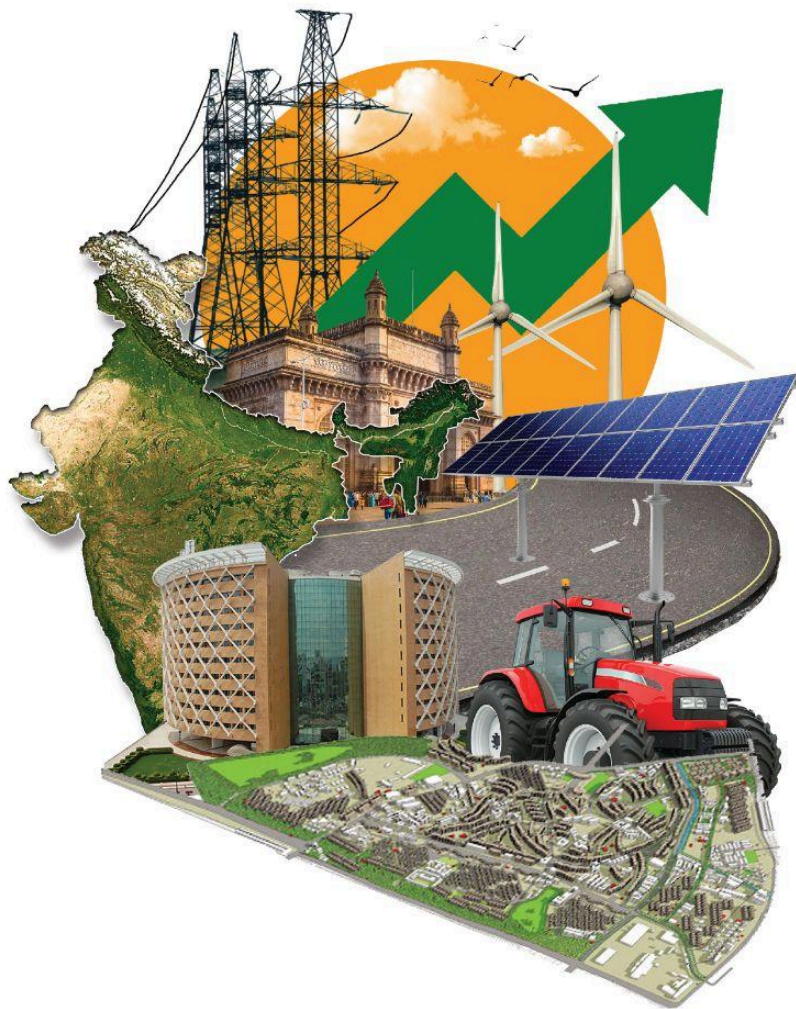


# STATES IN MOTION

What's Happening In Indian States



1<sup>st</sup> June - 15<sup>th</sup> June

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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> June, 2026 to 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2026**.

### Reform Decisions

#### I. Andaman And Nicobar Islands

A. **Draft Andaman And Nicobar Islands Tribal Councils (Preparation Of Electoral Rolls And Conduct Of Elections) Rules, 2026:** The Andaman and Nicobar Administration has released the Draft Andaman and Nicobar Islands Tribal Councils (Preparation of Electoral Rolls and Conduct of Elections) Rules, 2026. The draft rules provide for establishing a structured electoral process for Nicobarese Tribal Councils, including direct elections for Chief Captains and statutory procedures for electoral administration, and prescribe procedures for election administration, candidature, campaigning, and conduct of polls.

#### II. Odisha

A. **Revised Reservation Framework For Professional Institutions:** The Government of Odisha has notified revised reservation provisions for admissions to medical, technical, and professional institutions from the 2026–27 academic session, increasing reservation for Scheduled Tribes from 12% to 22.5% and Scheduled Castes from 8% to 16.25%, while introducing 11.25% reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes in courses where no such provision previously existed.

#### III. Lakshadweep

A. **Lakshadweep Excise Regulation, 2026:** The President of India has promulgated the Lakshadweep Excise Regulation, 2026, replacing the Lakshadweep Prohibition Regulation, 1979 with a regulated excise framework governing the manufacture, import, export, transport, sale, and consumption of liquor. The regulation introduces licensing provisions, prescribes eligibility conditions for licence holders, prohibits sale to persons below 21 years, and establishes a differentiated excise duty structure for liquor, beer, and wine.

#### IV. Haryana

A. **Compliance Reduction And Deregulation Reforms:** The Haryana Government has announced compliance reduction and deregulation reforms that reduce documentation requirements for Change of Land Use approvals from 19 documents to 3, exempt nearly 70% of the state from CLU permissions, and introduce auto-renewal provisions for eligible industries. The reforms also propose a right-to-business framework, simplified fire safety regulations, integrated healthcare approvals, and a centralised digital repository of laws and notifications.

#### V. Bihar

## Key Announcements

- A. **Industrial Approval Timeline And Deemed Clearance Framework:** The Government of Bihar notified the Industrial Approval Timeline and Deemed Clearance Framework under the Bihar Industrial Investment Promotion Act, 2016. The framework aims to accelerate industrial investment by establishing a legally binding, time-bound approval mechanism, reducing procedural delays, and strengthening ease of doing business in Bihar.

### Policy Level Announcements

#### I. Andhra Pradesh

- A. **State Aviation Policy, 2026:** The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet has approved the State Aviation Policy, 2026 for the period 2026–31, replacing the Andhra Pradesh Civil Aviation Policy, 2015. The policy targets the development of nine new airports and ten waterdromes, expansion of passenger handling capacity to 3.038 crore and cargo capacity to 4.27 lakh metric tonnes by 2035, attraction of over ₹ 9,648 Crore in aerospace investments, and training of 5,000 aviation professionals annually.

#### II. Ladakh

- A. **Ladakh Excise Policy, FY 2026–27:** The Administration of Ladakh has brought into force the Ladakh Excise Policy, FY 2026–27, introducing a comprehensive licensing framework for liquor production, distribution, retail sale, hospitality establishments, microbreweries, and related operations. The policy provides for e-auction-based allotment of 20 retail liquor vends, mandates security holograms and digital payment systems, and prescribes an ENA-based liquor regime with specified excise duties and regulatory safeguards.

### Social Sector Announcements

#### I. Telangana

- A. **Gig And Platform Workers Minimum Wage Framework:** The Government of Telangana has notified the provisions of the Code on Wages, 2019, superseding the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, across the state. It categorises workers into four categories of Unskilled, Semi-skilled, Skilled and Highly skilled, and divides the state into three zones, Municipal Corporations, Municipalities and Rural Areas for fixing minimum wages.

- B. **Indiramma Bima Scheme:** The Telangana Government has launched the Indiramma Bima Scheme, providing a state-funded accidental insurance cover of ₹ 5 lakh to families in the event of the accidental death of the designated head of the household. The scheme covers all resident families in Telangana irrespective of caste, religion, income, or employment status, with beneficiary enrolment undertaken through door-to-door registration by government officials.

#### II. Maharashtra

## Key Announcements

A. **Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Shetkari Karja-Mukti Yojana:** The Maharashtra Government has approved the Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Shetkari Karja-Mukti Yojana, providing farm loan waivers of up to ₹ 2 lakh for eligible farmers with overdue short-term crop loans and incentive grants of up to ₹ 50,000 for timely loan repayment. The scheme covers loans disbursed between 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2019 and 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2025, applies across multiple banking institutions, and mandates Aadhaar authentication and AgriStack registration for beneficiaries.

### III. Andaman And Nicobar Islands

A. **Rehabilitation And Resettlement Census Under The Great Nicobar Project:** The Andaman and Nicobar Administration has notified a rehabilitation and resettlement census for families affected by the trunk infrastructure component of the Great Nicobar Infrastructure Project. The census will commence on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2026 in Campbell Bay, and affected families have been directed to furnish the required documents for resettlement and rehabilitation processing.

### IV. Kerala

A. **The Priyadarshini Scheme: Free Bus Travel For Women:** The Government of Kerala launched the flagship 'Priyadarshini' free travel scheme for all women and transgender persons on ordinary buses operated by the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC). The scheme would cost ₹ 65-70 Crore every month and it would be reimbursed by the state Government to the KSRTC. The scheme aims to address the mobility-cost constraint for women and is estimated to reduce women's travel expenditure by 15% to 25%.

## Investment Announcements

### I. Tamil Nadu

A. **Tamil Nadu Electronics Manufacturing Investment:** Tamil Nadu signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Larsen & Toubro (L&T), aiming to invest ₹ 18,600 crore in several projects. The projects include expansion of a data centre in Kanceepuram, establishment of an electronics and electronic systems manufacturing facility in Coimbatore and the expansion of the company's shipbuilding complex at Kattupalli in Tiruvallur. These projects are expected to support Tamil Nadu's goal of expanding its economy to ₹ 1,50,000 crore and create as much as 8,200 jobs.

### II. Odisha

A. **Approval Of Investment Proposals Worth ₹ 3,793 Crore Across The State:** The Odisha State Government approved 24 investment proposals worth ₹ 3,793.33 crore. Key proposals include an apparel manufacturing unit in Khordha, a knitted garments manufacturing unit in Sambalpur, a Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) facility in Dhenkanal, a five-star resort project in Koraput and a steel fabrication unit by JSW in

## Key Announcements

Jajpur. The investment approvals aim to promote industrial development, and generation of about 20,000 employment opportunities.

### Other Decisions

#### I. Gujarat

A. **Wire-Free City Mission:** The Gujarat Cabinet has granted in-principle approval to the Wire-Free City Mission to underground electricity distribution networks across all 17 Municipal Corporations and 151 Municipalities by 2030. The mission provides an initial allocation of ₹ 500 crore and includes the underground conversion of more than 14,600 circuit kilometres of high-tension lines and over 31,400 circuit kilometres of low-tension distribution lines through a phased implementation framework.

#### II. Assam

A. **Declaration Of Second Capital Region:** The Cabinet of Assam approved a proposal to declare Dibrugarh as Assam's second capital region and constituted a new body called the Second State Capital Region Development Authority - Dibrugarh (SCRDA-D) to oversee the region. A dedicated fund of ₹ 500 crore has been approved to support infrastructure development in the region.

#### III. Odisha

A. **Hospitality Infrastructure Land Bank Scheme:** The Odisha Cabinet approved the Land Bank for Hospitality Infrastructure Scheme which aims to create a dedicated pool of investment-ready land for hospitality and tourism infrastructure. The scheme provides for the creation of a 5,500-acre land bank comprising Government and private land parcels across major tourism destinations including Chilika, Konark, Puri, Dhuli, Hirakud, Satkosia, Similipal, Bhitarkanika, Daringbadi, and the Buddhist Circuit.

## मुख्य घोषणाएं

यह दस्तावेज़ 1 जून, 2026 से 15 जून, 2026 के बीच राज्य सरकारों एवं केंद्र शासित प्रदेशों द्वारा लिए गए विभिन्न प्रमुख नीतिगत एवं सुधार संबंधी निर्णयों का विवरण प्रस्तुत करता है।

### सुधार संबंधी निर्णय

#### I. अंडमान एवं निकोबार द्वीप समूह

- A. **अंडमान एवं निकोबार द्वीप समूह जनजातीय परिषदों (निर्वाचक नामावलियों की तैयारी एवं चुनावों का संचालन) नियम, 2026 का प्रारूप:** अंडमान एवं निकोबार प्रशासन ने अंडमान एवं निकोबार द्वीप समूह जनजातीय परिषदों (निर्वाचक नामावलियों की तैयारी एवं चुनावों का संचालन) नियम, 2026 का प्रारूप जारी किया है। इन प्रारूप नियमों में निकोबारी जनजातीय परिषदों के लिए एक सुव्यवस्थित निर्वाचन प्रक्रिया स्थापित करने का प्रावधान किया गया है, जिसमें मुख्य कप्तानों (Chief Captains) के प्रत्यक्ष चुनाव तथा निर्वाचन प्रशासन हेतु वैधानिक प्रक्रियाएँ शामिल हैं। साथ ही, चुनाव प्रबंधन, उम्मीदवारों के नामांकन, चुनाव प्रचार तथा मतदान के संचालन से संबंधित प्रक्रियाएँ भी निर्धारित की गई हैं।

#### II. ओडिशा

- A. **व्यावसायिक संस्थानों हेतु संशोधित आरक्षण व्यवस्था:** ओडिशा सरकार ने शैक्षणिक सत्र 2026-27 से चिकित्सा, तकनीकी एवं अन्य व्यावसायिक संस्थानों में प्रवेश के लिए संशोधित आरक्षण प्रावधान अधिसूचित किए हैं। इसके अंतर्गत अनुसूचित जनजातियों (ST) के लिए आरक्षण 12% से बढ़ाकर 22.5% तथा अनुसूचित जातियों (SC) के लिए 8% से बढ़ाकर 16.25% किया गया है। इसके अतिरिक्त, जिन पाठ्यक्रमों में पूर्व में ऐसा कोई प्रावधान नहीं था, उनमें सामाजिक एवं शैक्षिक रूप से पिछड़े वर्गों (SEBC) के लिए 11.25% आरक्षण का नया प्रावधान किया गया है।

#### III. लक्षद्वीप

- A. **लक्षद्वीप आबकारी विनियमन, 2026:** भारत के राष्ट्रपति ने लक्षद्वीप आबकारी विनियमन, 2026 अधिसूचित किया है, जिसके माध्यम से लक्षद्वीप मद्यनिषेध विनियमन, 1979 को निरस्त कर शराब के निर्माण, आयात, निर्यात, परिवहन, विक्रय एवं उपभोग को विनियमित करने हेतु एक नियंत्रित आबकारी व्यवस्था लागू की गई है। इस विनियमन में लाइसेंस प्रदान करने संबंधी प्रावधान किए गए हैं, लाइसेंसधारकों के लिए पात्रता शर्तें निर्धारित की गई हैं, 21 वर्ष से कम आयु के व्यक्तियों को शराब की बिक्री पर प्रतिबंध लगाया गया है तथा शराब, बीयर और वाइन के लिए पृथक-पृथक आबकारी शुल्क संरचना निर्धारित की गई है।

#### IV. हरियाणा

## मुख्य घोषणाएं

- A. **अनुपालन में कमी एवं विनियमन-उन्मूलन सुधार:** हरियाणा सरकार ने अनुपालन में कमी तथा विनियमन-उन्मूलन (Deregulation) संबंधी सुधारों की घोषणा की है, जिनके अंतर्गत भूमि उपयोग परिवर्तन (Change of Land Use - CLU) अनुमोदन हेतु आवश्यक दस्तावेजों की संख्या 19 से घटाकर 3 कर दी गई है। साथ ही, राज्य के लगभग 70% क्षेत्र को CLU अनुमति की आवश्यकता से मुक्त किया गया है तथा पात्र उद्योगों के लिए स्वचालित नवीनीकरण (Auto-Renewal) की व्यवस्था शुरू की गई है। इन सुधारों में *व्यवसाय का अधिकार (Right-to-Business) ढाँचे*, अग्नि सुरक्षा नियमों के सरलीकरण, स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं से संबंधित अनुमोदनों के एकीकरण तथा कानूनों एवं अधिसूचनाओं के केंद्रीकृत डिजिटल भंडार की स्थापना का भी प्रस्ताव किया गया है।

### V. बिहार

- A. **औद्योगिक अनुमोदन समय-सीमा एवं मानी गई स्वीकृति (Deemed Clearance) व्यवस्था:** बिहार सरकार ने बिहार औद्योगिक निवेश प्रोत्साहन अधिनियम, 2016 के अंतर्गत औद्योगिक अनुमोदन समय-सीमा एवं मानी गई स्वीकृति व्यवस्था को अधिसूचित किया है। इस व्यवस्था का उद्देश्य विधिक रूप से बाध्यकारी एवं समयबद्ध अनुमोदन तंत्र स्थापित कर औद्योगिक निवेश को गति देना, प्रक्रियागत विलंब को कम करना तथा बिहार में व्यवसाय सुगमता (Ease of Doing Business) को सुदृढ़ करना है।

### नीतिगत स्तर की घोषणाएं

#### I. आंध्र प्रदेश

- A. **राज्य विमानन नीति, 2026:** आंध्र प्रदेश मंत्रिमंडल ने वर्ष 2026-31 की अवधि के लिए राज्य विमानन नीति, 2026 को स्वीकृति प्रदान की है, जो आंध्र प्रदेश नागरिक विमानन नीति, 2015 का स्थान लेगी। इस नीति के अंतर्गत नौ नए हवाई अड्डों तथा दस जल हवाई अड्डों (Waterdromes) के विकास, वर्ष 2035 तक यात्री प्रबंधन क्षमता को 3.038 करोड़ तथा माल ढुलाई क्षमता को 4.27 लाख मीट्रिक टन तक बढ़ाने, एयरोस्पेस क्षेत्र में ₹9,648 करोड़ से अधिक के निवेश को आकर्षित करने तथा प्रतिवर्ष 5,000 विमानन पेशेवरों को प्रशिक्षित करने का लक्ष्य निर्धारित किया गया है।

#### II. लद्दाख

- A. **लद्दाख आबकारी नीति, वित्त वर्ष 2026-27:** लद्दाख प्रशासन ने लद्दाख आबकारी नीति, वित्त वर्ष 2026-27 को लागू किया है, जिसके अंतर्गत शराब उत्पादन, वितरण, खुदरा बिक्री, आतिथ्य प्रतिष्ठानों (hospitality establishments), माइक्रोब्रेवरी तथा संबंधित गतिविधियों के लिए एक व्यापक लाइसेंसिंग ढाँचा स्थापित किया गया है। यह नीति 20 खुदरा शराब की दुकानों के ई-नीलामी-आधारित आवंटन का प्रावधान करती है, सुरक्षा

## मुख्य घोषणाएं

होलोग्राम और डिजिटल भुगतान प्रणालियों को अनिवार्य करती है, और निर्दिष्ट उत्पाद शुल्क और नियामक सुरक्षा उपायों के साथ ई.एन.ए-आधारित शराब व्यवस्था निर्धारित करती है।

### सामाजिक क्षेत्र की घोषणाएं

#### I. तेलंगाना

- A. **गिग एवं प्लेटफॉर्म श्रमिकों के लिए न्यूनतम वेतन ढाँचा:** तेलंगाना सरकार ने राज्यभर में वेतन संहिता, 2019 के प्रावधानों को अधिसूचित किया है, जो न्यूनतम वेतन अधिनियम, 1948 का स्थान लेगा। इसके अंतर्गत श्रमिकों को अकुशल, अर्द्धकुशल, कुशल एवं उच्च कुशल की चार श्रेणियों में वर्गीकृत किया गया है तथा न्यूनतम वेतन निर्धारण के लिए राज्य को तीन क्षेत्रों—नगर निगम, नगरपालिका एवं ग्रामीण क्षेत्र—में विभाजित किया गया है।
- B. **इंदिरम्मा बीमा योजना:** तेलंगाना सरकार ने इंदिरम्मा बीमा योजना प्रारंभ की है, जिसके अंतर्गत परिवार के नामित मुखिया की आकस्मिक मृत्यु की स्थिति में परिवार को ₹5 लाख का राज्य-वित्तपोषित दुर्घटना बीमा कवर प्रदान किया जाएगा। यह योजना जाति, धर्म, आय अथवा रोजगार की स्थिति से परे तेलंगाना के सभी निवासी परिवारों को कवर करती है। लाभार्थियों का पंजीकरण सरकारी अधिकारियों द्वारा घर-घर जाकर किया जाएगा।

#### II. महाराष्ट्र

- A. **पुण्यश्लोक अहिल्यादेवी होलकर शेतकरी कर्ज-मुक्ति योजना:** महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने पुण्यश्लोक अहिल्यादेवी होलकर शेतकरी कर्ज-मुक्ति योजना को स्वीकृति दी है। इसके अंतर्गत पात्र किसानों को बकाया अल्पकालिक फसल ऋणों पर ₹2 लाख तक की ऋणमाफी तथा समय पर ऋण चुकाने वाले किसानों को ₹50,000 तक की प्रोत्साहन राशि प्रदान की जाएगी। यह योजना 1 अप्रैल, 2019 से 31 मार्च, 2025 के बीच वितरित ऋणों पर लागू होगी, विभिन्न बैंकिंग संस्थानों को कवर करेगी तथा लाभार्थियों के लिए आधार प्रमाणीकरण एवं एग्रीस्टैक पंजीकरण अनिवार्य करेगी

#### III. अंडमान एवं निकोबार द्वीप समूह

- A. **ग्रेट निकोबार परियोजना के अंतर्गत पुनर्वास एवं पुनर्स्थापन जनगणना:** अंडमान एवं निकोबार प्रशासन ने ग्रेट निकोबार अवसंरचना परियोजना के ट्रंक अवसंरचना घटक से प्रभावित परिवारों के लिए पुनर्वास एवं पुनर्स्थापन जनगणना अधिसूचित की है। यह जनगणना 10 जून, 2026 से कैम्पबेल बे में प्रारंभ होगी तथा प्रभावित परिवारों को पुनर्वास एवं पुनर्स्थापन की प्रक्रिया हेतु आवश्यक दस्तावेज प्रस्तुत करने के निर्देश दिए गए हैं।

#### IV. केरल

- A. **प्रियदर्शिनी योजना: महिलाओं के लिए निःशुल्क बस यात्रा:** केरल सरकार ने प्रियदर्शिनी नामक प्रमुख निःशुल्क यात्रा योजना प्रारंभ की है, जिसके अंतर्गत केरल राज्य सड़क परिवहन निगम (KSRTC) द्वारा संचालित साधारण बसों में सभी महिलाओं एवं ट्रांसजेंडर व्यक्तियों को निःशुल्क यात्रा की सुविधा प्रदान की जाएगी। इस योजना पर प्रतिमाह

## मुख्य घोषणाएं

लगभग ₹65-70 करोड़ का व्यय अनुमानित है, जिसकी प्रतिपूर्ति राज्य सरकार द्वारा KSRTC को की जाएगी। योजना का उद्देश्य महिलाओं की आवाजाही पर होने वाले व्यय को कम करना है तथा इससे महिलाओं के यात्रा व्यय में 15% से 25% तक की कमी आने का अनुमान है।

### निवेश संबंधी घोषणाएं

#### I. तमिलनाडु

A. **तमिलनाडु में इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स विनिर्माण निवेश:** तमिलनाडु सरकार ने लार्सन एंड टुब्रो (L&T) के साथ एक समझौता ज्ञापन (MoU) पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं, जिसके अंतर्गत ₹18,600 करोड़ के निवेश का लक्ष्य रखा गया है। प्रस्तावित परियोजनाओं में कांचीपुरम में डेटा सेंटर का विस्तार, कोयंबटूर में इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स एवं इलेक्ट्रॉनिक प्रणाली विनिर्माण इकाई की स्थापना तथा तिरुवल्लूर के कट्टुपल्ली स्थित कंपनी के जहाज निर्माण परिसर का विस्तार शामिल है। इन परियोजनाओं से तमिलनाडु की अर्थव्यवस्था के विस्तार के लक्ष्य को बल मिलने तथा लगभग 8,200 रोजगार अवसर सृजित होने की संभावना है।

#### II. ओडिशा

A. **राज्यभर में ₹3,793 करोड़ के निवेश प्रस्तावों को स्वीकृति:** ओडिशा सरकार ने ₹3,793.33 करोड़ मूल्य के 24 निवेश प्रस्तावों को स्वीकृति प्रदान की है। प्रमुख प्रस्तावों में खोरधा में परिधान विनिर्माण इकाई, संबलपुर में निटेड गारमेंट्स निर्माण इकाई, ढेंकानाल में बैटरी ऊर्जा भंडारण प्रणाली (BESS) सुविधा, कोरापुट में पाँच सितारा रिसॉर्ट परियोजना तथा जाजपुर में JSW द्वारा इस्पात निर्माण एवं फैब्रिकेशन इकाई की स्थापना शामिल हैं। इन निवेश प्रस्तावों का उद्देश्य औद्योगिक विकास को बढ़ावा देना तथा लगभग 20,000 रोजगार अवसरों का सृजन करना है।

### अन्य निर्णय

#### I. गुजरात

A. **वायर-फ्री सिटी मिशन:** गुजरात मंत्रिमंडल ने वायर-फ्री सिटी मिशन को सैद्धांतिक स्वीकृति प्रदान की है, जिसके अंतर्गत वर्ष 2030 तक राज्य के सभी 17 नगर निगमों और 151 नगरपालिकाओं में विद्युत वितरण नेटवर्क को भूमिगत किया जाएगा। मिशन के लिए प्रारंभिक रूप से ₹500 करोड़ का आवंटन किया गया है तथा चरणबद्ध क्रियान्वयन के अंतर्गत 14,600 से अधिक सर्किट किलोमीटर उच्च-दाब (HT) लाइनों और 31,400 से अधिक सर्किट किलोमीटर निम्न-दाब (LT) वितरण लाइनों को भूमिगत किया जाएगा।

#### II. असम

## मुख्य घोषणाएं

- A. **द्वितीय राजधानी क्षेत्र की घोषणा:** असम मंत्रिमंडल ने डिब्रूगढ़ को राज्य के द्वितीय राजधानी क्षेत्र के रूप में घोषित करने के प्रस्ताव को स्वीकृति दी है। साथ ही, क्षेत्र के विकास एवं प्रबंधन के लिए द्वितीय राज्य राजधानी क्षेत्र विकास प्राधिकरण - डिब्रूगढ़ (SCRDA-D) का गठन किया गया है। क्षेत्रीय अवसंरचना विकास को समर्थन देने के लिए ₹500 करोड़ के विशेष कोष को भी स्वीकृति प्रदान की गई है।

### III. ओडिशा

- A. **आतिथ्य अवसंरचना भूमि बैंक योजना:** ओडिशा मंत्रिमंडल ने आतिथ्य अवसंरचना भूमि बैंक योजना को स्वीकृति दी है, जिसका उद्देश्य आतिथ्य एवं पर्यटन अवसंरचना के विकास हेतु निवेश-तैयार भूमि का समर्पित भंडार तैयार करना है। योजना के अंतर्गत 5,500 एकड़ के भूमि बैंक का निर्माण किया जाएगा, जिसमें सरकारी एवं निजी भूमि दोनों शामिल होंगी। यह भूमि बैंक चिलिका, कोणार्क, पुरी, धौली, हीराकुंड, सतकोसिया, सिमिलीपाल, भितरकनिका, दारिंगबाड़ी तथा बौद्ध सर्किट सहित प्रमुख पर्यटन स्थलों में विकसित किया जाएगा।

## Reform Decisions

### I. Andaman And Nicobar Islands

#### A. Draft Andaman And Nicobar Islands Tribal Councils (Preparation Of Electoral Rolls And Conduct Of Elections) Rules, 2026

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

1. The Andaman and Nicobar Administration has proposed the Draft Andaman and Nicobar Islands Tribal Councils (Preparation of Electoral Rolls and Conduct of Elections) Rules, 2026,<sup>1</sup> to **formalise and standardise the existing election procedure** under the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Tribal Councils) Regulation, 2009.<sup>2</sup>
2. The newly proposed rules for conducting formal elections within the Nicobarese Tribal Councils have been put out for a 30-day public consultations.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The rules are made under Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Tribal Councils) Regulation, 2009.
  - b. The measures proposed under the rules include delimitation of constituencies, preparation of electoral rolls and reservation of seats.
  - c. The rules provide ballot papers to village councils and constitute Island Tribal Councils that will be representing the Nicobarese communities through electoral constituencies for terms of five years each.
  - d. The proposed structure involves Nicobarese villagers electing five to nine Captains for each village and directly voting for the position of the Chief Captain of each Island Tribal Council.
  - e. The First Captains of each village of a particular Island are to vote for the position of the Vice-Chief Captain of the Island Tribal Council, and this Island Tribal Council would include the Chief Captain, the Vice-Chief Captain, and all First Captains of the Island.
  - f. The rules spell out how the Election Commission and the administration should prepare electoral rolls, draw constituency boundaries, the terms of reference for the appointment of election officials, the requirements for contesting and campaigning for elections, etc.
4. **Relevance -**
  - a. Although the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Tribal Councils) Regulation, 2009 created a statutory framework for Tribal Councils, detailed rules governing electoral rolls, constituency delimitation, polling procedures and election administration were never formally notified. Consequently, representation within

<sup>1</sup> [Andaman And Nicobar Islands Tribal Councils \(Preparation Of Electoral Rolls And Conduct Of Elections\) Rules, 2026.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Andaman And Nicobar Islands \(Tribal Councils\) Regulation, 2009.](#)

## A. Draft Andaman And Nicobar Islands Tribal Councils (Preparation Of Electoral Rolls And Conduct Of Elections) Rules, 2026

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

the Nicobarese Tribal Council system continued to operate largely through customary arrangements and village-level leadership structures rather than a standardised electoral framework. The draft rules seek to close this long-standing institutional gap.

- b. The reform assumes added significance because the Nicobar Islands are witnessing increasing policy attention due to the proposed ₹ 92,000 crore Great Nicobar infrastructure project, involving a transshipment port, airport and township. Tribal Councils have emerged as important stakeholders in consultations relating to land use, rehabilitation and development planning.<sup>3</sup> Establishing a formal electoral framework strengthens the representative legitimacy of institutions that are likely to play a key role in future negotiations concerning tribal interests.
- c. The Nicobarese governance system consists of Village Councils and seven Island Tribal Councils that function as the principal interface between the administration and tribal communities in matters ranging from local dispute resolution to implementation of development programmes. By introducing electoral rolls, constituency delimitation, fixed terms and reservation provisions, the rules bring these institutions closer to a transparent and predictable democratic framework while retaining their tribal character.<sup>4</sup>
- d. Further, the rules mandate that every village council must feature a baseline of at least five elected Captains. However, in remote settlements like Pilobhabi, the entire local population totals just 101 residents.<sup>5</sup> Forcing miniature, tight-knit communities to carve out numerous formal political roles risks creating deep internal division and administrative gridlock.
- e. The reservation provisions are particularly significant because representation within Tribal Councils has historically been concentrated among male clan-based leadership structures. By reserving seats and leadership positions for women, the rules seek to institutionalise participation through statutory guarantees rather than relying solely on customary practices.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>3</sup> [Air News, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Tribal/Village Council, Nicobar, Andaman And Nicobar Islands.](#)

<sup>5</sup> [The Hindu, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Nicobar Times, June, 2026.](#)

## II. Odisha

### A. Revised Reservation Framework For Professional Institutions

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

1. On 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2026, the Government of Odisha notified revised reservation provisions for Scheduled Tribes (STs), Scheduled Castes (SCs), and Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs) in medical, technical, and professional education institutions from the 2026–27 academic session.
2. The framework aims to **expand representation** of historically disadvantaged communities in professional and technical education by enhancing reservation quotas for ST and SC students and introducing reservation for SEBC students in courses where no such provision previously existed.
3. **Key Features** -
  - a. The framework increases reservation for ST students in professional and technical courses from 12% to 22.5%.
  - b. It increases reservation for SC students in professional and technical courses from 8% to 16.25%.
  - c. It introduces 11.25% reservation for SEBC students in medical, engineering, technical, and other professional education programs.
  - d. It provides for implementation of the revised reservation structure from the 2026–27 academic session for admissions to professional and technical institutions across the state.
  - e. It covers admissions to universities, affiliated colleges, Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), polytechnics, and institutions offering engineering, technology, management, computer applications, medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy, allied health sciences, veterinary sciences, ayurveda, homeopathy, agriculture, architecture, planning, and cinematic arts and technology programs.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment** - The framework aligns with Articles 15(4),<sup>7</sup> 15(5),<sup>8</sup> and 46<sup>9</sup> of the Constitution of India, which empower the state to promote educational advancement and protect the interests of SCs, STs, and other socially and educationally backward classes.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Tamil Nadu provides 69% reservation in professional and higher education institutions,<sup>10</sup> while Chhattisgarh continues admissions under its existing reservation framework providing an overall reservation of 58%.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>7</sup> [Article 15\(4\), Constitution Of India.](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Article 15\(5\), Constitution Of India.](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Article 46, Constitution Of India.](#)

<sup>10</sup> [The News Minute, March, 2021.](#)

<sup>11</sup> [The Times Of India, August, 2023.](#)

## A. Revised Reservation Framework For Professional Institutions

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

### 6. Relevance -

- a. Odisha's professional education quotas were severely misaligned with demographics with STs constituting around 22.85%<sup>12</sup> of the state's population and SCs 17.13%,<sup>13</sup> yet held only 12% and 8% reservation respectively in technical courses, which reflect the massive under-representation of roughly 10 and 9 percentage points. The revision to 22.5% and 16.25% restores near-proportional access, and over time corrects the structural deficit of ST/SC professionals doctors, engineers, technologists serving Odisha's tribal-majority districts.
- b. Also, Odisha's own reservation architecture was internally inconsistent. Government jobs and general degree courses such as BA, BCom and BSc already carried 22.5% for STs, 16.25% for SCs and 11.25% for SEBCs, while technical education remained significantly lower with no SEBC provision at all.<sup>14</sup>
- c. The framework integrates professional education within the wider educational and employment framework, rectifying structural inconsistencies in reservation coverage across academic pathways. By broadening access to professional programs for reserved-category students, it advances greater parity in educational opportunity and participation in sectors linked to enhanced socio-economic advancement.
- d. Under the quota system, only 193 SC students could secure medical seats under the reserved category, now rising to 393, while of the state's 44,579 engineering seats, ST seats nearly doubled from 5,349 to 10,030 and SC seats from 3,566 to 7,244.<sup>15</sup> This materially expands the annual supply of ST/SC doctors and engineers, with direct downstream gains for healthcare and technical staffing in underserved regions of the state.
- e. However, in the absence of seat expansion, the revised framework may alter admission competition in some programmes, particularly within the open-category pool. A reduction of 534 open merit seats in the State's medical colleges, from 1,745 to 1,211, could create concerns around fair access to high-demand professional courses.<sup>16</sup> To balance social inclusion with opportunity for all categories, the State may need to simultaneously expand overall capacity in medical and other professional institutions.

<sup>12</sup> [Free Press Journal, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>13</sup> [Free Press Journal, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>14</sup> [The DinaLipi English, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>15</sup> [Free Press Journal, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>16</sup> [MOKSH Overseas, April, 2026.](#)

### III. Lakshadweep

#### A. Lakshadweep Excise Regulation, 2026

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

1. On 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, the President of India promulgated the Lakshadweep Excise Regulation, 2026 which will replace the Lakshadweep Prohibition Regulation, 1979, which was in place for the last 47 years, and establish a regulated framework for possession, and consumption of liquor in the Union Territory.
2. The regulation seeks to support **tourism development**, create a structured excise administration system, and generate revenue through excise duties, licence fees, and regulatory charges.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The regulation repeals the Lakshadweep Prohibition Regulation, 1979, ending the territory's long-standing prohibition regime and introducing a regulated excise framework.
  - b. It provides for licensing of liquor manufacture, import, export, transport, warehousing, retail vending, and consumption through Government entities and authorised licensees.
  - c. It mandates eligibility conditions for licence holders, including Indian citizenship, minimum age of 18 years, clean criminal record, and location of liquor outlets at least 50 metres from educational institutions, hospitals, religious institutions, women's hostels, and orphanages.
  - d. It prohibits the sale or delivery of liquor to persons below 21 years of age and bars employment of persons below 18 years in licensed establishments.
  - e. It introduces a differentiated excise duty structure, levying 400% duty on Indian-Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) and imported liquor, 200% on beer, and 80% on wine.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Ladakh's Excise Policy, 2026<sup>17</sup> similarly introduces a regulated liquor framework balancing tourism development with social safeguards, while addressing concerns related to substance abuse in a region where alcohol availability had historically remained restricted due to local socio-cultural and religious sensitivities.<sup>18</sup>
5. **Relevance -**
  - a. Lakshadweep is a very small and tightly administered Union Territory, with 36 islands, out of which only 10 are inhabited. It has an area of 32.69 sq km, and a population of 64,473 (as per the 2011 Census), which works out to roughly 1,972 people per sq km. It also requires an entry permit for visitors. That makes this a

<sup>17</sup> [Ladakh's Excise Policy, 2026.](#)

<sup>18</sup> [Scroll, June, 2026.](#)

### A. Lakshadweep Excise Regulation, 2026

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

controlled-enforcement environment, where a licensing regime is administratively more realistic than an open-ended market.<sup>19</sup>

- b. Lakshadweep's excise framework should be viewed as a controlled regulatory shift rather than a blanket liberalisation. The regulation repeals the Lakshadweep Prohibition Regulation, 1979 and replaces it with a licensing and permit-based regime governing the manufacture, possession, import, export, transport, sale and consumption of liquor.
- c. The design of the framework reflects the Union Territory's unique socio-demographic and administrative context. With Muslim/Scheduled Tribe demographic constituting over 97% of the population<sup>20</sup> and alcohol sales restricted to notified tourist establishments, the regulation retains a de facto dry regime across inhabited residential areas while permitting tightly regulated access within the tourism sector. The steep excise structure further limits the prospects of a mass-consumption market.
- d. The regulation also fits Lakshadweep's tourism profile more than a mass-consumption model. In the Ministry of Tourism's Lakshadweep tourism survey, the average spend on a package tour was about ₹ 34,000 per person, and the majority of domestic day and overnight visitors were from households earning above ₹ 5 lakh a year.<sup>21</sup> That suggests the market is already premium and visitor-led, so the excise framework is likely aimed at making the destination more competitive for higher-spending tourists rather than creating a broad local consumption market.
- e. Further, this regulation comes from the Union Government's push to reroute India's ultra-high-net-worth travelers' significant luxury spending to competing Indian Ocean destinations like the Maldives, where resort islands feature fully integrated alcohol service.<sup>22</sup> Operating a tightly controlled, high-tariff model helps Lakshadweep bridge this competitive infrastructure gap, capturing high-value tourism revenue within domestic borders.

<sup>19</sup> [Government Of Lakshadweep.](#)

<sup>20</sup> [India Today, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>21</sup> [The Tourism Survey For Lakshadweep, June, 2018.](#)

<sup>22</sup> [Times Of India, May, 2026.](#)

## IV. Assam

### A. Assam Excise (Amendment) Rules, 2026

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

1. On 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, the Assam Government notified the Assam Excise (Amendment) Rules, 2026, which introduces major changes in liquor sales, licensing, location of liquor outlets, **revenue collection and the promotion of heritage alcoholic beverages**.
2. **Key Features -**
  - a. The new rules mandate minimum guaranteed revenue (MGR) payments for liquor license holders, impose stricter distance norms for retail outlets, and regulate liquor sales and license transfers.
  - b. The rules also provide significant support to indigenous communities through exclusive manufacturing rights and reduced fees for heritage alcoholic beverages and a production limit of 1,000 litres per day.
  - c. The state has introduced a new category called, “Assam Made Liquor” to promote locally produced alcoholic products.
  - d. Revenue will be collected in four quarters at rates of 22%, 25%, 27% and 26% respectively.
  - e. The failure of payment of which will attract a 10% penalty on outstanding amounts along with an additional interest rate of 1.5% per month for delayed payments.
  - f. Further, the revised rules mandate new packaging and serving guidelines for the liquor shops to be mandatorily followed.
3. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Recently, Odisha<sup>23</sup> revised its excise policy by increasing liquor licensing fee. Ladakh<sup>24</sup> also formulated its excise policy which introduces a regulated liquor framework balancing tourism development with social safeguards. Similarly, Lakshadweep’s<sup>25</sup> excise policy establishes a regulated framework for possession, and consumption of liquor.
4. **Relevance -**
  - a. State Budgets show excise revenue rising from around ₹ 1,095 crore in 2017-18 to more than ₹ 3,039 crore in 2023-24, and formed 8.29% and 10.79% of state’s own tax revenue, respectively.<sup>26</sup> This reflects both rising consumption and improvements in tax administration. The rules introduce MGR payments for liquor licence holders, with collections spread across the year in fixed quarterly shares, and penalisation of delay. These rules have a direct implication on maintaining the fiscal health of the state and ensuring consistent revenue mobilisation.

<sup>23</sup> [Prameya News, March, 2026.](#)

<sup>24</sup> [Ladakh Excise Policy, 2026.](#)

<sup>25</sup> [Lakshadweep Excise Policy, 2026.](#)

<sup>26</sup> [Government Of Assam, Budget, 2025-26, Page 37.](#)

**A. Assam Excise (Amendment) Rules, 2026****Source:** [Deccan Herald](#) | **Impact:** Medium

- b. By permitting the establishment of brew pubs and microbreweries, revising licensing norms and allowing certain categories of premium alcohol sales under regulated conditions, the state is moving beyond a framework focused primarily on conventional wholesale and retail liquor trade. The policy therefore seeks to accommodate emerging hospitality and tourism-linked demand segments as the state's tourist arrivals crossed 1 crore visitors in 2024.<sup>27</sup>
- c. In 2021, Judima, a traditional rice wine of the Dimasa community, became India's first traditional rice wine to receive a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.<sup>28</sup> By reserving manufacturing rights for indigenous communities, reducing licence fees and capping production at 1,000 litres per day, the amendment creates a distinct regulatory pathway for traditional brews instead of forcing them into frameworks designed for commercial IMFL or country liquor producers.
- d. The broader significance lies in balancing three competing objectives that often conflict in excise policy, revenue mobilisation, regulatory oversight and protection of traditional livelihoods. The amendment is notable because it attempts to pursue all three through differentiated licensing rules rather than through a uniform regulatory regime.

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<sup>27</sup> [Government Of Assam.](#)

<sup>28</sup> [The Hindu, September, 2021.](#)

## V. Haryana

### A. Compliance Reduction And Deregulation Reforms

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

1. On 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, the Haryana Government announced a new set of compliance reduction and deregulation reforms to **simplify approvals** and improve the ease of doing business in the state.
2. The reforms aim to reduce regulatory burdens, simplify approvals, accelerate industrial investments, and improve ease of doing business through streamlined clearances and reduced compliance requirements.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The reforms reduce the documentation requirement for Change of Land Use (CLU) approvals from 19 documents to 3 documents.
  - b. The reforms provide exemption from CLU permissions for nearly 70% of Haryana's geographical area, allowing greater flexibility for landowners and investors.
  - c. The reform will reduce the processing time for Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate approvals issued by the Haryana State Pollution Control Board from 30 working days to 21 working days.
  - d. It also introduces auto-renewal provisions for eligible industries to reduce compliance costs and procedural delays.
  - e. The reform proposes a right to business framework, demand-driven land-use planning, simplified fire safety regulations, integrated healthcare approvals, and a centralised digital repository of laws and notifications.
4. **Central Reform Alignment -** The reforms align with the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) reforms<sup>29</sup> and the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026,<sup>30</sup> which promotes regulatory simplification, decriminalisation of minor compliances, and faster business approvals.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Maharashtra abolished the Sanad requirement and separate non-agricultural permission for permissible land-use changes through the Maharashtra Land Revenue Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025, replacing the annual non-agricultural tax with a one-time conversion premium.<sup>31</sup> Andhra Pradesh repealed the NALA Act, introduced self-declaratory land conversion with reduced conversion taxes, and proposed lifetime-valid business registrations.<sup>32</sup> Ladakh is building a centralised digital repository of all State Acts and Rules along with a principle-based regulatory framework and an Omnibus Bill to consolidate

<sup>29</sup> [PIB, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>30</sup> [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

<sup>31</sup> [Maharashtra Land Revenue Code \(Second Amendment and Validation\) Act, 2025.](#)

<sup>32</sup> [The New Indian Express, September 2025](#)

## A. Compliance Reduction And Deregulation Reforms

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

compliances.<sup>33</sup>

### 6. Relevance -

- a. Earlier, getting permission for change of land use in Haryana was difficult and slow. An applicant had to file 19 documents, including ownership papers and no objection certificates from departments such as pollution control and fire, with environment clearance often required as well. This raised costs and held up projects, which mattered for a state that depends heavily on investment, drawing 5% of India's total foreign direct investment between October 2019 and March 2025, the 6<sup>th</sup> highest among all states.<sup>34</sup>
- b. The reform cuts the abovementioned burden sharply. The documents needed for CLU fall from 19 to only 3, namely the ownership papers, a project report and an indemnity bond,<sup>35</sup> and nearly 70% of the state's land area now needs no change of land use permission at all. Automatic CLU has been introduced for industrial zones, along with self certification systems, while the state pollution control board has reduced consent to establish and consent to operate from 30 working days to 21, with automatic renewal added for eligible industries
- c. The reforms can accelerate project implementation, strengthen investor confidence, and improve the ease of doing business. By reducing approval delays and compliance burdens, Haryana can better leverage its industrial base, which recorded merchandise exports of approximately \$2.49 billion (₹ 23,597.5 crore) in FY 2024–25, and its technology ecosystem comprising four Software Technology Parks hosting over 450 companies that support substantial direct and indirect employment.<sup>36</sup>
- d. Further, Shorter CTE and CTO approval timelines, coupled with automatic renewals for eligible industries, reduce compliance burdens and accelerate project implementation. The resulting reduction in administrative workload allows the Pollution Control Board to focus its resources on monitoring and regulating higher-risk industrial activities.
- e. While removing land-use restrictions across 70% of the state accelerates project implementation, it also creates planning challenges. Manufacturing expansion without adequate infrastructure assessment can strain local power, water, and drainage systems, particularly if multiple resource-intensive industries cluster in rural areas.

<sup>33</sup> [Ladakh UT.](#)

<sup>34</sup> [Invest India.](#)

<sup>35</sup> [The Tribune, October, 2025.](#)

<sup>36</sup> [Invest India.](#)

## VI. Bihar

### A. Industrial Approval Timeline And Deemed Clearance Framework

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

1. On 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, the Government of Bihar notified the Industrial Approval Timeline and Deemed Clearance Framework under the Bihar Industrial Investment Promotion Act, 2016.<sup>37</sup>
2. The framework aims to **accelerate industrial investment** by establishing a legally binding, time-bound approval mechanism, reducing procedural delays, and strengthening ease of doing business in Bihar.
3. **Key Features** -
  - a. The framework mandates approval of all eligible investment proposals within 30 days or within the prescribed statutory timeline.
  - b. It introduces a deemed clearance mechanism under which investment proposals automatically receive approval if the competent authority fails to take a decision within the stipulated period.
  - c. It designates the State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) Secretariat as the Single Nodal Agency with administrative and legal authority to process, examine, and recommend investment proposals.
  - d. It provides for the deputation of officers from technical and regulatory departments to the SIPB Secretariat under the supervision of the Industrial Development Commissioner to facilitate single-platform decision-making.
  - e. It mandates the formulation of comprehensive Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) governing approvals related to the establishment, operation, and expansion of industries to ensure transparency, accountability, and efficiency.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment** - The framework aligns with the Ease of Doing Business reforms<sup>38</sup> and the National Single Window System (NSWS),<sup>39</sup> which promote time-bound approvals, regulatory simplification, and single-window facilitation for industrial investments.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Odisha operates the GO SWIFT<sup>40</sup> portal for paperless single-window approvals, Uttar Pradesh uses Nivesh Mitra for time-bound business clearances,<sup>41</sup> and Gujarat offers a legally backed time-bound clearance mechanism under the Gujarat Single Window Clearances Act, 2017.<sup>42</sup>
6. **Relevance** -

<sup>37</sup> [The Bihar Industrial Investment Promotion Act, 2016.](#)

<sup>38</sup> [PIB, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>39</sup> [National Single Window System.](#)

<sup>40</sup> [Go Swift.](#)

<sup>41</sup> [Nivesh Mitra.](#)

<sup>42</sup> [Gujarat Single Window Clearances Act, 2017.](#)

### A. Industrial Approval Timeline And Deemed Clearance Framework

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

- a. Bihar Business Connect 2024 generated 423 MoUs committing a record ₹ 1.81 lakh crore in investment,<sup>43</sup> Yet by mid-2025 only 167 projects worth ₹ 6,794 crore had received departmental approvals or reached final clearance stages, with 53 projects worth ₹ 11,016 crore having secured land.<sup>44</sup> These numbers clearly exhibit that the clearance machinery, not investor intent, was the binding constraint on grounding. By making the 30-day timeline legally enforceable, the framework converts this stranded pipeline into deployable capital and directly improves Bihar's MoU-to-commissioning ratio.
- b. Under the earlier system, departments could delay decisions indefinitely, creating uncertainty for investors. The new framework mandates that if a department fails to decide within the prescribed timeline, the SIPB Secretariat issues a deemed clearance that is binding and cannot be reversed. This shifts accountability to departments and institutionalises time-bound decision-making across the approval process.
- c. Further, Bihar's existing Single Window Clearance portal functioned primarily as a routing mechanism, requiring investors to seek licences and NOCs separately from individual departments even after Stage-1 SIPB approval.<sup>45</sup> By deputing technical and regulatory officers to the SIPB Secretariat under the Industrial Development Commissioner's control, the new framework enables single-platform decision-making and reduces delays arising from inter-departmental file movement and fragmented accountability.
- d. The primary operational challenge is dual accountability. Although technical officers are stationed within the SIPB Secretariat, their career progression and performance evaluation remain linked to their parent departments. This may create conflicting incentives and could weaken the effectiveness of the single-platform clearance model.

<sup>43</sup> [Business Standard, December, 2024.](#)

<sup>44</sup> [Patna Press, June, 2025.](#)

<sup>45</sup> [SIPB/SWC Bihar.](#)

## VII. Punjab

### A. State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code, Standards Of Performance And Related Matters) (3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment) Regulations, 2026

**Source:** [The Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission](#) | **Impact:** Medium

1. The Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission notified the Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code, Standards of Performance and Related Matters) (3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment) Regulations, 2026.
2. The regulations aim to **standardise electricity load assessment**, strengthen planning of distribution infrastructure, facilitate electric vehicle charging deployment, and improve electricity service delivery and regulatory compliance across residential, commercial, and industrial developments in Punjab.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The regulations introduce standardised connected load norms for residential plots, residential flats, commercial establishments, industrial parks, and IT parks based on plot size, covered area, and development category.
  - b. The regulations mandate developers of projects with estimated loads between 10 Megavolt-Ampere (MVA) and 50 MVA to provide 1,500 square yards of land for grid substations, and 3,000 square yards for projects with loads exceeding 50 MVA, at collector rates.
  - c. The regulations require developers to furnish a performance bank guarantee equal to 10% of the estimated cost of the local electricity distribution system.
  - d. They mandate distribution licensees and franchisees to provide separate electricity connections for Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations under the applicable tariff category.
  - e. They enable commercial and industrial complexes to adopt a single-point electricity supply system where more than 50% of unit owners approve through an irrevocable ballot, along with a 3% rebate on energy charges for the managing association.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The regulations have been issued under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003,<sup>46</sup> which empowers State Electricity Regulatory Commissions to regulate electricity supply, distribution standards, and consumer service frameworks.
5. **Relevance -**
  - a. Punjab's electricity demand has grown steadily in recent years, with peak demand reaching a record 16,670 MW, 11.42% higher than the corresponding period in the previous year,<sup>47</sup> and projections indicating further growth during future paddy

<sup>46</sup> [The Electricity Act, 2003.](#)

<sup>47</sup> [Bright Punjab Express, December, 2025.](#)

**A. State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Electricity Supply Code, Standards Of Performance And Related Matters) (3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment) Regulations, 2026**

**Source:** [The Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission](#) | **Impact:** Medium

seasons.<sup>48</sup> In this context, standardised load assessment norms and advance provisioning of land for substations can support more accurate demand forecasting and facilitate the timely development of distribution infrastructure for residential, commercial, and industrial projects.

- b. The regulations fix a clear scale linking load to plot size, from 5 kilowatts for plots up to 100 square yards to 50 kilowatts for plots above 2,000 square yards, with matching norms for flats, shops, malls, hotels, offices and industrial parks based on floor area. This gives builders and the utility a single, predictable basis for planning electricity demand.
- c. Further, introducing a 3% flat energy charge rebate for commercial and industrial complexes that choose to transition to a single-point electricity supply system represents a highly calculated administrative optimisation. Under older frameworks, Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) spent high operational capital managing, reading, and auditing thousands of individual retail meters scattered across multi-story office blocks or shopping malls.
- d. Lastly, PSPCL's own supply is around 6,500 megawatts, and it may draw more than 10,500 megawatts from the grid through power purchase, with banking arrangements of 3,000 to 3,500 megawatts, making a total of about 17,000 megawatts.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>48</sup> [The Tribune, May, 2026.](#)

<sup>49</sup> [The Tribune, May, 2026.](#)

## VIII. Tamil Nadu

### A. Anywhere Registration System

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

1. On 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, the Government of Tamil Nadu launched the 'Anywhere Registration' system to **simplify document registration process**, by transitioning the registration procedures for select documents entirely online.
2. **Key Features** -
  - a. Documents eligible for registration under the system include first sale deeds of plots, first sale deeds of apartments or flats, Tamil Nadu Housing Board sale documents, and mortgage and receipt documents related to bank loans.
  - b. The facility enables people to register documents online from anywhere at any time without visiting a sub-registrar's office.
  - c. Once registration is approved by the sub-registrar, the digitally signed document will be sent to the user's account and shared via WhatsApp to the registered mobile number.
  - d. The parties concerned can download the document through their respective user accounts.
  - e. Users can create login accounts on the Registration Department's website and submit the required documents online.
  - f. The previously formulated registration scheme, called STAR 3.0,<sup>50</sup> allowed buyers and sellers to prepare documents, pay fees, book appointments and access encumbrance certificates online.
  - g. However, the registration generally required the parties to appear before the sub-registrar for identity verification and completion of the registration process.
  - h. The newly proposed scheme eliminates the final visit for eligible categories of documents.
3. **Central Scheme Alignment** - The policy aligns with the Centre's National Generic Document Registration System,<sup>51</sup> which is a centralised digital scheme designed to standardise and automate the property and document registration process across the country.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Similar initiatives have been formulated in states like Nagaland,<sup>52</sup> Maharashtra<sup>53</sup> and Kerala,<sup>54</sup> where an online registration system was launched for specific purposes like land registration, birth and death certificates, registration of living wills etc.

<sup>50</sup> [The New Indian Express, January, 2026.](#)

<sup>51</sup> [National Generic Document Registration System.](#)

<sup>52</sup> [The Times Of India, January, 2026.](#)

<sup>53</sup> [Hindustan Times, March, 2026.](#)

<sup>54</sup> [Deccan Herald, July, 2025.](#)

### A. Anywhere Registration System

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

#### 5. Relevance -

- a. The reform targets a high-volume administrative function rather than a niche service. Tamil Nadu's Registration Department processed approximately 36 lakh registration documents annually, including property transactions, mortgage deeds and other instruments, while officials had earlier indicated that only around 30,000 registrations were being completed online.<sup>55</sup> The 24×7 online registration system therefore represents an attempt to digitise one of the state's largest citizen-facing transactional services rather than merely adding another e-governance portal.
- b. The significance of the scheme lies in the removal of the physical-presence requirement. Under the previous system, even where document preparation and token booking were online, parties generally had to visit Sub-Registrar Offices (SROs) for execution and registration. The scheme allows eligible documents to be submitted, authenticated and delivered digitally, with Aadhaar-based biometric verification replacing many of the functions previously tied to physical attendance. This reduces transaction costs in terms of travel, waiting time and intermediary dependence.
- c. The scheme is particularly relevant because property registration remains a major revenue source for state Governments. In Tamil Nadu, property transactions attract substantial stamp duty and registration charges, about ₹ 40,609 crore,<sup>56</sup> and registration services directly affect the efficiency of revenue collection. For a department handling tens of lakhs of documents annually, even modest reductions in processing time and administrative overhead can have significant effects on service delivery and revenue administration.
- d. Historically, forcing citizens to physically visit localised Sub-Registrar Officers for final deed clearance created an environment prone to artificial processing delays, complex paperwork barriers, and informal rent-seeking managed by unregulated local intermediaries.<sup>57</sup>
- e. Requiring explicit, automated remote uploads and digital authentication lines completely changes this dynamic. It removes arbitrary human interference from the verification loop, reducing transaction costs for everyday home-buyers while establishing an auditable, objective timeline for title clearance.

<sup>55</sup> [The Times Of India, August, 2025.](#)

<sup>56</sup> [Revenue Receipts, Government Of Tamil Nadu, 2026-27, Page 2.](#)

<sup>57</sup> [Telangana Today, June, 2026.](#)

## IX. Delhi

### A. Property Valuation And Stamp Duty Enforcement Framework

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

1. On 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2026, the Revenue Department, Government of Delhi, issued directions for enhanced scrutiny of property registrations and recovery of deficient stamp duty under Section 47-A of the Indian Stamp Act, 1899.<sup>58</sup>
2. The directions seek to **prevent undervaluation of properties** during registration, ensure stamp duty assessment in accordance with applicable circle-rate valuation, and strengthen recovery of deficient stamp duty.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The framework mandates Sub-Registrars and Joint Sub-Registrars to scrutinise property registrations where the declared property value appears lower than the applicable circle rate valuation.
  - b. The framework provides that property owners must specify both the plinth area<sup>59</sup> and built-up area<sup>60</sup> of the property for valuation and stamp duty assessment.
  - c. The framework requires registering authorities to notify parties in writing where the declared value is below the applicable circle rate and provide an opportunity to amend the instrument and pay deficient stamp duty.
  - d. It also enables registration of instruments with deficiency endorsements where parties fail to revise valuations, following which the documents shall be referred to the Collector of Stamps for determination of correct market value and stamp duty.
  - e. The circular directs the Collector of Stamps to ordinarily dispose of proceedings under Section 47-A of the Indian Stamp Act, 1899 within three months of receipt of the documents.
4. **Legal Alignment -** The framework aligns with Section 47-A of the Indian Stamp Act, 1899 and the Delhi Stamp (Prevention of Under-Valuation of Instruments) Rules, 2007<sup>61</sup> governing valuation of property transactions and stamp duty administration.
5. **Relevance -**
  - a. Delhi's circle rates were last notified on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2014<sup>62</sup> and have remained frozen for over 11 years, while Delhi-NCR average residential prices surged 30% in 2024 alone from ₹ 5,800/sq ft to ₹ 7,550/sq ft, the highest yearly jump among

<sup>58</sup> [Section 47A, Indian Stamp Act, 1899.](#)

<sup>59</sup> Plinth area is the total covered footprint of a building measured at floor level, including interior and exterior walls.

<sup>60</sup> Built-up Area is gross area coming entirely under the roof of the property. It comprises the complete Plinth Area plus any additional covered external spaces belonging exclusively to the unit, such as roofed balconies, verandahs, and private service shafts.

<sup>61</sup> [Delhi Stamp \(Prevention Of Undervaluation Of Instruments\) Rules, 2007.](#)

<sup>62</sup> [Delhi Revenue Department.](#)

## A. Property Valuation And Stamp Duty Enforcement Framework

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

seven major Indian cities<sup>63</sup> and 49% cumulatively between First Half of 2019 (H1 2019) and First Half of 2019 (H1 2024).<sup>64</sup> This creates a widening gap between the Government's floor valuation and actual market prices across all eight locality categories, from Category A at ₹ 7.74 lakh/sq m to Category H at ₹ 23,280/sq m.<sup>65</sup>

- b. The framework mandates Sub-Registrars to scrutinise every property registration where the declared value falls below the applicable circle rate, issue written notice to the parties, and provide an opportunity to amend the instrument and pay deficient stamp duty, catching under-declarations at the point of registration itself.
- c. Such a framework operationalises enforcement across every transaction even before the pending circle rate revision (which may increase rates by up to 35% in some categories) is formally notified, directly closing the revenue leakage that 11 years of rate stagnation amid a 49% price surge has generated.
- d. When official circle rates lag far behind real-world property prices, it creates an incentive for buyers and sellers to under-report transaction values on paper, paying the remainder in un-tracked cash. Enforcing strict, mandatory checks on multi-story builder floors and residential basements forces a larger share of the transaction into formal banking channels, helping to clean up regional real estate financing patterns.
- e. Delhi Sub-Registrar offices systematically undervalued properties by computing stamp duty solely on plinth area and omitting the built-up area.<sup>66</sup> This structural loophole caused significant revenue leakages, with stamp duty fixed at 6% for men, 4% for women, and 5% for joint buyers (plus a 1% registration fee),<sup>67</sup> a mere 15–20% area understatement on a ₹ 1 crore property translated into a ₹ 1–1.4 lakh per-transaction loss to the exchequer.

<sup>63</sup> [Business Standard, January, 2025.](#)

<sup>64</sup> [Business Standard, July, 2024.](#)

<sup>65</sup> [ETV Bharat, October, 2025.](#)

<sup>66</sup> [ETV Bharat, October, 2025.](#)

<sup>67</sup> [Department of Revenue, Delhi.](#)

## Policy Level Announcements

### I. Andhra Pradesh

#### A. State Aviation Policy, 2026

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

1. On 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet approved the State Aviation Policy, 2026 to attract investments in the aerospace industry.
2. The policy, which is applicable from 2026-31, is made to transform the state's aviation ecosystem through infrastructure development, improved connectivity, and investment promotion. It overhauls the existing Andhra Pradesh Civil Aviation Policy, 2015.<sup>68</sup>
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The policy seeks to establish an **integrated airport infrastructure**, expand cargo and logistics networks, promotion of maintenance, repair and overhaul facilities, aerospace manufacturing, aviation skill development and future technologies such as Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) and Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).
  - b. The Government has also set a target of increasing annual passenger handling capacity from 62 lakh to 3.038 crore by 2035 and air cargo capacity from 6,240 metric tonnes to 4.27 lakh metric tonnes.
  - c. Further, the state plans to establish nine new airports and ten waterdromes ensuring access to the airport within a 150-km radius across the state.
  - d. The policy moreover aims to attract investments exceeding \$ 1 billion (₹ 9,468 crore) in the aerospace manufacturing sector and enhance international connectivity.
  - e. It also provides aviation related training to 5,000 individuals annually and promotes green aviation technologies.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - This policy aligns with the National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016,<sup>69</sup> which aims to promote the growth of the aviation sector all over India. It also aligns with the Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) Scheme.<sup>70</sup>
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Odisha,<sup>71</sup> Uttar Pradesh<sup>72</sup> and Maharashtra<sup>73</sup> have implemented their own aviation policy to expand airport infrastructure and promote regional air connectivity.
6. **Relevance -**

<sup>68</sup> [Andhra Pradesh Civil Aviation Policy, 2015.](#)

<sup>69</sup> [National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016.](#)

<sup>70</sup> [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

<sup>71</sup> [Odisha Civil Aviation Policy.](#)

<sup>72</sup> [Uttar Pradesh Civil Aviation Promotion Policy, 2017.](#)

<sup>73</sup> [Maharashtra Aerospace And Defence Manufacturing Policy, 2018.](#)

### A. State Aviation Policy, 2026

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

- a. Despite boasting India's key urban, industrial and tourism centres such as Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada and Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh suffers from sparse air connectivity outside these key cities. This new policy translates the Government's vision into action, aiming to bring an airport within a two-hour drive of every citizen.<sup>74</sup>
- b. Driven by strong passenger footfall, Andhra Pradesh's three major airports, Visakhapatnam with about 30 lakh passengers, Vijayawada with about 14 lakh passengers, and Tirupati with about 12 lakh passengers.<sup>75</sup> In light of this proven demand, the state's blueprint for nine new airports and 10 waterdromes serves as a pragmatic expansion to capture existing market momentum, rather than a merely aspirational policy.
- c. Further, to support its export-oriented economy, the state plans to aggressively boost annual air-cargo capacity from 6,240 metric tonnes to 4.27 lakh metric tonnes by 2035. This massive scaling signals a strategic pivot from basic passenger aviation to a comprehensive logistics platform designed specifically for time-critical, high-value goods.<sup>76</sup>
- d. The policy prioritises MRO and aerospace manufacturing sectors to increase domestic employment and industrial productivity. This targeted focus capitalises on the multiplier effect inherent to aviation growth. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) benchmarks indicate that every direct aviation position creates 6.10 downstream jobs, while every dollar expended yields 3.25 in aggregate economic output. By establishing a robust framework to anchor these high-yield segments domestically, the policy captures this economic activity.<sup>77</sup>
- e. Against this backdrop, Andhra Pradesh's plan to draw \$1 billion (approximately ₹ 9,531 crore) in aerospace investment and train 5,000 people annually serves as an aggressive, direct industrial-policy intervention to secure a dominant market share.

<sup>74</sup> [News On Air, December, 2024](#) and [News On Air, March, 2026](#).

<sup>75</sup> [Andhra Pradesh Aviation Policy, 2026, Page 8](#).

<sup>76</sup> [New Indian Express, June, 2026](#).

<sup>77</sup> [RCS Scheme, September, 2017](#).

## II. Ladakh

### A. Ladakh Excise Policy, FY 2026–27

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

1. On 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2026, the Ladakh Excise Policy came into force which essentially aims to regulate the **production, distribution, sale, and consumption** of liquor in Ladakh.
2. The policy aims to promote responsible alcohol consumption, curb illicit liquor trade, enhance regulatory compliance, and strengthen excise revenue administration.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The policy introduces a comprehensive licensing framework covering wholesale, retail, hotel, guest house, bar, military canteen, microbrewery, distillery, brewery, bottling plant, and ethanol-blending operations under multiple Ladakh Excise License (LAEL Licence) categories.
  - b. The policy mandates e-auction-based allotment of LAEL-2 retail liquor vends for 2026–27, with 20 notified retail locations, reserve prices ranging from ₹ 30 lakh to ₹ 60 lakh, and restrictions limiting bidders to one allotted vend to prevent monopolistic practices.
  - c. The policy provides for the issuance of Micro-Brewery (LAEL-7A) licences to promote lower-alcohol beverages and permits retail sale of liquor through hotels, guest houses, homestays, restaurants, clubs, and banquet halls under the Type-C licensing framework.
  - d. The policy mandates security holograms on Indian-made foreign liquor (IMFL), beer, and ready-to-drink beverages, requires digital payment facilities and invoices at retail vends, and prescribes penalties of up to ₹ 60,000 and licence cancellation for repeated sale of liquor above notified Maximum Retail Price (MRP).
  - e. The policy introduces an Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA)-based liquor regime, prohibits rectified-spirit-based liquor for civil and canteen markets, and prescribes excise duties of ₹ 500 per London Proof Litre<sup>78</sup> (LPL) on IMFL, ₹ 100 per Bulk Litre (BL) on wine, and ₹ 20 per BL on beer, cider, and Ready-to-Drink beverages.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The policy aligns with the Jammu & Kashmir Excise Act, 1958<sup>79</sup> and supports the Government of India's objectives of substance-abuse prevention through regulated excise administration and transparent licensing systems.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Karnataka introduced India's first

<sup>78</sup> A London Proof Litre (LPL) is a standard unit of measurement used in excise taxation to calculate the volume of pure alcohol in a liquor or spirit. It represents the volume of alcohol if its strength were at "London Proof" (57.1% ABV or 100 proof).

<sup>79</sup> [The Jammu and Kashmir Excise Act, 158 \(1901 A. D.\).](#)

### A. Ladakh Excise Policy, FY 2026–27

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

Alcohol-in-Beverage (AiB)-based excise regime,<sup>80</sup> while Himachal Pradesh adopted e-auction-based allocation of retail liquor vends to improve transparency.<sup>81</sup>

#### 6. Relevance -

- a. Ladakh's previous excise regime restricted authorised retail exclusively to beer, wine, and ready-to-drink beverages that were permitted for retail sale through vends.<sup>82</sup> Stakeholders, including the Ladakh Gompa Association and medical experts, have expressed concerns that these restrictions may have contributed to unintended market distortions, including a potential shift by some consumers towards unregulated alcohol products and other intoxicants, highlighting broader public health and enforcement challenges in the region.<sup>83</sup>
- b. The policy addresses this by permitting the regulated retail sale of IMFL and foreign liquor, introducing Micro-Brewery (LAEL-7A) licenses, and mandating a strict ENA-only regime that bans rectified-spirit-based products across both civil and canteen markets, establishing a quality-controlled framework to dismantle illicit supply chains.
- c. Ladakh received 1,17,546 tourists between January-May 2026,<sup>84</sup> yet the Union Territory had only two licensed retail liquor outlets.<sup>85</sup> This limited availability encouraged purchases from neighbouring states, resulting in forgone excise revenue. Expanding the network to 20 regulated vends across regions such as Nubra, Changthang, Sham, and Zaskar can help capture tourism-linked demand and increase local revenue collections.<sup>86</sup>
- d. The policy expands authorised retail vends from 2 to 20 across the region through e-auction-based allotment with reserve prices ranging from ₹ 30 lakh to ₹ 60 lakh, while restricting each bidder to a single allotted vend to prevent monopolistic concentration. This tenfold expansion of licensed supply points, calibrated against a hospitality infrastructure of 291 hotels and 807 guest houses in Leh alone as of 2022,<sup>87</sup> captures in-region consumption revenue that was previously leaking to source states.

<sup>80</sup> [The Economic Times, May, 2026.](#)

<sup>81</sup> [The Hindu, February, 2026.](#)

<sup>82</sup> [NDTV, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>83</sup> [Indian Express, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>84</sup> [Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh](#)

<sup>85</sup> [The New Indian Express, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>86</sup> [NDTV, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>87</sup> [Scroll, March, 2026.](#)

### III. Karnataka

#### A. Quantum Task Force Under The Information Technology (IT) Policy

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

1. On 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2026, the Government of Karnataka constituted a 16-member Quantum Task Force as part of Karnataka's Information Technology (IT) Policy of 2025-30.<sup>88</sup> The task force was set up by an order issued by the Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology, and Science and Technology.
2. It is set to implement the strategies of Quantum Roadmap, which seeks to promote the growth of quantum technologies through coordinated efforts and strategic collaboration.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The task force comprises 16 members, inclusive of prominent experts from academic institutions, research centres, the tech industry, and senior government officials.
  - b. The task force will provide policy formulation, strategic direction, and institutional guidance to foster quantum technology research, innovation, startup support, and industrial adoption in the state.
  - c. It also seeks to oversee the key infrastructure in the state, which includes the mega Quantum City in Haseerghatta which is poised to become the epicentre of India's quantum ecosystem.
  - d. It is envisaged as a dedicated ecosystem for quantum computing, communication, sensing and related deep-technology research.
  - e. This will accelerate the state's ambition of becoming a national centre for quantum technology, research, innovation and industrial adoption.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The scheme aligns with the Centre's National Quantum Mission,<sup>89</sup> which focuses on building quantum communication technologies and supportive infrastructure for the same.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Similar initiatives have been implemented by states such as Andhra Pradesh, which has its own quantum computing policy,<sup>90</sup> and Telangana, which has recently established the state's quantum strategy.<sup>91</sup>
6. **Relevance -**
  - a. Bengaluru already hosts the Indian Institute of Science (IISc)-led Quantum Computing Thematic Hub under the National Quantum Mission (NQM), which

<sup>88</sup> [Karnataka IT Policy, 2025-30.](#)

<sup>89</sup> [National Quantum Mission.](#)

<sup>90</sup> [G.O.Ms.No.54, Government Of Andhra Pradesh, November, 2025.](#)

<sup>91</sup> [Telangana Quantum Strategy.](#)

### A. Quantum Task Force Under The Information Technology (IT) Policy

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

connects 21 institutions, 52 researchers, and has committed funding of over ₹ 653 crore.<sup>92</sup>

- b. The taskforce is being set up at a time when Karnataka is already setting up its own quantum infrastructure. In March 2026, the state facilitated installation of a 25-qubit quantum computing system at IIT-Dharwad and IIIT-Raichur under its LEAP program.<sup>93</sup> The newly constituted task force has also been mandated to oversee development of the proposed Quantum City at Hesaraghatta. The creation of a dedicated governance mechanism therefore reflects the transition from isolated projects to ecosystem-level coordination.
- c. The task force is also consistent with Karnataka's broader deep-tech strategy. In 2025, the state announced a ₹ 600-crore DeepTech investment program covering artificial intelligence, quantum computing, robotics and advanced manufacturing, alongside additional plans for co-investment funds and startup support.<sup>94</sup> The task force provides an institutional structure through which these investments can be directed towards a specific strategic sector rather than remaining dispersed across multiple technologies.
- d. More importantly, the creation of a task force addresses a coordination gap rather than a funding gap. Quantum technologies require simultaneous development of research institutions, specialised talent, testing facilities, startups, semiconductor capabilities and industrial users. The taskforce is therefore an attempt to improve ecosystem governance and capture a larger share of the national quantum economy, rather than as a standalone technology initiative.
- e. Notably, for decades, Bengaluru's economic dominance was driven by traditional software outsourcing, information technology services, and business process management. However, as global tech markets shift toward specialised processing architectures, maintaining long-term competitiveness requires building native hardware capabilities. Implementing the Karnataka Quantum Roadmap aims to capture a \$20 billion (about ₹ 1,902.21 crore) regional quantum economy by 2035, using advanced hardware manufacturing to move the state up the global technology value chain.<sup>95</sup>

<sup>92</sup> [DST-NQM Hub For Quantum Computing At IISc Bengaluru](#).

<sup>93</sup> [ET, March, 2026](#).

<sup>94</sup> [ET, November, 2025](#).

<sup>95</sup> [Money Control, April, 2026](#).

## Social Sector Schemes

### I. Telangana

#### A. Gig And Platform Workers Minimum Wage Framework

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

1. The Government of Telangana has notified the provisions of the Code on Wages, 2019, superseding the Minimum Wages Act, 1948,<sup>96</sup> across the state.
2. The Government superseded the previous act via a Government Order (GO) No. 6<sup>97</sup> issued by the state, and the new notification came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2026.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The GO states that payouts via paper cash are explicitly banned. Employers must disburse wages through direct electronic transfer (NEFT/RTGS/IMPS) or bank check, building an unalterable trail for labour inspectors and protecting vulnerable workgroups.
  - b. The GO further eliminates the fragmented, friction-heavy industries-wise frameworks seen in other states and implements a unified, transparent grid designed to maximise worker security.
  - c. It categorises workers into four categories of Unskilled, Semi-skilled, Skilled and Highly skilled for fixing minimum wages. The state has been divided into three zones of Zone 1 covers Municipal Corporations, Zone 2-Municipalities and Zone 3-Rural Areas.
  - d. In Zone 1, the minimum wage for:
    - i. Unskilled workers has increased from ₹ 12,750 to ₹ 16,000;
    - ii. For semi-skilled workers, from ₹ 13,152 to ₹ 17,000;
    - iii. For the skilled category, from ₹ 13,772 to ₹ 18,500; and
    - iv. For the highly skilled category, from ₹ 14,607 to ₹ 20,000.
  - e. **Benefits -**
    - i. The workers will be granted an additional mandatory 10% enhancement over their old wages.
    - ii. It ensures favorable working conditions for workers, by providing compensation at double the standard wages as overtime wages, in return for any task requested post the working hours or during public holidays.
    - iii. The GO further eliminates hundreds of complex, industry-specific schedules and provides a single compliance matrix, drastically reducing legal processing overhead and corporate tracking cost.
    - iv. It also acknowledges absolute gender neutrality, mandating equal pay for all genders.

<sup>96</sup> [Minimum Wage Act, 1948.](#)

<sup>97</sup> [Government Of Telangana.](#)

### A. Gig And Platform Workers Minimum Wage Framework

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

- v. This move has formalised gig and platform workers by explicitly extending the minimum wages framework to be applicable.
  - vi. It further formally recognised specialised designations such as Drone Technology Pesticide Sprayers under the “Highly Skilled” category, securing premium wages for future professions.
4. **Central Scheme Alignment** - The framework aligns with the Code on Wages, 2019,<sup>98</sup> enacted by the Centre. It also aligns with Article 14,<sup>99</sup> 39(d)<sup>100</sup> of the Constitution, which ensures equal pay for equal work, and also with Article 43<sup>101</sup> of the Constitution, which guarantees fair wages and decent working conditions.
5. **Similar Schemes In Other States** - States like Rajasthan,<sup>102</sup> Karnataka,<sup>103</sup> Haryana<sup>104</sup> and Uttar Pradesh<sup>105</sup> had already notified the minimum wage rules.
6. **Relevance** -
- a. The framework is significant because it simultaneously advances two long-standing objectives of labour policy, which are formalisation of wage payments and extension of labour protections to non-traditional workers. The shift to mandatory electronic wage payments creates an auditable payment trail, addressing a persistent challenge in labour enforcement where cash transactions make wage theft, underpayment and delayed payments difficult to detect.<sup>106</sup>
  - b. The framework also addresses documented governance gaps within the gig economy. Surveys of platform workers in Hyderabad found that 45% reported arbitrary ID blocks, 66% lacked effective grievance mechanisms, and many workers had no access to accident insurance or social-security benefits.<sup>107</sup> By bringing gig workers within a formal wage and welfare architecture, the state is attempting to address vulnerabilities that conventional labour laws were not designed to cover.
  - c. Telangana has now enacted the Telangana Platform Based Gig Workers Act, 2026,<sup>108</sup> which creates a Board, a state database of platform-based gig workers, and a Unique Identification Number for each registered worker. The Act also

<sup>98</sup> [Code On Wages, 2019.](#)

<sup>99</sup> [Article 14 Of The Constitution Of India.](#)

<sup>100</sup> [Article 39\(d\) Of The Constitution Of India.](#)

<sup>101</sup> [Article 43 Of The Constitution Of India.](#)

<sup>102</sup> [Labour Code On Wages, Rajasthan, 2026.](#)

<sup>103</sup> [Karnataka Minimum Wages Rate, 2026-27.](#)

<sup>104</sup> [Revised Minimum Wages, April, 2026.](#)

<sup>105</sup> [Economic Times, April, 2026.](#)

<sup>106</sup> [Business Standard, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>107</sup> [The Times Of India, December, 2025.](#)

<sup>108</sup> [Telangana Platform Based Gig Workers Act, 2026.](#)

### A. Gig And Platform Workers Minimum Wage Framework

Source: [The Government Of Telangana, Business Standard](#) | Impact: High

requires that all payments made to gig workers and the welfare fund fee deducted by platforms be mapped in real time on the Welfare Fund Fee Verification System. That makes the shift away from cash administratively consistent with the law itself rather than a speculative policy preference.

- d. However, the framework also raises implementation and competitiveness questions. The notification increases minimum wages in urban municipal-corporation areas from ₹ 12,750 to ₹ 16,000 for unskilled workers, ₹ 13,152 to ₹ 17,000 for semi-skilled workers, ₹ 13,772 to ₹ 18,500 for skilled workers, and ₹ 14,607 to ₹ 20,000 for highly skilled workers. While this strengthens wage protection, it also increases labour costs for labour-intensive sectors such as logistics, retail, hospitality and manufacturing. The net effect will depend on whether gains from formalisation, improved productivity and reduced compliance costs offset the higher wage bill.
- e. While the upward shift to a ₹ 16,000 unskilled urban baseline paired with a mandatory 10% enhancement over historical wages provides vital economic security for low-income households, it places immediate pressure on **low-margin logistics and delivery aggregators**. In highly competitive sectors like quick-commerce and last-mile delivery, companies often operate on razor-thin margins.
- f. Lastly, a significant forward-looking element of the framework is its formal recognition of specialised technology designations, such as Drone Technology Pesticide Sprayers, under the “Highly Skilled” category (guaranteeing a ₹ 20,000 monthly minimum). As rural drone applications scale up to support precision agriculture, pre-emptively locking these positions into premium wage slabs ensures that local youths migrating into technical agricultural services are protected from wage depression.

## B. Indiramma Bima Scheme

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

1. On 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2026, the Telangana Government launched the Indiramma Bima Scheme to ensure the livelihood of families in the event of accidental death of the head of the household.
2. **Key Features -**
  - a. **Eligibility -**
    - i. The scheme mandates families to be registered as a resident household in Telangana.
    - ii. The scheme covers all families irrespective of caste, religion, or economic status and there is no BPL or income certificate requirement.
    - iii. The 'head of household' designation determines whose life is insured. The nominee is typically a spouse or adult family member.
    - iv. No prior insurance or employment condition applies.
  - b. **Registration -**
    - i. The Government officials will visit each household to collect details related to the scheme.
    - ii. The family members are expected to produce Aadhaar Card, Ration Card, Bank Account details and Nominee details. Confirmation details will be provided by the official once enrolled.
  - c. **Benefits -**
    - i. A lump sum amount of ₹ 5 Lakh is given to each family whose head had died in an accident.
    - ii. There is no requirement of any premium to be paid and is purely state-funded.
3. **Similar Schemes In Other States -** States like Gujarat,<sup>109</sup> Haryana,<sup>110</sup> Rajasthan,<sup>111</sup> Assam,<sup>112</sup> Kerala,<sup>113</sup> and Tamil Nadu<sup>114</sup> have implemented similar schemes to provide insurance for death or disability due to accidents.
4. **Relevance -**
  - a. When a household loses its primary earning member due to an unforeseen accident, the resulting loss of income can create immediate financial stress, particularly for lower-income families. In the absence of adequate financial buffers or insurance coverage, households often rely on informal borrowing arrangements to meet urgent expenses such as medical treatment, funeral costs, and essential

<sup>109</sup> [Janta Juth Accidental Insurance Scheme.](#)

<sup>110</sup> [Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Durghtana Sahayta Yojana, Rajiv Gandhi Family Insurance Scheme.](#)

<sup>111</sup> [Mukhyamantri Ayushman Accident Insurance Scheme.](#)

<sup>112</sup> [Zero Premium Insurance Scheme.](#)

<sup>113</sup> [Rakshakavacham Scheme.](#)

<sup>114</sup> [Accident Relief Scheme.](#)

### B. Indiramma Bima Scheme

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

day-to-day expenditure. Delivering a guaranteed ₹ 5 lakh lump-sum payment directly blocks this down-spiral, providing an immediate financial buffer that protects the family's long-term independence.

- b. Moreover, under the scheme, no beneficiary has the requirement to visit an office or carry out the process online. The officials visit the beneficiary family's home at their doorstep to carry out the enrolment process via in-person survey.
- c. Additionally, the scheme's universal design removes economic caps and documentation requirements, making Telangana domicile the singular eligibility criterion. This streamlined approach ensures broad accessibility for all resident families.
- d. While a uniform ₹ 5 lakh transfer offers substantial relief in rural districts, regional cost-of-living disparities diminish its efficacy in urban centers like Greater Hyderabad Urban inflationary pressures, such as metropolitan funeral costs quadrupling to ₹ 40,000, mean fixed lump sums are rapidly consumed by immediate expenses.<sup>115</sup> Consequently, the payout functions effectively as a short-term shock absorber but falls short of guaranteeing long-term economic sustenance, particularly for heavily indebted households facing steep educational and living expenses.
- e. Additionally, providing a ₹ 5 lakh benefit to 1.15 crore families on a universal basis, without income or Below Poverty Line targeting burdens the state's exchequer. The breadth of the eligibility criteria allows a wide segment of the population in Telangana to access benefits under the scheme, which may create significant fiscal pressures for the state in sustaining long-term financial support obligations.

<sup>115</sup> [Anthyesti Funeral Services, Hyderabad.](#)

## II. Maharashtra

### A. Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Shetkari Karja-Mukti Yojana

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

1. On 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2026, the Maharashtra Government approved a scheme providing a farm loan waiver of up to ₹ 2 lakh, and other incentive benefits for cultivators who have repaid their loan on time. The scheme is expected to benefit around 56 lakh farmers.
2. **Key Features -**
  - a. **Eligibility -**
    - i. There is no landholding eligibility criterion to avail benefits.
    - ii. Office-bearers of political parties, Government employees, income-tax payers and officers and staffers of cooperative institutions drawing salaries exceeding ₹ 25,000 per month have been excluded from the scheme's ambit.
  - b. Under the waiver component, farmers whose total outstanding short-term crop loans, including principal and interest, are up to ₹ 2 lakh will be eligible for a complete debt relief. The loans must have been disbursed between 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2019, and 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2025, remained overdue as of 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2025, and unpaid till 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2026.
  - c. The farmers whose dues exceed ₹ 2 lakh will be covered under the One Time Settlement (OTS) component. Such borrowers will have to clear the amount above ₹ 2 lakh, after which they will become eligible for a waiver of ₹ 2 lakh. They have been given time until 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2027, to deposit their share of the outstanding amount.
  - d. **Incentive Benefits -**
    - i. Farmers who have repaid crop loans within the prescribed period in at least two of the three financial years from 2022-23 to 2024-25 will receive an incentive grant of up to ₹ 50,000.
    - ii. Eligible beneficiaries who have taken out crop loans in the current financial year will also have to repay those loans on time.
    - iii. In another provision, farmers with overdue amounts exceeding ₹ 50,000 can avail of a grant of ₹ 50,000 after paying the balance amount above that threshold, enabling them to become debt-free. They have been given time until 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2027, to make the required payment.
    - iv. The beneficiaries of the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Shetkari Karjamukti Yojana, 2019<sup>116</sup> (another farm credit waiver plan), who subsequently defaulted on fresh crop loans, would be eligible for loan relief of up to ₹ 50,000, subject to certain conditions.

<sup>116</sup> [Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Shetkari Karjamukti Yojana, 2019.](#)

### A. Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Shetkari Karja-Mukti Yojana

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

- e. Implementation of the scheme will be monitored by a high-level committee headed by the Chief Secretary. A separate panel headed by the Additional Chief Secretary (Finance) will negotiate with the banks regarding settlement of non-performing agricultural loans and determination of concessions to be extended by lenders.
- f. The scheme will cover loans availed from nationalised banks, private banks, regional rural banks, district central cooperative banks and primary agricultural credit societies. Aadhaar authentication and registration on the AgriStack platform<sup>117</sup> will be mandatory for beneficiaries.
3. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Maharashtra has followed the approach seen in states such as Tamil Nadu and Telangana, where farm loan waivers have been combined with incentives or rewards for farmers who repaid their loans on time.<sup>118</sup>
4. **Relevance** -
- a. A key structural aspect of the scheme is its alignment with the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Scheme launched in 2019. Under this framework, farmers who received prior relief but faced subsequent defaults are subject to a ₹ 50,000 assistance ceiling.<sup>119</sup> While some agricultural stakeholders suggest this cap may limit support for highly indebted households, the provision is designed to balance immediate relief with long-term fiscal management.
- b. As per the estimates of Gross State Value Addition (GSVA), the composition of Agriculture in total GVA is 7.07%. The scheme is designed to promote the welfare of farmers through inclusive eligibility criteria, supporting a demographic that contributes 7.07% to the state's GSVA.<sup>120</sup> Undoubtedly, this scheme is a major relief to the farmers whose per capita income is around only ₹ 3,09,340.<sup>121</sup> With a waiver of up to ₹ 2 lakh, about 65% of the farmer's annual income, the scheme facilitates farmers to remain completely debt-free, and encourages them to apply for similar institutional credit for the subsequent cropping seasons.
- c. Around 52% of domestic farmers remain stuck in the vicious cycle of overdue loans.<sup>122</sup> With this backdrop, the proposed scheme reduces financial as well as psychological distress for **all the farmers uniformly** across the state, preventing scope for restrictions or cap on landholding. This means that even small landholding farmers are eligible for the incentives.

<sup>117</sup> AgriStack is a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for the agricultural sector.

<sup>118</sup> [Angel One, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>119</sup> [Indian Express, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>120</sup> [Handbook Of Statistics On Indian States, RBI, 2024-25, Page 90, 98.](#)

<sup>121</sup> [Handbook Of Statistics On Indian States, RBI, 2024-25, Page 64.](#)

<sup>122</sup> [Indebtedness Of Farmer Households, NSS 59th Round, 2005, Page 14.](#)

**A. Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Shetkari Karja-Mukti Yojana****Source:** [The Hindu](#) | **Impact:** High

- d. Unlike historical debt-relief frameworks that restricted eligibility via explicit landholding thresholds (typically two to five acres), the scheme contains no land ownership criteria.<sup>123</sup> This structural shift moves policy targeting from asset-based metrics to direct debt liabilities, standardising access for smallholders managing fragmented, low-yield plots across vulnerable regions like Vidarbha and Marathwada.
- e. Most importantly, large-scale debt waivers run a significant risk of damaging local credit discipline by encouraging future strategic defaults. If farmers stop servicing active loans in anticipation of regular political write-offs, commercial and cooperative banks will face rising Non-Performing Assets (NPAs).<sup>124</sup> To protect the banking sector's integrity, the state has set up a specialised finance committee chaired by the Additional Chief Secretary (Finance) to negotiate directly with lenders, using structured credit bureau updates to verify that this intervention operates as an extraordinary economic reset rather than a recurring expectation.

<sup>123</sup> [Indian Express, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>124</sup> NPA is a loan or advance where the borrower has failed to make scheduled principal or interest payments for 90 days or more.

### III. Andaman And Nicobar Islands

#### A. Rehabilitation And Resettlement Census Under The Great Nicobar Project

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

1. On 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, through a public notice, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands notified the **rehabilitation and resettlement census** for the Great Nicobar Infrastructure Project.
2. **Key Features -**
  - a. The public notice for resettlement and rehabilitation census was put up by the Office of the Assistant Commissioner in Campbell Bay, which states that the census will begin on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2026 at the recreation hall in Kamal Basti.
  - b. The notice mandates all families affected by the Trunk Infrastructure part of the project to keep about 24 documents required for carrying out the resettlement.
  - c. The trunk infrastructure includes the construction of the trunk road and related infrastructure on Great Nicobar Island, and has a timeline till 2050.
3. **Relevance -**
  - a. The resettlement census is significant because it marks the transition of the Great Nicobar project from the planning and clearance stage to the implementation stage. The project is among the largest infrastructure investments in any Union Territory, involving a proposed transshipment port, international airport, township and power infrastructure with an estimated investment of ₹ 72,000–92,000 crore.
  - b. The exercise is particularly important because Great Nicobar is not a conventional development site. Approximately 853 sq km of the island's 910 sq km area (about 94%) is notified as Tribal Reserve under the Andaman and Nicobar (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956.<sup>125</sup> Recent parliamentary disclosures also indicate that infrastructure associated with the project will require diversion of tribal-reserve land in addition to forest land.<sup>126</sup>
  - c. The need for a dedicated enumeration exercise is reinforced by the island's demographic characteristics. Unlike mainland acquisition projects where land records are relatively well established, Great Nicobar contains settlements of both the Nicobarese and the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) Shompen, whose habitation patterns are dispersed and often not fully captured through conventional land-record systems.<sup>127</sup> A baseline census therefore reduces the risk of exclusion errors in compensation and resettlement planning.
  - d. The exercise also reflects a practical lesson from large infrastructure projects elsewhere in India. Delays in land acquisition and rehabilitation have historically

<sup>125</sup> [Andaman And Nicobar \(Protection Of Aboriginal Tribes\) Regulation, 1956.](#)

<sup>126</sup> [Hindustan Times, August, 2025.](#)

<sup>127</sup> [KPBS, June, 2026.](#)

**A. Rehabilitation And Resettlement Census Under The Great Nicobar Project****Source:** [The Hindu](#) | **Impact:** High

been among the leading causes of cost overruns and implementation delays in public projects.<sup>128</sup> By conducting a dedicated resettlement census before major construction activity begins, the administration is attempting to reduce future disputes over eligibility and compensation, which become substantially more difficult to resolve once physical works are underway.

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<sup>128</sup> [MoSPI Annual Report, 2014.](#)

## IV. Kerala

### A. The Priyadarshini Scheme: Free Bus Travel For Women

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

1. On 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, the Government of Kerala launched the flagship 'Priyadarshini' free travel scheme for all women and transgender persons on ordinary buses operated by the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC).
2. It stands as one of the key commitments under the UDF Government's "Indira Guarantees" scheme.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The scheme, called 'Priyadarshini' in its current format, would cost ₹ 65-70 Crore every month and it would be reimbursed by the state Government to the KSRTC.
  - b. Under the scheme, women and transgender persons can travel free of charge on seven categories of KSRTC ordinary services, which includes 3,125 buses: ordinary, city ordinary, limited-stop ordinary, fair-stage ordinary, town-to-town, point-to-point, and Gramavandi services.
  - c. The first phase of the scheme will run for 100 days, followed by a review of the scheme's performance. The plan is to extend the scheme to fast and super fast buses as well.
  - d. There is no age restriction for availing the benefit, and all women regardless of any age can travel for free in ordinary buses.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Tamil Nadu,<sup>129</sup> Delhi,<sup>130</sup> Punjab,<sup>131</sup> West Bengal,<sup>132</sup> Karnataka,<sup>133</sup> Andhra Pradesh,<sup>134</sup> Telangana<sup>135</sup> and Jammu and Kashmir<sup>136</sup> have similar schemes offering women free rides on state-run buses.
5. **Relevance -**
  - a. The scheme addresses the mobility-cost constraint for women. Kerala's Female Labour Force Participation Rate stood at 33.4% in 2023-24, significantly below the male rate of 59.1%.<sup>137</sup> The free-bus scheme is expected to reduce transport costs by 15-25%,<sup>138</sup> it could also increase women's paid work participation and duration of employment, particularly in areas with stronger mobility constraints.<sup>139</sup> By

<sup>129</sup> [State Planning Commission, Government Of Tamil Nadu.](#)

<sup>130</sup> [The Hindu, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>131</sup> [Notification No.SSWCD-24022/13/2020-6SS/ 200, Government Of Punjab, 2021.](#)

<sup>132</sup> [The Hindu, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>133</sup> [Karnataka Shakti Scheme, 2023.](#)

<sup>134</sup> [Stree Shakthi Scheme, 2024.](#)

<sup>135</sup> [The Hindu, April, 2024.](#)

<sup>136</sup> [G.O. No. 28 JK\(TR\), April, 2025.](#)

<sup>137</sup> [Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.5160, April, 2025.](#)

<sup>138</sup> [The Hindu, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>139</sup> [Arxiv, April, 2026.](#)

### A. The Priyadarshini Scheme: Free Bus Travel For Women

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

targeting everyday commuting costs, the scheme attempts to address a barrier to labour-market participation rather than merely provide a consumption subsidy.

- b. However, the scheme must be viewed against Kerala's fiscal position. Kerala's outstanding liabilities are projected at approximately 37.84% of GSDP in 2025-26, among the highest ratios for major states,<sup>140</sup> while revenue expenditure continues to account for the overwhelming share of total spending. In this context, the estimated annual cost of ₹ 800 crore for free travel on ordinary KSRTC services<sup>141</sup> represents an additional recurring expenditure commitment at a time when fiscal space remains constrained.
- c. The fiscal implications are particularly relevant because KSRTC itself remains financially dependent on Government support. Women are estimated to account for roughly 19 lakh daily passengers, generating approximately ₹ 5–6 crore in daily ticket revenue.<sup>142</sup> Since the state has committed to compensating KSRTC for revenue foregone, the policy effectively shifts a portion of transport costs from users to the state budget.
- d. Further, while the scheme delivers essential social benefits, it introduces a severe funding challenge for an already deeply indebted utility. KSRTC's accumulated losses have expanded rapidly, climbing from ₹ 14,707.85 crore in FY21 to an unprecedented ₹ 20,949.96 crore by FY25.<sup>143</sup> Because the corporation relies heavily on state interventions to cover regular payrolls and pensions, any delay in processing the promised ₹ 60 crore monthly reimbursements could freeze local operations.
- e. A major regional challenge for the scheme's execution is the uneven distribution of KSRTC assets across the state. In the Malabar region, particularly in high-density districts like Malappuram, public transport remains heavily reliant on private operators, while KSRTC's route coverage and fleet presence are comparatively limited.<sup>144</sup> Because the free travel benefit is restricted to state-run fleets, women in northern districts gain far less support than those in southern zones, creating a geographic imbalance.

<sup>140</sup> [The Times Of India, October, 2025.](#)

<sup>141</sup> [Economic Times, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>142</sup> [The Times Of India, May, 2026.](#)

<sup>143</sup> [Times Of India, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>144</sup> [Times Of India, May, 2026.](#)

## V. Sikkim

### A. Digital Farmers' Registry

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

1. On 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, the Government of Sikkim launched a unique Farmers' ID system, a major digital initiative to facilitate a unified database of farmers, while reiterating the state's status as India's first fully organic state.
2. It is aimed to bring farmers across the state onto a single platform, simplifying their access to Government services and improving agricultural governance.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. Sikkim has around 65,000 farmers cultivating nearly 75,000 hectares of land. The new system will create a digital profile for each farmer by integrating Aadhaar details, bank account information and land ownership records.
  - b. As part of the initiative, the Government plans to establish 30 pilot aggregation centres across districts, with a long-term target of setting up 190 such centres.
  - c. Further, the centres will include Internal Control System facilities to help farmers complete organic certification processes closer to their farms.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative aligns with the Centre's Agristack Initiative<sup>145</sup>, aimed at improving easier accessibility of Government schemes to farmers. It further aligns with Digital India Mission<sup>146</sup>, which aims to transform India into a digitally empowered society.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Maharashtra<sup>147</sup> features a similar registry for farmers for which a mandatory Farmer ID is required to access agricultural benefits. Similar digital Farmers' ID are mandated in states like Uttar Pradesh<sup>148</sup> and Bihar.<sup>149</sup>
6. **Relevance -**
  - a. 45.8% of Sikkim's working population is dependent on agriculture,<sup>150</sup> while the Agriculture Department estimates around 66,000 farmers cultivating nearly 76,000 hectares.<sup>151</sup> With most holdings being small and fragmented, maintaining accurate beneficiary and land records through fragmented systems is inherently difficult.
  - b. Further, farmer-related benefits continue to flow through multiple databases maintained by different departments and schemes. The Farmer Registry seeks to create a single verified identity linked to land records, Aadhaar and bank accounts, reducing duplication and improving beneficiary targeting.

<sup>145</sup> [Agristack](#).

<sup>146</sup> [Digital India Mission](#).

<sup>147</sup> [Government Of Maharashtra, Agristack](#).

<sup>148</sup> [Hindustan Times, April, 2026](#).

<sup>149</sup> [Patna Press, May, 2026](#).

<sup>150</sup> [Macro And Fiscal Landscape Of The State Of Sikkim, Niti Aayog, 2025](#).

<sup>151</sup> [Sikkim Cold Storage](#).

### A. Digital Farmers' Registry

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

- c. Unlike large states where extension services can reach many farmers in a single cluster, Sikkim's dispersed hill agriculture requires more accurate identification and targeting. A digital registry reduces the transaction costs of delivering subsidies, insurance and extension services across fragmented holdings.
- d. The registry also supports the state's organic-farming model. Sikkim has maintained more than 76,000 hectares under organic cultivation, but premium pricing, certification and market access depend heavily on traceability. By linking individual farmers and land parcels to a common database, the state creates infrastructure that can support verification and supply-chain tracking in the future.
- e. Notably, the initiative is part of a broader national digital-agriculture architecture. Under AgriStack, Farmer IDs are being used to support delivery of schemes such as PM-Kisan, PMFBY, MSP procurement, agricultural credit and disaster assistance. Nationally, the registry had crossed 9.2 crore Farmer IDs by March 2026.<sup>152</sup>

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<sup>152</sup> [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

## Investment Announcements

### I. Tamil Nadu

#### A. Tamil Nadu Electronics Manufacturing Investment

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

1. On 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, the state of Tamil Nadu signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Larsen & Toubro (L&T), aiming to invest ₹ 186 billion (₹ 18,600 crore) in several projects.
2. **Key Features -**
  - a. The largest investment share, worth ₹ 15,000 crore, will go towards a data centre expansion project in Kancheepuram district, which the state said would create 500 jobs. The project is aimed at supporting the growing demand for cloud services, artificial intelligence and data storage infrastructure.
  - b. L&T will also invest ₹ 2,500 crore in an electronics and electronic systems manufacturing facility in Coimbatore, creating 2,000 jobs.
  - c. Another ₹ 1,100 crore will be invested in the expansion of the company's shipbuilding complex at Kattupalli in Tiruvallur district, generating 5,700 jobs.
  - d. The Kattupalli expansion is expected to strengthen Tamil Nadu's position in the offshore wind supply chain through enhanced fabrication and maritime infrastructure. The electronics manufacturing project is expected to further strengthen the state's industrial ecosystem.
  - e. The investments are expected to support Tamil Nadu's goal of expanding its economy to ₹ 1,50,000 crore by 2036 through industrial growth, infrastructure development and employment generation.
3. **Relevance -**
  - a. The investment aligns with Tamil Nadu's ongoing shift from traditional manufacturing towards higher-value electronics and digital infrastructure. L&T's ₹ 18,600 crore investment covers electronics manufacturing facilities and a data centre, both sectors that the state has actively prioritised through its industrial policy.
  - b. Electronics manufacturing has emerged as one of Tamil Nadu's fastest-growing industrial segments, with the state competing with Karnataka, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh for large-scale investments linked to global supply chains.<sup>153</sup>
  - c. At ₹ 18,600 crore, the project is equivalent to nearly 3% of the ₹ 6.64 lakh crore investment commitments secured during the 2024 Global Investors Meet.<sup>154</sup> Unlike many MoUs signed during investor summits, this agreement involves a single

<sup>153</sup> [The Times Of India, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>154</sup> [Reuters, June, 2026.](#)

### A. Tamil Nadu Electronics Manufacturing Investment

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

- domestic firm with an established operational presence in the state, potentially **lowering execution risk** compared to greenfield commitments from new entrants.
- d. Additionally, Tamil Nadu's electronics export sector is undergoing an unprecedented boom, on track to cross a record \$18 billion (about ₹ 1,712 crore) value footprint for the 2025-26 fiscal year, marking a massive 22.8% year-on-year climb from the \$14.65 billion (₹ 13,934 crore) recorded in FY25.<sup>155</sup> Grounding an independent ₹ 2,500 crore component plant in Coimbatore directly supports this momentum. It moves the state past basic final-stage device assembly, embedding high-margin component manufacturing locally to insulate the regional economy from global supply chain shocks.
  - e. While the data center block accounts for 80% of the financial capital, it generates a modest 500 specialised operations roles due to the highly automated nature of hyperscale server infrastructure. Conversely, the ₹ 1,100 crore Kattupalli maritime expansion generates an extraordinary 5,700 high-yield industrial jobs.<sup>156</sup> Leveraging this high employment multiplier across Tiruvallur district converts heavy assembly assets into a powerful engine for localised blue-collar employment and specialized vocational training.
  - f. Lastly, the primary operational challenge facing the 36-month data center roadmap is the intense energy footprint demanded by hyperscale AI clusters. Operating massive server blocks requires continuous access to mega-watt scale base-load electricity and large volumes of cooling water.<sup>157</sup> If the local grid relies on fossil-fuel power lines, it could undermine the project's green data goals.

<sup>155</sup> [The New Indian Express, February, 2026.](#)

<sup>156</sup> [The New Indian Express, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>157</sup> [Water Verge, May, 2026.](#)

## II. Haryana

### A. Servotech Renewable-HEPC Investment MoU

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

1. On 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026, Servotech Renewable Power System Ltd. signed an investment Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Haryana Enterprises Promotion Centre (HEPC), Government of Haryana for a proposed investment of ₹ 400 crore to expand its renewable energy manufacturing and warehousing operations in the state. The MoU was signed during the official launch of the 'Make in Haryana' Industrial Policy, which was unveiled on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026.
2. **Key Features -**
  - a. The MoU provides for an investment of approximately ₹ 400 crore in Haryana through phased implementation over the next 24 to 36 months.
  - b. The MoU establishes a framework for cooperation between Servotech Renewable and the Department of Industries and Commerce to support industrial development and clean energy manufacturing.
  - c. It provides for the expansion of manufacturing capacity for EV chargers, solar products, battery packs, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), and power electronics.
  - d. The Haryana Government, through HEPC, provides facilitation and ease-of-doing-business support for the proposed investment and expansion initiatives.
3. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The MoU aligns with the National Program on Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage<sup>158</sup> (ACC PLI scheme) and the National Framework for Promoting Energy Storage Systems,<sup>159</sup> which promotes domestic manufacturing of battery storage technologies and clean energy infrastructure.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Maharashtra has facilitated a ₹ 10,080 crore investment by Galaxy Solar Energy for an integrated solar and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) manufacturing facility in Nagpur.<sup>160</sup>
5. **Relevance -**
  - a. The investment strengthens India's energy storage value chain by expanding domestic manufacturing of EV chargers, battery packs, and power electronics. By localising key downstream components, it reduces import dependence and complements ongoing efforts to scale battery cell production. The project also aligns with the Make in Haryana Industrial Policy, 2026, and supports the growing demand for clean energy and energy storage infrastructure.

<sup>158</sup> [National Programme On Advanced Chemistry Cell \(ACC\) Battery Storage.](#)

<sup>159</sup> [National Framework For Promoting Energy Storage Systems.](#)

<sup>160</sup> [Business Standard, February, 2026.](#)

### A. Servotech Renewable-HEPC Investment MoU

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

- b. The Make in Haryana Industrial Policy, 2026, sets a target of ₹ 5 lakh crore in investments and 1 million new jobs, with Day-1 MoUs worth ₹ 1.10 lakh crore (including ₹ 30,000 crore in FDI) signed alongside the unveiling of nine sector-specific policies covering renewable energy, EVs and semiconductors, green hydrogen, and electronic waste recycling.<sup>161</sup> The MoU represents ₹ 400 crore of the Day-1 investment pipeline, with approximately 500 employment opportunities projected over 24–36 months, explicitly aligned with EV chargers, solar, BESS, and power electronics as thrust sectors.<sup>162</sup>
- c. Servotech’s Haryana facility localises the assembly of battery packs, EV chargers, and BESS modules but remains dependent on imported lithium-ion cells, power semiconductors, and rare-earth permanent magnets, largely sourced from China.<sup>163</sup> China accounts for nearly 70% of India’s lithium imports and supplies over 80% of domestic lithium-ion battery requirements. India imported 53,748 MT of rare-earth magnets in FY 2024–25.<sup>164</sup>
- d. Although the ₹ 7,280 crore<sup>165</sup> Rare Earth Permanent Magnet (REPM) Scheme approved in November 2025 aims to create 6,000 MTPA domestic capacity, its 2–3 year commissioning timeline extends beyond Servotech’s implementation period. Similarly, the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS) is projected to meet only around 61% of lithium-ion battery demand and 25% of rare-earth magnet demand.<sup>166</sup> A future expansion phase could incentivise upstream cell manufacturing, power semiconductor production, and rare-earth magnet processing to strengthen supply-chain resilience through greater vertical integration.

<sup>161</sup> [Startup Feed, June 2026.](#)

<sup>162</sup> [Servotech.](#)

<sup>163</sup> [Deccan Herald, October 2024.](#)

<sup>164</sup> [Reuters, November 2025.](#)

<sup>165</sup> [Reuters, November 2025.](#)

<sup>166</sup> [CRN, March 2026](#)

### III. Odisha

#### A. Approval Of Investment Proposals Worth ₹ 3,793 Crore Across The State

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

1. On 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, the State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA) approved 24 investment proposals worth ₹ 3,793.33 crore across Odisha.
2. The investment approvals aim to **promote industrial development**, employment generation, and sectoral diversification across Odisha by facilitating investments through the state's single-window clearance mechanism.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA) cleared 24 investment projects worth ₹ 3,793.33 crore across 14 districts, with an expected employment generation of nearly 20,000 jobs.
  - b. Among the major proposals is an apparel manufacturing unit by Nandraj Textiles Private Limited in Khordha with an investment of ₹ 168.64 crore, expected to generate 10,306 jobs.
  - c. The textiles sector received a further boost through a knitted garments manufacturing unit by Shahi Exports Private Limited in Sambalpur with an investment of ₹ 145.50 crore and 1,840 jobs, along with an integrated textile project by Maa Taratarini Textile Park Private Limited in Ganjam involving ₹ 70 crore and 350 jobs.
  - d. The investment portfolio also includes a Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) facility by CESC Green Power Limited in Dhenkanal with an investment of ₹ 683.83 crore, and a lab-grown diamond manufacturing facility by AVP Star Private Limited in Khurda with an investment of ₹ 500 crore.
  - e. In the tourism sector, Swosti Premium Limited received clearance for a five-star resort project in Koraput with an investment of ₹ 250 crore and 480 jobs, along with eco-resorts, hotels, and water amusement parks across multiple districts.
  - f. The manufacturing segment features a steel fabrication unit by JSW Severfield Structures Limited in Jajpur with an investment of ₹ 215 crore and an expected employment generation of 1,400 jobs.
  - g. The additional projects include an expansion project by Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Private Limited in Khordha involving an investment of ₹ 300 crore and 990 jobs, along with an electric vehicle, battery, and inverter manufacturing facility by Lithros Batteries India Private Limited in Khurda with an investment of ₹ 60 crore.
4. **Relevance -**
  - a. Odisha's economy is heavily dependent on **mineral-based industries**, with the industrial sector contributing around 43.9% of Gross State Value Added (GSVA) in

### A. Approval Of Investment Proposals Worth ₹ 3,793 Crore Across The State

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

2024-25. However, much of this output is concentrated in capital-intensive sectors such as iron, steel, and non-ferrous metals, which generate relatively limited employment.<sup>167</sup>

- b. As a result, labour migration remains a persistent challenge. Official data shows that 40,088 workers have migrated through registered channels, with 626 licensed labour contractors operating in the state. Balangir and Nuapada account for the highest levels of outward migration, while at least 518 migrant workers from Odisha have died while working outside the state between 2019 to 2024.<sup>168</sup>
- c. The SLSWCA seeks to address this challenge by accelerating investment approvals through a unified clearance mechanism. At its 147<sup>th</sup> meeting, the authority approved 24 investment proposals worth ₹ 3,793.33 crore across 14 districts, with projected employment generation of nearly 20,000 jobs in sectors such as manufacturing, textiles and apparel, clean energy, advanced materials, tourism, and logistics.
- d. The investment proposals are spread across 14 districts, including Koraput, Balangir, Keonjhar, and Mayurbhanj, supporting balanced regional development and creating employment opportunities closer to workers' home districts. This can help **reduce migration pressures** while promoting local economic activity.
- e. The approvals also build on Odisha's broader investment facilitation framework. The state's single-window and high-level clearance mechanisms have cumulatively approved 433 projects worth ₹ 8.68 lakh crore with projected employment generation exceeding 5.25 lakh jobs, while the Utkarsh Odisha 2025 summit attracted investment proposals worth approximately ₹ 16.73 lakh crore across 593 projects with potential employment generation of 12.88 lakh jobs, supporting the state's vision of a Samruddha Odisha by 2036.<sup>169</sup>

<sup>167</sup> [Business Standard, February 2025.](#)

<sup>168</sup> [The Hindu, December 2024.](#)

<sup>169</sup> [Sambad Odisha, June 2026.](#)

## IV. Maharashtra

### A. Navi Mumbai Metro Expansion Project

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

1. On 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, the Cabinet of Maharashtra approved ₹ 5,575 crore for the expansion of the Navi Mumbai Metro, which connects the International Airport through Line 2.
2. **Key Features** -
  - a. The project will be carried out on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode on a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis, with fundings from both the state and the Central Government.
  - b. Similarly, the Navi Mumbai metro expansion project is expected to create a continuous 28-km metro corridor from Sagar Sangam to the airport and include 13 new stations, comprising two on Line 1A and 11 on Line 2. This metro will benefit 12 Lakh passengers daily in the coming years.
3. **Relevance** -
  - a. The project addresses a major **last-mile gap** in the transport planning of the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport. While the airport has been developed as a second aviation hub for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), mass rapid transit connectivity to the airport remains limited.
  - b. The approved ₹ 5,575-crore expansion of Navi Mumbai Metro Lines 1A and 2 extends the network from Pendhar directly to the airport, integrating the airport into the broader urban transit system rather than relying primarily on road-based access.
  - c. The investment reflects the anticipated growth in passenger movement across the MMR. The approved expansion will create a continuous 28-km metro corridor with 13 new stations, and Government projections estimate potential ridership of 12 lakh passengers per day in the coming years. Such volumes would be difficult to accommodate through road infrastructure, particularly the chronic congestion affecting key corridors linking Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Thane and Panvel.<sup>170</sup>
  - d. Unlike standalone metro projects, the economic rationale of this expansion is tied to a major regional growth node. The airport corridor is expected to serve not only air passengers but also emerging **residential, commercial and logistics clusters** in Ulwe, Taloja, Kharghar and surrounding areas. Consequently, the project's relevance extends beyond airport access.<sup>171</sup> It is intended to shape travel patterns in a rapidly urbanising part of the MMR before dependence on private vehicles becomes entrenched.

<sup>170</sup> [The Times Of India, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>171</sup> [Financial Express, June, 2026.](#)

## V. Gujarat

### A. Reliance–Meta AI Data Centre Project

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

1. On 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, Reliance Industries Limited and Meta Platforms Inc. announced the Reliance–Meta AI Data Centre Project in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
2. The project aims to establish India’s first built-to-suit data centre<sup>172</sup> for Meta, strengthen India’s artificial intelligence and digital infrastructure ecosystem, and support large-scale AI computing requirements.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The project provides for the establishment of a 168 Mega Watt AI-enabled data centre in Jamnagar, Gujarat, with delivery targeted within two years and provisions for future capacity expansion.
  - b. It enables Meta to lease dedicated data centre capacity in India to support its global infrastructure operations and growing artificial intelligence computing requirements.
  - c. It provides **end-to-end infrastructure management** by Reliance Industries Limited, including facility design, utility management, renewable power supply, network connectivity, and operational services.
  - d. It introduces the use of renewable energy-powered operations and desalinated seawater-based cooling systems for data centre operations.
  - e. It leverages Jamnagar’s proximity to western submarine cable landing stations, water availability, renewable energy resources, and Jio’s fibre network to support hyperscale AI infrastructure deployment.
4. **Relevance -**
  - a. India is one of the world’s largest digital markets and a rapidly growing consumer of AI services, yet its data centre capacity remains concentrated in a few locations. As of April 2026, India hosted 296 data centres, making it the world’s sixth-largest data centre market by facility count, behind the United States (4,184), the United Kingdom (515), Germany (514), China (369), and France (345).<sup>173</sup>
  - b. Data centre capacity grew from around 375 MW in 2020 to 1,520 MW in 2025, but nearly 70% remains concentrated in Mumbai, Delhi-NCR, and Chennai. Rising demand from cloud services, AI, 5G, and IoT is increasing the need for additional computing infrastructure.<sup>174</sup>
  - c. The Reliance–Meta partnership addresses these infrastructure constraints

<sup>172</sup> A built-to-suit (BTS) data centre is a custom facility designed and constructed from the ground up for a single client. The developer builds the entire structure to match the exact power, cooling, and security requirements of the tenant.

<sup>173</sup> [Business Standard, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>174</sup> [Business Standard, June, 2026.](#)

**A. Reliance–Meta AI Data Centre Project****Source:** [The Hindu](#) | **Impact:** Medium

through the establishment of a 168 MW artificial intelligence-enabled data centre in Jamnagar, Gujarat, which will equal more than 10% of India's entire installed capacity in 2025.

- d. The project strengthens Gujarat's role in India's digital infrastructure expansion. With data centre capacity projected to exceed 4 GW by 2030 at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 23%, the Jamnagar facility offers a scalable model combining computing infrastructure, renewable energy, and sustainable cooling systems.<sup>175</sup>
- e. The investment also reinforces long-term confidence in India's digital economy. India is currently the second-largest operational data centre market in the Asia-Pacific region and has over 3.1 GW of additional data centre capacity under construction or planning, reflecting strong momentum in digital infrastructure development and foreign investment inflows.<sup>176</sup>

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<sup>175</sup> [DD News, January, 2026.](#)

<sup>176</sup> [Business Standard, June, 2026.](#)

## Other Decisions

### I. Gujarat

#### A. The Wire-Free City Mission

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

1. On 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2026, the Gujarat Cabinet granted in-principle approval to the Wire-Free City Mission which aims to shift overhead electricity distribution networks underground across urban areas of the state.
2. This mission will modernise power infrastructure, improve reliability of electricity supply, and enhance the resilience of urban distribution systems.
3. **Key Features** -
  - a. It covers all 17 Municipal Corporations and 151 Municipalities in Gujarat and targets completion by 2030.
  - b. It provides an initial allocation of ₹ 500 crore for the first phase of implementation.
  - c. It provides for the underground conversion of more than 14,600 circuit kilometres of high-tension (HT) overhead power lines and over 31,400 circuit kilometres of low-tension (LT) distribution lines.
  - d. It mandates the conversion of existing 11 kV overhead electricity lines into underground cable networks during the first phase.
  - e. It provides for the **phased conversion** of LT distribution lines into underground networks in subsequent phases.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Maharashtra,<sup>177</sup> Punjab,<sup>178</sup> and Delhi<sup>179</sup> have launched underground cabling projects to replace overhead electricity networks in urban and rural areas, improve reliability of power supply, and enhance public safety.
5. **Relevance** -
  - a. India recorded approximately 12,492 electrocution deaths in 2022, averaging 34 fatalities daily, with NCRB data showing a 50% increase from 8,945 deaths in 2011 to 13,446 in 2020, driven significantly by exposed overhead wires, dangling cables, and contact with high-tension lines in urban areas and cumulatively, over 1.1 lakh people died from electrocution between 2011 and 2020.<sup>180</sup>
  - b. The mission eliminates this public safety hazard across all 168 urban local bodies (17 municipal corporations and 151 municipalities) by shifting more than 14,600 circuit km of HT and 31,400 circuit km of LT overhead lines underground, **removing exposed conductors** from streets, residential areas, and public spaces.

<sup>177</sup> [The Times Of India, February, 2025.](#)

<sup>178</sup> [The Times Of India, May, 2026.](#)

<sup>179</sup> [The New Indian Express, February, 2026.](#)

<sup>180</sup> [Zee News, August, 2022.](#)

### A. The Wire-Free City Mission

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

This structurally eliminates the overhead-wire contact risk that accounts for a large share of urban electrocution fatalities nationally, creating a model for other states to replicate across their municipal jurisdictions.

- c. It is pertinent to note that Cyclone Biparjoy (June 2023) caused power outages across more than 4,600 villages<sup>181</sup> in Gujarat's Saurashtra and Kutch regions, with approximately 1,500 villages still without electricity days after landfall. This storm had caused extensive damage specifically to overhead power infrastructure, uprooting thousands of electricity poles and damaging overhead power lines, the worst storm to hit Gujarat in 25 years.<sup>182</sup>
- d. The mission's underground cabling network reduces vulnerability to cyclones by eliminating exposure of power lines to high-wind events, strengthening grid resilience across Gujarat's 1,600 km coastline. This can help prevent large-scale outages during future weather events.
- e. Underground cabling also improves distribution efficiency by reducing losses from power theft, vegetation-related faults, and leakage during adverse weather conditions. Lower technical and commercial losses can improve DISCOM operational performance and financial sustainability.
- f. The mission enhances urban aesthetics and right-of-way management by eliminating overhead wire clutter and reducing dependence on roadside utility poles. This improves streetscapes, eases coordination between electricity and telecom utilities, and creates space for future smart-city infrastructure through more efficient use of urban utility corridors.

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<sup>181</sup> [Malay Mail, June, 2023.](#)

<sup>182</sup> [Outlook India, June, 2023.](#)

## II. Assam

### A. Declaration Of Second Capital Region

Source: [ET Now News](#) | Impact: High

1. On 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, the Cabinet of Assam approved a proposal to declare Dibrugarh as Assam's second capital region.
2. **Key Features -**
  - a. A new body, the Second State Capital Region Development Authority - Dibrugarh (SCRDA-D), has been constituted to oversee the region.
  - b. The designated area will span a radius of 20 kilometres around the Dibrugarh Capital Complex within the district. The authority will be chaired by the local MLA, who will hold Cabinet rank, while the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Affairs will serve as Vice-Chairman.
  - c. The SCRDA-D will be responsible for drawing up regional development plans, identifying growth corridors, and mapping out areas marked for urban expansion.
  - d. A dedicated fund of ₹ 500 crore has been approved through the budgets of concerned line departments to support infrastructure development in the region.
3. **Relevance -**
  - a. Assam's administrative framework has remained centred around Dispur in Guwahati since 1973, following the creation of Meghalaya. However, Dibrugarh, located about 478 km from Guwahati,<sup>183</sup> is a major economic hub of Upper Assam, hosting around 177 tea gardens<sup>184</sup> and Duliajan oilfield, one of India's key oil and gas production centres. Despite its economic significance, the region lacked a dedicated statutory institution for coordinated urban planning, infrastructure development, and regional growth management.
  - b. The proposal designates Dibrugarh as Assam's Second Capital Region and establishes the Second State Capital Region Development Authority (SCRDA-D) with jurisdiction over a 20-km radius around the Dibrugarh Capital Complex. The authority has been entrusted with preparing regional development plans, identifying growth corridors, and planning urban expansion, supported by a dedicated ₹ 500 crore infrastructure fund to be deployed through concerned line departments.
  - c. The measure seeks to reduce the concentration of administrative and planning functions in Guwahati by creating a second institutional growth centre in Upper Assam. Supported by statutory planning powers and a dedicated ₹ 500 crore fund, it aims to facilitate planned urbanisation, strengthen infrastructure development, and position Dibrugarh as a regional administrative and economic hub. The

<sup>183</sup> [Scroll, January, 2025.](#)

<sup>184</sup> [Tea Statistics Report, 2023.](#)

**A. Declaration Of Second Capital Region****Source:** [ET Now News](#) | **Impact:** High

initiative aligns with the state government's vision of developing Dibrugarh into a modern governance centre, reducing the need for citizens of Upper Assam to travel to Guwahati for administrative services and improving accessibility, efficiency, and public service delivery across eastern Assam.<sup>185</sup>

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<sup>185</sup> [The News Mill, June, 2026.](#)

## B. Hike in Dearness Allowance

**Source:** [ET Now News](#) | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, the cabinet of Assam approved a hike in Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief.
2. **Key Features -**
  - a. The Dearness Relief has been increased from 58% to 60%, a move which will cover state employees, pensioners, family pensioners, extraordinary pensioners and compassionate family pensioners.
  - b. More than 8 lakh employees and pensioners are expected to be the beneficiaries of the revised rates.
  - c. The revised rates of Dearness Allowance (DA) will be credited to the beneficiaries from July, and additional relief would be provided in case of inflationary pressures,
  - d. The increase is intended to help serving employees and pensioners offset the impact of rising prices and preserve their purchasing power.
3. **Central Initiative Alignment -** This initiative aligns with the Centre's Revision of Rate of Dearness Allowance<sup>186</sup> dated 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2026, which increased dearness allowance to Central Government employees from 58% to 60% of the Basic Pay.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Similar hike in DA was implemented by Arunachal Pradesh,<sup>187</sup> Tamil Nadu,<sup>188</sup> Bihar,<sup>189</sup> Odisha,<sup>190</sup> Uttar Pradesh,<sup>191</sup> Maharashtra<sup>192</sup> and Himachal Pradesh.<sup>193</sup>
5. **Relevance -**
  - a. A Dearness Allowance hike is fundamentally an inflation adjustment, since fixed government pay loses real value as prices rise and must be reset against the consumer price index. Assam raised the rate from 58% to 60% for more than 8 lakh employees and pensioners, with the revised pay reaching beneficiaries from July, restoring the purchasing power that inflation had eroded.<sup>194</sup>
  - b. When central and state rates diverge, state employees receive lower benefits than their Central Government counterparts. Following the Centre's revision of the Dearness Relief rate to 60% of basic pay, Assam aligned its rate to 60% with immediate effect, maintaining parity with the Centre as well as states such as

<sup>186</sup> [Ministry Of Finance, Government Of India, April, 2026.](#)

<sup>187</sup> [DD News, May, 2026.](#)

<sup>188</sup> [The Hindu, May, 2026.](#)

<sup>189</sup> [The Hindu, May, 2026.](#)

<sup>190</sup> [CNBC, May, 2026.](#)

<sup>191</sup> [Mint, May, 2026.](#)

<sup>192</sup> [The Print, May, 2026.](#)

<sup>193</sup> [Hindustan Times, February, 2026.](#)

<sup>194</sup> [Asianet, June, 2026.](#)

**B. Hike in Dearness Allowance****Source:** [ET Now News](#) | **Impact:** Medium

Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, and Odisha that have adopted the same rate.<sup>195</sup>

- c. The revised 60% rate covers serving employees, pensioners, family pensioners, extraordinary pensioners and compassionate family pensioners cushioning more than 8 lakh households against inflation and supporting local consumption.
- d. While the increase in Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief helps protect the real incomes of employees and pensioners against inflation, it also raises the state's recurring expenditure burden. In Assam's 2025–26 Budget, salaries account for 34.6% of revenue receipts and pensions for 18.78%. Consequently, any increase in DA and DR reduces the fiscal space available for capital expenditure and other developmental priorities unless revenue growth keeps pace.<sup>196</sup>

<sup>195</sup> [Business Today, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>196</sup> [Economic Survey, Assam, 2025-26, Page 48.](#)

### III. Odisha

#### A. Hospitality Infrastructure Land Bank Scheme (FY 2026–27 To 2030–31)

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

1. On 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, the Odisha Cabinet approved the Land Bank for Hospitality Infrastructure Scheme which aims to create a dedicated pool of investment-ready land for hospitality and tourism infrastructure.
2. The scheme aims to address land availability constraints, attract private investment, and support tourism-led economic growth under the state's long-term development vision.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The scheme provides for the creation of a 5,500-acre land bank comprising Government and private land parcels across major tourism destinations including Chilika, Konark, Puri, Dhauli, Hiraakud, Satkosia, Similipal, Bhitarkanika, Daringbadi, and the Buddhist Circuit.
  - b. It mandates implementation over a five-year period from 2026–27 to 2030–31 with an annual outlay of ₹ 300 crore and a total estimated investment of ₹ 1,500 crore.
  - c. It designates the Tourism Department as the nodal agency and provides for coordination with the General Administration Department, Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO), Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC), and the Revenue and Disaster Management Department.
  - d. It provides infrastructure-ready and encroachment-free land parcels for the development of hotels, resorts, convention centres, eco-tourism projects, wellness retreats, and recreational facilities.
  - e. It enables destination-level master planning and faster project implementation by reducing land acquisition constraints and project gestation periods for tourism investments.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Karnataka has developed a tourism-focused land bank to provide investment-ready sites for hospitality, eco-tourism, and wellness projects,<sup>197</sup> while Uttar Pradesh maintains an extensive GIS-based land bank system to facilitate industrial and infrastructure investments through ready land availability.<sup>198</sup>
5. **Relevance -**
  - a. Odisha holds rich coastal, wildlife, heritage and spiritual attractions, and its tourist numbers have been rising, reaching 1.14 crore visitors in 2024-25, up from 1.00 crore in 2023-24. Even so, the state does not figure among the top 10 states in terms of tourist inflow. A major reason is that large hospitality projects have long been held back by the shortage of contiguous, encroachment free and investment

<sup>197</sup> [Karnataka Tourism](#).

<sup>198</sup> [Invest UP](#).

**A. Hospitality Infrastructure Land Bank Scheme (FY 2026–27 To 2030–31)****Source:** [Times Of India](#) | **Impact:** Medium

ready land. Without such land, private hotel and resort plans faced long delays and uncertainty.<sup>199</sup>

- b. The scheme fills this gap by creating a dedicated Tourism Land Bank under the tourism department. The Government will identify and develop around 5,500 acres of Government and private land across major destinations and these lands will be developed with electricity, water supply and road connectivity and kept ready for interested investors. This allows planning at the level of each destination and hands investors land that is ready to use.
- c. Notably, shifting state policy to provide large, unencumbered land blocks directly solves the prevailing accommodation bottleneck, allowing premium resort chains to establish high-capacity properties that capture greater economic value per visitor.
- d. The scheme is expected to reduce project gestation periods by providing investment-ready land for hospitality infrastructure and expand Odisha's tourism capacity. This is significant as tourism contributed around 13% of the state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) in 2023–24.<sup>200</sup>
- e. The availability of ready land for hotels, resorts, convention centres, eco-tourism facilities, and wellness retreats can actually attract private investment, increase tourist footfall and quality accommodation, generate employment for artisans, service providers, and youth in rural and remote areas, and support the state's Viksit Odisha 2036 vision.

<sup>199</sup> [Prameya, December, 2025.](#)

<sup>200</sup> [Odisha Plus, December, 2025.](#)

## B. The Waterfront Development Scheme

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

1. On 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, the Odisha Cabinet approved the Waterfront Development Scheme which aims to rejuvenate **riverfronts and urban water bodies** across selected cities in Odisha.
2. The scheme aims for a sustainable urban development, ecological restoration, and creation of accessible public spaces while promoting tourism, cultural activities, and local economic development.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The scheme will provide a total outlay of ₹ 500 crore for implementation over a five-year period.
  - b. It authorises the Housing and Urban Development Department to undertake planning, execution, and coordination of waterfront development projects in partnership with Development Authorities and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
  - c. It will provide for the rejuvenation of riverfronts and urban water bodies through environmentally sustainable development interventions.
  - d. It enables the creation of continuous, inclusive, and accessible waterfront public spaces for residents, tourists, and local communities.
  - e. It seeks to integrate cultural heritage, traditional practices, and local art forms into waterfront development projects while supporting tourism and local economic activities.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Gujarat developed the Sabarmati Riverfront<sup>201</sup> and is implementing the Tapi Riverfront Project,<sup>202</sup> while Uttar Pradesh developed the Gomti Riverfront Project in Lucknow to combine riverfront revitalisation with public amenities and urban infrastructure development.<sup>203</sup>
5. **Relevance -**
  - a. Odisha's urban rivers and water bodies face significant pollution and encroachment challenges. A study by the Odisha State Pollution Control Board across 11 major river systems found water quality unfit for human use at 90 locations and identified 12 rivers flowing through major cities as polluted by untreated sewage and septage.<sup>204</sup>
  - b. In 2017, 19 river stretches were classified as critically polluted by the Central Pollution Control Board, largely due to the discharge of untreated faecal sludge

<sup>201</sup> [Sabarmati Riverfront Project-Urban Development And Urban Housing Department, The Government Of Gujarat.](#)

<sup>202</sup> [Surat Municipal Corporation.](#)

<sup>203</sup> [Invest UP.](#)

<sup>204</sup> [OWSSB.](#)

## B. The Waterfront Development Scheme

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

and greywater from the state's 115 ULBs. The issue is further compounded by inadequate sewerage infrastructure, with less than 3% of the urban population connected to underground sewer networks, while encroachment on natural drainage channels in cities such as Bhubaneswar and Cuttack has disrupted water flow and increased monsoon waterlogging.<sup>205</sup>

- c. The scheme establishes a dedicated framework for the restoration of riverfronts and urban water bodies through coordinated action by the Housing and Urban Development Department, Development Authorities, and ULBs. The programme carries an outlay of ₹ 500 crore over five years.
- d. The restoration of riverfronts and water bodies is expected to improve urban drainage, reduce flooding risks, and strengthen river ecosystems. This is particularly relevant as intense rainfall events can affect as many as 22 major localities in Bhubaneswar alone.<sup>206</sup> Improved water quality can also help reduce **pollution levels** in rivers such as the Mahanadi, where Central Water Commission monitoring has recorded faecal coliform concentrations significantly above the safe limit of 500 Most Probable Number (MPN) per 100 millilitres, thereby contributing to lower risks of waterborne diseases in a state.<sup>207</sup>
- e. The scheme also complements Odisha's broader sanitation reforms, under which the state has operationalised 13 Sewage Treatment Plants across six major cities and 112 Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants covering all 115 ULBs through a decentralised faecal sludge and septage management model.<sup>208</sup>
- f. By restoring the rivers and water bodies that receive urban wastewater discharges, the initiative reinforces ongoing sanitation efforts and advances the objectives of Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being), Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), and Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality) through the creation of safer and more inclusive public spaces.<sup>209</sup>

<sup>205</sup> [ORE, August, 2025.](#)

<sup>206</sup> [Odisha TV, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>207</sup> [Energy Tracker Asia, December, 2025.](#)

<sup>208</sup> [ORE, August, 2025.](#)

<sup>209</sup> [United Nations.](#)

## IV. Karnataka

### A. Draft Grid Interactive Distributed Solar Photovoltaic (DSPV) Plants Regulations, 2026

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

1. On 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2026, the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission issued the Draft Grid Interactive Distributed Solar Photovoltaic (DSPV) Plants Regulations, 2026<sup>210</sup> which mandates installation of batteries for DSPV plants above 10 kW capacity and allows installation of solar panels on building facades and group metering.
2. The proposed regulations replace the Rooftop Solar Regulations of 2016.<sup>211</sup>
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. Consumers installing DSPV systems beyond 10kW capacity under specified metering arrangements will be thereafter required to install hybrid inverters and battery energy storage systems with minimum storage capacity equivalent to 20% of the plant's generation potential.
  - b. It introduced metering/settlement mechanisms such as net metering, net billing, gross metering, group net metering, virtual net metering and behind-the-meter mechanisms.
  - c. Domestic consumers would remain eligible for net metering up to the sanctioned load or 500 kW, whichever is lower.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The draft regulations are in line with the Centre's Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Program, PM Surya Ghar,<sup>212</sup> the objective of which being to achieve a cumulative installed capacity of 40,000 MW from Grid Connected Rooftop Solar (RTS) projects.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Similar regulations have been adopted by states such as Uttarakhand,<sup>213</sup> Uttar Pradesh,<sup>214</sup> and Tamil Nadu<sup>215</sup> to facilitate net metering and incentives for grid-connected solar power systems.
6. **Relevance -**
  - a. The regulations are significant because they seek to address a gap between Karnataka's strong renewable-energy base and the relatively modest penetration of distributed solar. Karnataka had installed 25,675 MW of renewable-energy capacity as of October 2025, accounting for 10.24% of India's total renewable-energy capacity, yet under the PM Surya Ghar<sup>216</sup> scheme only about

<sup>210</sup> [Draft Grid Interactive Distributed Solar Photovoltaic \(DSPV\) Plants Regulations, 2026.](#)

<sup>211</sup> [KERC \(Implementation Of Solar Rooftop Photovoltaic Power Plants\) Regulations, 2016.](#)

<sup>212</sup> [Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Program.](#)

<sup>213</sup> [Uttarakhand State Solar Policy, 2023.](#)

<sup>214</sup> [Uttar Pradesh \(Rooftop Solar PV Grid Interactive Systems Gross / Net Metering\) Regulations, 2019.](#)

<sup>215</sup> [Tamil Nadu Solar Energy Policy, 2019.](#)

<sup>216</sup> [PM Surya Ghar.](#)

## A. Draft Grid Interactive Distributed Solar Photovoltaic (DSPV) Plants Regulations, 2026

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

14,000 rooftop solar systems had been installed in the state by late 2025.<sup>217</sup> The regulations therefore target the last-mile adoption challenge rather than generation capacity itself.

- b. The proposal represents a substantial expansion from the 2016 rooftop-solar framework. Earlier regulations were primarily designed around rooftop installations and conventional net metering. The new regulations expand eligibility to building facades, elevated structures, carports, group net metering and virtual net metering, allowing consumers who lack suitable rooftop space to participate in solar generation.
- c. Further, Karnataka's renewable energy capacity stands at 21,961.67 MW, including 10,527.03 MW of solar, of which about 899.53 MW was DSPV capacity.<sup>218</sup> High daytime solar generation frequently creates a classic duck curve issue.<sup>219</sup> Mandating that all systems above 10 kW incorporate a 20% battery storage cushion effectively flattens this curve, storing midday power locally to offset expensive peak-hour grid demands.
- d. By requiring storage, Karnataka is attempting to reduce stress on distribution networks and improve the value of distributed solar generation to the grid rather than merely increasing installed capacity. The requirement also helps DISCOMs manage power flows more effectively by reducing unmanaged solar injection into the distribution network, thereby mitigating voltage fluctuations, reverse power flows and other grid-balancing challenges associated with high daytime solar generation.
- e. Lastly, from a corporate planning viewpoint, forcing commercial and industrial consumers to invest in expensive hybrid inverters and specialised lithium-ion battery storage arrays adds significant upfront capital expenditure (CAPEX) to mid-scale commercial installations.
- f. The abovementioned increased cost can lengthen the payback period for a standard 20 kW enterprise solar project, slowing corporate adoption. To maintain investment momentum across the industrial sector, KERC should explore time-of-day tariff models that reward storage users with premium credits when they discharge power back into the grid during peak evening hours.

<sup>217</sup> [The Battery Magazine, December, 2025.](#)

<sup>218</sup> [Solar Bytes, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>219</sup> Duck Curve is flooding the network with cheap electricity during low-demand afternoon hours, followed by sharp load spikes in the evening when solar output drops.

## V. Telangana

### A. Telangana Advocates Protection Act, 2026

**Source:** [The Government Of Telangana](#), [ANI News](#) | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2026, the Government of Telangana enacted the Telangana Advocates Protection Act, 2026. The bill was passed earlier by the Telangana Legislative Council on 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2026.
2. This Act seeks to address increasing instances of violence and intimidation against advocates by providing for police protection, safeguards against false cases and a dedicated grievance redressal mechanism.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. **Protection Against Threats, Violence And Harassment -**
    - i. The Act protects advocates and their families from credible threats involving intimidation, coercion or violence from the performance of professional duties.
    - ii. Advocates will also be protected from false criminal cases potentially filed in retaliation, directing police to secure the express approval of a judicial magistrate before taking action against an accused advocate.
    - iii. It not only includes physical attacks, but also covers mental harassment, cyber attacks, attempts to intimidate the advocate's family members etc.
    - iv. It also frees advocates from being arbitrarily arrested by the police through retaliatory First Information Reports (FIR) for representing controversial clients.
    - v. It ensures inclusive representation for legal appointments from Backward Classes (BCs), Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and minorities.
  - b. **Compensation -**
    - i. Victims of an act of violence, or their dependents, are entitled to compensation under Sections 395 and 396 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023<sup>220</sup> or the Telangana Victim Compensation Scheme, 2015.<sup>221</sup>
    - ii. Further, it includes the 'Nyaya Nirman' Scheme which is designed to promote health and insurance for the advocates as well as build a modern infrastructure in court complexes, including separate chambers for women advocates.
  - c. As a remedy, the Act provides a dedicated mechanism through which the advocates may raise their concerns. In this, a three-tier mechanism has been established namely the State-level Committee, District-level Committee and the Mandal-level Committee.
  - d. To prevent the misuse of the Act, it includes a provision punishing, in the way of monetary compensation, any advocate who misuses the act to his own advantage.

<sup>220</sup> [Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023](#).

<sup>221</sup> [Telangana Victim Compensation Scheme, 2015](#).

### A. Telangana Advocates Protection Act, 2026

**Source:** [The Government Of Telangana](#), [ANI News](#) | **Impact:** Medium

4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Similar legislations for protection of advocates have been enacted by states like Rajasthan<sup>222</sup> and Karnataka<sup>223</sup> to prevent arbitrary and false cases against advocates and protect the advocates and their family from the same.
5. **Relevance** -
- a. The Act responds to concerns regarding targeted violence against members of the Bar in Telangana, particularly following the 2021 killing of advocate couple Gattu Vaman Rao and P.V. Nagamani, both practising at the Telangana High Court, reportedly linked to their anti-encroachment complaints in Peddapalli district.<sup>224</sup> The incident highlighted the absence of institutional safeguards for legal professionals exposed to heightened occupational risks while handling politically or commercially sensitive matters.
  - b. In light of the above, shifting compensation away from discretionary state grants to an enforceable statutory claim via the Telangana Victim Compensation Scheme, 2015 provides immediate financial stability to dependents.
  - c. The Telangana State Bar Council carries more than 62,470 advocates on its rolls, one of the largest such bodies in the country.<sup>225</sup> The Act converts an informal expectation of safety for this professional base into an enforceable statutory entitlement.
  - d. By routing victim compensation through Sections 395 and 396 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and the Telangana Victim Compensation Scheme, 2015, the Act replaces ad hoc, discretionary ex gratia relief with a defined statutory claim for advocates and their dependents, reducing the financial precarity that follows a targeted attack.
  - e. The inclusion of the Nyaya Nirman infrastructure loop addresses a long-standing deficit in court design. By dedicating specific funding lines to construct separate, modernised chambers for women practitioners and establishing unified health insurance grids, the state is modernising its legal workspace. This structural upgrade directly supports the retention of diverse legal talent.

<sup>222</sup> [The Rajasthan Advocates Protection Bill, 2023.](#)

<sup>223</sup> [The Karnataka Prohibition Of Violence Against Advocates Act, 2023.](#)

<sup>224</sup> [Deccan Herald, February, 2021.](#)

<sup>225</sup> [Bar Council Of Telangana.](#)

## VI. Kerala

### A. Operation Toofan

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

1. On 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2026, “Operation Toofan” was launched by the Kerala Government, to **combat drug trafficking** and other narcotics issues.
2. The operation would be conducted in coordination with the Police, Health and Excise Departments and the Education Departments of the state.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. It will focus on tackling the spread of synthetic drugs through technology-driven strategies and coordinated efforts between multiple Government Departments and police agencies across Southern states.
  - b. The Kerala Police have moreover launched a digital surveillance network through mobile applications and Whatsapp chatbots to facilitate information sharing, and the names and details of the informants would never be revealed under any circumstance.
  - c. The operation also plans to use wastewater analysis in educational institutions and residential areas to identify drug-use hotspots. Drone assisted smart patrolling will also be introduced in vulnerable locations.
  - d. In addition to enforcement measures, the operation seeks to mobilise teachers, parents, NGOs and other community stakeholders to undertake awareness generation, prevention and early-intervention activities relating to drug abuse.
  - e. This initiative comes as a consequence of 36,314 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act<sup>226</sup> in 2025, up from 27,530 cases in 2024.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Similar drug trafficking control measures are being implemented in states like Punjab<sup>227</sup> and Himachal Pradesh<sup>228</sup> who have also recently launched state-wide anti-drug campaigns that combine enforcement measures with community outreach and awareness activities. Tamil Nadu<sup>229</sup> has also brought up initiatives to control drug trafficking.
5. **Relevance -**
  - a. Police data shows 36,314 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 in 2025, up from 27,530 in 2024, and NCRB data had already placed Kerala at the top among states in NDPS cases in 2023 with 30,697 cases.<sup>230</sup> This shows that the operational deployment is a targeted response to a quantifiable surge in enforcement volume, rather than an abstract social mandate.

<sup>226</sup> [Narcotic Drugs And Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.](#)

<sup>227</sup> [Yudh Nasheyan Virudh.](#)

<sup>228</sup> [Government Of Himachal Pradesh, May, 2025.](#)

<sup>229</sup> [Drug-free Tamil Nadu.](#)

<sup>230</sup> [The News Mill, June, 2026.](#)

### A. Operation Toofan

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

- b. Moreover, launching the campaign with an intense, state-wide enforcement push yielded immediate operational results, registering over 1,500 new cases and executing 1,000 arrests within the first 72 hours.<sup>231</sup> In one notable raid in Kochi's Thrikkakara zone, the District Anti-Narcotics Special Action Force intercepted a major synthetic supply point, recovering 437.28 grams of pure commercial-grade MDMA from an apartment cache.<sup>232</sup> Maintaining this operational momentum forces syndicates to split up their distribution networks, lowering local drug availability.
- c. A significant, forward-looking element of the operation is the Home Minister's directive to transform all 484 local police stations into people-friendly public service centers.<sup>233</sup> In traditional enforcement campaigns, aggressive anti-drug crackdowns can sometimes lead to overly broad profiling or arbitrary stops that alienate local youth. Combining strict enforcement targets with a mandatory code of conduct ensures that citizens can report suspicious activity comfortably, turning local police stations into accessible community resources.

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<sup>231</sup> [The Morning Voice, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>232</sup> [The New Indian Express, June, 2026.](#)

<sup>233</sup> [Onmanorama, May, 2026.](#)

## VII. Mizoram

### A. Mizo Ginger Unique Selling Proposition (USP) Mission Project

Source: [Nagaland Post](#) | Impact: Low

1. On 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2026, the Mizoram Government launched Mizo Ginger Unique Selling Proposition (USP) mission project during a Ginger Export Awareness Workshop organised by National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL) in Aizawl.
2. **Key Features -**
  - a. Ginger has been categorised as the state's Unique Selling Proposition (USP) as the superior quality and pharmaceutical grade standards of Mizoram's organic ginger give it a distinct advantage in domestic and international markets.
  - b. The mission aims at sustainable cultivation and post-harvest management projects with the support of the Ministry for development of the North Eastern Region.
  - c. Under the project, four modern ginger processing units are being established in East Mizoram's Champhai district, the state's largest ginger-producing region bordering Myanmar.
  - d. The project has availed a financial support of ₹ 30.13 Crore from the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and is expected to benefit around 20,000 farmers and generate about 100 jobs.
  - e. The scheme also plans to capitalise the Mizoram ginger's superior quality and grant GI tag to the same. Plans are also underway to develop high-value products such as ginger oil and other processed ginger-based commodities.
3. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Similar initiatives have been taken by other states such as Meghalaya's Lakadong Turmeric Mission,<sup>234</sup> which focuses on processing, branding and market development for its high-curcumin turmeric.
4. **Relevance -**
  - a. The initiative is significant because it builds on an existing crop specialisation rather than attempting to create a new agricultural value chain. Ginger is one of Mizoram's most important cash crops and has recently been recognised by NITI Aayog as the "Ginger Capital of India." The state produced over 60,000 tonnes of ginger in 2024-25, making it one of the few agricultural commodities where Mizoram enjoys a clear comparative advantage.<sup>235</sup>
  - b. In 2025, disruptions in exports to Bangladesh - an important market for Mizoram ginger—contributed to a sharp fall in prices, with ginger reportedly trading at around ₹ 28/kg in Delhi mandis and as low as ₹ 17/kg in Silchar and Siliguri. Against this backdrop, the state had to procure 1.14 lakh quintals of ginger under

<sup>234</sup> [National Horticulture Board](#).

<sup>235</sup> [Economic Times, December, 2025](#).

**A. Mizo Ginger Unique Selling Proposition (USP) Mission Project****Source:** [Nagaland Post](#) | **Impact:** Low

its Bana Kaih (Handholding) programme at ₹ 50/kg, spending more than ₹ 58 crore to prevent a collapse in farm incomes.<sup>236</sup> The new mission and price-support framework therefore seek to address volatility in farmer realisations rather than increase output alone.

- c. The programme also reflects a shift from procurement-led support to value-chain development. Mizoram's leadership has repeatedly highlighted that the state exports largely raw ginger despite its recognised pharmaceutical-grade quality. The newly launched ₹ 189.78 crore Mizo Ginger Mission focuses on sustainable cultivation, post-harvest management, processing and market access, indicating an attempt to capture a larger share of value within the state rather than relying solely on price support purchases.
- d. Official estimates indicate that the Ginger Mission is expected to benefit around 20,000 farming households.<sup>237</sup> For a small state economy, this makes the programme less of a niche horticulture initiative and more of a targeted rural-income strategy focused on a crop that already forms a significant component of household earnings in many districts.

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<sup>236</sup> [TOI, May, 2025.](#)

<sup>237</sup> [East Mojo, June, 2026.](#)

## VIII. Puducherry

### A. Bed And Breakfast And Homestay Guidelines, 2026

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

1. On 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2026, Puducherry administration rolled out new guidelines for the approval and registration of bed, breakfast and homestay establishments.
2. The guidelines aim at achieving Puducherry's goal of ease of doing business and ease of living by reducing compliance burden, and fostering an investor-friendly environment.
3. **Key Features -**
  - a. The guidelines categorise homestays and bed and breakfast establishments into four categories, based on services and facilities:
    - i. Silver offers basic and clean accommodations;
    - ii. Gold adds air-conditioning, Wi-Fi, parking, and modern interiors; and
    - iii. Gold plus/platinum includes heritage cuisine, heritage building status, sustainable practices, rainwater harvesting, and an eco-friendly environment in addition to gold amenities.
  - b. A single registration covers a minimum of one room for two guests. Room rent must be clearly displayed both online and onsite and updated whenever changes are made, the idea being to streamline the functioning of such homestays and provide a fillip to new entrants in the hospitality sector.
  - c. The lifetime of a license is 5 years and can be auto-renewed online upon payment of prescribed fee. The license fee ranges from:
    - i. ₹ 6,000 annually or ₹ 25,000 as a one-time payment for five years for silver; and
    - ii. ₹ 12,000 annually or ₹ 50,000 as a one-time payment for gold, gold plus, and platinum.
  - d. The fee for a bed and breakfast establishment are:
    - i. ₹ 12,000 per year or ₹ 50,000 one-time (silver); and
    - ii. ₹ 20,000 per year or ₹ 90,000 one-time (gold/gold plus/platinum).
  - e. Operating without valid registration attracts a fine of ₹ 25,000. If registration is rescinded, the fee is forfeited and the unit may be blacklisted, especially if illegal activities are detected on the premises.
  - f. An inter departmental committee will be constituted for the approval of establishments.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The guidelines align with the Centre's Unnati Scheme,<sup>238</sup> which is a dedicated national scheme for homestay guidelines.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Uttarakhand's homestay scheme protected

<sup>238</sup> [Ministry Of Commerce And Industry, 2024.](#)

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community tourism,<sup>239</sup> and Telangana<sup>240</sup> launched tourism homestay to offer family-hosted stays.

#### 6. Relevance -

- a. The Union Territory received about 18.7 lakh domestic and foreign tourists in 2024, while official tourism infrastructure remains concentrated in hotels, resorts and Government tourism properties. By creating a formal regulatory framework for homestays and bed-and-breakfast establishments, the Government is attempting to expand accommodation capacity.
- b. It formalises a segment that has largely operated in a regulatory grey area. Under the guidelines, establishments can be registered as Silver, Gold or Diamond categories based on facilities and service standards, creating a quality-classification system similar to those used for hotels. The guidelines introduce minimum standards and a Government-recognised classification mechanism.
- c. With a geographical area of only about 479 sq. km.,<sup>241</sup> tourism growth cannot rely indefinitely on large greenfield hospitality projects. Encouraging homestays allows the UT to increase visitor accommodation through existing housing stock, a model that is generally less land-intensive than hotel-led expansion.
- d. Unlike traditional hotel investments, homestays typically require relatively modest capital expenditure and allow owners to monetise spare residential capacity. This is particularly relevant in tourism-heavy localities such as White Town, Auroville-adjacent areas and coastal settlements where demand for short-stay accommodation has grown alongside visitor numbers.<sup>242</sup> The guidelines therefore function as both a tourism policy and a household-enterprise policy.
- e. Further, compared with a fully unregulated short-term rental market, the guidelines provide standards, registration requirements and oversight. At the same time, they avoid the high compliance burden associated with hotel licensing. Their significance lie in creating an intermediate category that can expand tourism capacity while maintaining a minimum level of quality assurance and consumer protection.

<sup>239</sup> [ETV Bharat, May, 2026.](#)

<sup>240</sup> [News Meter, November, 2025.](#)

<sup>241</sup> [Government Of Puducherry.](#)

<sup>242</sup> [Auroville Today, January, 2019.](#)

**Notes**



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