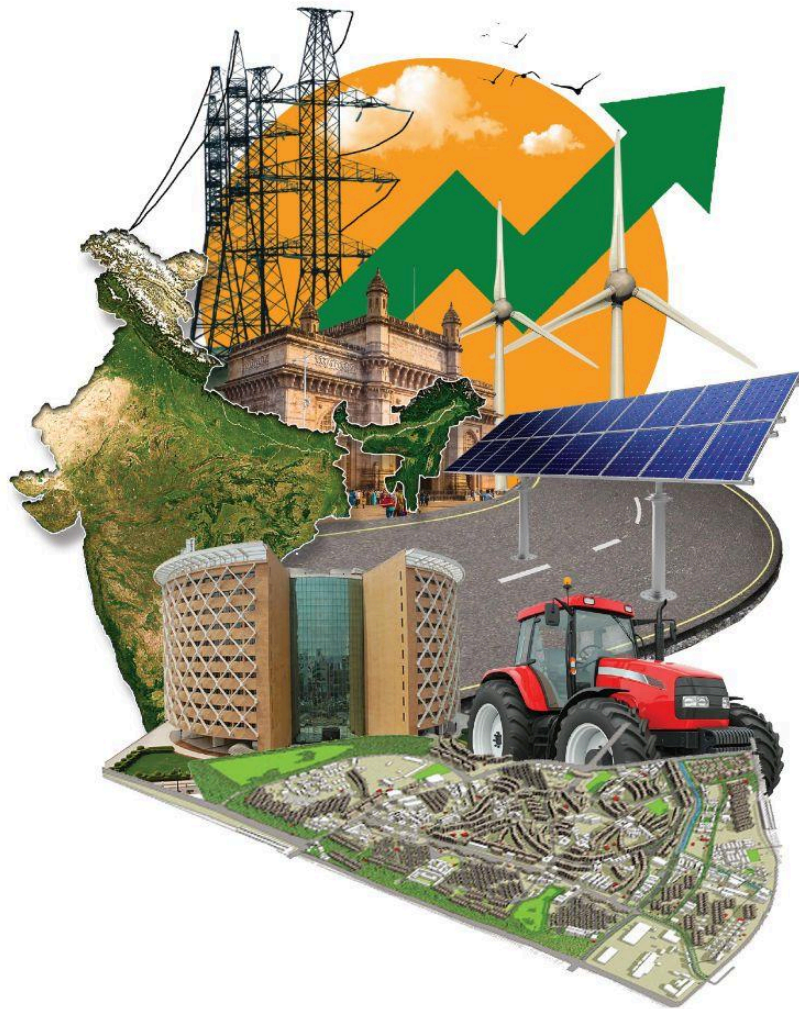




STATES IN MOTION

What's Happening In Indian States



1st May - 15th May

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Contributors



Prafulla Pathak

Lead Editor

prafulla.paarijat.pathak@nationfirstpolicy.org



Arushi Bhagotra

Editor

arushi.bhagotra@nationfirstpolicy.org



Vedika Znwar

Consultant

vedika.znwar@nationfirstpolicy.org



Harshita Singh

Consultant

harshita.singh@nationfirstpolicy.org

In case of any queries/ feedback please reach out to either the Lead Editor or the Editor at their respective emails

In case you wish to be added to the mailing list please reach out to Girish M.S. on the following email id: girish.ms@nationfirstpolicy.org

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Key Announcements

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

Reform Decisions

I. Madhya Pradesh

- A. **Code On Empowering Work Spaces, 2026:** The Government of Madhya Pradesh introduced the Madhya Pradesh Code on Empowering Work Spaces, 2026, consolidating five state labour laws. The Code mandates lifetime online registration, Unique Establishment Numbers, and decriminalisation of minor violations, while extending social protection to gig and migrant workers, and explicitly permitting women in night shifts. The Code aims to simplify labour compliance, strengthen worker welfare, and align the state's labour framework with the central labour codes.

II. Punjab

- A. **Punjab Prisons And Correctional Services Bill, 2026:** The Punjab Assembly passed the Punjab Prisons and Correctional Services Bill, 2026, repealing the Prisons Act, 1894 and the Prisoners Act, 1900 and establishing a reformation-oriented correctional framework with specialised institutions, rehabilitation services, AI-based surveillance, and stricter prison security provisions. The legislation broadly aligns with the Union Government's Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act, 2023, which serves as a blueprint to replace old colonial Acts and advocates towards a modern correctional and rehabilitation-centric approach.

III. Delhi

- A. **Time-Bound Digital Challan System:** The Delhi Government launched a modernised traffic challan system operationalising the Central Motor Vehicles (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026, introducing a structured 45-day window for payment or challenge, followed by 30-day and 15-day deadlines. It also enables automated e-challan generation through surveillance cameras, and administrative sanctions for unpaid dues.

IV. Bihar

- A. **Bihar Building (Amendment) Bye-Laws, 2026:** The Urban Development and Housing Department of Bihar amended the Bihar Building Bye-Laws, 2014, raising the commercial construction limit from 40% to 70% of plot area, removing side setbacks for plots up to 10 metres wide, and introducing a tiered setback structure for wider plots. These rules are applicable to commercial structures up to 16 metres in height.

Policy Level Announcements

I. Andhra Pradesh

Key Announcements

A. **Operationalisation Of Five Model E-Mobility Cities:** The Government of Andhra Pradesh operationalised the five model e-mobility cities model under the Sustainable Electric Mobility Policy (4.0) 2024-29 across the state. The model focuses on expanding EV infrastructure through dense charging networks, battery swapping systems, green mobility corridors, and electric public transport, supported by a dedicated ₹ 250 crore corpus fund and city-specific clean mobility interventions.

II. Maharashtra

A. **Maharashtra Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy, 2026:** The Maharashtra Cabinet approved the Maharashtra Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy, 2026 to promote AI adoption across governance, industry, and public services. The policy focuses on AI computing infrastructure, data ecosystems, skill development, MSME adoption, startup financing, and ethical AI governance, with targets of attracting over ₹ 10,000 crore in investments and generating more than 1.5 lakh jobs by 2031.

III. Haryana

A. **Revised Land Pooling Policy:** The Haryana Government revised its land pooling policy to enable development across 1.67 lakh acres, covering 69 sectors and urban estates, with the first phase underway across 40,000 acres involving 104 villages in 13 districts, concentrated in Gurugram sectors 76-104 and the Pataudi-Farukhnagar industrial belt. The new sectors will include EV charging points, green belts, and smart road infrastructure as standard.

Social Sector Announcements

I. West Bengal

A. **Annapurna Bhandar Scheme, 2026:** The West Bengal Government announced the Annapurna Bhandar scheme, replacing the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme and doubling monthly cash transfers to eligible women from ₹ 1,500 (general category) and ₹ 1,700 (SC/ST) to a uniform ₹ 3,000, with statewide rollout from 1st June, 2026. It provides unconditional monthly transfers to adult women across the state, strengthening household income support under the social protection framework.

II. Maharashtra

A. **Guaranteed Pension Framework Under Revised National Pension System (RNPS):** The Government of Maharashtra issued implementation guidelines for the Revised National Pension System (RNPS) for state Government employees covered under NPS. The framework introduces assured pension benefits, including 50% of last-drawn salary after 20 years of service, a minimum monthly pension of ₹ 7,500, family pension support, and a hybrid contributory pension structure aimed at balancing retirement security with fiscal sustainability.

Key Announcements

Investment Announcements

I. Gujarat

- A. **Vibrant Gujarat Secures ₹ 3.53 Lakh Crore Across 2,792 MoUs:** The South Gujarat regional edition of the Vibrant Gujarat initiative secured ₹ 3.53 lakh crore in investment proposals through 2,792 MoUs across industrial clusters. The initiative focuses on SME integration into global supply networks, employment generation, and facilitation-based industrial governance.

II. Andhra Pradesh

- A. **₹ 2 Lakh Crore Investment Proposals Approved Through 25 Projects:** The Government of Andhra Pradesh approved investment proposals worth over ₹ 2 lakh crore during the 17th State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) meeting. The approvals cover 25 projects across data centres, renewable energy, manufacturing, advanced technology, and clean energy sectors, and are expected to generate around 39,000 jobs while strengthening the state's digital and industrial infrastructure ecosystem.

Other Decisions

I. Uttar Pradesh

- A. **Rollback Of Mandatory Prepaid Electricity Billing:** The Uttar Pradesh Government discontinued mandatory prepaid electricity billing across all state distribution utilities, converting approximately 75 lakh prepaid smart meter connections back to postpaid mode following widespread consumer complaints. The new connections will continue to receive smart meters operating in postpaid mode.

II. Odisha

- A. **SUJALA Programme For 24/7 Urban Drinking Water Supply:** The Odisha Government launched the SUJALA programme to deliver round-the-clock drinking water to all 86 Urban Local Bodies by 2028 through a phased rollout. The program targets an expansion of the state's current urban supply capacity of 452 MLD through source augmentation, network strengthening, and mandatory identification of alternative sources for non-potable uses.

III. Karnataka

- A. **Economic Masterplan For The Bengaluru Metropolitan Region:** The Government of Karnataka signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) with the ISEG Foundation to prepare a comprehensive economic masterplan for the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region (BMR) up to 2037. The initiative will focus on infrastructure expansion, economic diversification, sustainability, and urban liveability through sector-specific growth strategies, phased implementation planning, innovative financing mechanisms, and stakeholder-led governance frameworks.

मुख्य घोषणाएँ

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

सुधार संबंधी निर्णय

I. मध्य प्रदेश

A. **कार्यस्थल सशक्तिकरण संहिता, 2026:** मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने पांच राज्य श्रम कानूनों को समेकित करते हुए मध्य प्रदेश कार्यस्थल सशक्तिकरण संहिता, 2026 लागू की है। यह संहिता आजीवन ऑनलाइन पंजीकरण, विशिष्ट प्रतिष्ठान संख्या (यूनिक एस्टैब्लिशमेंट नंबर) अनिवार्य करती है और मामूली उल्लंघनों को अपराध की श्रेणी से बाहर करती है। साथ ही, यह गिग और प्रवासी श्रमिकों को सामाजिक संरक्षण प्रदान करती है और रात्रि शिफ्ट में महिलाओं को काम करने की स्पष्ट अनुमति देती है। संहिता का उद्देश्य श्रम अनुपालन को सरल बनाना, श्रमिक कल्याण को मजबूत करना और राज्य के श्रम ढांचे को केंद्रीय श्रम संहिताओं के अनुरूप बनाना है।

II. पंजाब

A. **पंजाब कारागार एवं सुधार सेवा विधेयक, 2026:** पंजाब विधानसभा ने पंजाब कारागार एवं सुधार सेवा विधेयक, 2026 पारित किया, जिसके तहत कारागार अधिनियम, 1894 और कैदी अधिनियम, 1900 को निरस्त कर दिया गया है और विशेष संस्थानों, पुनर्वास सेवाओं, ए.आई-आधारित निगरानी और सख्त कारागार सुरक्षा प्रावधानों के साथ एक सुधार-उन्मुख सुधारात्मक ढांचा स्थापित किया गया है। यह विधेयक केंद्र सरकार के आदर्श कारागार एवं सुधार सेवा अधिनियम, 2023 के अनुरूप है, जो पुराने औपनिवेशिक अधिनियमों को प्रतिस्थापित करने के लिए एक खाका प्रस्तुत करता है और आधुनिक सुधार एवं पुनर्वास-केंद्रित दृष्टिकोण की वकालत करता है।

III. दिल्ली

A. **समयबद्ध डिजिटल चालान प्रणाली:** दिल्ली सरकार ने केंद्रीय मोटर वाहन (तृतीय संशोधन) नियम, 2026 को लागू करते हुए एक आधुनिक यातायात चालान प्रणाली शुरू की है, जिसमें भुगतान या चुनौती के लिए 45 दिनों की संरचित समयसीमा निर्धारित की गई है, जिसके बाद 30 दिन और 15 दिन की समयसीमा निर्धारित की गई है। यह निगरानी कैमरों के माध्यम से स्वचालित ई-चालान तैयार करने और बकाया राशि का भुगतान न करने पर प्रशासनिक प्रतिबंध लगाने की सुविधा भी प्रदान करती है।

IV. बिहार

A. **बिहार भवन (संशोधन) उपनियम, 2026:** बिहार के शहरी विकास एवं आवास विभाग ने बिहार भवन उपनियम, 2014 में संशोधन करते हुए व्यावसायिक निर्माण की सीमा को भूखंड क्षेत्रफल के 40% से बढ़ाकर 70% कर दिया है, 10 मीटर तक चौड़े भूखंडों के लिए पार्श्व सेटबैक को समाप्त कर दिया है और इससे अधिक चौड़े

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भूखंडों के लिए स्तरित सेटबैक संरचना लागू की है। ये नियम 16 मीटर तक की ऊंचाई वाली व्यावसायिक भवन निर्माण पर लागू होते हैं।

नीति स्तर की घोषणाएँ

I. आंध्र प्रदेश

A. पांच मॉडल ई-मोबिलिटी शहरों की शुरुआत:

B. आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार ने सतत इलेक्ट्रिक मोबिलिटी नीति (4.0) 2024-29 के तहत राज्य में पांच मॉडल ई-मोबिलिटी शहरों की योजना लागू की है। इस योजना का उद्देश्य घने चार्जिंग नेटवर्क, बैटरी स्वैपिंग सिस्टम, ग्रीन मोबिलिटी कॉरिडोर और इलेक्ट्रिक पब्लिक ट्रांसपोर्ट के जरिए ई.वी इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर को मजबूत करना है। इसके लिए सरकार ने 250 करोड़ रुपये का विशेष फंड बनाया है और हर शहर में साफ और हरित परिवहन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए अलग-अलग योजनाएं शुरू की हैं।

II. महाराष्ट्र

A. **महाराष्ट्र आर्टिफीसियल इंटेलिजेंस (ए.आई) नीति, 2026:** महाराष्ट्र मंत्रिमंडल ने शासन, उद्योग और सार्वजनिक सेवाओं में ए.आई को बढ़ावा देने के लिए महाराष्ट्र ए.आई नीति, 2026 को मंजूरी दी। यह नीति ए.आई कंप्यूटिंग अवसंरचना, डेटा पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र, कौशल विकास, लघु एवं मध्यम उद्यमों (एम.एस.एम.ई) को अपनाने, स्टार्टअप वित्तपोषण और ए.आई शासन पर केंद्रित है, जिसका लक्ष्य आगामी वर्ष 2031 तक ₹10,000 करोड़ से अधिक का निवेश आकर्षित करना और 1.5 लाख से अधिक रोजगार सृजित करना है।

III. हरियाणा

A. **संशोधित भूमि आवंटन नीति:** हरियाणा सरकार ने 1.67 लाख एकड़ भूमि पर विकास को सक्षम बनाने के लिए अपनी भूमि आवंटन नीति में संशोधन किया है, जिसमें 69 सेक्टर और शहरी संपदाएं शामिल हैं। पहले चरण का कार्य 40,000 एकड़ भूमि पर चल रहा है, जिसमें 13 जिलों के 104 गांव शामिल हैं, जो गुरुग्राम के सेक्टर 76-104 और पटौदी-फारुखनगर औद्योगिक क्षेत्र में केंद्रित हैं। नए सेक्टरों में इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन चार्जिंग पॉइंट, हरित क्षेत्र और स्मार्ट सड़क अवसंरचना को मानक के रूप में शामिल किया जाएगा।

सामाजिक क्षेत्र की घोषणाएँ

I. पश्चिम बंगाल

A. **अन्नपूर्णा भंडार योजना, 2026:** पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार ने लक्ष्मी भंडार योजना के स्थान पर अन्नपूर्णा भंडार योजना की घोषणा की है। इसके तहत पात्र महिलाओं को मिलने वाली मासिक नकद राशि को ₹1,500 (सामान्य

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वर्ग) और ₹1,700 (अनुसूचित/अनुसूचित जनजाति) से बढ़ाकर एक समान ₹3,000 कर दिया गया है। यह योजना 1 जून, 2026 से राज्यव्यापी स्तर पर लागू होगी। यह राज्य भर की वयस्क महिलाओं को बिना शर्त मासिक राशि प्रदान करती है, जिससे सामाजिक सुरक्षा ढांचे के तहत परिवारों को आर्थिक को सहायता प्रदान की जाती है।

II. महाराष्ट्र

- A. **संशोधित राष्ट्रीय पेंशन प्रणाली (आर.एन.पी.एस) के अंतर्गत गारंटीकृत पेंशन ढांचा:** महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने राष्ट्रीय पेंशन प्रणाली (एन.पी.एस) के अंतर्गत आने वाले राज्य सरकार के कर्मचारियों के लिए संशोधित राष्ट्रीय पेंशन प्रणाली (आर.एन.पी.एस) के कार्यान्वयन दिशानिर्देश जारी किए हैं। इस ढांचे में सुनिश्चित पेंशन लाभ शामिल हैं, जिनमें 20 वर्ष की सेवा के बाद अंतिम वेतन का 50%, ₹7,500 की न्यूनतम मासिक पेंशन, पारिवारिक पेंशन सहायता और एक हाइब्रिड अंशदायी पेंशन संरचना शामिल है, जिसका उद्देश्य सेवानिवृत्ति सुरक्षा और राजकोषीय स्थिरता के बीच संतुलन स्थापित करना है।

निवेश घोषणाएँ

I. गुजरात

- A. **वाइब्रेंट गुजरात ने 2,792 समझौता ज्ञापनों के माध्यम से ₹3.53 लाख करोड़ का निवेश प्राप्त हुआ:** वाइब्रेंट गुजरात पहल के दक्षिण गुजरात क्षेत्रीय संस्करण ने औद्योगिक समूहों में 2,792 समझौता ज्ञापनों के माध्यम से ₹3.53 लाख करोड़ के निवेश प्रस्ताव प्राप्त किए हैं। यह पहल लघु एवं मध्यम उद्यमों को वैश्विक आपूर्ति नेटवर्क में एकीकृत करने, रोजगार सृजन और सुविधा-आधारित औद्योगिक शासन पर केंद्रित है।

II. आंध्र प्रदेश

- A. **25 परियोजनाओं के माध्यम से 2 लाख करोड़ रुपये के निवेश प्रस्तावों को मंजूरी:** आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार ने राज्य निवेश प्रोत्साहन बोर्ड (एस.आई.पी.बी) की 17वीं बैठक के दौरान 2 लाख करोड़ रुपये से अधिक के निवेश प्रस्तावों को मंजूरी दी। स्वीकृतियाँ डेटा सेंटर, नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा, विनिर्माण, उन्नत प्रौद्योगिकी और स्वच्छ ऊर्जा क्षेत्रों की 25 परियोजनाओं को कवर करती हैं, और इनसे लगभग 39,000 रोजगार सृजित होने के साथ-साथ राज्य के डिजिटल और औद्योगिक अवसंरचना पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र को मजबूती मिलने की उम्मीद है।

अन्य निर्णय

I. उत्तर प्रदेश

- A. **अनिवार्य प्रीपेड बिजली बिलिंग को रद्द करना:** उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने उपभोक्ताओं की व्यापक शिकायतों के बाद राज्य की सभी वितरण कंपनियों में अनिवार्य प्रीपेड बिजली बिलिंग को बंद कर दिया है और लगभग 75 लाख

मुख्य घोषणाएँ

प्रीपेड स्मार्ट मीटर कनेक्शनों को वापस पोस्टपेड मोड में बदल दिया है। नए कनेक्शनों में भी पोस्टपेड मोड में चलने वाले स्मार्ट मीटर लगे रहेंगे।

II. ओडिशा

- A. **शहरी क्षेत्रों में चौबीसों घंटे पेयजल आपूर्ति के लिए सुजला कार्यक्रम:** ओडिशा सरकार ने चरणबद्ध तरीके से सभी 86 शहरी स्थानीय निकायों को 2028 तक चौबीसों घंटे पेयजल उपलब्ध कराने के लिए सुजला कार्यक्रम शुरू किया है। इस कार्यक्रम का लक्ष्य स्रोत संवर्धन, नेटवर्क सुदृढीकरण और गैर-पेय उपयोगों के लिए वैकल्पिक स्रोतों की अनिवार्य पहचान के माध्यम से राज्य की वर्तमान 452 एम.एल.डी शहरी आपूर्ति क्षमता का विस्तार करना है।

III. कर्नाटक

- A. **बेंगलुरु महानगर क्षेत्र के लिए आर्थिक मास्टरप्लान:** कर्नाटक सरकार ने बेंगलुरु महानगर क्षेत्र (BMR) के लिए वर्ष 2037 तक का व्यापक आर्थिक मास्टरप्लान तैयार करने हेतु आई.एस.ई.जी फाउंडेशन के साथ समझौता आशय पत्र (एस.ओ.आई) पर हस्ताक्षर किया है। इस योजना का मुख्य उद्देश्य इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर का विस्तार, आर्थिक विविधता, पर्यावरणीय स्थिरता और शहर में बेहतर जीवन सुविधाओं को बढ़ावा देना है। इसके तहत अलग-अलग क्षेत्रों के विकास की रणनीति, चरणबद्ध कार्ययोजना, नए वित्तीय मॉडल और सभी हितधारकों की भागीदारी पर आधारित प्रशासनिक व्यवस्था तैयार की जाएगी।

Reform Decisions

I. Madhya Pradesh

A. Code On Empowering Work Spaces, 2026

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

1. On 30th April, 2026, the Government of Madhya Pradesh notified the Madhya Pradesh Code on Empowering Work Spaces, 2026, a comprehensive labour reform consolidating multiple state labour laws into a single framework covering employee welfare, workplace safety, digital governance, and ease of doing business.
2. This reform is designed to improve labor administration, protect worker dignity, and significantly enhance the **ease of doing business** by simplifying registration and inspection processes.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Code repeals five major state labour laws:
 - i. The MP Shops and Establishments Act, 1958,¹
 - ii. The MP Industrial Relations Act, 1960,²
 - iii. The MP Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1961,³
 - iv. The MP Shram Kalyan Nidhi Adhiniyam, 1982,⁴ and the MP Asangathit Karmkar Kalyan Adhiniyam, 2003.
 - b. **Registration, Compliance And Enforcement -**
 - i. The state has introduced a **one-time lifetime registration system** where employers submit an online intimation and receive real-time acknowledgment without the need for periodic renewals.
 - ii. Every registered establishment is assigned a Unique Establishment Number to serve as a single identifier for all labor law compliance and seamless integration with Central databases.
 - iii. Minor procedural non-compliance is largely decriminalised, allowing for rectification opportunities and monetary penalties instead of immediate criminal prosecution for non-serious lapses.
 - iv. Traditional inspection-based enforcement is replaced with a facilitator model involving randomised, jurisdiction-free, web-based inspections with unique inspection numbers to reduce duplication and harassment.
 - c. **Worker Rights, Conditions And Inclusion -**
 - i. Strong worker dignity provisions explicitly ban coercive employment practices, such as withholding identification certificates or restricting movement against

¹ [MP Shops And Establishments Act, 1958.](#)

² [MP Industrial Relations Act, 1960.](#)

³ [MP Industrial Employment \(Standing Orders\) Act, 1961.](#)

⁴ [MP Asangathit Karmkar Kalyan Adhiniyam, 2003.](#)

A. Code On Empowering Work Spaces, 2026

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

an employee's will.

- ii. Women are now explicitly permitted to work night shifts provided that the employer ensures informed consent, transportation arrangements, and gender-specific workplace infrastructure.

d. **Welfare And Social Security Expansion -**

- i. Establishments with fewer than 10 employees may provide facilities such as toilets, canteens, and crèches on a shared basis, supporting MSMEs while preserving worker welfare standards.
- ii. The Code formalises fixed-term employment rights by ensuring that project-based or seasonal workers receive wages, allowances, and statutory benefits equal to those of permanent staff.
- iii. Lastly, gig workers,⁵ platform workers,⁶ and intra-state migrant workers are brought under a unified social protection net featuring digital registration, insurance, and access to housing support.

4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The Code explicitly aligns with the four central labour codes enacted by Parliament - the Code on Wages, 2019,⁷ the Industrial Relations Code, 2020,⁸ the Code on Social Security, 2020,⁹ and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020¹⁰ - which together sought to consolidate 29 central labour laws into a simplified framework.

5. **Relevance -**

- a. E-Shram registrations in the state reached **1.92** crore as of January 2026, rising steadily from 1.73 crore in 2023, which reflects rising informalisation.¹¹ The Code's gig and unorganised worker provisions extend welfare access, like insurance and housing support, to this previously excluded workforce.
- b. Historically, firms relied on contract labour to avoid providing them with statutory benefits. By mandating wage and benefit parity between Fixed-Term Employees (FTE)¹² and permanent staff,¹³ the Code reduces incentives for precarious hiring,

⁵ Gig workers are individuals who earn income through temporary, flexible, and project-based work outside of traditional, long-term employer-employee relationships.

⁶ Platform workers are individuals who perform services or tasks arranged through online digital platforms.

⁷ [The Code On Wages, 2019.](#)

⁸ [Industrial Relations Code, 2020.](#)

⁹ [Code On Social Security, 2020.](#)

¹⁰ [Occupational Safety, Health And Working Conditions \(OSH\) Code, 2020.](#)

¹¹ [The Free Press Journal, April, 2026.](#)

¹² A fixed-term employee is hired directly by an employer for a specific period or project, with a contract defining a clear start and end date, automatically terminating upon completion. They are used for projects, seasonal work, or temporary coverage.

¹³ [Live Law, April 2026.](#)

A. Code On Empowering Work Spaces, 2026

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

and supports a more stable and high-morale workforce.

- c. The erstwhile MP Shops and Establishments Act restricted women from nightshifts, excluding them from sectors like hospitality, logistics, healthcare, and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry where round-the-clock operations are standard.¹⁴ By permitting women to work night shifts subject to mandatory safety, transport, and infrastructure provisions, the Code removes a structural barrier without diluting worker protection.
- d. Although investment inflows into Madhya Pradesh remain promising, the Code can further strengthen investor confidence by addressing long-standing compliance frictions in labour administration. By replacing fragmented registrations with a unified registration system and introducing randomised web-based inspections, the Code reduces procedural complexity, limits discretionary enforcement, and creates a more predictable regulatory environment for manufacturing and logistics investors.

¹⁴ [Sarvnipun Kaur, 2025.](#)

II. Delhi

A. Time-Bound Digital Challan System

Source: [CNBC](#), [ANI News](#) | Impact: High

1. On 5th May, 2026, the Delhi Government launched a modernised traffic challan system designed to make fine recovery and dispute resolution both time-bound and digital.
2. It is aimed at improving compliance and **reducing road accidents**, the system introduces strict deadlines for payments and challenges while leveraging automated surveillance.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The framework provides violators a 45-day window from the date of issuance to either pay the fine or file a challenge through an online grievance system. If no action is taken within the initial 45 days, the challan is automatically treated as accepted by the motorist.
 - b. The system stipulates that, following a rejected challenge, motorists have 30 days to pay the fine or move to court after depositing the mandatory 50% penalty.
 - c. The framework provides a final 15-day grace period for payment if all other deadlines for challenges or court transitions are missed.
 - d. The system enables automated cameras and surveillance tools to generate e-challans that are sequenced on an online portal for clear record-keeping.
 - e. The framework mandates that digital notices are sent to registered mobile numbers within three days, while physical notices are delivered within 15 days.
 - f. Unpaid fines will lead to the blocking of essential vehicle services, including road tax payments, license renewals, and registration work.
 - g. The framework provides that vehicles with outstanding dues may be marked “not to be transacted” on official portals, preventing any changes in ownership.
 - h. Individuals recording five or more violations in a single year will be classified as serious offenders and may face license suspension.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The time bound digital challan system is the local operationalisation of the Central directive under Central Motor Vehicles (Third Amendment) Rules 2026, notified by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and brought into effect from 1st January, 2026.¹⁵
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Despite the volume of camera-based enforcement, Delhi’s overall e-challan recovery rate stands at just 14%, the lowest among all states and Union Territories, with only ₹ 645 crore collected against ₹ 4,468 crore issued through 5.3 crore challans till 2025.¹⁶ The cumulative ratio of camera-generated to on-the-spot

¹⁵ [Central Motor Vehicles \(Third Amendment\) Rules, 2026.](#)

¹⁶ [Business Standard, March, 2025.](#)

A. Time-Bound Digital Challan System

Source: [CNBC](#), [ANI News](#) | Impact: High

challans for the 2021–2024 period stood at **2.3 crore** versus **68 lakh**, indicating that surveillance has scaled far faster than collection.¹⁷

- b. By linking outstanding dues directly to licence renewals, Registration Certificates (RC) transfers and ownership changes, the new framework forces a collection point at the moment of essential service delivery, ensuring that automated detection translates into actual revenue and deterrence rather than paper liabilities.
- c. The establishment of a strict 45-day window to either pay or contest a challan, followed by cascading 30-day and 15-day final notice periods, standardises the administrative timeline for traffic offenses.
- d. Further, by linking unpaid challans directly to the Vahan and Sarathi databases,¹⁸ the system enables administrative sanctions such as blocking vehicle tax payments, registration transfers, and license renewals.
- e. But, Delhi’s licensed commercial fleet includes roughly **85,000** taxis and **92,000** auto-rickshaws, whose drivers depend on uninterrupted RC and licence services for their livelihood.¹⁹ For this cohort, the 50% upfront deposit risks operating as a pay-to-play barrier where automated cameras misread plates or misclassify violations.

¹⁷ [Parkplus News, April, 2025](#)

¹⁸ Vahan and Sarathi are centralised national registries maintained by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) under the Parivahan Sewa initiative. Vahan acts as the national vehicle register, containing comprehensive data on vehicle registration, taxation, and fitness certificates. Sarathi serves as the national registry for driving licenses, tracking applicant details, license renewals, and endorsement history.

¹⁹ [Statista, November, 2025.](#)

B. Amendment Of Legal Metrology (Enforcement) Rules, 2026

Source: [The Government Of The National Capital Territory Of Delhi](#) | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 5th May, 2026, the Delhi Government amended the Delhi Legal Metrology (Enforcement) Rules, 2011,²⁰ to introduce lifetime validity for licences issued to manufacturers, dealers, and repairers of weights and measures, abolishing the requirement of annual renewal before 31st December each year.
2. The Amendment is part of Delhi's Deregulation Exercise 2.0, which seeks to reduce compliance burden and rationalise regulatory frameworks across departments.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Amendment introduces lifetime validity for licenses issued to manufacturers, dealers, and repairers in the weights and measures sector.
 - b. The licences that were issued to manufacturers, dealers, and repairers under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009,²¹ will now carry lifetime validity from the date of issue upon payment of the prescribed fee, and will remain valid unless suspended or cancelled by the competent authority.
 - c. The Amendment eliminates the long-standing requirement for businesses to apply for annual license renewals before the 31st December deadline.
 - d. Notably, enterprises can now obtain their licenses through a self-declaration process that removes the necessity for mandatory physical site inspections prior to approval.
 - e. The Government has amended the Delhi Legal Metrology (Enforcement) Rules, 2011,²² to align all forms, schedules, and registers with the new simplified system.
 - f. Lastly, a dedicated mobile application is being developed to further digitise and streamline licensing and verification services for over 600 active local businesses.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The amendment aligns with the Central Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023,²³ and Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026,²⁴ which collectively seek to advance a trust-based regulatory approach - decriminalising minor procedural lapses, replacing imprisonment with proportionate civil penalties, introducing administrative adjudication mechanisms, and rationalising compliance burdens to improve the ease of doing business.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. By addressing the 600 active stakeholders, including 154 manufacturers and 421 dealers, this Amendment addresses a critical friction point where repetitive licensing has historically contributed to administrative congestion without

²⁰ [Delhi Legal Metrology \(Enforcement\) Rules, 2011.](#)

²¹ [Legal Metrology Act, 2009.](#)

²² [Delhi Legal Metrology \(Enforcement\) Rules, 2011.](#)

²³ [Jan Vishwas \(Amendment Of Provisions\) Act, 2023.](#)

²⁴ [Jan Vishwas \(Amendment of Provisions\) Bill, 2026.](#)

B. Amendment Of Legal Metrology (Enforcement) Rules, 2026

Source: [The Government Of The National Capital Territory Of Delhi](#) | **Impact:** Medium

proportionally increasing consumer safety.²⁵

- b. Quantifiably, the removal of the annual renewal requirement, previously costing 100 rupees for dealers and 500 rupees for manufacturers²⁶ eliminates a recurring transaction cost that disproportionately affected small and medium enterprises.
- c. Moreover, the elimination of indirect compliance costs such as consultant fees, documentation efforts, and managerial time absorbed by annual inspections translates into a direct reallocation of productive capacity back to core business operations.
- d. The dedicated mobile application moves the system from paper-based registers to a unified digital record of every licensed manufacturer, dealer, and repairer, enabling faster traceability and quicker recall response than legacy systems could support.
- e. This advances the direction officially endorsed by the Department of Consumer Affairs at its April 2025 Round Table Conference, where states were urged to adopt geo-tagging, tamper-resistant fuel dispensers, and standardised operating procedures to build a tech-enabled legal metrology ecosystem.²⁷
- f. This deregulatory move is essentially estimated to significantly reduce the approximately 72% of legal metrology offenses typically attributed to minor technical or procedural lapses, such as missing renewal deadlines or non-essential labeling errors,²⁸ thereby reallocating judicial and administrative resources toward high-impact fraud detection.

²⁵ [The Tribune, May, 2026.](#)

²⁶ [The Tribune, May, 2026.](#)

²⁷ [Mondaq, July, 2025](#)

²⁸ [Daksh India, October, 2020.](#)

III. Punjab

A. Punjab Prisons And Correctional Services Bill, 2026

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

1. On 1st May, 2026, the Punjab Assembly passed the Punjab Prisons and Correctional Services Bill, 2026, a comprehensive legislative reform that repeals the Prisons Act, 1894²⁹ and the Prisoners Act, 1900.³⁰
2. The Bill seeks to replace outdated colonial-era laws by transforming prisons from purely custodial institutions into centers dedicated to reformation and social reintegration.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Bill establishes various categories of facilities, including High Security Prisons, Open Correctional Institutions, and specialised centers for young offenders aged 18 to 21.
 - b. The Bill institutionalises after-care services aimed at the financial rehabilitation and social reintegration of released prisoners into mainstream society.
 - c. The Bill also mandates the use of advanced technology such as AI-based surveillance, biometric authentication, and the declaration of a 500-meter No-Fly Zone for drones around prison perimeters.
 - d. Moreover, a specialised Research Analysis and Intelligence (RAI) wing is created to gather and process actionable intelligence to curb organised crime and smuggling within the prison system.
 - e. The Bill requires separate, gender-responsive accommodations for women and transgender prisoners, as well as specialised medical care for geriatric and disabled inmates.
 - f. Strict criminal penalties are established for the possession of wireless communication devices, with subsequent convictions attracting up to five years of imprisonment and a fine of ₹ 5 lakh.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** This aligns with the **Model Prisons And Correctional Services Act, 2023**,³¹ which serves as a blueprint to replace the archaic, colonial-era laws by shifting the legal focus from punitive retribution to a reformatory approach that prioritises the human rights, vocational training, and psychological rehabilitation of inmates.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Maharashtra³² has implemented similar modern prison reforms, including e-prisons systems, biometric tracking, and correctional

²⁹ [The Prisons Act, 1894.](#)

³⁰ [The Prisoners Act, 1900.](#)

³¹ [Model Prisons And Correctional Services Act, 2023.](#)

³² [Maharashtra Prisons And Correctional Services Act, 2025.](#)

A. Punjab Prisons And Correctional Services Bill, 2026

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

programmes for skill development and reintegration.

6. Relevance -

- a. A 2022 screening across 25 Punjab jails covering nearly 30,000 inmates found **47%** of prisoners addicted to drugs, with many having developed dependency inside the prison itself.³³ The situation has not improved even till 2024 as a total of 12,162 inmates in Punjab were found to be drug addicts.³⁴ The Bill's open correctional institutions, dedicated de-addiction infrastructure, and after-care services target this addiction-to-crime cycle by treating dependency as a public health challenge rather than purely a custodial one.
- b. Punjab's prisons have served as command centres for organised crime, with gangsters running drug syndicates and extortion rackets through smuggled mobile phones, sometimes with staff complicity. In December 2025, Ferozepur Central Jail alone seized 21 mobile phones from inmates.³⁵
- c. The newly enacted Section 42 now prescribes one to three years imprisonment with up to ₹1 lakh fine for first-time possession of wired or wireless communication devices by a prisoner, visitor, or prison official, escalating to three to five years and up to ₹5 lakh for second or subsequent convictions, with such offences being made cognizable and non-bailable.³⁶ Combined with AI-based CCTV, biometric access, anti-drone mechanisms, and a dedicated intelligence wing, the Bill compresses the risk-reward calculation that has sustained the in-prison contraband economy.
- d. In Punjab, where post-release stigma compounds high baseline addiction rates, the Bill's after-care services and financial rehabilitation framework function as an economic buffer that reduces the long-run cost of reoffending to the state's policing and judicial system.

³³ [Saving Punjab, September, 2023.](#)

³⁴ [Supreme Court Of India, Centre For Research And Planning, Prisons In India Report, Annexure E.](#)

³⁵ [Babushahi, May, 2026.](#)

³⁶ [The Punjab Prisons And Correctional Services Bill, 2026, Section 42.](#)

IV. Himachal Pradesh

A. Juvenile Justice (Care And Protection Of Children) Rules, 2026

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

1. On 5th May, 2026, the Himachal Pradesh Government has notified the Himachal Pradesh Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Rules, 2026, framed under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015,³⁷ with the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment designated as the nodal agency for implementation.
2. The Rules aim to balance legal accountability with the rehabilitation and best interests of the child.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Rules prohibit the registration of a formal FIR against a child, except in cases involving heinous offences or adult co-accused.
 - b. The Rules mandate that, for petty and serious offences, Police will record details in a general daily diary and lodge a Daily Diary Report (DDR)³⁸ instead of an FIR.
 - c. The Rules categorise juvenile offences into three distinct classes: petty, serious, and heinous.
 - d. The Rules require that, in cases involving children above 16 years accused of heinous offences, Police submit witness statements and investigation documents within one month of the child's first production before the Board.
 - e. The Rules restrict the apprehension of a child to heinous offences, unless necessary in the child's best interest.
 - f. The Rules provide for the constitution of a Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) in each district, headed by a Judicial Magistrate First Class with at least three years of experience.
 - g. The Rules provide for the establishment of Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) in each district, comprising members aged 35 to 65 with relevant expertise in fields such as child psychology or law.
 - h. The Rules mandate that all Child Care Institutions (CCIs)³⁹ register under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, irrespective of registration under other laws.
 - i. The Rules require CCIs to submit comprehensive documentation, including three years of financial records and a declaration affirming no involvement in child abuse or child labour.

³⁷ [Juvenile Justice \(Care And Protection Of Children\) Act, 2015.](#)

³⁸ A Daily Diary Report (DDR) is an internal record made in the police station's daily diary register regarding complaints, incidents, or information received that do not immediately qualify for a formal First Information Report (FIR).

³⁹ Child Care Institutions (CCIs), defined under the Juvenile Justice Act 2015, are residential facilities for children in need of care, protection, or in conflict with the law. They include Children's Homes, Open Shelters, and Special Homes.

A. Juvenile Justice (Care And Protection Of Children) Rules, 2026

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

4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - This aligns with Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015,⁴⁰ which aims to standardise the treatment of juveniles across the country.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States like Maharashtra,⁴¹ Odisha,⁴² Karnataka,⁴³ and Tamil Nadu⁴⁴ have similar initiatives to operationalise the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 focusing on child-friendly procedures, institutional oversight, and rehabilitation-oriented justice systems.
6. **Relevance** -
 - a. The Rules operationalise the three-tier classification of offenses, i.e., petty, serious, and heinous, to regulate the entry of minors into the formal criminal justice system. By mandating DDR instead of FIRs for non-heinous crimes, the Rules address the fact that about 75% of juvenile cases in India involve non-heinous crimes like theft or simple hurt, ensuring these do not result in permanent digital criminal footprints.⁴⁵
 - b. The 30-day evidentiary deadline for juveniles over 16 years of age in heinous cases introduces a rigorous temporal standard. This mandatory timeline aims to prevent the procedural drift often seen in juvenile cases, where the average trial pendency in India can exceed eighteen months.⁴⁶ Himachal Pradesh's Juvenile Justice Boards carried a workload of 1,280 cases and could dispose of only 550, leaving a pendency rate of around 57%, marginally above the national average of 55%.⁴⁷
 - c. Mandating that CWC members and Judicial Magistrates possess high-tier specialised qualifications (such as degrees in child psychiatry or three years of judicial experience) transforms these bodies into expert multidisciplinary panels. This institutional setup mirrors the **Barnahus or Child-house model**⁴⁸ prevalent in Nordic countries, where specialised expertise is leveraged to minimise secondary victimisation and ensure that decisions are grounded in developmental science rather than purely punitive legalism.

⁴⁰ [Juvenile Justice \(Care And Protection Of Children\) Act, 2015.](#)

⁴¹ [Maharashtra Juvenile Justice \(Care And Protection Of Children\) Rules, 2018.](#)

⁴² [Odisha Juvenile Justice \(Care And Protection of Children\) Rules, 2018.](#)

⁴³ [Karnataka State Juvenile Justice \(Care And Protection of Children\) Rules 2025.](#)

⁴⁴ [Tamil Nadu Juvenile Justice \(Care And Protection Of Children\) Rules, 2017.](#)

⁴⁵ [NCRB, Crime In India Statistics, 2023.](#)

⁴⁶ [India Justice Report, 2025.](#)

⁴⁷ [India Justice Report, 2025.](#)

⁴⁸ It is a multidisciplinary and inter-agency center for child victims and witnesses of violence, which originated in Iceland in 1998 and has since been adopted as the European gold standard for child-friendly justice. The model's core objective is to provide a coordinated response under one roof, integrating criminal investigation, forensic interviews, medical examinations, and mental health services.

B. Himachal Pradesh Private Coaching Centres (Registration And Regulation) Rules, 2026

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

1. On 30th April, 2026, the Himachal Pradesh Government notified the Himachal Pradesh Private Coaching Centres (Registration and Regulation) Rules, 2026, to establish a formal framework for the operation of private educational institutes.
2. The rules aim to safeguard student interests through mandatory registration, infrastructure standards, and a focus on psychological counseling and suicide prevention.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. **Registration And Regulatory Framework -**
 - i. The rules require coaching centres to obtain government registration valid for three years upon payment of a ₹ 50,000 fee.
 - ii. Further, each branch of a coaching centre will be treated as a separate entity and must secure individual registration.
 - iii. The rules also establish a Himachal Pradesh Private Coaching Centres (Registration and Regulation) Authority along with district-level committees to monitor compliance.
 - iv. Violations will attract penalties ranging from ₹ 50,000 for a first offence to ₹ 2 lakh for repeated non-compliance.
 - b. **Student Welfare And Safety -**
 - i. The rules mandate that coaching centres with more than 100 students implement a formal mental health policy and prominently display suicide prevention helpline numbers.
 - ii. Staff members are required to undergo **mental health training** twice a year, while institutes must provide structured career counselling through qualified professionals.
 - iii. Residential coaching centres must install tamper-proof ceiling fans and restrict access to high-risk areas such as rooftops.
 - iv. Classes are strictly capped at 5 hours per day, with a mandatory weekly off to prevent burnout.
 - v. The coaching centres must have a grievance redressal system.
 - c. **Academic And Fee Regulations -**
 - i. The rules prohibit employment of tutors below graduation level and bar individuals convicted of offences involving moral turpitude.
 - ii. Further, coaching centres must publish a prospectus detailing fee structures and refund policies, while fee hikes during the course duration and misleading advertisements regarding ranks or marks are prohibited.

B. Himachal Pradesh Private Coaching Centres (Registration And Regulation) Rules, 2026

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

- iii. Tuition fee refunds must be processed within 10 days of enrollment cancellation under the prescribed framework.
- 4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The framework aligns with Ministry of Education's Guidelines for Regulation of Coaching Centres, 2024,⁴⁹ which proposed mandatory registration, fee transparency, mental health provisions, minimum age of enrolment, and infrastructure standards.
- 5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States such as Rajasthan⁵⁰ and Haryana⁵¹ have similar acts which align with the Guidelines for Regulation of Coaching Centres, 2024 and mandate mental health support, fee transparency and regulate coaching centres, while Manipur⁵² has a state act designed to standardise and monitor private coaching centres across the state.
- 6. **Relevance** -
 - a. Himachal Pradesh witnessed **644** suicides in 2022, constituting a rate of 8.7 per 1 lakh against the national average of 12.4 per 1 lakh.⁵³ Nationally, over 2,000 deaths among individuals below 18 years of age have been directly attributed to examination failure.⁵⁴ The rules by putting emphasis on counselling services, reduce the chances of mental health issues exacerbating into suicides.
 - b. The rules formally bring private coaching, hitherto operating in an unregulated grey market, within an Education Department-administered statutory framework, with mandatory registration, three-yearly renewal, branch-wise individual registration, and district-level oversight.
 - c. Further, the rules do not appear to clearly mirror the Union Education Ministry's 2024 prescription of a minimum enrolment age of 16,⁵⁵ fail to address the curriculum-coaching disconnect that drives demand.
 - d. The ₹ 50,000 registration fee and ₹ 25,000 triennial renewal per branch are manageable for large coaching chains, but may create a significant entry barrier for smaller local institutes by increasing compliance costs across multiple branches.

⁴⁹ [Guidelines For Regulation Of Coaching Centres, 2024.](#)

⁵⁰ [The Rajasthan Coaching Centres \(Control And Regulation\) Act, 2025.](#)

⁵¹ [The Haryana Registration And Regulation Of Private Coaching Institutes Act, 2024.](#)

⁵² [The Manipur Coaching Institute \(Control And Regulation\) Act, 2017.](#)

⁵³ [The Tribune, December, 2023.](#)

⁵⁴ [News By Careers360, December, 2023.](#)

⁵⁵ [Business Today, January, 2024.](#)

VI. Bihar

A. Bihar Building (Amendment) Bye-Laws, 2026

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

1. On 6th May, 2026, the Urban Development and Housing Department of Bihar amended the Bihar Building Bye-Laws, 2014, to relax setback and construction norms for commercial properties.
2. The amendment is expected to ease constraints for builders, traders, and small commercial property owners by permitting larger commercial structures on smaller plots.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The amendment increases the maximum permissible commercial construction limit from **40% to 70%** of the total plot area, enabling a substantial expansion of Floor Space Index (FSI)⁵⁶ for urban development.
 - b. It permits the removal of side setbacks⁵⁷ for commercial buildings on plots up to 10 meters wide, subject to a maximum structural height of 10 meters.
 - c. The amendment also eases front and rear open space requirements.
 - d. Plots up to 10 metres deep now require just 1.5 metres at the front and 1 metre at the rear.
 - e. It further introduces a tiered side setback structure for wider plots, with requirements of 1.8 meters for widths of 10–15 meters, increasing to a minimum of 4 meters for plots exceeding 39 meters.
 - f. The revised setback and open space norms are applicable to commercial structures up to a height of 16 metres.
 - g. Lastly, the amendment establishes a standardised framework for front and rear open spaces across varying plot depths, balancing increased density with essential urban ventilation.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** These rules align with the Model Building Bye-Laws (MBBL), 2016⁵⁸ issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, which provides a national framework for relaxed Floor Space Index (FSI) norms and tiered setbacks based on plot size and road width.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Uttar Pradesh,⁵⁹ Haryana,⁶⁰

⁵⁶ Floor Space Index (FSI) refers to the ratio of the total built-up floor area of a building to the total area of the plot.

⁵⁷ Setback refers to the minimum distance between the building and the plot boundary, ensuring light, ventilation, and access. This includes front setback (distance from the front boundary), rear setback (distance from the rear boundary), and side setback (distance from the side boundaries).

⁵⁸ [Model Building Bye-Laws \(MBBL\), 2016.](#)

⁵⁹ [Model Building Construction And Development Byelaws And Model Zoning Regulations For Development Authorities Of Uttar Pradesh, 2025.](#)

⁶⁰ [The Haryana Building Code, 2017.](#)

A. Bihar Building (Amendment) Bye-Laws, 2026

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

Andhra Pradesh,⁶¹ Jharkhand⁶² and Maharashtra⁶³ have undertaken similar building regulation reforms through their respective bye-law amendments and development control frameworks.

6. Relevance -

- a. For Bihar's small plot inventory, transacted predominantly in 1 to 2 kattha units of 1,361 to 2,722 square feet, and frequently fronting 4 to 5 metre wide roads for which the Bihar Building Bye-laws 2014 prescribed restrictive FAR ceilings,⁶⁴ the 75% expansion in built-up entitlement on the same land directly improves the floor-area economics of the small commercial properties without rezoning or land aggregation.
- b. The removal of mandatory side setbacks for plots up to 10 metres wide addresses a long-standing structural disadvantage faced by small traders and shopkeepers in cities such as Patna, Gaya, and Muzaffarpur, where compact plot sizes had previously sterilised significant frontage.⁶⁵ The 16-metre height cap retains the mid-rise character of urban commercial zones and prevents the amendment from being read as blanket vertical deregulation.⁶⁶
- c. The retained graduated setback schedule for wider plots, ranging from 1.8 metres for 10 to 15 metre plots to 4 metres above 39 metres, preserves ventilation, fire-tender access, and density management for larger projects. The differentiation prevents the relaxation from being characterised as a uniform dilution of safety norms and confines liberalisation to the small-plot segment where the economic case is strongest.

⁶¹ [Andhra Pradesh Building Rules, 2017.](#)

⁶² [Jharkhand Building Bye-laws, 2016.](#)

⁶³ [Unified Development Control And Promotion Regulations For Maharashtra State.](#)

⁶⁴ [Samvida, July, 2025.](#)

⁶⁵ [PatnaPress, May, 2026.](#)

⁶⁶ [PatnaPress, May, 2026.](#)

B. One-Time Traffic Challan Settlement Scheme, 2026

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

1. On 1st May, 2026, the Bihar Government introduced a one-time settlement measure for motorists by introducing the “One-Time Traffic Challan Settlement Scheme 2026.”
2. The scheme allows vehicle owners to clear their pending e-challans at half the cost, aiming to reduce the mounting pressure on the state’s transport authorities and courts while encouraging citizens to resolve penalties that have been overdue.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme follows the Patna High Court’s intervention in *Rani Tiwari v. State of Bihar*, where the Advocate General confirmed the framework was modelled on Odisha’s compounding approach.
 - b. The scheme allows motorists to settle all pending e-challans by paying only 50% of the total fine amount.
 - c. This one-time settlement window is effective immediately and will remain open until the end of the 2026-27 financial year.
 - d. It states that eligible violations include riding without a helmet, driving without seatbelts, and using a mobile phone while driving.
 - e. Further, the concessions also apply to e-challans issued for jumping red lights, triple riding, and operating vehicles with expired permits or registrations.
 - f. It extends the discount to violations related to missing documentation, such as vehicle insurance papers and environmental permits.
 - g. The scheme mandates that challans pending for more than 90 days will be processed through National Lok Adalats to expedite the clearing of legal backlogs.
 - h. The Transport Department has established fixed minimum fine amounts for different categories to maintain transparency and prevent public confusion.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States like Karnataka⁶⁷ and Odisha⁶⁸ have previously offered discount-based settlements to clear e-challan backlogs.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. A significant share of Bihar’s secondary vehicle market is functionally frozen because pending challans exceed residual resale value, particularly for older two wheelers, blocking ownership transfers, scrappage, and re-registration. The settlement restores asset liquidity by making legal disposal economically rational, reactivating motor vehicles tax, transfer fees, and stamp duty collections under the Bihar Motor Vehicles Taxation Act 1994.
 - b. Between 2019-2023, Bihar issued over 43 lakh e-challans, collecting more than ₹

⁶⁷ [The Hindu, November, 2025.](#)

⁶⁸ [The New Indian Express, March, 2026.](#)

B. One-Time Traffic Challan Settlement Scheme, 2026**Source:** [Patna Press](#) | **Impact:** Medium

1,400 crore in fines, with a large share of issued challans remaining unsettled.⁶⁹ A 50% settlement that clears even a fraction of the pending stock recovers revenue the state would otherwise never see, while clearing legal and administrative backlogs simultaneously.

- c. National Lok Adalats resolve cases in bulk through mutual settlement, making this the most practical route to clear aged traffic violations without clogging the judiciary further. The structured routing under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987⁷⁰ yields a judicial dividend, freeing magisterial bandwidth otherwise consumed by administrative-fine adjudication for substantive civil and criminal matters, and converts a backlog into a mass-disposal exercise without legislative amendment.
- d. The 50% settlement removes such a compliance trap for low-income motorists, restoring their ability to legally operate vehicles and access transport-dependent livelihoods.

⁶⁹ [Policy Bazaar](#).

⁷⁰ [The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987](#).

VII. Haryana

A. Single Registration Framework Under The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH) Code, 2020

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

1. On 4th May, 2026, the Government of Haryana issued a notification enabling the Governor to allow establishments within the state to register exclusively under the OSH Code, 2020.⁷¹
2. By enabling businesses to register exclusively under the OSH Code, 2020, the state is removing the requirement for separate registration and commencement notices under the Haryana Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958 (the 1958 Act).⁷²
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The notification states that businesses opting for this consolidated registration are no longer required to separately register or provide a “Commencement of Business”⁷³ notice under the 1958 Act.
 - b. It mandates that despite the simplified registration, businesses must continue to adhere to all other substantive provisions of the 1958 Act.
 - c. The notification specifies that in any instance of legal overlap, the provisions of the OSH Code, 2020, will take precedence over the 1958 Act.
 - d. It effectively transitions the state toward a single-registration model for overlapping establishment registrations, reducing the administrative compliance for new enterprises.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** This notification aligns with the OSH Code, 2020,⁷⁴ by allowing the establishments to register exclusively under the OSH Code, 2020.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Maharashtra⁷⁵ has also allowed eligible establishments employing 10 or more workers to register exclusively under OSH Code, 2020.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The notification follows the Haryana Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Act, 2025⁷⁶ and the April 2026 working hours exemption notification,⁷⁷ forming a coherent **regulatory simplification track record** under

⁷¹ [Occupational Safety, Health And Working Conditions \(OSH\) Code, 2020.](#)

⁷² [Haryana Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958 \(Punjab Act 15 of 1958\).](#)

⁷³ A Commencement of Business (COB) notice is a mandatory declaration that confirms that a company is legally permitted to commence business operations.

⁷⁴ [Occupational Safety, Health And Working Conditions \(OSH\) Code, 2020.](#)

⁷⁵ [Clarification Regarding Registration Of Establishments Under OSH Code 2020 And Maharashtra Shops And Establishments \(Regulation Of Employment And Conditions Of Service\) Act, 2017.](#)

⁷⁶ [The Haryana Shops And Establishments \(Amendment\) Act, 2025.](#)

⁷⁷ [SCC Online, April, 2026.](#)

A. Single Registration Framework Under The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH) Code, 2020

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

- the ruling dispensation, indicating a coherent roadmap for development.
- b. The consolidation with the 2025 Act and 2026 Rules enables Centralised Compliance, allowing a single HR/Legal team in a head office to manage the entire state's OSH portfolio through one digital window.
 - c. A typical manufacturing MSME with a single unit in one state is subject to over 1,450 compliance obligations annually cutting across seven categories of law, with 59 types of inspectors, 48 different registers, and 486 imprisonment clauses, at an annual compliance cost of ₹ 13 to ₹ 17 lakh, of which Indian labour laws alone account for 66% of imprisonment-linked compliance.⁷⁸ The new bouquet of reforms aims to cut through this regulatory cholesterol and improve ease of doing business in Haryana.
 - d. The 2026 framework builds upon the compliance rationalisation introduced by the 2025 amendments to the Haryana Shops and Commercial Establishments Act, 1958 by exempting OSH-registered establishments from parallel registration and business-intimation requirements under Sections 13 and 13A, thereby reducing compliance burdens for multi-location entities such as Quick Service Restaurants (QSRs), banking branch networks, and hospitality groups.
 - e. However, the exemption leaves establishments below the ten-worker OSH applicability threshold under Section 3 outside its scope,⁷⁹ consequently, over 99% of the enterprises classified as micro-units⁸⁰ remain stuck under the full 1958 Act regime and perpetuating a two-tier compliance burden inverse to the stated MSME-relief objective.

⁷⁸ [TeamLease RegTech, Decoding Compliance For Manufacturing MSMEs In India.](#)

⁷⁹ [PIB, November, 2025.](#)

⁸⁰ [Ministry Of Micro, Small, And Medium Enterprises, Annual Report, 2020-21.](#)

Policy Level Announcements

I. Andhra Pradesh

A. Operationalisation Of Five Model E-Mobility Cities

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

1. On 1st May, 2026, the Government of Andhra Pradesh operationalised the five model e-mobility cities under the Andhra Pradesh Sustainable Electric Mobility Policy (4.0) 2024-29 across the state.
2. The policy aims to promote clean, efficient, and technology-driven urban transport systems while reducing pollution and improving mobility.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy identifies Visakhapatnam, Rajahmundry, Vijayawada, Nellore, and Tirupati as model e-mobility cities, ensuring regional representation across the state.
 - b. It focuses on building a strong Electric Vehicle (EV) ecosystem including charging stations, green routes, battery swapping facilities, and zero-emission zones within urban areas.
 - c. The policy mandates a dense charging network with one station in every 3×3 km grid in cities and one station every 30 km along highways and inter-city corridors.
 - d. A dedicated **corpus fund of ₹ 250 crore** has been created, with ₹ 50 crore allocated to each city to support infrastructure development and EV adoption.
 - e. The policy includes phased expansion of electric public transport, green freight systems, and integration of renewable energy into mobility infrastructure.
 - f. The policy also includes city interventions like promotion of green tourism mobility and electric BRTS corridors in Visakhapatnam, development of logistics-oriented EV infrastructure in Vijayawada, electrification of river transport systems in Rajahmundry, EV-based fisheries logistics in Nellore, and electrification of pilgrim transport and shuttle systems in Tirupati.
 - g. The policy also ensures alignment with national EV standards while directing phased implementation and amendments to building rules for mandatory EV charging provisions.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The model aligns with national initiatives such as the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme⁸¹ and the Ministry of Power's EV Charging Guidelines,⁸² which promotes standardisation and expansion of EV infrastructure across India.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Andhra Pradesh, like other states such as

⁸¹ [PIB, February, 2026.](#)

⁸² [Guidelines For Installation And Operation Of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure-2024.](#)

A. Operationalisation Of Five Model E-Mobility Cities

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

Delhi,⁸³ Tamil Nadu,⁸⁴ and Maharashtra,⁸⁵ has adopted electric vehicle policies that focus on expanding charging infrastructure, providing incentives for EV adoption, and promoting manufacturing and electric public transport systems.

6. Relevance -

- a. Andhra Pradesh has historically lagged behind leading EV states like Delhi and Maharashtra in terms of EV penetration. As of late 2024, the state had 1.3 lakh EVs out of 1.78 crore total vehicles, a penetration rate of just 0.73% (lower than the national average of 7-8%).⁸⁶ By earmarking ₹ 50 crore per city, the state is providing the Venture Capital needed to jumpstart these 5 nodes, aiming to cross the 5% penetration threshold by 2027.⁸⁷
- b. By focusing subsidies, infrastructure, and regulatory easing in specific urban nodes, the policy can realistically push city-level EV penetration, which can then diffuse to surrounding districts.
- c. One of the key bottlenecks in Andhra Pradesh is the low density of public charging stations, estimated at 700 operational chargers statewide as of early 2025,⁸⁸ with heavy concentration in Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada. The mandated grid-based charging deployment (3×3 km urban coverage) under this policy directly targets range anxiety,⁸⁹ which identify as the primary deterrent for EV uptake in emerging markets.
- d. If implemented fully, Andhra Pradesh could achieve a charging-to-vehicle ratio close to 1:20, approaching international benchmarks for early-stage EV ecosystems.⁹⁰
- e. Andhra Pradesh handles significant cargo through ports like Visakhapatnam and Krishnapatnam, making logistics electrification economically strategic.⁹¹ Freight transport contributes disproportionately to diesel consumption, over 40% of commercial fuel use in the state.⁹²
- f. By focusing on EV logistics in Vijayawada and fisheries logistics in Nellore, the

⁸³ [Delhi Electric Vehicle \(EV\) Policy, 2026.](#)

⁸⁴ [Tamil Nadu Electric Vehicle Policy, 2023.](#)

⁸⁵ [Maharashtra Electric Vehicle Policy, 2025.](#)

⁸⁶ [Government Of Andhra Pradesh.](#)

⁸⁷ [TOI, May, 2026.](#)

⁸⁸ [PIB, August, 2025.](#)

⁸⁹ EV range anxiety is the fear that an electric vehicle's battery will run out of power before reaching a destination or a charging station. It is a major barrier to adoption, caused by limited charging infrastructure, unpredictable factors like weather, and shorter ranges compared to gasoline cars.

⁹⁰ [Energetica India, December, 2024.](#)

⁹¹ [The Hindu Business Line, May, 2026.](#)

⁹² [Industries And Commerce Department, Government Of Andhra Pradesh, December, 2024.](#)

A. Operationalisation Of Five Model E-Mobility Cities

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

policy aligns with reducing operating costs in high-frequency transport corridors. Electric freight vehicles can reduce operating costs by 20–30% per km, making them attractive for fleet operators in port-linked supply chains.⁹³

- g. Andhra Pradesh is one of India's leading renewable energy producers, with over 9–10 GW of installed renewable capacity, including solar and wind.⁹⁴ However, curtailment and grid balancing remain issues. Integrating EV charging with renewable energy, especially through time-of-day tariffs and battery storage can improve demand-side management.
- h. The policy's emphasis on renewable-linked mobility infrastructure enables better utilisation of surplus green power, particularly during off-peak hours. This aligns with recommendations from Central Electricity Authority on using EVs as flexible loads to stabilise grids.

⁹³ [Vasudha Foundation, January, 2026.](#)

⁹⁴ [PIB, May, 2025.](#)

B. Deemed Distribution Discom Policy For Large Data Centres

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

1. The Government of Andhra Pradesh unveiled a policy granting “Deemed Distribution Company (Discom)” status to large data centres in the state.
2. The policy aims to position Andhra Pradesh as a major data centre hub by enabling large-scale facilities to independently **manage and source power** for their operations.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy grants deemed discom status to strategic data centre projects with a minimum connected power load of 300 MW, including aggregated loads from multiple project locations within the state.
 - b. Eligible data centres will be allowed to develop, own, operate, and maintain their own internal electricity distribution systems within designated project areas.
 - c. The policy provides complete flexibility in power sourcing, allowing data centres to procure electricity from renewable energy generators, captive plants, power exchanges, or bilateral power purchase agreements.
 - d. Data centres can also establish dedicated solar, wind, or hybrid energy systems with battery storage to meet operational requirements.
 - e. The policy mandates that at least 51% of total electricity consumption must come from renewable energy sources through direct procurement, captive generation, or green certification mechanisms.
 - f. Furthermore, operators will be responsible for creating transmission and interconnection infrastructure at their own cost while complying with grid connectivity, safety, metering, and operational standards.
 - g. It applies only to new greenfield data centre projects to avoid revenue loss and stranded assets for existing discoms.
 - h. The policy also allows data centres to obtain standby power support from existing discoms through separate agreements to ensure uninterrupted operations.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The policy aligns with the Union Budget 2026–27 initiative aimed at strengthening India’s position as a global digital infrastructure hub by promoting cloud computing, AI data centres, and advanced electronics. The Union Government has also announced a tax holiday till 2047 for eligible foreign cloud service providers operating through India-based data centre infrastructure to attract investment and expand digital capacity.⁹⁵
5. **Similar Initiative In Other States** - States like Odisha,⁹⁶ Karnataka,⁹⁷ Maharashtra⁹⁸

⁹⁵ [PIB, February, 2026.](#)

⁹⁶ [Odisha State Data Centre Policy, 2022.](#)

⁹⁷ [Karnataka Data Centre Policy, 2022-2027.](#)

⁹⁸ [The Hindustan Times, October, 2025.](#)

B. Deemed Distribution Discom Policy For Large Data Centres

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

and Uttar Pradesh⁹⁹ have introduced dedicated data centre policies offering infrastructure support, power incentives, and renewable energy integration to attract hyperscale data centre investments and strengthen digital infrastructure.

6. Relevance -

- a. The policy marks a shift in Andhra Pradesh's industrial power governance model. For instance, the state has already approved Google's proposed 1 GW data centre hub in Visakhapatnam, reportedly involving investments of nearly ₹ 1500 crore, making reliable and flexible power procurement central to project viability.¹⁰⁰
- b. The policy therefore directly addresses the abovementioned concern around uninterrupted high-density power availability for AI and cloud workloads.
- c. The state possesses over 44 GW of estimated renewable energy potential, particularly in solar and offshore/onshore wind corridors in Rayalaseema and coastal Andhra regions.¹⁰¹ By mandating 51% renewable consumption while permitting captive renewable projects and battery storage, the policy integrates data centre expansion with the state's broader clean-energy transition strategy.¹⁰²
- d. Lastly, a strategic aspect of Visakhapatnam's emergence as a hyperscale AI hub is the combination of its coastal geography and new Deemed Discom framework. Its coastal location supports submarine cable landing stations essential for global cloud connectivity and low-latency AI workloads, while the policy enables high-density AI data centres to scale beyond conventional grid constraints.¹⁰³
- e. This allows AI-driven data centres, which globally require 10x more power density than cloud servers, to scale without being throttled by local municipal grid limitations.

⁹⁹ [Uttar Pradesh Data Centre Policy, 2021.](#)

¹⁰⁰ [Economic Times, May, 2026.](#)

¹⁰¹ [Times Of India, April, 2026.](#)

¹⁰² [Times Of India, April, 2026.](#)

¹⁰³ [Business Standard, April, 2026.](#)

II. Maharashtra

A. Maharashtra Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy, 2026

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

1. The Maharashtra Cabinet approved the Maharashtra Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy, 2026 to promote the use of AI across governance, industry, and public services.
2. The policy aims to attract over ₹ 10,000 crore in investments and generate more than 1.5 lakh jobs by 2031.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The policy is built on **seven pillars** that together cover infrastructure development, data systems, skill creation, industry adoption, innovation, sectoral applications, and governance.
 - b. The policy focuses on AI infrastructure development, under which the state will build computing capacity of at least 2000 GPUs and provide access through a “Compute as a Service” model, along with the development of AI cities in key innovation areas.
 - c. It focuses on creating a strong data ecosystem by establishing a State AI Data Exchange and developing datasets in Marathi and tribal languages, which will be integrated with the central AI Kosha platform.
 - d. It also emphasises on skill development through the establishment of a Maharashtra Centre for Advanced AI Training, which will train around two lakh youth and professionals in partnership with industry and academic institutions.
 - e. It focuses on promoting AI adoption among MSMEs by providing a 20 percent subsidy to 5,000 enterprises and creating a Maha AI Tools Hub to support industry access to AI solutions.
 - f. The policy further focuses on strengthening the startup ecosystem through a ₹ 500 crore AI Startup Venture Fund, along with financial incentives and additional support for women-led startups.
 - g. It also focuses on sectoral application of AI by setting up Centres of Excellence in key areas such as health, agriculture, education, urban development, language, and finance to drive practical use cases.
 - h. Furthermore, the policy mandates on establishing an ethical AI governance framework, including mandatory annual AI readiness audits across all Government departments to ensure responsible use of technology.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the IndiaAI Mission and Centres of Excellence for AI,¹⁰⁴ launched in 2024 with an outlay of over ₹ 10,000 crore to build a national AI ecosystem through computer infrastructure, datasets, innovation, and ethical governance frameworks.

¹⁰⁴ [PIB, October, 2025.](#)

A. Maharashtra Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy, 2026

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

5. **Similar Initiatives in Other States** - States like Tamil Nadu¹⁰⁵ and Telangana¹⁰⁶ have introduced AI-focused policies and missions promoting AI in governance, innovation, and skill development, including initiatives like Tamil Nadu's AI Mission and Karnataka's AI-led IT policy¹⁰⁷ to strengthen startup ecosystems and public service delivery.
6. **Relevance** -
- Maharashtra's AI Policy, 2026 is strategically timed as states increasingly compete to attract high-value technology investments. The state already contributes **nearly 14%–15%¹⁰⁸ of India's GDP** and hosts major IT hubs like Mumbai and Pune, but has faced growing competition from southern states such as Karnataka and Telangana, which have expanded AI ecosystems.
 - Over 33% of India's AI startups are concentrated in Bengaluru,¹⁰⁹ compared to a relatively lower share in Maharashtra. By targeting ₹ 10,000 crore in investments and building Graphics Processing Units (GPU)-based compute infrastructure, the policy directly addresses this competitive gap and aims to retain Maharashtra's leadership in high-end digital services.
 - AI data centers are capital-intensive. The **100% stamp duty waiver and ₹ 2/unit electricity subsidy** for 10 years directly impact the Internal Rate of Return (IRR) for global infrastructure stakeholders, making Navi Mumbai a more attractive landing site than competing hubs in Hyderabad or Noida.¹¹⁰
 - Despite being home to premier institutions and producing over two lakh engineering graduates annually, Maharashtra faces a shortage of industry-ready AI professionals.¹¹¹
 - The policy's focus on training two lakh individuals is therefore not just capacity building but a corrective intervention to reduce reliance on imported talent from other states and countries. This is particularly relevant as AI job roles in Maharashtra are projected to grow at 28%–30% annually through 2030.¹¹²
 - Maharashtra accounts for over 90 lakh MSMEs, the highest in India, contributing significantly to employment and exports.¹¹³ However, adoption of advanced

¹⁰⁵ [Tamil Nadu Safe And Ethical Artificial Intelligence Policy, 2020.](#)

¹⁰⁶ [Telangana's AI Framework, 2020.](#)

¹⁰⁷ [Karnataka IT Policy, 2025-30.](#)

¹⁰⁸ [Telegraph India, March, 2026.](#)

¹⁰⁹ [Deccan Herald, April, 2026.](#)

¹¹⁰ [Nasscom Community, August, 2025.](#)

¹¹¹ [Mid-Day, April, 2026.](#)

¹¹² [NASSCOM.](#)

¹¹³ [Indian Brand Equity Foundation.](#)

A. Maharashtra Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy, 2026**Source:** [The New Indian Express](#) | **Impact:** High

technologies like AI remains ~ 10% among these enterprises.¹¹⁴

- g. The policy's targeted subsidy and AI tools access are critical because productivity gaps between tech-enabled and non-tech MSMEs can be as high as 20%–25%.¹¹⁵ By focusing on MSMEs, the policy aligns AI adoption with inclusive industrial growth rather than limiting benefits to large corporations.

¹¹⁴ [International Journal Of Research And Analytical Reviews, January, 2026.](#)

¹¹⁵ [International Journal Of Research In Management, March, 2026, Page. 535.](#)

III. Goa

A. Draft Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

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

1. The Government of Goa has released its Draft AI Policy outlining a roadmap to build a skilled AI workforce and attract global technology investment.
2. The policy aims to create 50,000 certified AI professionals by 2030 and attract at least five global AI companies to the state by 2028.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The draft policy is built around **six pillars** focusing on AI education, workforce development, innovation, research, and institutional capacity building.
 - b. The policy proposes Artificial Intelligence to be introduced as a compulsory subject from Class VI in accordance with the National Curriculum Framework, along with the establishment of AI laboratories in 50 Government schools by expanding the existing Atal Tinkering Labs ecosystem.
 - c. The policy mandates that around 500 educators will receive training in AI fundamentals through IIT Goa, with teaching support planned in regional languages such as Konkani, Marathi, and Hindi.
 - d. All Government officials will be required to complete the YUVA AI for All certification programme through the iGOT Karmayogi platform to strengthen AI readiness in governance and administration.
 - e. The policy aims to ensure inclusivity by targeting at least 20% participation of women and youth in AI certification programmes supported by organisations like National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT).¹¹⁶
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the India AI Mission¹¹⁷ and the IndiaAI FutureSkills¹¹⁸ programme, which focuses on building AI talent, infrastructure, and innovation ecosystems across the country.
5. **Similar Initiatives in Other States -** States like Maharashtra,¹¹⁹ Gujarat,¹²⁰ Tamil Nadu¹²¹ and Telangana¹²² has also introduced AI-focused policies and skill development initiatives aimed at integrating AI in education, governance, and industry, while promoting innovation and startup ecosystems.
6. **Relevance -**
 - a. The policy strategically aligns with regional value chains, positioning Goa as a

¹¹⁶ [National Institute Of Electronics And Information Technology \(NIELIT\).](#)

¹¹⁷ [PIB, October, 2025.](#)

¹¹⁸ [IndiaAI Future Skills.](#)

¹¹⁹ [News On Air, April, 2026.](#)

¹²⁰ [Gujarat AI Action Plan, 2025-30.](#)

¹²¹ [TOI, November, 2024.](#)

¹²² [Telangana Data Exchange.](#)

A. Draft Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

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

niche AI innovation and talent hub.¹²³ Its smaller scale allows for pilot-driven governance models that can complement larger ecosystems in Mumbai and Ahmedabad. This reflects a cluster-based development strategy, where Goa integrates into a broader western India innovation corridor.¹²⁴

- b. A key policy relevance lies in improving public service delivery and administrative efficiency. Goa has relatively strong digital governance foundations, ranking among the top states in e-governance service delivery.¹²⁵
- c. By mandating AI literacy among Government officials, the policy enables data-driven decision-making in sectors like tourism management, coastal regulation, waste management, and urban planning. This is particularly important for Goa, which faces environmental stress and urbanisation pressures despite its small size.
- d. However, Goa's **startup ecosystem remains relatively small**, with 734 Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)-recognised startups compared to thousands in larger states.¹²⁶
- e. Goa produces high-quality engineers but lacks local high-tech absorption, leading to migration to Bengaluru or Pune. By targeting five global AI companies by 2028 with aggressive tax incentives, the state is attempting to create a **demand-pull for the 50,000 professionals** it aims to train, ensuring the "Brain Power" stays within the state GSDP.¹²⁷
- f. Women represent a significant portion of Goa's educated unemployed. By mandating 20% participation in AI certifications,¹²⁸ the policy targets a specific boost in the Female Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR),¹²⁹ aiming to inject high-wage earners into the economy without the traditional "commute-to-city" barriers of manufacturing jobs.

¹²³ [ET, February, 2026.](#)

¹²⁴ [PIB, October, 2025.](#)

¹²⁵ [Indian Council For Research On International Economic Relations \(ICRIER\), December, 2025, Page. 111.](#)

¹²⁶ [ET, February, 2026.](#)

¹²⁷ [TOI, May, 2026.](#)

¹²⁸ [Business World, May, 2026.](#)

¹²⁹ The FLFPR measures the share of women aged 15 years and above who are either working or actively seeking work, expressed as a percentage of the total female population in that age group. It is a core indicator of women's economic engagement and is tracked in India through the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the National Statistical Office.

IV. Haryana

A. Revised Land Pooling Policy

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

1. On 2nd May, 2026, the Haryana Government approved changes to its land pooling policy, clearing a critical bottleneck for large-scale urban and industrial development across 1.67 lakh acres.
2. This move is designed to **address land scarcity** for public projects by offering plots at competitive rates for new residential, institutional, industrial, and commercial hubs.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The revised policy facilitates the formal rollout of an ambitious blueprint to develop 69 sectors and urban estates across both existing and new growth areas.
 - b. The first phase of the expansion has already commenced with the acquisition of approximately 40,000 acres involving farmers from 104 villages across 13 districts.
 - c. Notably, strategic development is concentrated in high-demand regions, including Gurugram sectors 76–104 and the Pataudi–Farukhnagar industrial belt.
 - d. The policy proposes seven new sectors for the Ambala cantonment area to accommodate residential and institutional needs.
 - e. The policy emphasises modern amenities, with revised building codes mandating facilities such as EV charging points in every new sector or zone.
 - f. Further, infrastructure standards for these developments include contemporary smart roads, reliable water supply, and integrated sewerage systems.
 - g. It also incorporates environmental sustainability by requiring the development of dedicated green belts and parks within each newly created sector.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States - Maharashtra** operates the oldest Town Planning Scheme frameworks, with origins in the Bombay Town Planning Act, 1915.¹³⁰ Andhra Pradesh applied the model through the Amaravati Land Pooling Scheme,¹³¹ Delhi,¹³² Tamil Nadu,¹³³ and Rajasthan¹³⁴ have notified similar policies, while Punjab's Land Pooling Policy 2025, approved in June, 2025 covering 27 cities, was withdrawn within two months under farmer protests and judicial intervention.¹³⁵
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. The policy mitigates fiscal volatility associated with the Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (LARR), 2013 by substituting compulsory acquisition with a **participatory assembly model** for a 1,67,000 acre land bank.¹³⁶

¹³⁰ [Bombay Town Planning Act, 1915.](#)

¹³¹ [Indian Express, June, 2017.](#)

¹³² [Land Policy, 2018.](#)

¹³³ [Tamil Nadu Land Pooling Area Development Scheme Rules 2024.](#)

¹³⁴ [Rajasthan Land Pooling Schemes Act, 2016.](#)

¹³⁵ [The Hindu, August, 2025.](#)

¹³⁶ [Hindustan Times, February, 2025.](#)

A. Revised Land Pooling Policy

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

This shift reduces immediate debt burdens and litigation risks that typically impede large scale projects.

- b. Compulsory acquisition under the LARR framework demands crores in upfront payouts and frequently saddles state exchequers with sustained debt. In contrast, the pooling model is structurally cash-neutral. Infrastructure costs are funded by monetising the state's residual share of the pooled land, typically 30 to 40%.¹³⁷ This makes the urban expansion programme self-financing in a manner that conventional acquisition cannot replicate.
- c. The issuance of Land Rights Certificates provides mortgageable and tradable financial instruments, granting 1,000 square yards of residential and 100 square yards of commercial land per 1 acre. This mechanism allows landholders to capture **infrastructure induced value appreciation**, preventing the capital depletion associated with cash payouts. It ensures households maintain a long term stake in the urbanised economy.
- d. The pooling of 17,358 acres across 36 villages in Gurugram, spanning Sectors 76 to 113, operates as a direct **supply-side intervention**.¹³⁸ Delhi-NCR's average residential prices reached ₹ 8,900 per square foot in Q3 2025, a 24% year-on-year jump that was the steepest among India's top seven cities.¹³⁹
- e. The above appreciation is partly attributable to Gurugram's two-decade pause on new Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran sectors. The fresh land bank is designed to cool a hyper-inflated market and replenish mid-income housing stock that organic supply has failed to deliver.
- f. The e-Bhoomi portal¹⁴⁰ reduces information asymmetry and bureaucratic friction through transparent title verification and digital consent management. This governance tool facilitates efficient land aggregation while providing stakeholders with real time data on their holdings.

¹³⁷ [Mondaq, September, 2022.](#)

¹³⁸ [Whalesbook, February, 2026.](#)

¹³⁹ [Business Standard, October, 2025.](#)

¹⁴⁰ The e-Bhoomi portal is a specialised digital land assembly interface designed to facilitate the voluntary sale or pooling of land by allowing owners to directly list their property for state development projects. It functions as a transparent, centralized marketplace that eliminates intermediaries, standardizes the expression of consent, and ensures that land records and title verifications are processed within a secure, verifiable framework to minimize bureaucratic friction.

V. Odisha

A. Policy On Reuse Of Treated Used Water Of Urban Odisha, 2026

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

1. The Odisha Government has notified the “Policy on Reuse of Treated Used Water of Urban Odisha, 2026,” establishing a comprehensive framework to convert urban wastewater into a productive economic resource.
2. The policy aims to address rising water stress and promote a circular economy by setting ambitious, time-bound targets for wastewater treatment and reuse.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. **Collection, Treatment And Reuse Targets -**
 - i. The policy mandates that all urban local bodies (ULBs) achieve 100% collection, conveyance, and treatment of used water by the year 2030.
 - ii. The Government has fixed a medium-term target of 20% treated water reuse by 2030 and a long-term goal of at least 50% reuse by 2036.
 - iii. The policy mandates that in cities with functional sewerage systems and treatment plants, at least 20% reuse of treated water must be achieved within a six-month period.
 - iv. Treated water is to be prioritised for non-potable sectors, including road cleaning, firefighting, industrial cooling, and wetland restoration.
 - b. **Tariff And Incentive Framework -**
 - i. The policy mandates the introduction of a Treated Used Water (TUV) tariff model¹⁴¹ that prices treated water lower than potable freshwater to ensure commercial demand.
 - ii. It also provides for a series of incentives, including water credits for farmers and tariff rebates for industries and residential societies that adopt treated water usage.
 - c. **Institutional And Governance Framework -**
 - i. The policy mandates that infrastructure development and maintenance be handled by dedicated agencies such as the Odisha Water Supply and Sewerage Board (OWSSB)¹⁴² and the Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO).¹⁴³
 - ii. Further, it provides for the establishment of a state-level High Powered Committee (HPC) which will serve as the apex body to oversee policy direction, pricing decisions, and inter-departmental coordination.

¹⁴¹ Treated Used Water (TUV) tariff models are structured to encourage sustainable water reuse, typically employing a cost-plus mechanism pricing designed to make treated water cheaper than fresh water

¹⁴² The Odisha Water Supply and Sewerage Board (OWSSB) is the nodal agency for urban sanitation in Odisha. It focuses on the planning and execution of major water supply and sewerage projects across the state.

¹⁴³ The Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO) is a state-owned, not-for-profit company created to provide safe drinking water and sewerage services across urban areas in Odisha.

A. Policy On Reuse Of Treated Used Water Of Urban Odisha, 2026

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

- iii. The Odisha Urban Academy (OUA)¹⁴⁴ will spearhead capacity building, training, innovation and research.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The policy aligns with the National Framework on Safe Reuse of Treated Water, 2022,¹⁴⁵ which aims to mainstream Safe Reuse of Treated Water.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States like Gujarat,¹⁴⁶ Rajasthan,¹⁴⁷ Haryana,¹⁴⁸ Karnataka,¹⁴⁹ and Uttar Pradesh¹⁵⁰ have similar policies to promote the reuse of treated wastewater for industrial, agricultural, and urban purposes to reduce the load on limited freshwater.
6. **Relevance** -
- Odisha generates **1,104** Million Litres per Day (MLD)¹⁵¹ with only **190 MLD** presently treated, an **83%** state-level deficit that the policy targets to eliminate by 2030.¹⁵² Against this baseline, the policy commits to **20%** reuse by 2030 and **50%** by 2036, formally codifying treated effluent as a secondary supply source for industrial cooling, municipal sanitation, and agricultural irrigation.
 - The Treated Used Water (TUW) tariff prices treated water below potable freshwater, supported by water credits for farmers, viability gap funding for industrial adopters, and rebates for residential societies.
 - This price-discrimination model parallels Israel's framework,¹⁵³ where roughly 90% of wastewater is treated for reuse, meeting 40% of national water demand, sustained by pricing reclaimed water an order of magnitude below drinking water for agricultural users.
 - Odisha's annual water requirement of 55 BCM is projected to rise to 85 BCM by 2051.¹⁵⁴ Full implementation of the 50% reuse target by 2036 would unlock

¹⁴⁴ The Odisha Urban Academy (OUA) is a premier Government institution which provides specialized training, capacity building, and knowledge dissemination for urban professionals, focusing on sustainable development, water management, and civic service delivery.

¹⁴⁵ [National Framework On Safe Reuse Of Treated Water, 2022.](#)

¹⁴⁶ [NDTV, May, 2018.](#)

¹⁴⁷ [State Sewerage And Waste Water Policy, 2025.](#)

¹⁴⁸ [Reuse Of Treated Waste Water Policy, 2019.](#)

¹⁴⁹ [Karnataka Urban Wastewater Policy, 2017.](#)

¹⁵⁰ [The Times Of India, March, 2026.](#)

¹⁵¹ It is the standard unit used in Indian water sector policy and CPCB reporting for measuring sewage generation, treatment capacity, and water supply volumes. For reference, 1 MLD equals 10 lakh litres per day, or approximately the daily water requirement of a town of roughly 7,400 people at the standard CPHEEO norm of 135 litres per capita per day.

¹⁵² [CPCB, National Inventory Of STPs, 2021.](#)

¹⁵³ [Draft National Water Reuse Action Plan, Appendix G.](#)

¹⁵⁴ [Geological Society Of India.](#)

A. Policy On Reuse Of Treated Used Water Of Urban Odisha, 2026**Source:** [Business Standard](#) | **Impact:** Medium

approximately **552 MLD** of secondary supply from the state's 1,104 MLD used-water generation, a material offset against the projected 30 BCM expansion in state water demand.

- e. The policy is layered on Odisha's existing architecture of 13 STPs in six cities and 112 faecal sludge treatment plants across 115 urban local bodies.¹⁵⁵ an infrastructure base that contributed to the improvement of 17 of 19 polluted river stretches between 2017 and 2023.¹⁵⁶ The state is therefore building on a demonstrated execution record rather than constructing the regime from scratch.

¹⁵⁵ [IndiaSpend, May, 2025.](#)

¹⁵⁶ [Central Pollution Control Board, Polluted River Stretches For Restoration Of Water Quality.](#)

VI. Punjab

A. The Farm Stay Policy, 2026

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

1. On 1st May, 2026, the Punjab Government approved the Farm Stay Policy 2026 to boost the rural economy and reduce dependency on traditional crop cycles.
2. This policy seeks to turn farming families into rural entrepreneurs while advancing community development through a simplified, farmer-friendly regulatory framework.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. **Eligibility and Registration -**
 - i. The policy states that any farmer or landowner with a minimum of one acre of agricultural land is eligible to apply for setting up a farm stay.
 - ii. The policy mandates that each unit must feature at least two lettable rooms (with a maximum of nine rooms and 18 beds) and offer at least two experiential activities such as tractor rides or dairy visits.
 - iii. The registration process is fully online through the FastTrack Punjab Portal,¹⁵⁷ with a mandated completion timeline of 21 working days.
 - iv. The initial registration is valid for five years, while subsequent three-year renewals are based primarily on self-certification to encourage widespread participation.
 - b. **Development and Environmental Standards -**
 - i. The policy mandates strict construction limits, including a maximum of 10% ground coverage, a Floor Area Ratio (FAR)¹⁵⁸ of 1:0.20, two storeys, and a maximum building height of nine metres.
 - ii. The policy states that operators must implement sustainable practices, such as waste segregation, on-site composting of biodegradable waste, and the use of septic tanks with soak pits.
 - iii. Further, random inspections will be replaced with a system where checks occur only upon the receipt of genuine, written complaints.
 - c. **Financial Incentives and Recognition -**
 - i. The policy states that farm stays will enjoy a capital subsidy of up to 10% of eligible investment (capped at ₹ 5 crore) and 75% reimbursement of net SGST.
 - ii. The policy mandates that registered units be charged domestic electricity rates and receive a full exemption from Change of Land Use (CLU) fees.¹⁵⁹

¹⁵⁷ The FastTrack Punjab Portal is the official single-window system designed to streamline industrial clearances and business approvals in Punjab.

¹⁵⁸ FAR (Floor Area Ratio) is the ratio of a building's total constructed floor area to the size of the land plot, establishing how much development is allowed on a specific site.

¹⁵⁹ Change of Land Use (CLU) fees are the mandatory charges paid to state or local authorities to legally convert a plot of land's designated purpose. This typically involves shifting from agricultural to non-agricultural uses such as residential, commercial, or industrial.

A. The Farm Stay Policy, 2026

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

4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - This policy aligns with the National Strategy For Sustainable Tourism, 2022¹⁶⁰ and the National Strategy and Roadmap for Development of Rural Tourism, 2021¹⁶¹ which focus on environmental, economic, and socio-cultural sustainability in tourism, and promote farm stays to boost local livelihoods.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - States like Himachal Pradesh,¹⁶² Karnataka,¹⁶³ Maharashtra,¹⁶⁴ and Uttar Pradesh¹⁶⁵ have similar policies and initiatives to promote agri-tourism and diversify farmer incomes through rural hospitality and farm-based experiences.
6. **Relevance** -
 - a. Punjab's agricultural growth rate has fallen from 4.3% in the 1980s to **1.5%** in the 2000s, with the state recording 501 farmer suicides in 2019 and 536 in 2018.¹⁶⁶
 - b. The wheat-paddy mono-culture, which requires 3,000 litres of water per kilogram of rice produced,¹⁶⁷ has driven tubewells to depths of 200 feet, with small-farmer debt-income ratios of 7.71 against an average small-farmer income of **₹ 30,420**.¹⁶⁸ Non-farm income augmentation through farm tourism is therefore a structural intervention rather than a discretionary one.
 - c. Farm-based hospitality has operated in Punjab as a grey market for over a decade under the limited Punjab Farm Tourism Scheme of 2014,¹⁶⁹ The 2026 Policy upgrades this to a full incentive framework on par with mid-sized industrial ventures, marking the first formal state recognition of agri-hospitality as a supported economic activity.
 - d. The mandatory training requirement for three personnel per unit, combined with the eligibility of family-operated units, creates a formal absorption channel for rural youth, addressing the state's documented depeasantisation trend wherein 23.4% of those exiting Punjab agriculture have moved into services and 6.8% abroad.¹⁷⁰ Farm tourism creates a within-state economic absorption pathway for a demographic that has historically migrated out.

¹⁶⁰ [National Strategy For Sustainable Tourism, 2022.](#)

¹⁶¹ [National Strategy And Roadmap For Development Of Rural Tourism, 2021.](#)

¹⁶² [The Himachal Pradesh Tourism Policy, 2020.](#)

¹⁶³ [Karnataka Tourism Policy 2020-2025.](#)

¹⁶⁴ [Agri-Tourism Policy, 2020.](#)

¹⁶⁵ [ET, September 2025.](#)

¹⁶⁶ [The Tribune, February, 2020.](#)

¹⁶⁷ [Down To Earth, September, 2022.](#)

¹⁶⁸ [PAU Ludhiana, Agrarian Distress In The Land Of Plenty.](#)

¹⁶⁹ [Punjab Farm Tourism Scheme, 2014.](#)

¹⁷⁰ [PAU Ludhiana, Agrarian Distress In The Land Of Plenty.](#)

Social Sector Announcements

I. West Bengal

A. Annapurna Bhandar Scheme

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

1. On 11th May, 2026, the West Bengal Government announced the rollout of the Annapurna Bhandar scheme which was part of the Bharatiya Janata Party's election manifesto.
2. The decision was taken in the first cabinet meeting of the newly formed Government. The scheme is designed to provide direct financial assistance of ₹ **3000 per month** to eligible women.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme will substantially enhance the earlier **Lakshmir Bhandar scheme**,¹⁷¹ effectively doubling the monthly assistance from its earlier levels of ₹ 1,500 for the general category and ₹ 1,700 for SC/ST households.
 - b. It provides unconditional monthly cash transfers to adult women across the state to strengthen social protection and household income support.
 - c. The statewide implementation of the scheme is scheduled to begin from 1st June, 2026.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States like Maharashtra,¹⁷² Madhya Pradesh,¹⁷³ Karnataka,¹⁷⁴ Tamil Nadu,¹⁷⁵ Chhattisgarh,¹⁷⁶ Telangana,¹⁷⁷ Assam,¹⁷⁸ Punjab¹⁷⁹ and Odisha¹⁸⁰ have implemented similar schemes to provide direct financial assistance to women.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. With the announcement on 11th May, 2026 and disbursement scheduled to commence on 1st June, 2026, the compressed policy-to-rollout cycle of roughly three weeks signals a deliberate posture of demonstrative delivery, reinforced by the parallel announcement of free state-run bus travel for women.¹⁸¹
 - b. The unification of the rate of fund transfer to ₹ 3,000 across all categories removes the categorical differential that had drawn criticism under the earlier

¹⁷¹ [Lakshmir Bhandar Scheme.](#)

¹⁷² [Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana.](#)

¹⁷³ [Ladli Behna Yojana.](#)

¹⁷⁴ [Gruha Lakshmi Yojana.](#)

¹⁷⁵ [Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai.](#)

¹⁷⁶ [Mahtari Vandan Yojana.](#)

¹⁷⁷ [Maha Lakshmi Scheme.](#)

¹⁷⁸ [Urunodoi 3.0.](#)

¹⁷⁹ [The New Indian Express, April, 2026.](#)

¹⁸⁰ [Subhadra Yojana.](#)

¹⁸¹ [Business Today, May, 2026.](#)

A. Annapurna Bhandar Scheme**Source:** [The Times Of India](#) | **Impact:** High

scheme and converts the instrument from a means-stratified transfer to a near universal women's basic income for eligible households, with the simplification likely to reduce administrative overhead.

- c. Existing Lakshmir Bhandar beneficiaries are expected to migrate automatically through the existing Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and beneficiary database rather than requiring fresh applications. This minimises both administrative friction and the political risk of an enrolment gap between the discontinuation of the old transfer and the activation of the new one.

II. Goa

A. One-Time Financial Incentive For Private Sector Employees

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

1. On Labour day, i.e., 1st May, 2026, the Government of Goa announced a one-time financial incentive for long-serving private sector workers.
2. The initiative aims to recognise long-term commitment of workers and extend financial support to employees in the private sector.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme provides a one-time incentive of ₹ 15,000 to workers who have completed at least 20 years of continuous service in the private sector.¹⁸²
 - b. Eligible beneficiaries under the scheme can apply either directly or through their employers by submitting proof of service to the Labour Welfare Department.
 - c. It focuses on recognising the contribution of private sector workers, who often remain outside formal recognition despite their role in economic growth.
 - d. Further, around 1.4 lakh registered labourers in the state are expected to benefit through the Labour Welfare Fund framework.¹⁸³
 - e. The Government has encouraged private companies to register their workers under the Labour Welfare system to expand access to welfare benefits.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. As per the revised minimum wage notifications effective from 1st October, 2025, the monthly wage for semi-skilled workers in Goa is approximately ₹ 16,000 to ₹ 18,000 (depending on Zone A/B and Variable Dearness Allowance adjustments).¹⁸⁴
 - b. A one-time financial assistance of ₹ 15,000 effectively thus represents 80-90% of a semi-skilled worker's monthly income.¹⁸⁵ This is a targeted consumption stimulus that specifically benefits 1.4 lakh households, ensuring that long-term contributors to the state's GDP (private sector GVA accounts for over 60% of Goa's economy) are not displaced by rising urban costs.¹⁸⁶
 - c. Additionally, Goa's Consumer Price Index (CPI) has risen faster than the national average due to its tourism-heavy economy.¹⁸⁷ Long-term workers often find themselves "priced out" of their own localities. By providing this incentive, the

¹⁸² [Press Trust Of India, May, 2026.](#)

¹⁸³ [Outlook Business, May, 2026.](#)

¹⁸⁴ [SGC Services, November, 2025.](#)

¹⁸⁵ In Goa, Zone A/B classification and Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA) are key components of the state's minimum wage structure under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, updated periodically to reflect the cost of living and inflation. As of early 2026, minimum wages are revised twice a year: on 1st April and 1st October, based on the All India Consumer Price Index (AICPI).

¹⁸⁶ [ET Now, May, 2026.](#)

¹⁸⁷ [Business Today, November, 2024.](#)

A. One-Time Financial Incentive For Private Sector Employees**Source:** [ET Now](#) | **Impact:** Medium

state is creating a “Commitment Premium,”¹⁸⁸ discouraging veteran workers from migrating back to lower-cost states like Karnataka or Odisha.

- d. The provision of this incentive is a strategic move to safeguard Goa’s projected GSDP of ₹ 1.31 lakh crore for FY 2025–26,¹⁸⁹ which targets a growth rate of ~ 15% (at current prices).¹⁹⁰ The state’s ambitious growth targets are almost entirely dependent on the productivity of the private industrial and service sectors. By rewarding the commitment, the state Government is mitigating worker churn, ensuring that the human capital necessary to achieve a 14%+ growth trajectory remains anchored within the state.¹⁹¹

¹⁸⁸ The Commitment Premium in Goa is a one-time cash incentive of ₹ 15,000 awarded to private-sector employees who have completed over 20 years of continuous service.

¹⁸⁹ [Department Of Finance, Government Of Goa.](#)

¹⁹⁰ [NavHind Times, March, 2026.](#)

¹⁹¹ [The Business Standard, January, 2026.](#)

III. Maharashtra

A. Guaranteed Pension Framework Under Revised National Pension System

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

1. On 6th May, 2026, the Government of Maharashtra issued implementation guidelines for the Revised National Pension System (RNPS) for state Government employees covered under the National Pension System (NPS).¹⁹²
2. The framework aims to provide assured pension benefits, minimum pension security, and retirement support for eligible employees under the revised scheme.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. Government employees covered under NPS can opt for the Revised National Pension System by submitting applications on or before 31st December, 2026, and the scheme also applies to employees of aided educational institutions, agricultural universities, aided colleges, Zilla Parishads, and Panchayat Samitis.
 - b. Employees completing at least 20 years of service will receive a pension equal to 50% of their last-drawn salary along with Dearness Relief (DR), while employees completing 10–20 years of service will receive proportionate pension benefits.
 - c. The framework guarantees a minimum monthly pension of ₹ 7,500 for employees with at least 10 years of service, while family pension has been fixed at 60% of the pension amount along with applicable DR benefits.
 - d. Employees opting for RNPS must deposit 60% of the lump sum withdrawal amount from their NPS corpus with the state Government at the time of retirement, while the remaining 40% annuity amount will continue under the annuity service provider framework.
 - e. Employees who had previously withdrawn money from their NPS corpus must repay the amount with 10% interest, failing which pension benefits under RNPS will be proportionately reduced.
 - f. Employees resigning from service will not be eligible for pension benefits under RNPS and will continue to receive only regular NPS benefits, while retirement gratuity provisions will continue as per existing Government rules.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative aligns with the National Pension System framework regulated by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA),¹⁹³ which provides contributory pension coverage and retirement income security for Government employees.
5. **Relevance -**

¹⁹² The National Pension System (NPS) is a Government-backed, market-linked retirement savings scheme aimed at building a pension corpus through voluntary contributions. It is open to all Indian citizens (including NRIs) aged 18 to 85, allowing flexible investments to generate regular income post-retirement while offering tax benefits.

¹⁹³ [National Pension Scheme Trust.](#)

A. Guaranteed Pension Framework Under Revised National Pension System

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

- a. Maharashtra's expanding fiscal capacity and large-scale developmental commitments have led to higher public expenditure requirements, with significant allocations directed toward salaries, pensions, interest payments and infrastructure creation. The state's adoption of the RNPS reflects an effort to balance employee welfare with long-term fiscal sustainability by combining assured pension support with a contributory and partially pre-funded pension framework.
- b. Importantly, RNPS continues as a contributory assurance model under which employees contribute **10%** of salary and the state contributes **14%** every month towards the pension corpus,¹⁹⁴ ensuring that retirement liabilities remain partially pre-funded through long-term market-linked corpus growth rather than being entirely dependent on future budgetary allocations.
- c. By guaranteeing **50%** of the last drawn salary after 20 years of service while retaining annuity-based components, Maharashtra is attempting to create a middle-path pension model that may influence future reforms in other states.¹⁹⁵
- d. The inclusion of strict repayment provisions with 10% interest for previously withdrawn corpus thus amounts further indicates the state's attempt to preserve actuarial discipline and prevent excessive fiscal exposure.¹⁹⁶
- e. Lastly, by extending coverage to aided educational institutions and Zilla Parishads, the state is stabilising a workforce of over eight lakh employees.¹⁹⁷ The ₹ 7,500 minimum pension floor acts as a vital safety net for lower-tier rural staff (Grade C and D) whose market-linked NPS returns were often lower than the poverty line.¹⁹⁸ The policy seeks to reduce retirement insecurity among employees engaged in rural governance, primary education and decentralised service delivery systems.

¹⁹⁴ [Pension Fund Regulatory And Development Authority.](#)

¹⁹⁵ [Times Of India, May, 2026.](#)

¹⁹⁶ [Times Of India, May, 2026.](#)

¹⁹⁷ [The Indian Express, March, 2023.](#)

¹⁹⁸ [Times Of India, May, 2025.](#)

IV. Meghalaya

A. Non-Government School And College Employees Centralised Provident Fund Scheme, 2026

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

1. On 5th May, 2026, the Government of Meghalaya rolled out the Meghalaya Non-Government School and College Employees Centralised Provident Fund Scheme, 2026 to provide pension and social security coverage to employees in non-Government educational institutions.
2. The scheme aims to create a unified and professionally managed provident fund framework for teaching and non-teaching staff across the state.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The scheme is expected to cover more than **30,000 employees** from non-Government schools and colleges across Meghalaya.
 - b. It brings multiple categories of employees under a single provident fund framework, including deficit teachers and lecturers, adhoc teachers, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)¹⁹⁹ and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)²⁰⁰ teachers, Hindi and Science Grant teachers, pre-primary teachers, and non-teaching staff.
 - c. The scheme aims to promote equity, transparency, and long-term sustainability in pension and provident fund management for employees in the education sector.
 - d. The process for opening Permanent Retirement Account Numbers (PRANs)²⁰¹ has already commenced across several districts to facilitate enrolment under the scheme.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -**
 - a. The initiative aligns with measures taken by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). Under the framework, both employers and employees contribute **12%** of the basic salary and dearness allowance towards EPF, while employers also contribute towards the Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance (EDLI) scheme²⁰² to strengthen retirement and social security coverage for

¹⁹⁹ Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), launched in 2001-2002, is the Government of India's flagship programme for achieving Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE) in a time-bound manner. It provides free and compulsory education to children aged 6-14 years, mandated by the 86th Amendment to the Constitution, and is now integrated under the Samagra Shiksha framework.

²⁰⁰ Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), is a centrally sponsored scheme launched by the Government of India in March 2009. It aims to increase secondary school enrollment (classes IX-XII) to 75% or higher by improving access, quality, and equity in education for children aged 14-18.

²⁰¹ A Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN) is a unique 12-digit identification number assigned to every subscriber of the National Pension System (NPS) in India.

²⁰² The Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance (EDLI) scheme is an automatic, employer-funded life insurance cover for EPF members in India. It provides a lump sum payment of up to ₹ 7 lakh to nominated beneficiaries in case of the employee's death during service. No premium is deducted from employees; employers contribute 0.5% of wages.

A. Non-Government School And College Employees Centralised Provident Fund Scheme, 2026

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

teaching staff.²⁰³

5. Relevance -

- a. The scheme addresses a long-standing institutional gap in Meghalaya's aided and non-Government education sector, where employees were contributing to provident funds without a fully centralised and professionally regulated disbursal mechanism.²⁰⁴
- b. For instance, Meghalaya has already initiated a **Structured Pay Framework** for fixed-pay teachers in 2026,²⁰⁵ the reform complements by creating a more predictable compensation architecture.
- c. The 2026 education-sector reforms in Meghalaya, comprising the Structured Pay Framework (SPF) and the Centralised Provident Fund (CPF) system have increased Meghalaya's annual education expenditure by ₹ 200 crore, bringing the total to ₹ 815 crore.²⁰⁶
- d. Smaller schools in remote districts like South Garo Hills often struggled with provident fund compliance. The new auditable framework reduces the risk of fund diversion by SMCs. For the 30,000 workers, this is a legal shield, ensuring that their 20-30 years of service translate into a defined, accessible terminal benefit.²⁰⁷

²⁰³ [Times Of India, April, 2023.](#)

²⁰⁴ [Meghalaya News24, April, 2026.](#)

²⁰⁵ The Meghalaya Government has initiated a Structured Pay Framework (SPF) for over 23,000 fixed-pay teachers, including SSA and Adhoc categories, effective from April 1, 2026. This policy brings uniformity, annual increments, and increased remuneration to enhance financial stability for teachers.

²⁰⁶ [Front Media, February, 2026.](#)

²⁰⁷ [Economic Times, May, 2026.](#)

Investment Announcements

I. Gujarat

A. Vibrant Gujarat's ₹ 3.53 Lakh Crore Investment Pipeline

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

1. On 2nd May, 2026, the South Gujarat regional edition of the Vibrant Gujarat initiative successfully secured investment proposals totaling ₹ 3.53 lakh crore.
2. The two-day conference in Surat aimed to expand the state's flagship investment model beyond Gandhinagar, specifically targeting the integration of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) into global supply networks.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The conference secured a total of 2,792 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with a cumulative investment value of ₹ 3.53 lakh crore.
 - b. The finalised projects are expected to generate **2.82 lakh direct jobs** within the state over the next three years.
 - c. International participation included delegations from countries such as Canada, Rwanda, and Singapore, facilitating global market access for local SMEs.
 - d. The regional model shifts the focus to specific industrial clusters in Surat, Bharuch, Dahej, and Ankleshwar, primarily in the diamonds, textiles, and chemicals sectors.
 - e. Further, a dedicated employment drive aims to provide jobs to more than 25,000 women in tribal areas like Dang and Tapi within the garment sector over the next two years.
 - f. The state Government has committed to providing transport arrangements to support women workers commuting from remote villages to industrial hubs.
 - g. The initiative emphasises a facilitation-based governance model, prioritising the removal of administrative barriers and direct official engagement to address investor grievances.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. The South Gujarat Regional Conference represents a shift toward a decentralised investment model, securing 2,792 MoUs worth ₹ 3.53 lakh crore outside the traditional Gandhinagar hub.
 - b. By focusing on **localised industrial clusters** in Surat, Bharuch, and Dahej, the state aims to leverage **district-specific competitive advantages** in chemicals and textiles. This regionalized approach facilitates better integration of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) into global supply chains, evidenced by the participation of representatives from 20 nations.
 - c. The targeted employment of 25,000 women in the garment sector within tribal districts like Dang and Tapi serves as a focused intervention in improving the

A. Vibrant Gujarat's ₹ 3.53 Lakh Crore Investment Pipeline

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

FLFPR.

- d. By integrating logistical support such as dedicated transport for village-to-factory commuting, the initiative addresses structural barriers to entry for peripheral populations.
- e. With a projected investment of ₹ 3.53 lakh crore to create 2.82 lakh direct jobs, the investment-to-employment ratio stands at approximately ₹ 1.25 crore per job. This underscores the high capital intensity of South Gujarat's dominant petrochemical and diamond sectors, which drive GVA but offer limited labor-market absorption for unskilled workers.
- f. This highlights a jobless growth paradox where capital-heavy sectors like petrochemicals and semiconductors drive state GVA but fail to absorb the surplus labor from the agrarian and informal sectors.
- g. Lastly, a persistent concern regarding such summits is the historically variable conversion rate of MoUs into grounded industrial projects, which often faces bottlenecks in environmental clearances and land acquisition. While 2,792 MoUs indicate high investor sentiment, the actualisation of the projected ₹ 3.53 lakh crore within the three-year timeline remains the primary metric of institutional efficacy.

II. Andhra Pradesh

A. Investment Proposals Of ₹ 2 Lakh Crore To Boost Mega Industrial and Digital Infrastructure

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

1. On 7th May, 2026, the Government of Andhra Pradesh approved investment proposals worth more than ₹ 2 lakh crore during the 17th State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) meeting.
2. The approvals aim to accelerate industrial development, strengthen digital and renewable energy infrastructure, and generate **large-scale employment** across multiple sectors in the state.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The SIPB approved 25 projects involving a total investment of ₹ 2 lakh crore, which are expected to generate employment for around 39,067 people across sectors such as data centres, renewable energy, manufacturing, food processing, and advanced technology.
 - b. Reliance Industries Limited received approval for a ₹ 1,08,010 crore data centre project in Visakhapatnam, expected to create around one thousand jobs and strengthen Andhra Pradesh's digital infrastructure ecosystem.
 - c. The board also approved a ₹ 51,300 crore solar power and battery energy storage project by Reliance Industries Limited in Sri Sathya Sai district, which is expected to generate nearly 20,000 jobs.
 - d. Adani Hydro Energy secured approval for a ₹ 12,297 crore pumped storage project in Kadapa district with an estimated employment potential of 3,375 jobs.
 - e. In the manufacturing sector, Royal Enfield received clearance for a ₹ 2,508 crore motorcycle manufacturing facility in Tirupati district expected to create around 3,000 jobs.
 - f. Major industrial approvals included Apollo Tyres' ₹ 6,100 crore project at Sri City in Tirupati district, International Flavors and Fragrances' ₹ 3,153 crore proposal in Nellore district, and Gridon Energy' ₹ 3,149 crore investment project in Kurnool district.
 - g. Additional approvals were granted for green hydrogen, compressed biogas, biofuel, tyre manufacturing, and advanced technology projects across districts including Tirupati, Nellore, Kurnool, East Godavari, and Visakhapatnam.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. The investment approvals substantially deepen Andhra Pradesh's clean energy transition strategy under the Integrated Clean Energy Policy,²⁰⁸ which targets nearly ₹ 10 lakh crore in renewable energy investments and around 7.5 lakh jobs.²⁰⁹

²⁰⁸ [Andhra Pradesh Integrated Clean Energy Policy, 2024.](#)

²⁰⁹ [Times Of India, February, 2026.](#)

A. Investment Proposals Of ₹ 2 Lakh Crore To Boost Mega Industrial and Digital Infrastructure

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

- b. Pumped storage projects in districts like Kadapa are critical for grid balancing and renewable integration, especially as the state scales utility-scale solar and wind capacity. This policy convergence between renewable generation and digital infrastructure distinguishes Andhra Pradesh from states pursuing isolated sectoral industrialisation.²¹⁰
- c. SIPB clearances are increasingly being used by the state Government as an institutional mechanism to project “speed of doing business” and policy continuity. Andhra Pradesh has cumulatively approved investments worth over ₹ 9 lakh crore through successive SIPB meetings, with the Government emphasising faster approvals and industrial facilitation mechanisms.²¹¹
- d. The approvals reinforce Andhra Pradesh’s transition towards a digitally integrated industrial economy anchored around Visakhapatnam. The Reliance data centre proposal is closely aligned with the state’s Andhra Pradesh Data Center Policy (4.0), 2024–29²¹² and the IT and GCC Policy 4.0,²¹³ both of which seek to position Visakhapatnam as a major hyperscale data infrastructure and Global Capability Centre hub.²¹⁴
- e. The policies focus on AI-enabled data centres, high-speed digital infrastructure, renewable-powered campuses, and simplified regulatory clearances. This is strategically important because Andhra Pradesh is attempting to compete with Chennai, Hyderabad, and Mumbai for future AI-cloud infrastructure investments, while simultaneously leveraging Visakhapatnam’s coastal connectivity and submarine cable landing potential.²¹⁵

²¹⁰ [Times Of India, February, 2026.](#)

²¹¹ [LiveMint, February, 2026.](#)

²¹² [Andhra Pradesh Electronics Manufacturing Policy \(4.0\), 2024-29.](#)

²¹³ [Andhra Pradesh Information Technology \(IT\) & Global Capability Centers \(GCC\) Policy \(4.0\) 2024 -2029.](#)

²¹⁴ [Government Of Andhra Pradesh.](#)

²¹⁵ [Government Of Andhra Pradesh.](#)

III. Odisha

A. Inking Of Investment Commitments Worth ₹ 48,330 Crore

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

1. On 7th May, 2026, the Odisha Government concluded a three-day strategic outreach in Gujarat, securing investment commitments totaling ₹ 48,330 crore.
2. This investors' outreach is the second-highest investment intent received by Odisha in 2026, following the Kolkata Investors' Summit in January 2026 where investment commitments of approximately ₹ 1 lakh crore were secured.²¹⁶
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The outreach resulted in 71 investment intents, comprising 8 formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and 63 Investment Intention Forms,²¹⁷ representing a total investment potential of ₹ 48,330 crore.
 - b. These investment intentions are expected to generate over **67,800 jobs** ahead of the Vision 2036 and Viksit Bharat 2047 milestones.
 - c. The investment intentions span across various sectors including chemicals, pharmaceuticals, green energy equipment, infrastructure, logistics, food processing, textiles and apparel, IT-enabled services, semiconductors, aerospace and defence manufacturing.
 - d. To ensure the faster translation of these commitments into ground-level units, the state is offering dedicated handholding and accelerated clearances via the GO-SWIFT single-window system.²¹⁸
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. Odisha is among the top-tier reformer states under the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) 2024,²¹⁹ classified as a "Fast Mover" under Category Y in the broader Ease of Doing Business cum Regulatory Compliance Burden assessment, with a 98% implementation rate under BRAP 2024.²²⁰
 - b. Notably, cumulative FDI inflows stood at ₹ 1,462 crore between October 2019 and June 2025, with mineral and metal based industries dominating the historical sectoral profile.²²¹

²¹⁶ [Times Of India, January, 2026.](#)

²¹⁷ Investment Intention Form refers to a document where a potential investor formally declares their preliminary interest and planned project details, without creating a legally binding commitment.

²¹⁸ GO SWIFT is a single-window system for information on clearances required, land banks available, application, payment, tracking & approval of Government-To-Business (G2B) services.

²¹⁹ The Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) is a sub-national reform assessment exercise launched by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade in December 2014 under the Make in India initiative, designed to drive competitive federalism on ease of doing business by ranking and categorising states and UTs on implementation of designated regulatory reforms.

²²⁰ [Odisha Economic Survey, 2025-26.](#)

²²¹ [IBEF.](#)

A. Inking Of Investment Commitments Worth ₹ 48,330 Crore**Source:** [Business Standard](#) | **Impact:** High

- c. The sectoral spread of investments across core industrial categories including chemicals, pharmaceuticals, rare earth value addition, green energy equipment, IT and ITeS, semiconductors, aerospace and defence, power, and railway is directly aligned with Odisha's stated diversification agenda.²²²
- d. The state hosts India's first Silicon Carbide semiconductor manufacturing facility, has notified the Semiconductor Manufacturing and Fabless Policy 2025, the Odisha AI Policy 2025, and the Global Capability Centre (GCC) Policy 2025, all cited in the Union Economic Survey 2025-26 as model state interventions.²²³ The new investments build on these developments and reflect the self reinforcing cycle of investment and growth.

²²² [Business Standard, May, 2026.](#)

²²³ [OdishaTV, January, 2026.](#)

IV. Rajasthan

A. Sanctioning Of Investments Worth ₹ 2,200 Crore For Automobiles And Textiles

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

1. On 7th May, 2026, the Rajasthan Government sanctioned investment proposals exceeding ₹ 2,200 crore within the automobile and textile sectors.
2. This capital influx is a direct result of the **Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS) 2024**,²²⁴ which has seen a significant fiscal acceleration, with incentive disbursements nearly tripling to ₹ 765 crore in FY25.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The State Empowered Committee has sanctioned investment proposals exceeding ₹ 2,200 crore, with a focus on the automobile and textile sectors.
 - b. These projects are expected to generate over 1,600 direct jobs upon implementation.
 - c. To streamline approvals, the Government is leveraging the Raj Nivesh portal,²²⁵ integrating 170 services across 19 departments into a single-window system.
 - d. Further, a dedicated digital platform has been introduced for transparent land allotment, reducing administrative friction in industrial setup.
 - e. Additionally, customised financial and non-financial incentives are being extended to both domestic and international investors to strengthen the state's competitive investment climate.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** These investments align with the Production Linked Incentive Scheme,²²⁶ which promotes large-scale manufacturing investment and employment generation through sector-specific incentives in industries such as automobiles and textiles.
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. The Indian textile and apparel industry contributes 2.3% of GDP, 13% of industrial production, and 12% of national exports employing 4.5 crore people directly and 6 crore in allied sectors, making it the second-largest employment generator after agriculture.²²⁷
 - b. Further, the automobile industry contributes 7.1% to national GDP and 49% to manufacturing GDP 28.43 crore vehicles were produced in 2023-24, with India ranking the fourth-largest automobile producer globally, and the sector supporting roughly 3 crore jobs.²²⁸ The ₹ 2,200 crore clearance inserts Rajasthan

²²⁴ [Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme \(RIPS\)](#).

²²⁵ Raj Nivesh is the official Single Window Clearance System (SWCS) portal for the Government of Rajasthan. It serves as a one-stop digital interface for investors to submit investment proposals, track approvals, and access various state incentives.

²²⁶ [PIB, August, 2025](#).

²²⁷ [PIB, April, 2025](#).

²²⁸ [PIB, April, 2025](#).

A. Sanctioning Of Investments Worth ₹ 2,200 Crore For Automobiles And Textiles

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

simultaneously into India's most labour-elastic organised manufacturing sector and its most strategically anchored manufacturing value chain.

- c. Rajasthan is also the 4th-largest cotton producer, produces **46%** of India's wool, and hosts established textile hubs at Bhilwara, Jaipur, Pali, and Balotra. Bhilwara alone holds 77% of state powerloom capacity and produces 45% of India's polyester-viscose suiting.²²⁹
- d. The state hosts automotive and engineering clusters in the Khushkhera-Bhiwadi-Neemrana (KBN) Investment Region, designated as one of the priority nodes of the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor,²³⁰ anchored by Honda Cars India Limited at Tapukara (Khushkhera Industrial Area, Alwar) and Hero MotoCorp at Neemrana, with JCB India operating its largest Rajasthan facility further south at Mahindra World City, Jaipur.
- e. The clearance therefore lands in established absorptive infrastructure rather than greenfield capacity, accelerating an ecosystem where job creation and supply-chain integration are institutionally pre-wired.
- f. To move from a GSDP of ₹ 18.75 lakh crore to a \$ 500 billion economy (₹ 48 lakh crore), the state must move up the value chain.²³¹ The focus on Automobile Components in this round, rather than just assembly, ensures the creation of a sophisticated local SME supply chain.
- g. India's Western Dedicated Freight Corridor was fully completed in March, 2026, with freight capacity expected to double.²³² It passes through Rajasthan's industrial belt, including Bhilwara, Jaipur, and Alwar, cutting freight time to ports in Gujarat and Maharashtra. In light of this, automobile component and textile manufacturers in Rajasthan can now ship to export markets faster and cheaper than from landlocked locations, improving the cost competitiveness of units.

²²⁹ [Mewar Chamber Of Commerce And Industry.](#)

²³⁰ [National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation.](#)

²³¹ [Rajasthan Economic Review, 2025-26.](#)

²³² [Indian Express, April, 2026.](#)

Other Decisions

I. Andhra Pradesh

A. ₹ 397.53 Crore For Canal Repairs And Agricultural Resilience

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

1. On 2nd May, 2026, the Government of Andhra Pradesh approved ₹ 397.53 crore for large-scale canal improvement and strengthening works under the Command Area Development Authority (CADA).
2. The initiative aims to ensure efficient water management and uninterrupted irrigation supply ahead of the 2026–27 Kharif season.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Government approved ₹ 397.53 crore for 6,502 canal works across the state.
 - b. The works include cleaning canals (desilting), removing weeds and blockages, and repairing damaged sections.
 - c. Works costing up to ₹ 10 lakh will be executed through Water Users' Associations on a nomination basis to ensure quick implementation and Works above ₹ 10 lakh will be carried out through short tender processes to avoid delays.
 - d. Lastly, mechanical components such as canal gates and shutters will be inspected and certified by Assistant Engineers to ensure proper functioning. Senior officials, including Chief Engineers and Superintending Engineers, will closely monitor progress to ensure timely completion of all works.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. The desilting and removal of blockages in 6,502 canal works directly improve the Hydraulic Efficiency of the network.²³³ When canals are choked, the flow velocity drops, requiring more water release from reservoirs to reach the same destination, which often necessitates supplemental groundwater pumping by farmers.²³⁴
 - b. By restoring **gravity-based flow efficiency**, this initiative reduces the dependence on electric pump sets, thereby lowering the state's power subsidy burden.
 - c. Additionally, the initiative indirectly reduces the energy intensity of the agricultural sector through improved surface water conveyance.
 - d. Andhra Pradesh's primary sector has shown exceptional growth, with the Agriculture and Allied Sector GVA recording a growth rate of 10.70% at constant prices (and 15.86% at current prices) for the 2024–25 fiscal year.²³⁵
 - e. By allocating ₹ 397.53 crore specifically before the 2026–27 Kharif season, the state

²³³ Hydraulic efficiency measures how effectively a fluid machine (pump or turbine) converts energy, calculated as the ratio of useful power output to the power input. Typically 80–90% for well-designed systems, losses are caused by fluid friction, turbulence, and eddies. It represents how effectively a turbine captures water energy, or how well a pump imparts energy to fluid.

²³⁴ [Frontiers In Water, Water Resource Management, September, 2023.](#)

²³⁵ [Socio Economic Survey 2024-25, Planning Department, Government Of Andhra Pradesh, Page. 12.](#)

A. ₹ 397.53 Crore For Canal Repairs And Agricultural Resilience**Source:** [News On Air](#) | **Impact:** Medium

Government is practicing proactive macro-economic hedging. This prevents localised delivery failures from derailing the momentum of this high-performing sector, which is essential to reaching the state's projected 14% GSDP growth for 2025-26.²³⁶

- f. This initiative aligns with the state's strategy to stabilise command areas, as seen in previous large-scale initiatives like the Pattiseema Lift Irrigation Scheme,²³⁷ which added millions of dollars in net production advantage by stabilising irrigation for over 0.5 million hectares in the Krishna delta.²³⁸

²³⁶ [Centre For Economic And Social Studies, Page. 37.](#)

²³⁷ [PIB, January, 2018.](#)

²³⁸ [CIGR Journal, September, 2025.](#)

II. Karnataka

A. Economic Masterplan For The Bengaluru Metropolitan Region

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

1. On 6th May, 2026, the Government of Karnataka signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) with the ISEG Foundation to prepare a comprehensive economic masterplan for the Bengaluru Metropolitan Region (BMR).
2. The initiative aims to create a long-term roadmap for economic growth, infrastructure expansion, sustainability, and urban liveability up to 2037.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The masterplan will cover the BMR, which spans more than 8,000 sq km across Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, and Bengaluru South districts with a population of nearly 1.6 crore.
 - b. The masterplan will focus on sectors such as technology, advanced manufacturing, biotechnology, tourism, housing, infrastructure, and sustainability with growth targets set for 2032 and 2037.
 - c. The blueprinting phase is expected to be completed within 4 to 5 months and will include economic benchmarking, identification of growth drivers, and sector-specific interventions.
 - d. The masterplan will provide a phased implementation roadmap with financing strategies, governance mechanisms, and defined milestones for execution.
 - e. Lastly, Sectoral Advisory Groups consisting of industry experts and private sector representatives will support planning, while citizen groups will also participate in the consultation process.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative is aligned with the NITI Aayog-led G-Hub programme and has been prepared for regions such as the Mumbai and Pune Metropolitan Regions in Maharashtra, Visakhapatnam Economic Region in Andhra Pradesh and Surat Economic Region in Gujarat.²³⁹ It supports preparation of economic masterplans for high-growth metropolitan regions to boost investment, employment generation, and regional economic development.²⁴⁰
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. Bengaluru's urban governance is fragmented across multiple agencies including the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), Bangalore Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA), and other state authorities operating with overlapping mandates and limited coordination.²⁴¹
 - b. The recently enacted Greater Bengaluru Governance framework itself acknowledges that the multiplicity of civic agencies and lack of coordination have

²³⁹ [The New Indian Express, May, 2026.](#)

²⁴⁰ [PIB, August, 2023.](#)

²⁴¹ [The International Society Of City And Regional Planners, October, 2024.](#)

A. Economic Masterplan For The Bengaluru Metropolitan Region

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

weakened metropolitan governance.²⁴² Without governance convergence, even well-designed infrastructure and investment plans risk delays, duplication, financing inefficiencies, and weak on-ground execution.

- c. Bengaluru's infrastructure requirements are substantial, with the Karnataka Government already announcing investments exceeding **₹ 1 lakh crore**²⁴³ and multiple large projects such as **₹ 40,000 crore** tunnel corridors and connectivity projects worth tens of thousands of crores.²⁴⁴
- d. However, annual allocations remain limited (₹ 7,000 crore), necessitating innovative financing mechanisms such as municipal bonds and PPPs to bridge the gap.²⁴⁵ A phased financing and governance framework is thus essential to sustainably fund large-scale infrastructure.
- e. Bengaluru remains India's leading tech hub, accounting for over **40%** of India's IT exports,²⁴⁶ but faces increasing competition from Hyderabad and Pune in attracting global capability centres (GCCs). A coordinated regional economic strategy can help move beyond IT dominance toward advanced manufacturing, deep-tech, and biotech clusters, ensuring diversification and resilience.
- f. Furthermore, Bengaluru faces acute environmental stress, including groundwater depletion and rising urban heat island effects. Bengaluru has lost over 70% of its water bodies over the past decades,²⁴⁷ increasing climate vulnerability. Embedding sustainability within the economic masterplan through green infrastructure, transit-oriented development, and circular economy practices, ensures that growth does not exacerbate ecological risks.

²⁴² [The Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024.](#)

²⁴³ [ET, November, 2025.](#)

²⁴⁴ [The New Indian Express, March, 2025.](#)

²⁴⁵ [The New Indian Express, March, 2025.](#)

²⁴⁶ [Karnataka Information Technology Policy 2025-30, Page. 7.](#)

²⁴⁷ [Report Of The Comptroller And Auditor General Of India, Page. 7.](#)

III. Rajasthan

A. Rajasthan State Industrial Development And Investment Corporation (RIICO) Industrial Infrastructure Plan

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

1. On 30th April, 2026, the RIICO announced an expenditure of ₹ 1,500 crore for the 2026-27 financial year to upgrade and develop industrial areas across the state.
2. This initiative is designed to create a more robust and modern industrial environment to accelerate Rajasthan's overall economic growth.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. RIICO has committed ₹ 1,500 crore in FY27 to strengthen infrastructure, including roads, power supply, and water systems within industrial zones.
 - b. A specific allocation of ₹ 25 crore will be used to establish 12 new fire stations and procure 37 fire tenders to enhance safety for industrial units.
 - c. New fire safety infrastructure will be deployed across critical hubs, including Bhiwadi (Chopanki, Khushkhera), Bikaner (Karni Phase I & II), and Jodhpur (Basni).
 - d. Fire stations are also planned for Boranada, Churu, Jaipur (Jaitpura), Nagaur, Sawai Madhopur, and Sri Ganganagar.
 - e. The modernization plan ensures essential amenities like uninterrupted power supply and the construction of high-quality road networks are prioritized.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. Bhiwadi is one of North India's most densely concentrated industrial zones, housing major manufacturers in chemicals, paints, auto components, and pharmaceuticals, all high-fire-risk categories. Industrial fire incidents in India killed over 400 workers in 2024 alone, with chemical and pharma sectors the most deadly.²⁴⁸ Deploying dedicated fire tenders within RIICO zones removes dependence on municipal fire services that are ill-equipped for industrial-scale emergencies, directly reducing investor risk exposure.
 - b. Industry contributes 28.21% of Rajasthan's Gross State Value Added (GSVA),²⁴⁹ making infrastructure upgrades in industrial areas critical for sustaining growth.
 - c. Reliable power supply, functional road access, and fire safety compliance within industrial zones are directly relevant to Business Reforms Action Plan's (BRAP)²⁵⁰ utility permits and industrial infrastructure parameters. The RIICO FY27 outlay contributes measurable inputs to the state's BRAP reform compliance posture, which in turn affects its ranked attractiveness to new manufacturing investment.

²⁴⁸ [Industrial, December 2024.](#)

²⁴⁹ [Economic Review 2025-26, Government of Rajasthan.](#)

²⁵⁰ BRAP 2024 is set to establish a seamless business regulatory framework across the country, enhancing the ease of doing business.

IV. Odisha

A. SUJALA Programme To Provide 24/7 Drinking Water Supply

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

1. On 3rd May, 2026, the Odisha Government unveiled a comprehensive roadmap to eliminate urban water scarcity by delivering round-the-clock (24/7) drinking water to every urban household.
2. The initiative is designed to transition **86 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)** from partial coverage to a full-service model to meet the needs of a projected 31.5 lakh urban residents by 2026.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The state Government has set a definitive target to achieve universal 24/7 urban water coverage across all ULBs by 2028.
 - b. A phased rollout will see 38 ULBs join the 24/7 network in 2026–27, followed by the remaining 38 in 2027–28.
 - c. The Government has allocated an estimated outlay of ₹ 1,500 crore for the 2026–27 fiscal year to support 391 water supply projects.
 - d. An additional investment of ₹ 978 crore is planned for 2027–28 to fund 92 projects focused on distribution and storage infrastructure.
 - e. Projects cover source augmentation, distribution network strengthening, and storage infrastructure upgrades across the state’s ULBs.
 - f. The initiative mandates the identification of alternative water sources for non-potable uses like gardening and construction to conserve treated drinking water.
 - g. It encompasses infrastructure upgrades that are specifically aimed at increasing the state’s current urban supply capacity of 452 million litres per day.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - The SUJALA programme aligns directly with the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0,²⁵¹ which aims to ensure water security, provide tap connections to all towns, and upgrade water supply from limited hours to continuous 24/7 service.
5. **Similar Initiatives in Other States** - States such as Maharashtra,²⁵² Karnataka,²⁵³ and Tamil Nadu²⁵⁴ have implemented comparable 24/7 water supply models through initiatives like Malkapur’s fully metered system, Karnataka’s Karnataka Urban Water Sector Improvement Project (KUWASIP)²⁵⁵ across multiple urban centres, and the 24/7 water supply model in Coimbatore.

²⁵¹ [Atal Mission For Rejuvenation And Urban Transformation \(AMRUT\) 2.0.](#)

²⁵² [The Print, April, 2024.](#)

²⁵³ [The Hindu, August, 2025.](#)

²⁵⁴ [TOI, January, 2026.](#)

²⁵⁵ [Karnataka Urban Water Sector Improvement Project \(KUWASIP\).](#)

A. SUJALA Programme To Provide 24/7 Drinking Water Supply

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

6. Relevance -

- a. Under AMRUT 2.0, Odisha has rolled out 345 projects worth ₹ 4,030.18 crore across 89 ULBs, with 107 projects already completed and seven new water treatment plants with 43 Million Liters per Day (MLD) combined capacity commissioned.²⁵⁶ SUJALA accelerates this momentum rather than starting fresh, reducing both execution risk and time to delivery.
- b. Odisha's urban population has grown rapidly with 143 ULBs, now including 24 newly created Notified Area Councils (NACs) and upgraded municipalities.²⁵⁷ Directing treated water only to drinking uses and mandating alternative sources for **gardening and construction** is a critical conservation measure as supply capacity currently stands at just 452 MLD.
- c. In intermittent-supply Indian cities, adult women in affected households spend roughly 20–30 minutes daily fetching, storing and managing water.²⁵⁸ Across Odisha's 31.5 lakh urban residents (approximately 7 lakh households), 24/7 supply could unlock an estimated 10–13 crore person-hours annually, freeing women's time for paid work, education and care, and indirectly expanding the urban labour supply.²⁵⁹
- d. Moreover, intermittent supply also facilitates theft because when customers know water is scarce, they are more likely to install illegal, unmetered connections to maximise supply during the short window. The SUJALA 24/7 shift directly eliminates this problem by removing the underlying scarcity that incentivises tapping, while universal metering and Jalasathi-led billing close the demand side loophole.²⁶⁰

²⁵⁶ [Orissa Post, May, 2026.](#)

²⁵⁷ [Pragativadi, May, 2026.](#)

²⁵⁸ [UNICEF, August, 2016.](#)

²⁵⁹ [ORF, December, 2023.](#)

²⁶⁰ [Down To Earth, January, 2026.](#)

VI. Uttar Pradesh

A. Rollback Of Mandatory Prepaid Electricity Billing

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

1. On 5th May, 2026, the Government of Uttar Pradesh discontinued mandatory prepaid electricity billing and shifted all consumers back to a postpaid mode.
2. The rollback follows widespread consumer complaints regarding inflated bills, delays in restoration of electricity connections despite recharge, and recurring technical glitches.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The rollback restores the earlier monthly billing framework, under which bills will be generated for monthly consumption and consumers will receive a 15-day payment window.
 - b. The decision spans all five distribution utilities, i.e., Purvanchal, Madhyanchal, Dakshinanchal, Pashchimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigams and KESCO Kanpur.
 - c. Under the revised rules, consumers will receive electricity bills through SMS and WhatsApp, while bill access and grievance redressal will also be available through WhatsApp chatbots and the 1912 helpline portal.
 - d. The rollback also halts the large-scale replacement of old meters and converts around 75 lakh prepaid connections back to postpaid billing, signalling a greater focus on consumer convenience in electricity management.
 - e. However, new electricity connections will continue to be issued with smart meters, though these will operate in postpaid mode.
4. **Relevance -**
 - a. The decision spans all five distribution utilities and converts approximately 83 lakh prepaid smart meters to postpaid operational mode,²⁶¹ the largest single state reclassification of prepaid devices since the launch of the Centre's Revamped Distribution Scheme.
 - b. The decision was prompted by consumers who had removed prepaid meters from their homes and dumped them outside collectorates and at public intersections, citing inflated billing and irregularities in payment systems.²⁶²
 - c. The Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Upbhokta Parishad, citing Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Limited (UPPCL) figures, recorded that 83 lakh of the 85 lakh smart meters installed in the state were prepaid, and noted that the Centre had issued rules permitting consumer choice between prepaid and postpaid on 1st April 2026, yet DISCOMs continued installations until the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission Advisory Committee raised penalty proceedings against the State.²⁶³

²⁶¹ [Business Standard, May, 2026.](#)

²⁶² [Business Standard, May, 2026.](#)

²⁶³ [Business Standard, May, 2026.](#)

A. Rollback Of Mandatory Prepaid Electricity Billing

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

- d. The deployment of smart-meter hardware without parallel investment in billing software, grievance redressal infrastructure, and consumer education has produced national prepaid-activation rates below 2% even where installation is complete.²⁶⁴ The 15-day payment window, 7-day disconnection notice, and 1912 helpline activation are the features that the original rollout lacked, which now provide the institutional support the consumers needed.
- e. However, the shift from prepaid to postpaid billing may reduce some of the financial and behavioural benefits associated with smart metering reforms,²⁶⁵ particularly improved payment discipline, real-time consumption awareness, and predictable cash flows for distribution companies.
- f. While Uttar Pradesh continues with smart meter deployment, the rollback from prepaid billing departs from the Union Government's reform direction under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), which promotes prepaid smart metering as a tool for improving the financial sustainability and operational efficiency of power distribution companies.²⁶⁶

²⁶⁴ [Networked Energy Services, Smart Metering In India, 2025.](#)

²⁶⁵ [Business Standard, February, 2020.](#)

²⁶⁶ [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

VII. Goa

A. No Development Zones (NDZ) For Ecologically Sensitive Areas

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

1. On 13th May, 2026, the Government of Goa declared No Development Zone (NDZ) land to protect ecologically sensitive areas from unplanned construction and environmental degradation.
2. The initiative aims to preserve hills, slopes, river ecosystems, agricultural land, and other fragile natural landscapes across the state.
3. **Key Features -**
 - a. The Town and Country Planning (TCP) Board approved declaration of over 82,85,000 square metres of land as NDZ covering areas such as Majorda, Gonsua, and nearby regions.
 - b. The decision seeks to prevent hill cutting, flattening of slopes, and unregulated construction activities that have increased due to rapid urbanisation in Goa.
 - c. The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change approved the Goa Forest Department's proposal to declare around 6,729.54 hectares along the Mandovi and Zuari riverbanks as eco-sensitive zones.
 - d. The eco-sensitive zone notification is expected to strengthen regulatory powers to restrict fresh development activities along ecologically fragile river stretches.
 - e. Additionally, the Government is also considering inclusion of rice fields and low-lying areas under the NDZ category to protect agricultural land and preserve the state's green cover.
 - f. The initiative comes amid growing concerns regarding environmental degradation, unchecked construction, and ecological imbalance caused by rapid urban expansion in Goa.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative aligns with provisions under the Eco-Sensitive Zones Programme implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), which focuses on regulating development activities around environmentally sensitive and ecologically fragile regions.²⁶⁷ For instance, the Ministry recently convened a high-level meeting on the Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone (BESZ) in Dehradun to review conservation and environmental protection measures in environmentally sensitive areas.²⁶⁸
5. **Relevance -**
 - a. The declaration of NDZs is significant because Goa has witnessed a sharp rise in hill-cutting, slope destabilisation and concretisation in ecologically fragile coastal belts, increasing vulnerability to landslides, flash flooding and soil erosion during

²⁶⁷ [PIB, August, 2024.](#)

²⁶⁸ [PIB, March, 2026.](#)

A. No Development Zones (NDZ) For Ecologically Sensitive Areas

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

the monsoon season. Areas such as Anjuna and coastal hill slopes have seen repeated allegations of illegal excavation and terrain modification linked to real-estate expansion.²⁶⁹

- b. The NDZ initiative gains policy importance because Goa has experienced sustained pressure for conversion of paddy fields, orchards, khazan lands and no-development slopes into settlement and construction zones.²⁷⁰ In January, 2025 alone, the TCP Board reportedly approved conversion of over three lakh square metres of ecologically sensitive land for settlement purposes, including orchards and paddy fields.²⁷¹
- c. Sediment contamination risks and ecological stress in the Mandovi-Zuari estuarine network is due to increasing anthropogenic pressure and land-use alteration.²⁷² Restricting fresh construction and commercial expansion along vulnerable river stretches can help reduce sediment runoff, riverbank destabilisation and ecological fragmentation.
- d. The move is also likely to increase regulatory scrutiny over activities such as sand mining, which has remained environmentally contentious in Goa since 2019.²⁷³ Thus, the NDZ framework is not merely a conservation measure but also an intervention to secure ecosystem services that support local livelihoods and the state's tourism-dependent economy.
- e. The NDZ and eco-sensitive zone approach allows the state to apply preventive regulation across entire ecological corridors instead of responding to violations case-by-case. This aligns Goa's planning framework more closely with integrated coastal zone management and ecosystem-based governance principles promoted under MoEFCC's ESZ framework.²⁷⁴

²⁶⁹ [Times Of India, March, 2026.](#)

²⁷⁰ [Economic And Political Weekly.](#)

²⁷¹ [Times Of India, January, 2025.](#)

²⁷² [Science Direct, December, 2025.](#)

²⁷³ [Science Direct, December, 2025.](#)

²⁷⁴ [NDTV, May, 2026.](#)

Notes



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 @clpgnfprc

 clpg@nationfirstpolicy.org

 @NFPRC_Ind

 nfprcfoundation.substack.com

 nfprcfoundation

 samparka@nationfirstpolicy.org