create a tailored innovation ecosystem for Haryana, **aligned with the state’s futuristic development vision**.
  - b. SIM will work in collaboration with national innovation platforms such as the **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)<sup>20</sup>** and the **NITI Aayog**, facilitating integration among Government agencies, industry players, academia, incubators, and international partners.
  - c. A world-class incubator, **H-HUB**, **plug-and-play workspaces** and **high-performance computing resources** for 5,000+ new startups will be provided.
  - d. Leadership and governance of SIM will involve senior officials from the **Department of the Future**, with nominations from industry experts, academic institutions (including IITs and NITs), research centres, and centres of excellence.
  - e. From the 2025-26 academic session, entrepreneurship competitions will be **organised in every district, with ₹ 1 lakh grants provided to teams** to convert ideas into business models.
  - f. SIM will **oversee the establishment of two dedicated AI Hubs in Gurugram and Panchkula**, with a target to train **50,000 youth** in emerging technologies.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** -Several states have institutionalised dedicated innovation missions to anchor their startup ecosystems. **Telangana operationalised this through T-Hub<sup>21</sup>** as a strong public-private incubator, **Gujarat adopted a dual model via iCreate<sup>22</sup> and i-Hub<sup>23</sup>** linking advanced tech and universities, and **Tamil**

<sup>20</sup> The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a Government of India initiative to foster a national culture of innovation and entrepreneurship by creating platforms, policies, and support for students, researchers, and startups.

<sup>21</sup> [Telangana T-Hub](#).

<sup>22</sup> [Gujarat iCreate](#).

<sup>23</sup> [Gujarat I-Hub](#).

### A. State Innovation Mission (SIM)

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

Nadu established StartupTN<sup>24</sup> with a focus on seed funding and Tier-2 and Tier-3 expansion.

#### 5. Relevance -

- a. Haryana aims to become a **\$ 1 trillion (₹ 90.58 lakh crore) economy by 2047**,<sup>25</sup> but current growth rates in **agriculture at around 4.1%, services at about 8.4% and manufacturing at about 8.1%**<sup>26</sup> are inadequate to meet this target. Achieving this scale requires **high-growth sectors that expand at a higher rate**. SIM provides this multiplier by **injecting innovation- and startup-led growth into the economy**, shifting the GDP mix toward **high-value technology and IP-driven output**.
- b. SIM will **use forecast modeling and data intelligence to provide recommendations to all other state departments**. This ensures that infrastructure is built specifically for future-ready industries, such as **semiconductor testing and EV battery manufacturing**, rather than just generic industrial sheds.

<sup>24</sup> [StartupTN](#).

<sup>25</sup> [Chief Minister's Office Haryana, December, 2025](#).

<sup>26</sup> [Haryana Economic Survey, 2024-25](#).

## II. Uttar Pradesh

### A. The Excise Export Policy, 2026-29

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

1. On 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Government rolled out its **Excise Policy, 2026-27 along with a three-year Excise Export Policy, 2026-29**.
2. The twin policies aim to **combine revenue buoyancy with investor confidence**, while strengthening **Uttar Pradesh's global market footprint** through increased export of domestically manufactured liquor brands.
3. **Key Features** –
  - a. Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in the country to introduce a **dedicated, standalone export-focused policy** specifically for the alcoholic beverage sector.
  - b. The state has substantially **reduced bottling fees, export pass fees, and franchise fees**, and has **lowered special export fees**, previously applicable to exports of up to 25% of approved production capacity, to the minimum prescribed level.
  - c. The policy significantly **relaxes the stringent provisions** related to **brand registration and label approvals** for liquor **specifically meant for international export**, while also reducing the applicable fees to a minimum.
  - d. A dedicated **“Green Channel” for export clearances** has been created to ensure timely shipping.
  - e. Further, the fee for **molasses-based Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA)**,<sup>27</sup> i.e., the base for most spirits, to other states/countries has been cut to **₹ 0.50 per bulk litre**.
  - f. Lastly, **heritage Liquor Export** such as Mahua-based or local grain-based spirits has been introduced with new permission for **Tasting Taverns** at distilleries to facilitate international buyers and tourism.
4. **Relevance** –
  - a. Uttar Pradesh, despite generating high excise revenue and possessing a large agricultural base, holds **dismal share of domestic liquor export**<sup>28</sup> with only **₹ 311 crore in liquor exports in FY 2023-24**.<sup>29</sup> Notably, states such as Maharashtra (due to wine) and Punjab (due to grain spirits) dominate international alcohol markets.
  - b. In light of the above, the standalone three-year Excise Export Policy is therefore relevant in **correcting this imbalance** by sharply reducing bottling charges, export pass fees, and franchise fees for up to 25% of approved production capacity, creating a **direct incentive for export-oriented investment** and **attracting new distillery capacity within the state**.

<sup>27</sup> Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA) is a high-purity, colorless, and odorless food-grade alcohol with over 96% alcohol concentration, derived from sugarcane molasses or grains.

<sup>28</sup> [The Indian Express, February, 2026](#).

<sup>29</sup> [The Times Of India, November, 2025](#).

**A. The Excise Export Policy, 2026-29****Source:** [The Government Of Uttar Pradesh, Indian Express](#) | **Impact:** High

- c. Despite hosting **122 sugar mills**,<sup>30</sup> high inter-state export duties previously **limited Uttar Pradesh's competitiveness in supplying ENA to national and global markets**. By reducing the export fee for molasses-based ENA to ₹ 0.50 per bulk litre, the policy positions the state as a **low-cost sourcing hub**, directly integrating local sugarcane output with high-value alcohol supply chains.
- d. Further, instead of **just selling raw molasses or fuel-grade ethanol**, the policy **incentivises the production of high-value potable spirits** such as whisky, gin, and vodka, capturing a much larger share of the global **\$ 1.83 trillion (~ ₹ 166 lakh crore) alcoholic beverages market**.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>30</sup> [Sugar Industry And Cane Development Department.](#)

<sup>31</sup> [Alcoholic Beverages Industry To Reach USD 2.2T By 2030 As Premiumization And Policy Shifts Drive Growth, October, 2025.](#)

### III. Maharashtra

#### A. Land Acquisition And Allotment Policy For The Development Of The ‘Third Mumbai’ Project

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

1. On 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2026, the Maharashtra Cabinet approved the **Land Acquisition and Allotment Policy, 2026 for the development of the “Third Mumbai” project** in the influence area of the Atal Setu (Mumbai Trans Harbour Link).
2. The aim is to guide **planned urbanisation and spur industrial, commercial and residential growth** beyond existing metropolitan areas.
3. **Key Features –**
  - a. The policy will **allow land acquisition through mutual agreement** or under the **Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013**,<sup>32</sup> with compensation offered in cash, Floor Area Index (FSI)<sup>33</sup> or Transferable Development Rights (TDR).<sup>34</sup>
  - b. A **22.5% land refund mechanism** for affected landowners under the refund scheme. However, if the returned area is less than **40 square meters**, the owner receives direct cash compensation instead.
  - c. **Undeveloped land** to be made **attractive for industry through a pass-through cost recovery model** where **plot holders bear the acquisition and development costs** in installments.
  - d. Plots to be **allotted** on an **“as-is-where-is”** basis **without Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority (MMRDA)-funded infrastructure**.
  - e. Priority land allotment will be given to industries bringing **foreign direct investment (FDI) above ₹ 250 crore per 100 acres** (excluding land cost), with **restrictions on sale or transfer of undeveloped land and up to 25% of the developed area** permitted for FDI projects based on eligibility criteria.
4. **Relevance –**
  - a. Maharashtra retained its position among India’s top investment destinations in FY 2024–25, accounting for **over ₹ 1.39 lakh crore in proposed investments as per Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**<sup>35</sup> and

<sup>32</sup> [Right To Fair Compensation And Transparency In Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation And Resettlement Act, 2013](#).

<sup>33</sup> FSI represents the ratio of a building's total floor area to the size of the land on which it stands. It plays a crucial role in checking the density and development potential of a property. FSI calculation defines the maximum allowed construction on a given site. Thereby ensuring efficient land utilization while adhering to zoning regulations and infrastructure capacity.

<sup>34</sup> TDR is a zoning tool allowing landowners to sell development potential such as Floor Space Index from restricted "sending" areas to developers in "receiving" areas. It facilitates infrastructure growth, preserves land (heritage/environmental), and allows higher construction density, commonly used in cities like Mumbai and Delhi.

<sup>35</sup> [ET, March, 2025](#).

### A. Land Acquisition And Allotment Policy For The Development Of The ‘Third Mumbai’ Project

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

consistently ranking in the top tier of the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP).<sup>36</sup> A structured land allotment framework for the Third Mumbai project **strengthens ease of doing business by reducing land acquisition uncertainty, one of the biggest bottlenecks flagged by investors.**

- b. In 2025, the Mumbai Metropolitan Region emerged as **India’s most active land market with 32 major land deals covering over 500 acres**,<sup>37</sup> accounting for around 13% of nationwide land transactions, a **strong signal of sustained investor interest and rising development activity** that the Third Mumbai land policy would further catalyse.
- c. Maharashtra aims to be a **\$ 1 trillion economy (₹ 1 lakh crore)**.<sup>38</sup> The Third Mumbai project is thus the growth release valve as by creating a planned city 20 minutes from South Mumbai via Atal Setu, the state is creating **high-value real estate supply to stabilise prices in the mainland** while capturing new industrial growth in Raigad district.
- d. The policy specifically earmarks land for global universities (i.e., Edu-City) and high-tech hospitals (i.e., Medi-City). Notably, it aims to host **65% of the domestic data center capacity**,<sup>39</sup> leveraging the **region’s landing stations and stable power infrastructure.**

<sup>36</sup> The Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) 2024 is set to establish a seamless business regulatory framework across the country, enhancing the ease of doing business. Led by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), BRAP 2024 introduces next-generation reforms that address the needs of both businesses and citizens.

<sup>37</sup> [ET, January, 2026.](#)

<sup>38</sup> [The Business Standard, June, 2025.](#)

<sup>39</sup> [Khopoli Real Estate, April, 2025.](#)

## IV. Odisha

## A. Cabinet Approval To The State Cooperative Policy, 2026

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

1. The **Odisha Cabinet** has approved the **Odisha State Cooperative Policy, 2026**, aimed at **strengthening and expanding the cooperative movement across the state**.
2. The policy seeks to create a **dynamic, transparent, efficient and member-focused cooperative ecosystem** that enhances service delivery, institutional effectiveness and economic inclusion, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas.
3. **Key Features** –
  - a. Provides a framework to **revitalise Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS),<sup>40</sup> Large Area Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies (LAMPCS),<sup>41</sup> cooperative banks, and marketing and processing cooperatives**.
  - b. Creation of the **Odisha Cooperative Digital Stack (OCDS)**, integrated with the National Cooperative Database for real-time tracking of assets, credit, and transactions. **₹ 18.07 crore** released in **FY 2025–26 to bring 4,240 PACS** onto a common **Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) based national software**.
  - c. Recognition of PACS functionaries through specialized training at the **Agriculture Cooperative Staff Training Institute (ACSTI)**. Mandating a **33% reservation for women** in cooperative boards to ensure inclusive decision-making.
  - d. Launch of the **‘Utkal’ or ‘Kalinga’ Brand** to promote Odisha cooperative products on e-commerce platforms like Amazon, Flipkart, and ONDC.
  - e. **Enhances credit flow and financial inclusion** by supporting cooperative banks and strengthening institutional credit delivery for farmers and rural stakeholders.
  - f. Supports cooperatives in key sectors such as **agriculture, dairy, housing, handloom, fisheries**, and allied activities to broaden economic participation.
  - g. Develops **integrated cooperative clusters across millets, pulses, dairy, and fisheries**, alongside a **White Revolution 2.0** focused on strengthening the **Odisha State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited (OMFED)** dairy network to **scale procurement by 50%**.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The policy aligns with the **National Cooperation Policy, 2025,<sup>42</sup>** that aims to make cooperatives drivers of Viksit Bharat 2047.
5. **Relevance** –
  - a. Odisha has **6,794 Gram Panchayats,<sup>43</sup>** out of which only **4,147 have a functional**

<sup>40</sup> PACS are the grassroots-level, village-based cooperative credit institutions in India, forming the lowest tier of the short-term cooperative credit structure.

<sup>41</sup> Large Area Multi-Purpose Cooperative Societies (LAMPS/LAMPCS) are specialized, large-scale cooperative organizations in India designed to provide integrated financial and non-financial services to tribal communities and residents of hilly, rural, and semi-urban areas.

<sup>42</sup> [PIB, August, 2025](#).

<sup>43</sup> [Ministry Of Panchayati Raj, August, 2025](#).

**A. Cabinet Approval To The State Cooperative Policy, 2026****Source:** [Times Of India](#) | **Impact:** Medium

- PACS**,<sup>44</sup> leaving around **40% without institutional credit access**. The policy's mandate of **one PACS per Gram Panchayat and one cooperative per village**<sup>45</sup> corrects this gap and integrates these areas into the formal banking network.
- b. The policy **integrates PACS into the World's Largest Grain Storage Plan**. By building godowns at the village level, it allows **farmers to store their harvest and wait for better market prices** rather than engaging in **distress sales immediately after harvest**.
- c. By transforming **cooperatives into "Agri-Business Centres,"** the Government is shifting from a **subsidy-driven model to a self-sustaining revenue model**. This aligns with the **Viksit Odisha 2036 vision**,<sup>46</sup> where the cooperative sector contributes significantly to the **state's GDP through exports and value-added processing**.

<sup>44</sup> [PIB, February, 2025](#).

<sup>45</sup> [Indian Cooperatives, February, 2026](#).

<sup>46</sup> [Odisha Vision 2036 Document](#).

## V. Haryana

### A. Setting Up Of Nursing Homes In Residential Plots

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

1. On 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2026, the Haryana Government approved a **policy allowing the setup of nursing homes in residential plots** to expand healthcare access, particularly in semi-urban and rural parts of the state.
2. The primary objective is to **improve healthcare infrastructure and services close to communities** by enabling qualified medical professionals and healthcare providers to **establish nursing homes in areas traditionally restricted to residential use**.
3. **Key Features –**
  - a. It permits the **establishment of nursing homes on residential plots**, subject to defined criteria and approvals, effectively relaxing prior land-use restrictions.
  - b. Permission is granted exclusively to residential plots owned by qualified **Allopathic or AYUSH** doctors. Further, doctors **must be currently practicing, registered with the state Medical/AYUSH Council, and members of the local IMA branch**.
  - c. Each sector is **limited to four nursing homes**, permitted **only on service roads along sector or master roads**, with just one allowed on a service road abutting a sector-dividing road.
  - d. In **Hyper and High Potential Zones** such as Gurugram and Faridabad, the **minimum plot size required is 350 square yards**, while in **Medium and Low Potential Zones the minimum plot size is 250 square yards**.
  - e. It mandates a one-time conversion charge of **₹ 10,000 per square yard in Hyper Zones, ₹ 8,000 in High Zones, ₹ 6,000 in Medium Zones, and ₹ 4,000 in Low Zones**.
  - f. **No External Development Charges** or any other additional fees are applicable under this framework.
4. **Relevance –**
  - a. With an estimated **population of about 3.03 crore**<sup>47</sup> and only **14,150 beds across all public healthcare facilities**,<sup>48</sup> Haryana's bed density stands at roughly **0.47 beds per 1,000 people**, far below the **Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS 2022) norm of 1 bed per 1,000**.<sup>49</sup> By incentivising private doctors to add beds using their own residential land, the policy effectively **crowdsources health infrastructure and bridges the deficit without heavy state capital spending**.
  - b. By permitting up to four doctor-led nursing homes within each residential sector, the policy embeds primary healthcare infrastructure **directly into plotted**

<sup>47</sup> [Statistics Times](#).

<sup>48</sup> [Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare, July, 2025](#).

<sup>49</sup> [Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare, July, 2025](#).

**A. Setting Up Of Nursing Homes In Residential Plots****Source:** [Hindustan Times](#) | **Impact:** High

**colonies, decentralising service delivery, reducing dependence on distant tertiary hospitals, and ensuring timely access to essential and emergency care within neighbourhood limits.**

## VI. Tamil Nadu

### A. New Integrated Textile Policy, 2025–26

Source: [The Government Of Tamil Nadu](#), [The Hindu](#) | Impact: High

1. The **Tamil Nadu Government** released the **New Integrated Textile Policy, 2025–26** to **meet the current needs of the textile industry** by modernising production capacity, strengthening sustainability, and enhancing competitiveness across the entire textile value chain.
2. **Key Features –**
  - a. Focuses on significant advancements in the textile sector over the next five years, including **modernising millions of spindles and rotors, installing state-of-the-art weaving looms**, and setting up **new processing facilities** to boost both capacity and quality.
  - b. Introduces **Tamil Nadu Technical Textile Mission (T<sup>3</sup>M)** and dedicated research and business development funds to **support high-value segments**, alongside fiscal incentives and support mechanisms,
  - c. The T<sup>3</sup>M is launched with a dedicated **₹ 15 crore initial budget to foster 24 industrial units in Meditech, Mobiltech, and Sporttech**. It also offers **50% reimbursement of consultancy fees** (up to ₹ 50 lakh) for firms transitioning from conventional to technical textiles.
  - d. Provide **capital subsidies, interest subvention, and cluster-based infrastructure support**
  - e. **Promote Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards**, environmental compliance, and global certifications for export readiness.
  - f. Introduce **single-window clearances and support for technology adoption** and cluster-based development.
  - g. **Strengthen the entire textile value chain**, from raw material supply to finished goods for domestic and export markets.
3. **Relevance –**
  - a. Following the United States' imposition of tariffs of up to **50% on Indian textile exports, subsequently reduced to 18%**, Tamil Nadu, which accounts for approximately 30–35% of India's textile exports to the United States, experienced a sharp competitiveness shock.<sup>50</sup> The policy offsets this through **cost-reducing subsidies and incentives for market diversification** beyond the United States, to **secure the textile industry from similar disruptions in future**.
  - b. With an **11% import duty inflating the cost of high-quality cotton**,<sup>51</sup> The policy pivots the industry toward **technical textiles and man-made fibres** through the

<sup>50</sup> [The Times Of India, September, 2025.](#)

<sup>51</sup> [The Hindu, January, 2026.](#)

**A. New Integrated Textile Policy, 2025–26****Source:** [The Government Of Tamil Nadu](#), [The Hindu](#) | **Impact:** High

**Tamil Nadu Technical Textiles Mission**, using R&D and startup support to move clusters like Coimbatore from **low-margin cotton spinning to higher-value advanced fabric manufacturing**.

- c. Further, global brands increasingly mandate **Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)<sup>52</sup>** or **OEKO-TEX<sup>53</sup>** **certifications**. The policy's focus on ESG and certifications is essentially a market access strategy. By **funding environmental audits and compliance**, the Government is ensuring that **Brand Tamil Nadu<sup>54</sup>** **remains the preferred choice for Western buyers** who are under pressure to de-risk their supply chains from non-compliant sources.

<sup>52</sup> The Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) is the world's leading processing standard for textiles made from certified organic fibers, such as organic cotton or organic wool.

<sup>53</sup> OEKO-TEX is a globally recognized, independent certification system for testing textiles and leather for harmful substances, ensuring consumer safety, product quality, and sustainable, ethical production.

<sup>54</sup> Brand Tamil Nadu represents the state as a premier, trust-driven investment and industrial hub in India, known for high-quality manufacturing (automobiles, textiles, SaaS) and a robust consumer market.

## B. Urban Greening Policy, 2026

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

1. On 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2026, the **Tamil Nadu Government**, released the **Tamil Nadu Urban Greening Policy, 2026** under the **Green Tamil Nadu Mission**<sup>55</sup> to systematically expand and manage green infrastructure in cities and peri-urban areas.
2. The primary aim of the policy is to systematically **expand and integrate urban green cover** and **nature-based solutions in cities** to build climate-resilient, liveable, and ecologically balanced urban environments, with all **Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) striving for at least 15% green cover**.
3. **Key Features** –
  - a. Mandates that every **ULB** strive to maintain **at least 15% of its total geographical area under green cover**, contributing to the state’s long-term green cover targets.
  - b. Integrates **urban forests, parks, avenue trees, wetlands, and blue-green infrastructure** into statutory planning instruments such as master plans and development plans, embedding greening within core urban governance.
  - c. Promotes adoption of the **3-30-300 Urban Green Livability principle**,<sup>56</sup> ensuring tree visibility, neighbourhood canopy cover, and accessible public green spaces within walking distance.
  - d. Provides for **GIS-based mapping, urban tree census, geo-tagging of plantations, and carbon accounting systems** to enable scientific monitoring and outcome-based evaluation.
  - e. Encourages planting of **native, climate-resilient, and drought-tolerant species**, along with standardised maintenance protocols to ensure long-term survival and ecological impact.
  - f. Calls for the creation of **dedicated institutional mechanisms**, including Urban Forest Wings at the municipal level and a state-level coordination framework for inter-departmental convergence.
4. **Relevance** –
  - a. With **urban population projected to reach 67% by 2031**<sup>57</sup> and Chennai’s **green cover at barely 5.28%**,<sup>58</sup> Tamil Nadu faces **rising heat stress and declining liveability**. By mandating a **minimum 15% green cover** and **embedding climate-sensitive planning norms**, the policy directly targets urban heat island mitigation and restores ecological balance within expanding cities.

<sup>55</sup> [Green Tamil Nadu Mission](#).

<sup>56</sup> *The 3-30-300 rule is an urban planning framework to improve mental health, well-being, and climate resilience. It mandates that residents should see at least 3 trees from their home, have 30% tree canopy cover in their neighborhood, and live within 300 meters of a green space.*

<sup>57</sup> [The New Indian Express, February 2026](#).

<sup>58</sup> [Live Chennai, May, 2025](#).

**B. Urban Greening Policy, 2026****Source:** [The Government Of Tamil Nadu](#), [The Hindu](#) | **Impact:** Medium

- b. Tamil Nadu has **lost over 3,025 sq. km. of forest cover** while rapid urban expansion has intensified thermal densification, pushing **94 blocks into long-term warming** and leaving **25 hotspots such as Chennai and Ramanathapuram** critically exposed.<sup>59</sup> By mandating a minimum 15% green cover and prioritising these heat-stressed blocks under the 3-30-300 framework, the policy directly **counters the forest-to-concrete feedback loop and institutionalises targeted, data-driven climate cooling in urban planning.**

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<sup>59</sup> [State Planning Commission, 2025.](#)

## VII. Chhattisgarh

### A. Innovation And Startup Promotion Policy, 2025–30

Source: [The Government Of Chhattisgarh](#) | Impact: High

1. On 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2026, Chhattisgarh approved the **Innovation and Startup Promotion Policy, 2025–30** positioning the state as a competitive national startup hub.
2. The primary aim is to create and support **5,000 startups by 2030 through targeted incentives and ecosystem support.**
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The policy provides **seed funding of up to ₹ 10 lakh** for startups with proof of concept to develop a **minimum viable product (MVP)**, lowering early-stage barriers to innovation.
  - b. A **₹ 100 crore Startup Capital Fund** will be created to channel investments into startups through **Alternative Investment Funds and other investment vehicles**, enhancing access to growth capital.
  - c. Establishment of a **₹ 50 crore Credit Risk Fund** to offer **collateral-free loans up to ₹ 1 crore** and interest subsidies on term loans or working capital (up to 75 % of interest or ₹ 50 lakh), to improve credit access for early-stage ventures.
  - d. The policy provides **grant support (up to 50 %)** for participation in **national and international startup events and digital promotion**, helping startups gain market exposure and networking opportunities.
  - e. Startups generating **employment (above 10 permanent jobs)** receive monthly incentives for male and female employees, and those hiring **specialty-abled persons, retired Agniveers, or Naxal-affected individuals** receive wage subsidies for up to five years.
  - f. The policy relaxes **Government procurement norms** for startups and includes measures to incentivise participation in the state's innovation ecosystem, strengthening start-ups' competitive edge.
4. **Incentives -**
  - i. **Rental subsidies** for startups operating from incubation centres or rented premises,
  - ii. **Stamp duty exemptions**, and financial support for **quality certification, patents, technology procurement, and project reports.**
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Several states such as **Uttar Pradesh,<sup>60</sup> Andhra Pradesh,<sup>61</sup> Maharashtra<sup>62</sup>** etc, have operationalised structured startup policies offering **financial incentives, incubation support, and fund-of-funds mechanisms.**
6. **Relevance -**

<sup>60</sup> [Uttar Pradesh Startup Policy 2020.](#)

<sup>61</sup> [Andhra Pradesh Innovation And Startup Policy \(4.0\).](#)

<sup>62</sup> [Maharashtra Startup, Entrepreneurship And Innovation Policy 2025.](#)

**A. Innovation And Startup Promotion Policy, 2025–30****Source:** [The Government Of Chhattisgarh](#) | **Impact:** High

- a. The policy supports structural economic diversification by aligning with the **Anjor Vision@2047**<sup>63</sup> to reduce dependence on raw mineral exports worth over ₹ 30,000 crore annually and shift from extraction to value-added processing. Through **50% reimbursement on quality certification** and **patent registration up to ₹ 10 lakh**, it incentivises agri-tech and food processing startups to **convert low-value raw produce such as paddy and minor forest produce into high-value branded products**, strengthening local value chains and industrial depth.
- b. Unlike states concentrated on a single tech city, Chhattisgarh is deploying a **Hub-and-Spoke model**.<sup>64</sup> Raipur acts as the central hub, with **divisional incubators receiving ₹ 5 lakh/year and district-level ones receiving ₹ 3 lakh/year**.<sup>65</sup> This ensures that a startup in Bastar or Surguja has the **same onboarding access as one in Raipur**.
- c. One of the biggest challenges for startups is **securing their initial customers**, to establish market credibility and initiate revenue flow. By **relaxing Government procurement norms** such as waiving prior experience or turnover requirements, Chhattisgarh is acting as **the “Anchor Customer” for local innovators**. This provides **immediate revenue streams for deep-tech and smart-agriculture ventures** that are critical to the state’s digital transformation.

<sup>63</sup> [Anjor Vision @2047](#).

<sup>64</sup> The hub and spoke model is a centralized distribution or management system where goods, data, or transportation routes connect to a central "hub" (main warehouse, airport, or server) rather than directly to each other ("spokes").

<sup>65</sup> [Chhattisgarh Startup Policy 2024-2030](#).

## VIII. Kerala

## A. The Draft Urban Policy

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

1. On **11<sup>th</sup> February 2026**, Kerala Cabinet approved the **Draft Urban Policy** to guide development activities for the **next 25 years**.
2. The policy aims to **reduce social and spatial inequalities** and **ensure social support systems** while creating high-quality urban amenities.
3. **Key Features** –
  - a. Establishes **India’s first comprehensive state-level Urban Policy** to provide a structured and long-term framework for managing **rapid urbanisation in Kerala by 2050**.
  - b. Upgrades the traditional **Public Private Partnership** model to a **Public, Private, and People’s Partnership (PPPP)** framework to ensure grassroots citizen involvement in development.
  - c. It links the **physical development** of high-quality urban amenities with the mandatory creation of **social support systems** to bridge **spatial and social inequalities**.
  - d. Uses a specific **10-pillar framework** to transition the state into a continuous network of **climate-smart cities** while strictly **protecting environmentally sensitive zones**.
  - e. It mandates that **all city master plans be risk-informed**, using high-resolution hazard mapping (LiDAR)<sup>66</sup> to restrict construction in **flood-prone and landslide-sensitive zones**.
4. **Relevance** –
  - a. With **33.7% of Kerala’s land** (13,108 sq. km)<sup>67</sup> designated as “**Ecologically Sensitive Area**” in the Western Ghats, and given state’s experience of recurrent floods and landslides,<sup>68</sup> the risks of unchecked expansion are particularly acute. The policy, hence, enforces **hazard-aware zoning to restrict large-scale urban construction** in such regions and preserve their function as natural climate buffers.
  - b. Moreover, Kerala’s **590-km coastline** houses nearly **30% of its population**,<sup>69</sup> with **41% of the coastline affected by erosion**<sup>70</sup> and subject to strict **Coastal Regulation**

<sup>66</sup> LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) is a remote sensing method that uses pulsed laser light to measure distances to objects and create precise, 3D, high-resolution maps of environments.

<sup>67</sup> [Ministry Of Environment, Forest And Climate Change.](#)

<sup>68</sup> [The New Indian Express, June, 2025.](#)

<sup>69</sup> [The Times Of India, January, 2025.](#)

<sup>70</sup> [The New Indian Express, December 2021.](#)

### A. The Draft Urban Policy

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

**Zone norms.**<sup>71</sup> The policy mandates **climate-smart urban planning to regulate high-density growth** in this vulnerable belt through scientific safeguards rather than high-risk expansion.

- c. The policy is relevant in shifting from the conventional Public–Private Partnership model to a Public–Private–People Partnership framework that **formally integrates citizen participation into urban development**. By leveraging Kerala’s strong local self–Government system and community networks, and aligning with participatory approaches seen in national programmes like the Smart Cities Mission,<sup>72</sup> it **ensures infrastructure expansion remains inclusive and socially accountable**.
- d. Additionally, to bridge the technical gap in municipalities, the policy launches **Jnanashree, a program to recruit youth technocrats**. These specialists will help Urban Local Bodies interpret **satellite data and LiDAR mapping**, ensuring that local governance is as technologically advanced as the Central Government’s Smart Cities initiative.

<sup>71</sup> Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms in India are environmental rules under the Environment Protection Act of 1986 that restrict industrial and construction activities within 500 meters of the coastline (High Tide Line) to protect fragile coastal ecosystems.

<sup>72</sup> [MyGov India, November 2016](#).

## IX. Goa

## A. The Goa State Cooperative Policy, 2026

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

1. On 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2026, the Goa cabinet approved the **Goa State Cooperative Policy, 2026**.
2. This policy aims to strengthen the cooperative sector by addressing emerging challenges such as **governance deficit, financial stress, limited professional capacity and the growing need for digital transformation**.
3. **Key Features** –
  - a. Establishes a rigid five year implementation timeline from 2026 to 2030 with **mandatory year-wise targets for sectoral development**.
  - b. Legalises a **handholding mechanism** where large, profit-making cooperatives are empowered to financially mentor and revive weak or dormant societies.
  - c. Authorises cooperative societies to **officially manage and supply labour and transport services**, shifting unorganised sectors into the formal economy.
  - d. Expands the legal scope of cooperative activities to **include green energy production, renewable initiatives, and tech-driven business models**.
  - e. Mandates **100% digitisation of cooperative records** and the establishment of **dedicated state institutes** for professional cooperative management training.
  - f. Lastly, it mandates the creation of **village-level value-addition units** and **direct market linkages** to reduce dependence on inter-state imports for dairy and agriculture.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The policy aligns with the **National Cooperation Policy, 2025**,<sup>73</sup> that aims to make cooperatives drivers of Viksit Bharat@2047.
5. **Relevance** –
  - a. Goa's **178 rural dairy cooperatives** procure only about **65,000 litres per day against a 1,10,000-litre processing capacity**,<sup>74</sup> resulting in plant underutilisation and continued dependence on external milk and fodder supplies that **account for nearly 70% of input costs**.<sup>75</sup> The policy addresses this gap by unlocking **National Cooperative Development Corporation funds** to establish **fodder seed banks** and **upgrade dairy technology**, strengthening local production and **advancing the Swayampurna Goa 2037 self-reliance mandate**.<sup>76</sup>
  - b. Goa has a **high concentration of financially weak cooperative societies**,<sup>77</sup>

<sup>73</sup> [PIB, August, 2025](#).

<sup>74</sup> [Goa Dairy](#).

<sup>75</sup> [Goa State Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Limited](#).

<sup>76</sup> Swayampurna Goa 2037 is an ambitious, long-term self-reliance initiative by the Government of Goa, aimed at transforming the state into a fully self-sufficient and developed region by the 75th anniversary of its liberation in 2037.

<sup>77</sup> [Business Goa, October, 2023](#).

**A. The Goa State Cooperative Policy, 2026****Source:** [Times Of India](#) | **Impact:** Medium

particularly in agriculture, dairy, and housing, where **governance gaps and capital shortages** have led to **insolvency risks and threatened member savings**. The policy addresses this without fiscal burden by enabling stronger, profit-making cooperatives to **legally support, restructure, and stabilise weaker societies** through a peer-led financial and managerial handholding framework.

## B. Inbound Tour Operators Incentive Scheme, 2026

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

1. On 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2026, the Government of Goa notified the **Inbound Tour Operators Incentive Scheme, 2026**, to **revive and expand international inbound tourism**.
2. This policy **boosts Goa's tourism** by encouraging international charter flights, increasing tourist stays and spending, **diversifying source markets, and promoting sustainable growth through performance-based incentives**.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The scheme offers **performance-based financial incentives** to inbound tour operators registered with the Goa Department of Tourism.
  - b. It applies specifically to **international charter flights** landing at Goa International Airport (Dabolim) and Manohar International Airport (Mopa).
  - c. For existing markets and monsoon operations, assistance will be provided only for flights operated above **defined base-year levels (1<sup>st</sup> January - 31<sup>st</sup> December)**.
  - d. The scheme includes provisions for both **new international markets** and **seasonal charter services** during off-peak periods (including monsoon), but for existing and monsoon flights, **assistance is provided only for incremental activity** above defined base-year levels.
  - e. The scheme has an **initial three-year implementation horizon**, with the possibility of **annual renewal** based on outcomes and priorities, and prioritises incentives for operators engaging with new markets subject to available budget allocations.
  - f. All aircraft operating under the scheme must comply with **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) safety and operational standards** aligned with **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) norms**.
4. **Incentive Structure -**
  - a. Incoming charter services must meet a **minimum Passenger Load Factor (PLF)<sup>78</sup> threshold**
  - b. At least **70% of arriving passengers** must stay in Goa for a **minimum of seven days**.
5. **Financial Outlay -** An annual incentive budget is allocated for the scheme that is **₹ 2 crore with a per-operator cap**, disbursed **after verification of performance outcomes**.
6. **Relevance -**

<sup>78</sup> Passenger Load Factor (PLF) is a key airline industry metric measuring the percentage of available seating capacity filled by paying passengers. It is calculated by dividing total passenger-kilometers flown (demand) by available seat-kilometers (supply).

**B. Inbound Tour Operators Incentive Scheme, 2026****Source:** [The Government Of Goa](#) | **Impact:** Medium

- a. The scheme responds to a sharp contraction in Goa's international charter market, with arrivals falling to **189 flights and about 40,000 tourists in 2025**, down from **1,024 flights and roughly 2.5 lakh tourists in 2017**.<sup>79</sup> By offering ₹ 2 lakh per flight on new routes, the Government is deploying a **targeted rebound incentive to revive dormant source markets** such as the **United Kingdom and Russia** and **tap emerging ones like Poland and Uzbekistan**, thereby stabilising the high spending international segment.
- b. The launch of Mopa (GOX) initially split the charter traffic, leading to operational inefficiencies. The scheme treats both airports as part of a **unified gateway strategy**. By offering **the same incentives at both locations**, the state ensures that airlines can choose based on **commercial feasibility rather than tax or subsidy disparities**.
- c. Further, by providing incentives for **Monsoon Charters** (June–September), the state is attempting to break the “seasonal” nature of Goa's economy. This aligns with the **Goa Tourism 2.0 vision of becoming a 365-day destination**,<sup>80</sup> ensuring that hotels and staff have stable employment throughout the year, rather than just the October–March window.

<sup>79</sup> [The Times Of India, January, 2026.](#)

<sup>80</sup> [Mint, October, 2022.](#)

## Social Sector Schemes

### I. Bihar

#### A. Karpoori Thakur Kisan Samman Scheme

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

1. On 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2026, the **Bihar Government** announced the launch of the **Karpoori Thakur Kisan Samman** scheme, under which eligible farmers will receive ₹ 3,000 annually as direct financial support.
2. The primary objective of this initiative is to **provide targeted income support to farmers**, strengthen their financial resilience, and help mitigate the impact of rising input costs and economic uncertainties in the agriculture sector.
3. **Key Features** –
  - a. Eligible farmers in Bihar will receive ₹ 3,000 per year under the **Karpoori Thakur Kisan Samman** scheme.
  - b. The scheme is additional to the support of ₹ 6,000 that farmers in the state get under **PM Kisan Samman Nidhi**,<sup>81</sup> making the assistance given to farmers of the state to ₹ 9,000.
  - c. The state support will be divided into **three installments of ₹ 1,000 each, synchronised with the Central** Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) schedule (typically every four months).
  - d. Further, all farmers **currently registered and verified for PM Kisan** in Bihar are automatically eligible.
  - e. However, it requires **active Aadhaar-seeding and e-KYC compliance** to ensure leak-proof delivery.
  - f. It is part of the broader focus on **agricultural welfare and rural support programmes** by the Bihar Government.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The scheme complements the **PM Kisan Samman Nidhi**,<sup>82</sup> by giving extra cash to the farmers of the state.
5. **Relevance** –
  - a. Bihar's agrarian structure is dominated by marginal holdings, with an **average landholding of just 0.39 hectares**<sup>83</sup> and about **97% of farmers classified as small or marginal farmers**.<sup>84</sup> In this context, making the cash transfer to ₹ 9,000 has outsized value, covering **a significant portion of the input costs** for a sub-acre farmer and **reducing dependence on local moneylenders for basic inputs like**

<sup>81</sup> PM Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a central sector scheme launched by the Government of India in 2018 that provides direct income support of ₹6,000 per year to small and marginal farmer families.

<sup>82</sup> [PM Kisan Samman Nidhi](#).

<sup>83</sup> [State Level Bankers' Committee](#).

<sup>84</sup> [Fodder Resource Development Plan For Bihar, 2022](#).

### A. Karpoori Thakur Kisan Samman Scheme

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

seeds.

- b. The scheme, promised by the NDA Government in its **2025 Election Manifesto for the state**,<sup>85</sup> is a pillar of the broader **Agriculture Roadmap-4**.<sup>86</sup> By injecting **nearly ₹ 2,600 crore annually into the rural economy**,<sup>87</sup> the Government is stimulating local consumption. This cash-in-hand approach acts as a **stabiliser against seasonal price volatility and crop failures**.

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<sup>85</sup> [NDA Sankalp Patra, 2025](#).

<sup>86</sup> The 4th Agriculture Roadmap of Bihar (2023–2028), launched on 18 October 2023, is a ₹ 1.62 lakh crore, five-year strategic plan to modernize agriculture, increase farmer income, and ensure food/nutrition security. It focuses on enhancing crop productivity, fisheries, and livestock through mechanization, technology, and improved infrastructure.

<sup>87</sup> [Hindustan Times, February, 2026](#).

## II. Odisha

### A. Mukhyamantri Kanya Bibaha Yojana

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

1. On 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2026, the **Government of Odisha** launched the **Mukhyamantri Kanya Bibaha Yojana**.
2. The initiative aims to **reduce the financial burden of marriage on economically weaker families**, promote **dignified and socially responsible matrimonial practices**, encourage **women's dignity and social security**, support **widow remarriage**, and discourage **dowry** in the state of Odisha.
3. **Key Features** –
  - a. Under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Bibaha Yojana, eligible brides receive **financial assistance of ₹ 51,000** to support marriage expenses.
  - b. Of the total amount, **₹ 35,000 is transferred directly** to the bride's bank account through DBT, **₹ 10,000 is allotted for wedding gifts** (including sarees, ornaments, and household items), and **₹ 6,000 supports marriage arrangements** such as food and event costs.
  - c. Eligibility criteria require the **bride to be aged 18–35 years** and the **groom 21–35 years**, and **both must be permanent residents of Odisha**.
  - d. The scheme prioritises **low-income families, widows, Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**.
  - e. Implementation covers the period **2025–26 to 2029–30** with a budget provision of over **₹ 59 crore** for state-wide rollout.
4. **Relevance** –
  - a. For **low-income families in rural Odisha**, a single wedding can lead to lifelong debt at predatory interest rates. The ₹ 51,000 package is an **asset-building grant** as by **covering the fixed costs of a wedding**, it prevents the liquidation of productive assets (like cattle or small land plots) that families otherwise sell to fund dowries or ceremonies.
  - b. Child marriage in Odisha remains alarmingly high, with **20.5% of women aged 20–24 married before 18**, effectively **one in every five girls**. The problem is sharply concentrated in **tribal districts** such as Nabarangpur (39.4%), Malkangiri (39.3%), Koraput (35.5%), Rayagada (33.9%), Mayurbhanj (31.3%), and Ganjam (22.3%),<sup>88</sup> where rates **approach or exceed double the state average**. By restricting eligibility for the scheme to 18+ and linking compliance to a **₹ 60,000 benefit**, the policy directly targets these hotspots by **creating a tangible financial disincentive for underage marriage**.

<sup>88</sup> [The Hindu, February, 2023](#).

### III. Madhya Pradesh

#### A. Overseas Employment Placement Scheme For OBC Youth

Source: [Millennium Post](#) | Impact: Medium

1. The Government of Madhya Pradesh announced the **Overseas Employment Scheme for the OBC Youth**, which will **replace the** Overseas Employment Placement Scheme for OBC Youth, 2022 scheme.<sup>89</sup>
2. The main aim of the scheme is to **utilise the idle demographic dividend of the state** by connecting them with **employment opportunities**, while maintaining bolstering friendly relations with foreign states.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The scheme replaces the earlier **Overseas Employment Placement Scheme for OBC Youth** 2022 scheme.
  - b. Under the scheme, the state Government aims to **facilitate employment opportunities for 600 OBC youth every year for the next three years**.
  - c. The state Government has announced an allocation of **₹ 45 crore to enhance global employability and income opportunities** for the youth from the backward classes.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States-** Other states implementing similar schemes include **Uttarakhand**,<sup>90</sup> **Kerala**<sup>91</sup> and **Uttar Pradesh**<sup>92</sup> which focuses on preparing candidates for international employment **through skill certification, pre-departure orientation, and strong linkages with overseas labour markets** to reduce unemployment and raise earning potential.
5. **Relevance -**
  - a. By facilitating structured overseas job placements for OBC youth, **the scheme contributes indirectly to increased remittance inflows**, which are a **major and stable source of foreign exchange for India** and a significant economic support for households. With remittances reaching a record **\$ 135.46 billion (~₹ 11.55 Lakh Crore) in FY 2024-25**,<sup>93</sup> such overseas employment opportunities have the potential to enhance household incomes.
  - b. Madhya Pradesh has a **large pool of unemployed youth**, with over 26 lakh young jobseekers registered on the state's Rojgar Portal and **more than 10.46 lakh of them are from the OBC category**.<sup>94</sup> **The scheme directly targets a large base of unemployed OBC youth, making the state's investment of ₹ 45 crore more**

<sup>89</sup> [Millennium Post, January, 2026.](#)

<sup>90</sup> [Overseas Placement Cell, Directorate Of Training And Employment, Uttarakhand.](#)

<sup>91</sup> [Overseas Development And Employment Promotion Consultants Ltd.](#)

<sup>92</sup> [UP Nivesh Mitra Portal.](#)

<sup>93</sup> [ET, July, 2025.](#)

<sup>94</sup> [NDTV, July, 2025.](#)

**A. Overseas Employment Placement Scheme For OBC Youth****Source:** [Millennium Post](#) | **Impact:** Medium

- meaningful** as it addresses a quantifiable problem rather than a symbolic goal.<sup>95</sup>
- c. In 2025, nearly **four lakh workers across India migrated to ECR (Emigration Check Required) countries**, with major destinations like the UAE and Saudi Arabia, indicating strong ongoing **demand for overseas employment**.<sup>96</sup> The **scheme aligns with existing international employment flows** by **preparing youth for legal and structured overseas work** instead of ad-hoc or unsafe migration, potentially reducing exploitation and distress cases for migrant workers.

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<sup>95</sup> [NDTV, July, 2025.](#)

<sup>96</sup> [TOI, February, 2026.](#)

## IV. West Bengal

### A. Banglar Yuva Sathi Scheme

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

1. The **West Bengal Government** on **5<sup>th</sup> February, 2026** announced the **Banglar Yuva Sathi Scheme** in its Budget in the State Legislative Assembly.
2. The scheme aims to **empower the unemployed youth** of West Bengal by providing them monthly financial assistance.
3. **Key Features** -
  - a. The state Government will provide a **monthly aid of ₹ 1,500/-** to the unemployed youth of the state through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**.
  - b. The Government has prescribed an **eligibility criteria** for the scheme on the official portal:
    - i. The applicant must be a **permanent resident of West Bengal**.
    - ii. The **age limit** for the benefit is between **21 - 40 years**.
    - iii. Minimum **educational qualification** of the applicant should be **Class 10<sup>th</sup> pass or higher**.
    - iv. The applicant must be **currently unemployed**.
  - c. The **duration** of the scheme will be for a **maximum of five years or until the applicant receives an employment offer**.
  - d. The residents of West Bengal in the **age group of 21 - 40 will be ineligible to apply** under certain conditions:
    - i. If they are **regular students**.
    - ii. If they have **received other Government scholarships** (like Swami Vivekananda<sup>97</sup> or Kanyashree<sup>98</sup>).
    - iii. If they are **employed in any sector**.
  - e. Residents will **not be allowed to apply** to Yuva Sathi Scheme if they are **receiving benefit from any other scheme** (such as Yuvasree Scheme).
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Other states with similar schemes include **Himachal Pradesh<sup>99</sup> and Kerala<sup>100</sup>** where the state Government provides a **monthly allowance to the unemployed**.
5. **Relevance** -
  - a. The state has **not provided essential records to the Comptroller and Auditor**

<sup>97</sup> Swami Vivekananda Merit-cum-Means Scholarship (SVMCM) is a primary merit-based scholarship for students from Class 11 to PhD level. Eligibility criteria is minimum 60% marks in the last qualifying examination (53% for PG students). The annual family income must not exceed ₹ 2.5 lakh. Benefits are monthly stipends ranging from ₹ 1,000 to ₹ 5,000 depending on the course.

<sup>98</sup> Kanyashree Prakalpa is a flagship scheme designed to improve the status of girl students through conditional cash transfers.

<sup>99</sup> [Himachal Pradesh Unemployment Allowance Scheme, 2017.](#)

<sup>100</sup> [Kerala Unemployment Allowance Scheme, 1982.](#)

### A. Banglar Yuva Sathi Scheme

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

**General (CAG)**<sup>101</sup> for auditing major programmes and other social security schemes because the state cited privacy/record issues and did not furnish data even after reminders.<sup>102</sup> This **pattern of non-cooperation undermines oversight of beneficiary targeting and public expenditure** and raises concerns about inclusion and exclusion errors and the risk of fiscal leakage in new schemes. The scheme attempts to address such risks by mandating eligibility filters and **creating a more digitised and traceable beneficiary database**.

- b. West Bengal's **youth unemployment (ages 15–29) remains a challenge**, the state recorded a **12.6% unemployment rate for youth in the July–September, 2025 quarter**,<sup>103</sup> indicates persistent joblessness among young people even where general unemployment appears moderate.

<sup>101</sup> [The Hindu, February, 2023.](#)

<sup>102</sup> [The Hindu, February, 2023.](#)

<sup>103</sup> [Ministry Of Statistics And Programme Implementation, November, 2025, Pg. A-19.](#)

## B. Monthly Allowance Hike Under Lakshmir Bhandar Scheme

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

1. On 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2026, the **West Bengal Government** announced a **hike of ₹ 500** in the **monthly allowance** to the state's women under its flagship **Lakshmir Bhandar scheme**.
2. **Key Features -**
  - a. The Lakshmir Bhandar Scheme is a form of direct benefit transfer (DBT), whose **benefits** will be provided **to women of General, OBC, SC and ST categories**.
  - b. The **revised amounts** shall be as follows:
    - i. **₹ 1,500 per month** for **General/OBC women** (revised from the **earlier amount of ₹ 1,000 per month**);
    - ii. **₹ 1,700** for **SC/ST women** (revised from the **earlier amount of ₹ 1,200 per month**).
  - c. The **transfer shall be 100% tax free** and will be provided **in addition to any other family income**. The beneficiary shall not be required to return the amount.
  - d. The **standard date for the credit** of the amount is **between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of every month**. During festival months, the amount shall be credited at an earlier date.<sup>104</sup>
3. **Relevance -**
  - a. **Regular cash transfers** under the scheme **have tangible impacts on women's agency and household spending decisions**. In a state-wide survey of 2024, **85.6% of beneficiary women reported feeling financially empowered** by receiving the cash allowance and used it for **family expenditures, children's education, health and even personal needs**.<sup>105</sup>
  - b. The State's **debt remains over 36.9% of GSDP**<sup>106</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission has flagged that **unconditional cash transfers like Lakshmir Bhandar now constitute over 20% of state subsidy expenditure**.<sup>107</sup> These act as a consumption floor for the poor, they risk **crowding out capital expenditure**, thus, the state's tax revenue growth must outpace welfare hikes to avoid a long-term fiscal trap.

<sup>104</sup> [Lakshmir Bhandar Scheme Amount 2026: Monthly Benefits](#).

<sup>105</sup> [TOI, May, 2024](#).

<sup>106</sup> [Moneycontrol, April, 2024](#).

<sup>107</sup> [The Indian Express, February, 2026](#).

## V. Kerala

### A. Personal Accidental Death Assurance Scheme For Employees Of Private Establishments

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

1. On **10<sup>th</sup> February, 2026**, Kerala launched a **personal accidental death assurance scheme for private sector workers** to extend financial protection and social security.
2. The scheme aims to **provide financial security to employees of private establishments** in Kerala by ensuring compensation to their families in case of accidental death.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The **Comprehensive Health Insurance Agency of Kerala (CHIAK)** and the **Labour department** will jointly implement a **personal accidental death assurance scheme for employees of private establishments** registered under the **Wage Protection System (WPS)**.
  - b. Under the policy, the **family of a worker who dies in an accident** whether at work or elsewhere receives a fixed financial assistance of **₹ 5 lakh** as immediate support, **paid in addition** to any benefits available under the **Workmen's Compensation Act**.
  - c. Coverage extends to workers from **private sector establishments registered under the Wage Security Scheme**, which already encompasses a large number of firms and employees across the state.
  - d. The scheme is designed to be **widely accessible with minimal premium cost**, requiring an **annual contribution of ₹ 150 per worker**, which aims to enable inclusion of approximately **25 lakh private sector workers** under the safety net.
4. **Relevance -**
  - a. Kerala accounts for nearly **10% of India's total road accidents** and **records over 4,000 accident deaths annually**,<sup>108</sup> exposing thousands of private sector workers to financial vulnerability, especially in **cases of transit or off-site fatalities not covered under conventional compensation laws**. By guaranteeing a ₹ 5 lakh payout through Wage Protection System linkage regardless of where the accident occurs, the **scheme fills this protection gap**, ensures **timely financial relief to families**, and **strengthens formal workforce registration in the state**.
  - b. Further, traditional compensation claims through labor courts can take years.<sup>109</sup> By using CHIAK (the same agency that handles health insurance), the Government is creating a **"Fast-Track Disbursement" model**. Nominees only need to submit the **death certificate, FIR, inheritance certificate, and scheme membership** to the district office for a direct bank transfer, **bypassing lengthy legal battles**.

<sup>108</sup> [On Manorama, September, 2025.](#)

<sup>109</sup> [Policy Bazaar, February, 2026.](#)

## VI. Delhi

## A. Delhi Food Security Rules, 2026

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

1. On **4<sup>th</sup> February, 2026**, the Government of Delhi issued the **Delhi Food Security Rules, 2026**, which will give **preference to “priority households”** and **move beyond outdated methods of identifying and reaching to the poorest.**
2. **Key Features -**
  - a. The households which have an **annual family income of ₹ 1.20 lakh will be eligible** to be **considered as a Priority Household.**
  - b. The Rules state that a **Family Income Certificate from the Revenue Department is necessary** to receive a Ration Card.
  - c. The Rules also list the **criteria under which a household will not be eligible** to receive a Ration Card (exclusion category):
    - i. If any member of the **family holds a building/land;**
    - ii. If any member of the **family pays income tax;**
    - iii. If a family member **owns a personal vehicle** (except a commercial vehicle needed to earn a livelihood);
    - iv. If the household is **receiving food subsidy under any other scheme of the Central Government;**
    - v. If the household has **electricity connection above 2 kW.**
  - d. For application of a ration card, the Rules state that the **existing eldest female of the family will be treated as head of the household**, provided that she is of 18 years of age.
  - e. To **avail the ration card**, the rules list a set of documents which should be submitted:
    - i. **Aadhaar card** of all family members;
    - ii. **Proof of residence in Delhi** if it is not mentioned in the Aadhaar Card;
    - iii. **Family Income Certificate;**
    - iv. **Copy of Ration Card** (if any other member has a ration card of any type);
    - v. An **undertaking that the applicant and the family members** do not fall under the exclusion categories.
  - f. The Rules mention **district level committees in every district which will identify priority households.** The scheme will be led by a District Magistrate/Additional District Magistrate and will also include MLAs, SDMs and other Assistant Commissioners.
  - g. To address grievances, the Rules mention an **Internal Grievance Redressal Mechanism at three levels**, i.e., Circle level, District level, State level. The rules state that the **complaints should be addressed and resolved in 15 days after being filed.**

### A. Delhi Food Security Rules, 2026

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

3. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The rules are broadly anchored in the **National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013**,<sup>110</sup> the **foundational central legislation** governing subsidised foodgrain distribution under the **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)**.
4. **Relevance** -
  - a. Periodic data verification in Delhi's PDS has unearthed **significant inclusion errors including thousands of ineligible beneficiaries** such as those owning assets or with higher income and even **5,600+ Delhi Government employees erroneously on the beneficiary list**.<sup>111</sup> The **new income verification and strict exclusion criteria institutionalise such reducing misuse and leakage**.<sup>112</sup>
  - b. Delhi is already rolling out **tech-based reforms in PDS operations**, such as real-time monitoring via geo-fenced ePoS machines<sup>113</sup> and **command-centre oversight of 2,018 fair price shops serving over 72 lakh beneficiaries**.<sup>114</sup> Aligning the new Rules with such digital systems **enhances verification and curb diversion**, ultimately increasing the share of foodgrains reaching the intended priority households.
  - c. For the first time, a **Three-Tier Grievance System** (Circle, District, State) has been mandated with a **15-day resolution deadline**. If a beneficiary is denied ration due to technical glitches or dealer malpractice, they now have a **time-bound path to appeal directly to the District Magistrate or the State Food Commission**.

<sup>110</sup> [National Food Security Act \(NFSA\), 2013](#).

<sup>111</sup> [TOI, May, 2025](#).

<sup>112</sup> [The Indian Express, January, 2026](#).

<sup>113</sup> Geo-fenced ePoS (Electronic Point of Sale) machines are advanced, secure payment terminals that restrict transaction capabilities to a specific, authorized geographic location, often within a small radius such as 10 meters of the registered address.

<sup>114</sup> [TOI, December, 2025](#).

## Other Decisions

### I. Rajasthan

#### A. Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code And Connected Matters) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021

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

1. The Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission (RERC) through an order, approved the **introduction of dual source electricity supply for high-tension (HT) and extra high tension (EHT) consumers.**
2. The primary **aim** of the regulations is to **enhance power reliability for power sensitive sectors** like Data Centres, through access to two independent power sources.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The regulations **adds a definition of “Dual source of supply” in Section 31.** The Section essentially defines Dual source of supply as **“Electricity supply given from two sources with simultaneous / standby use of electricity from both sources.”**
  - b. **Section 16** prescribes the **conditions for the dual source of supply** for HT/EHT consumers as follows:
    - i. The dual source of supply with simultaneous use may be allowed.
    - ii. Such **applicants shall be charged twice the fixed charges.**
    - iii. The **consumer shall provide a high degree of protection** with their installation, ensuring no technical issue in using multiple supplies simultaneously.
  - c. **Section 29** provides an **explanation of maintaining fixed charges** for the dual use supply. The order notes that fixed charges are **designed to recover capacity related costs** incurred by distribution licensees.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Dual use supply has been permitted in a number of states such as **Haryana,<sup>115</sup> Maharashtra<sup>116</sup> (multiples sources of power), Uttar Pradesh (supply through independent feeders).<sup>117</sup>**
5. **Relevance -**
  - a. The state has faced sizable **shortfalls between peak electricity demand and local supply with demand surging to ~3,700 lakh units while generation remained at ~2,800 lakh units, and lower utilisation of thermal plants (55%–65% vs the ideal ~83%)** contributing to grid stress and outages.<sup>118</sup> By enabling **HT/EHT consumers to access two independent power feeds,** the regulation **reduces operational risk**

<sup>115</sup> [Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission HERC/Petition No.-72 of 2024.](#)

<sup>116</sup> [Draft Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission \(Electricity Supply Code And Standards of Performance Of Distribution Licensees Including Power Quality\) Regulations, 2020.](#)

<sup>117</sup> [Uttar Pradesh Electricity Supply Code, 2005.](#)

<sup>118</sup> [TOI, July, 2024.](#)

**A. Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code And Connected Matters) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021**

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

**from local grid shortfalls and fluctuations**, thus improving resilience for power-sensitive industrial loads that cannot afford disruptions even during peak demand or maintenance events.

- b. Reliable power is a **key determinant for industrial investment**, especially in **electricity-intensive and latency-sensitive sectors like data centres**. Industry observers note that around **60%-70% of data centres in India are concentrated in regions with reliable electricity supply**.<sup>119</sup> By institutionalising dual sources of supply for HT/EHT consumers, Rajasthan enhances its **competitiveness as a location for data centres and other high-load enterprises**.

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<sup>119</sup> [The New Indian Express, January, 2026.](#)

## B. Second Amendment To Rajasthan Electricity Supply Code And Connected Matters, 2025

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

1. On 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2026, the Rajasthan Electricity Regulatory Commission notified the **second Amendment to the Electricity Supply Code and Connected Matters Regulation, 2025**.
2. The Amendment **aims to alter the rules governing recovery of dues from permanently disconnected consumers**, timelines for the restoration of supply and connection charges for loads up to 150 kW.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. According to the Amendment, any **outstanding dues of a permanently disconnected connection can now be recovered** from a new connection by serving the owner a **notice of 30 days**.
  - b. Disconnection/Recovery cannot be carried out **until the speaking order** has been issued.
  - c. A new requirement states that an applicant **applying for a reconnection will be considered as a new consumer after the expiry period of one year** for HT/EHT consumers and two years for other consumers.
  - d. A **new Schedule 2A has been inserted which creates a standard connection charge slab for Low Tension (LT) consumers**,<sup>120</sup> and covers domestic, non-domestic and industrial consumers.
  - e. The **clause for LT consumers will not be applicable** to certain categories:
    - i. **Colonies developed** in plotted developments where **pro-rata charges are being recovered**.
    - ii. Multi-storey buildings whose **electrification is mandatory**.
    - iii. **Private industrial areas** where electrification is a must.
4. **Relevance -**
  - a. Rajasthan's electricity distribution companies continue to **face significant financial stress with regulatory assets, approved but unrecovered deficits reaching approximately ₹ 49,800 crore**<sup>121</sup> and part of this sum around **₹ 6,701 crore targeted for recovery in FY 2025-26**.<sup>122</sup> These assets have prompted addition of regulatory surcharges to consumer bills to improve cash flows. By enabling the recovery of outstanding dues from permanently disconnected consumers **through new or existing connections after a 30-day notice**, the Amendment **provides a regulated, enforceable mechanism** to capture old

<sup>120</sup> Low Tension (LT) consumers are electricity users supplied at low voltage, typically up to 1,000V AC (or 650V-440V depending on local codes). This category includes residential, commercial, and small-scale industrial users who receive power directly from local distribution transformers.

<sup>121</sup> [ET, October, 2025](#).

<sup>122</sup> [ET, October, 2025](#).

**B. Second Amendment To Rajasthan Electricity Supply Code And Connected Matters, 2025**

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

liabilities that otherwise remain stranded helping discoms improve collections and reduce financial strain.

- b. **Rajasthan's discoms have been actively working to reduce aggregate technical and commercial (AT and C) losses**, for example, **Jaipur's utilities brought losses down to ~14 % and Ajmer's to ~9 % in FY 2024-25** but high losses still translate to revenue uncertainty and administrative burden.<sup>123</sup> By **introducing fixed timelines for reconnection and clearer liability rules**, the Amendment helps reduce **billing ambiguity and prolonged disputes**, improving collection efficiency and supporting better financial performance of the discoms, aligning with the state's broader loss-reduction efforts.

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<sup>123</sup> [TOI, December, 2025.](#)

## II. Karnataka

### A. AI-based Social Media Analytics Solution (SMAS) To Tackle Misinformation

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

1. On 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2026, the Karnataka cabinet approved an AI-based Social Media Analytics Solution (SMAS) at an **estimated cost of ₹ 67.20 crore**.
2. The **aim** of SMAS is to **combat fake news and online threats**, while simultaneously addressing the limitations of traditional monitoring of information.
3. **Key features** -
  - a. SMAS will **monitor social media sites** (including Facebook, Instagram, Facebook, X) to monitor any **news with the intent of spreading hate, misinformation or misleading content**.<sup>124</sup>
  - b. The system shall **identify online abuse, child trafficking, cyber threats** and any other instance which may affect public order.<sup>125</sup> The system shall also incorporate advanced **deepfake identification tools** to detect AI-generated manipulated audio, video, or images that may be used to mislead the public or incite unrest.
  - c. SMAS shall enable **criminal origin tracking**, including tracing the source of coordinated misinformation campaigns, identifying repeat offenders, and mapping digital networks involved in unlawful activities.
  - d. The system shall be **deployed across all the districts of Karnataka** and its implementation will be overseen by the State Home Department.<sup>126</sup>
4. **Relevance** -
  - a. The state has seen a significant surge in digital threats and cyber offences, with official data showing thousands of cybercrime cases and substantial financial losses. Karnataka registered **22,255 cybercrime cases in 2023, 22,478 in 2024, and 13,000 cases to date in 2025**,<sup>127</sup> resulting in an estimated **₹ 5,474 crore lost to cyber fraud over three years**.<sup>128</sup>
  - b. The initiative comes amid continuing **debates over how fake news and misinformation are defined in the state's broader regulatory architecture** where the proposed legislations such as **Karnataka Misinformation and Fake News (Prohibition) Bill, 2025**<sup>129</sup> **have drawn criticism**. The legitimacy of SMAS will heavily depend on underlying legal definitions and operational thresholds.
  - c. Proposed measures such as the **Karnataka Misinformation and Fake News (Prohibition) Bill, 2025**,<sup>130</sup> which contemplates stringent penalties, **have raised**

<sup>124</sup> [India Today, February, 2026.](#)

<sup>125</sup> [Moneycontrol, February, 2026.](#)

<sup>126</sup> [Deccan Herald, February, 2026.](#)

<sup>127</sup> [NDTV, December, 2025.](#)

<sup>128</sup> [NDTV, December, 2025.](#)

<sup>129</sup> [ET, July, 2025.](#)

<sup>130</sup> [ET, July, 2025.](#)

**A. AI-based Social Media Analytics Solution (SMAS) To Tackle Misinformation**

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

**concerns among free-speech advocates.** In this context, **AI systems could either introduce greater analytical neutrality** or, if **poorly governed, amplify enforcement asymmetries** through opaque algorithmic flagging.

### III. Arunachal Pradesh

#### A. Hydropower Expansion And Localisation Initiative

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

1. The **Arunachal Pradesh Cabinet**, approved a **comprehensive set of policy decisions** to push hydropower development in the state.
2. The decision is aimed at reviving existing projects through private investment in line with the state's **Decade of Hydropower vision (2025-2035)**.<sup>131</sup>
3. **Key Features –**
  - a. **GST reimbursement** concessions for the **1,200 MW Kala II project in Anjaw** and the **680 MW Attunli project in Dibang Valley**, involving a combined investment of approximately **₹ 21,700 crore**.
  - b. The projects are expected to **generate around 458 crore units of free power** and **contribute nearly ₹ 84 crore to local area development funds**, while creating substantial employment opportunities.
  - c. Reserves **25% of Group A and B posts, 50% of Group C and D posts, and 25% of skilled and unskilled jobs** for local communities.
  - d. There will be **time-bound compensation and relief and rehabilitation packages** for project-affected families, positioning affected communities as long-term partners in hydropower development.
  - e. To strengthen technical capacity, a **one-time relaxation in recruitment rules** for the post of Superintending Engineer Civil was cleared.
  - f. Additionally, a **Renovate-Own-Operate-Transfer policy for small hydropower projects** was approved in alignment with the state's **Decade of Hydropower Vision 2025-2035**.
4. **Relevance –**
  - a. In 2023, Arunachal Pradesh undertook a strategic review of its hydropower portfolio and **discontinued 44 projects aggregating 32,415 MW that had not progressed beyond the allotment stage**, thereby rationalising a significant portion of the **46,943 MW development pipeline**.<sup>132</sup> The approval of full SGST reimbursement further addresses the viability gap by **lowering the effective capital burden on a ₹ 21,700 crore investment**, improving tariff competitiveness and bankability. These steps are expected to convert long-stalled power project allocations into **financially viable, commission-ready assets**.
  - b. At the Pare Hydroelectric Project site in 2024, **there were protests by the local committees for the recruitment of local candidates in the positions for which**

<sup>131</sup> Arunachal Pradesh has declared 2025–2035 as the "Decade of Hydropower" to unlock its immense, untapped 58,000 MW hydroelectric potential, aiming to commission 19 GW of capacity by 2035.

<sup>132</sup> [The Hindu, June, 2023](#).

### A. Hydropower Expansion And Localisation Initiative

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

**they are qualified.**<sup>133</sup> The mandate reserving 25% of Group A and B posts and 50% of Group C and D posts for Arunachalis directly addresses this **structural gap by legally enforcing local hiring, reducing conflict risk**, and embedding **assured employment within the state's hydropower expansion.**

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<sup>133</sup> [The Sentinel Assam, February, 2024.](#)

## IV. Punjab

### A. Proposed Amendment To Punjab Rooftop Solar Regulations, 2021

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

1. On 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2026, the **Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission under the Government of Punjab**, announced revisions to the rooftop solar regulations.
2. The main aim of the **third Amendment** is to support **greater adoption of solar technology**, **tackle obstacles** and promote **compliance with Renewable Purchase Obligation goals**.
3. **Key Provisions -**
  - a. The regulation **introduces “Behind-the-Meter”** or BTM in which a consumer is allowed to install an SPV system behind their meter, which will **operate in parallel with the grid, but without net metering**.<sup>134</sup>
  - b. **“Eligible Consumer”** has been clarified, which now **means a consumer can install the plant in their premises or in any other location**, either himself or through a Renewable Energy Service Company (RESCO).
  - c. A new term of **“Group Net Metering”** has been inserted which is an arrangement where the **excess energy exported to the grid, can be allotted to multiple service connections** of the same consumer within the area of the DISCOM.
  - d. These Regulations (according to Regulation 3.1) will be **applicable to all Rooftop solar PV Systems which operate under:**
    - i. Net Metering Arrangement;
    - ii. Net Billing Arrangement;
    - iii. Group Net Metering Arrangement;
    - iv. Gross Metering Arrangement;
    - v. Virtual Net Metering Arrangement;
    - vi. Behind the meter and operating in parallel with the distribution licensee’s grid.
  - e. Eligible consumers are **now allowed to participate in Net Metering and Group Net Metering** arrangements on a feeder-wise **‘first come, first serve basis.’**
  - f. **No processing fees** will be recovered from a domestic category consumer for a Rooftop SPV system which is **below a capacity of 10 kiloWatt peak**.<sup>135</sup>
  - g. In the case of **Group Net Metering (GNM) or Virtual Net Metering (VNM)**,<sup>136</sup> the distribution licensee will upgrade the distribution system and the expenditure will be done by the participating consumer(s).

<sup>134</sup> Net Metering: Billing mechanism which allows consumers to generate their own electricity and receive credit for any excess energy sent back to the grid.

<sup>135</sup> kWp: Kilowatt Peak is the maximum power output a solar panel can generate under a standard test condition.

<sup>136</sup> Virtual Net Metering: Arrangement that allows multiple customers to share energy credits from a single, off-site renewable energy system.

**A. Proposed Amendment To Punjab Rooftop Solar Regulations, 2021**Source: [The Government Of Punjab](#) | Impact: Medium

4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Other states have also implemented similar steps of GNM, VNM and enhancing consumer eligibility such as **Delhi**,<sup>137</sup> **Odisha** and **Maharashtra**.<sup>138</sup>
5. **Relevance** -
  - a. **Punjab's electricity demand has reached record levels in 2025**, with **peak load touching 16,836 MegaWatt** during the summer and paddy season,<sup>139</sup> **reflecting heavy agricultural pumping and rising urban consumption pressures**.
  - b. Despite this high demand, rooftop solar penetration in the state remains relatively modest at around **500 MW installed capacity in 2025**, **indicating significant untapped decentralised generation potential**.<sup>140</sup> By enabling broader consumer eligibility and aggregation mechanisms, the **amended regulations can support load decentralisation, reduce feeder congestion during daytime peaks, and lower marginal power procurement pressures on the state utility**.
  - c. Further, power purchase **costs account for 61% of the state's total revenue requirement**.<sup>141</sup> Rooftop solar to this effect is a **fiscal hedge**. Every unit generated on a rooftop **reduces the state's need to buy expensive "peak power" during the summer/paddy season**, where spot prices **often spike to ₹ 10-12 per unit**.<sup>142</sup>

<sup>137</sup> [Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission \(Group Net Metering And Virtual Net Metering For Renewable Energy\) Guidelines, 2019.](#)

<sup>138</sup> [Council On Energy, Environment And Water.](#)

<sup>139</sup> [The North News, June, 2025.](#)

<sup>140</sup> [TOI, July, 2025.](#)

<sup>141</sup> [The Tribune, December, 2024.](#)

<sup>142</sup> [The Tribune, March, 2023.](#)

## V. Telangana

### A. Telangana Electricity Regulation Commission (Licensee's Duty For Supply Of Electricity On Request) Second Amendment Regulation, 2026

Source: [Telangana Electricity Regulatory Commission](#) | Impact: Medium

1. The Government of Telangana, on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2026 notified the **Telangana Electricity Regulation Commission (Licensee's Duty for Supply of Electricity on Request) Second Amendment Regulation, 2026**.
2. The **aim** of the Regulation is to **reduce costs for domestic electricity connections**, especially in areas lacking existing power infrastructure.
3. **Key Features** -
  - a. According to the Regulation, the consumers who seek **new connections** within a **one-kilometre radius** of an existing power line will be **charged based on load**.
  - b. Instead of a distance based price, the **commission has introduced a load based charge rate for different categories**:
    - i. LT-1:<sup>143</sup> **Domestic** (₹500/- up to 1kWatt and ₹ 10,000 per kW above 20 kW);
    - ii. LT-2: **Non-Domestic/Commercial** (₹1000/- up to 1kW and ₹ 10,000 per kW above 20 kW);
    - iii. LT-3: **Industries** (₹ 10,000 per kW above 20 kW of contracted load);
    - iv. LT-4: **Cottage Industries** (₹ 1,000 per kW);
    - v. LT-5: **Agriculture** (₹ 1,000 per kW).
4. **Relevance** -
  - a. **Telangana has emerged as one of India's fastest-growing power-consuming states** as the **peak demand crossed 17,162 MW in 2025**,<sup>144</sup> reflecting sustained growth driven by domestic electrification, industrial expansion, lift irrigation projects, and IT-led urban growth. Therefore, a **load-based structure improves predictability in connection costs** and supports **faster household electrification** and small enterprise growth.
  - b. The **Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)**, with an outlay of **₹ 3.03 lakh crore** (FY 2021-26),<sup>145</sup> improves efficiency and financial sustainability of DISCOMs through smart metering and network upgrades. Under this framework, Telangana DISCOMs for **FY 2025-26, submitted Detailed Project Reports (DRP) worth ₹ 9,308 crore**.<sup>146</sup> Shifting to a **load-based connection charge structure** modernises Telangana's distribution network and improves revenue adequacy.

<sup>143</sup> Low Tension (LT) refers to the supply of electricity at low voltage levels. It is the standard voltage used for residential, commercial, and small industrial consumers. The categories provided (LT-1 to LT-5) classify consumers based on their usage type and contracted load. Also, domestic and commercial users are almost always on the LT grid.

<sup>144</sup> [Hyderabad Mail, March, 2025.](#)

<sup>145</sup> [Ministry Of Power, March, 2025.](#)

<sup>146</sup> [Southern Power Distribution Company Of Telangana Limited, January, 2025, Pg. 15.](#)

**A. Telangana Electricity Regulation Commission (Licensee's Duty For Supply Of Electricity On Request) Second Amendment Regulation, 2026**

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

- c. Under the **old system**, charges for new electricity connections were **distance-based**, discoms prepared **case-by-case estimates** depending on the distance of a consumer's premises from the nearest power line or infrastructure, resulting in **high and unpredictable charges** for households. The Regulation converts this into a **predictable, load-linked fee** and allows middle-class families to budget without **fearing a "hidden" lakh-rupee electricity bill**.<sup>147</sup>

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<sup>147</sup> [The New Indian Express, February, 2026.](#)

## VI. Andhra Pradesh

### A. Operational Guidelines For Andhra Pradesh's Circular Economy Policy

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

1. On 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2026, the Government of Andhra Pradesh issued guidelines to operationalise the **Circular Economy and Waste Recycling Policy**.
2. The Guidelines aim to translate the provisions of the policy into actionable procedures and standards for Government agencies, industrial units and other stakeholders.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The Guidelines aim to operationalise 11 NITI Aayog streams related to industrial waste including plastics, e-waste, used oil, batteries, tyres, biomass, among others.
  - b. Establishment of large scale circular economy parks in industrial corridors, which will host advanced processing, recycling and co-processing units with shared utilities and logistics.
  - c. The Guidelines introduce industrial symbiosis, where outputs from one unit are repurposed as inputs for another, with the aim to reduce raw material and energy consumption and minimise waste sent to landfills.
  - d. A State Circularity Cell will be the nodal unit for implementing the policy as well as coordinating between departments, monitoring compliance and issuing guidelines.<sup>148</sup>
  - e. The Guidelines are supported by a Circular Economy Performance Dashboard that will be integrated with Andhra Pradesh's Real Time Governance System (RTGS) to track industrial waste flows, diversion rates and compliance in real time.
  - f. The Guidelines also mentions features to promote industries:
    - i. **Green Star Rating Certification** for Industries with fast track permits and incentives.
    - ii. **Single Window Green Clearance Portal** to reduce delays.
    - iii. **Circular Innovation Platform** to boost Research and Development and awards for innovative solutions.
    - iv. Comprehensive capacity building ecosystem through **Self-Help Group (SHG)** upskilling and statewide training programmes.
    - v. Circular Economy in **Corporate Social Responsibility** to make waste reduction and resource recovery core to corporate citizenship.

<sup>148</sup> A State Circularity Cell (or State Circular Economy Cell) refers to specialised units established at the state level in India to promote, implement, and monitor circular economy initiatives, such as waste management, recycling, and resource efficiency.

### A. Operational Guidelines For Andhra Pradesh's Circular Economy Policy

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

4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States like **Tamil Nadu**,<sup>149</sup> **Karnataka**<sup>150</sup> and **Odisha**<sup>151</sup> have introduced policies and programmes aimed at waste segregation, material recovery, plastic recycling, and sustainable industrial practices. These are essentially aimed at **reducing landfill dependency, cutting carbon emissions, generating green employment**, and moving towards **achieving sustainable development goals**.
5. **Relevance** -
- The industrial sector contributes approximately **23%-25% to the state's Gross State Value Added (GSVA)**, with strong presence in pharmaceuticals in Visakhapatnam, bulk drugs, thermal power, food processing, metallurgical industries and cement clusters. **High industrial concentration in resource and energy-intensive sectors** leads to significant generation of fly ash, chemical sludge, plastic waste, construction debris and hazardous waste. **Operationalising circular parks and industrial symbiosis is therefore structurally aligned with the state's industrial profile**, not merely an environmental reform.
  - In Andhra Pradesh's **Visakhapatnam Medtech Zone**, a dedicated **₹ 20 crore e-waste recycling facility**<sup>152</sup> has been set up to process medical and electronic waste using advanced technology, and serve neighboring states as well. **Facility development for e-waste and other complex waste streams illustrates private sector engagement and technology adoption** in circular waste management. The Guidelines extended producer responsibility alignment, and capacity building will help scale such infrastructure across other waste categories making the state **recycling hub in southern India**.
  - It has been projected that effective circular economy implementation could add **about ₹ 15,000 crore to Andhra Pradesh's GSDP annually**, supply raw materials worth **₹ 10,000 crore to manufacturing**, generate **₹ 3,000 crore in GST revenue**, and create **10 lakh direct jobs plus extensive indirect livelihoods** in recycling, processing and logistics.<sup>153</sup>

<sup>149</sup> [The New Indian Express, January, 2026.](#)

<sup>150</sup> [Economic Times, December, 2024.](#)

<sup>151</sup> [PwC, March, 2025.](#)

<sup>152</sup> [TOI, October, 2025.](#)

<sup>153</sup> [The Hans India, June, 2025.](#)

## VII. Uttar Pradesh

### A. Mandatory Permanent Account Number For Property Registrations

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

1. Uttar Pradesh has made **PAN mandatory for all property transactions**, requiring both buyer and seller to provide valid PAN for registration.
2. The primary aim is to increase transparency and **curb benami and illegal transactions**, and **enable better tracking of foreign-funded real estate deals**.
3. **Key Features** –
  - a. **Mandatory PAN for all parties including buyers and sellers must submit and verify their PAN cards** at the time of property sale and registration, without this, the transaction cannot be registered.
  - b. The requirement covers sale and purchase of **land, houses, flats and other immovable property** across Uttar Pradesh’s sub-registrar offices.
  - c. Under the new rule, **transactions cannot proceed using Form 60 as an alternative for individuals without PAN**, increasing enforcement and eliminating loopholes previously used to hide identities.
4. **Relevance** –
  - a. The mandate directly responds to **suspicious property purchases in Nepal-border districts**, where investigations revealed **foreign-linked funding flows into real estate assets**.<sup>154</sup> By linking PAN and Aadhaar biometric authentication to every registration, the state **enables traceable financial trails for agencies to detect unlawful capital inflows and prevent asset-based influence building in sensitive border zones**.
  - b. By shifting from document-based registration to verified identity authentication, the reform **closes loopholes used for benami transactions**, fake PAN usage, and tax evasion in high-value deals. The biometric verification of buyers, sellers, and witnesses **strengthens title integrity, improves TDS compliance, and is expected to reduce impersonation fraud**.
  - c. Furthermore, this requirement is a part of the broader **Uttar Pradesh Online Document Registration Rules, 2024**,<sup>155</sup> which makes it mandatory for Aadhaar-based biometric authentication to curb fraud. By linking every deed to a verified biometric ID, the state is aiming to reduce litigation, as the “Executant” (the person signing the deed) can **no longer claim in court that they were not physically present at the time of the transaction**.

<sup>154</sup> [India Today, February, 2026.](#)

<sup>155</sup> [Uttar Pradesh Online Registration Of Documents Rules, 2024.](#)



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