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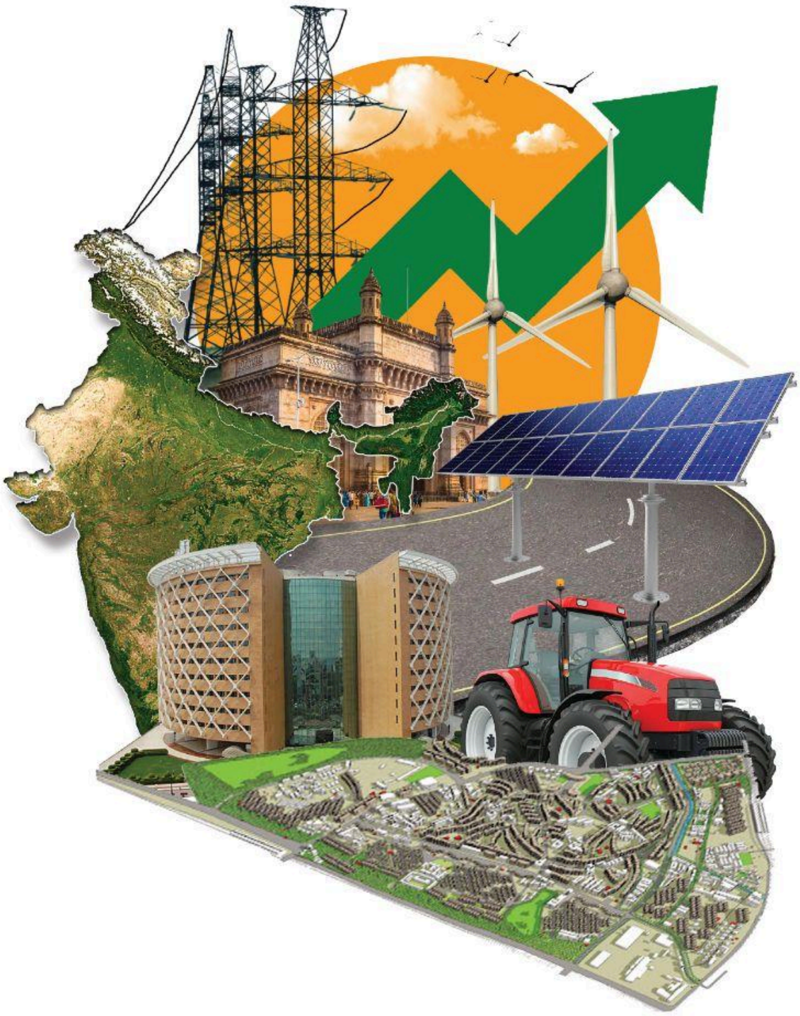

16th August - 31st August

AUGUST 2026 | VOLUME II

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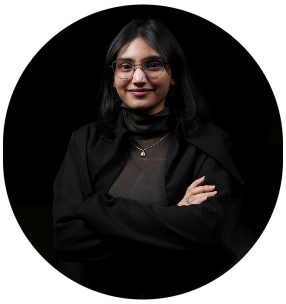
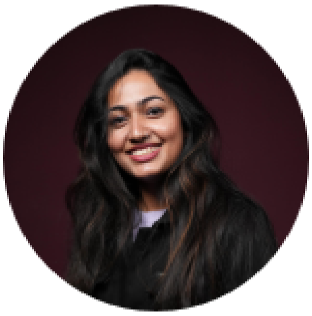
Contributors

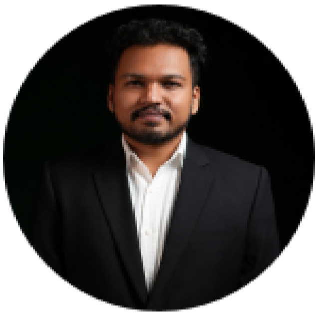
Prafulla Pathak
Lead Editor
prafulla.paarijat.pathak@nationfirstpolicy.org



Arushi Bhagotra
Editor
arushi.bhagotra@nationfirstpolicy.org



Eilin Maria Baiju
Consultant
eilin.maria@nationfirstpolicy.org



Suraj Lad M B
Consultant
mb.suraj@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 the mailing list please reach out to us at:
newsletters@nationfirstpolicy.org

Table Of Contents

Key Announcements

This document tracks the various key policy and reform decisions taken by State Governments and UTs between **16th August, 2026 to 31st August, 2026.**

Reform Decisions

I. **Bihar**

A. **Bihar Social Media And Other Online Media Rules Amendment, 2026:** The Bihar Cabinet approved the amendment on 19th August, 2026 to expand digital outreach of Government schemes by incentivising social media creators to disseminate verified information. Empanelled creators will receive ₹ 10,000 per lakh views, subject to a maximum of ₹ 1 lakh per video, with payments linked to verified viewership and content compliance.

II. **Maharashtra**

A. **Amendment To Minor Mineral Rules, 2026:** The Maharashtra Cabinet approved amendments on 18th August, 2026 to the Minor Minerals (Development and Regulation) Rules, 2013 to rationalise the regulation of excavated earth and reduce related litigation. The amendment exempts excavated earth reused on the same plot from royalty, with royalty applicable only to earth transported outside the plot. It also removes the requirement for prior District Collector permission for excavation on agricultural plots, while retaining it for industrial and other uses.

III. **Karnataka**

A. **Government Parks (Preservation) (Amendment) Bill, 2026:** The Karnataka Legislative Assembly passed the Bill on 24th August, 2026 to permit limited alienation and use of Government park and garden land for public utility and infrastructure projects. The Bill caps such use at 5% of the total area and requires approval through a high-level committee before consideration by the state Government. It also permits limited use of horticulture farm land for core horticulture and agro-based projects in public interest.

IV. **Telangana**

A. **Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential Drugs (TG SAFE):** The Telangana Government on 15th August, 2026 brought the Food Safety Department and Drugs Control Administration under a unified administrative framework through TG SAFE to strengthen surveillance, enforcement, testing and regulatory compliance. Initially covering the Core Urban region (CURE) region, it also enables vacant posts to be filled through deputation, contract or outsourcing.

V. **Andhra Pradesh**

A. **Farmer ID-Based Government Procurement Framework:** Andhra Pradesh made Farmer IDs mandatory for farmers selling produce at Government procurement

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centres from 25th August, 2026, ahead of the Kharif procurement season. The system links verified farmer identities with land parcels to authenticate cultivation details, improve payment traceability and integrate procurement with the AgriStack Farmer Registry. It also covers procurement of pulses and paddy and facilitates access to crop insurance and PM-KISAN benefits.

Policy Level Announcements

I. **Delhi**

A. **Master Plan For Delhi–2047, 2026:** The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs notified the Master Plan of Delhi–2047 on 20th August, 2026, revising the 2007 Master Plan to guide Delhi's development for an estimated 3.2 crore residents by 2047. It focuses on redevelopment and densification, Transit-Oriented Development, new housing, economic and logistics clusters, and restoration of the Yamuna's drainage and ecological systems.

II. **Telangana**

A. **Telangana Autorickshaw Electric Conversion Scheme, 2026:** The Telangana Government on 27th August, 2026 launched the Telangana Autorickshaw Electric Conversion Scheme to support the conversion or replacement of 18,766 petrol and diesel autorickshaws in the CURE area with electric vehicles. The scheme provides financial assistance of up to ₹ 1.5 lakh per vehicle, mandates safety and performance standards for electric conversions, and allocates ₹ 200 crore through multiple welfare department funding streams to reduce emissions and fuel costs while accelerating the transition to electric urban transport.

Social Sector Schemes

I. **Puducherry**

A. **Essential Food Kit Scheme:** The Puducherry Government proposed the Essential Food Kit Scheme on 24th August, 2026 under its Budget 2026-27 to strengthen household food and energy security by diversifying the Public Distribution System (PDS) basket. The scheme proposes wheat flour, ragi flour, toor dal, sugar and ghee for ration cardholders, with corresponding changes to rice quantities and 10 cost-price outlets to improve access to essential commodities.

II. **Tamil Nadu**

A. **Annapoorani Super Six Scheme:** The Tamil Nadu Government announced the Annapoorani Super Six Scheme on 24th August, 2026 to reduce household expenditure on cooking fuel by reimbursing the cost of three domestic LPG cylinders annually from Pongal 2027. Covering over 1.30 crore families, the scheme will provide

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reimbursements through direct benefit transfers, with an estimated annual expenditure of ₹ 4,000 crore.

Investment Announcements

I. **Uttar Pradesh**

A. **Uttar Pradesh–Japan Investment Meet:** Uttar Pradesh announced investment projects worth ₹ 3,191 crore and a proposed 500-acre Japanese City in the YEIDA area on 19th August, 2026 to attract Japanese investment and strengthen manufacturing capacity. The initiative covers projects in tractors, construction equipment and auto components, with expected employment generation of over 6,400 jobs.

II. **Haryana**

A. **Haryana Investment MoUs Under Happening Haryana 2.0:** Haryana signed MoUs worth over ₹ 66,000 crore on 24th August, 2026 during its Happening Haryana 2.0 outreach campaign to attract investment and promote industrial growth and employment. The initiative focuses on faster approvals, investor guarantees and district-wise industrial strategies, alongside new growth nodes and an Industry–Worker Friendship Council to strengthen industrial coordination.

Other Decisions

I. **Uttar Pradesh**

A. **Lokmata Ahilyabai Matrushakti Yatra Yojana:** Uttar Pradesh launched the Lokmata Ahilyabai Matrushakti Yatra Yojana on 26th August, 2026 to provide fare-free travel on UPSRTC general buses to women aged 60 years and above residing in the state. The scheme is expected to benefit more than 1 crore women, who can access the facility using Aadhaar or Voter ID for verification. It applies across UPSRTC's general bus network, with special smart travel cards being introduced to support beneficiary verification and implementation.

II. **Maharashtra**

A. **Maha eHRMS, Maha-IAS And Mentor-Mentee Digital Portals:** Maharashtra launched the Maha eHRMS, Maha-IAS Portal and Mentor-Mentee Portal on 24th August, 2026 to digitise and integrate human-resource administration. The system replaces physical service books with digital e-Service Books and integrates employee services from recruitment to retirement, while Jigyasa provides AI-based guidance on service rules. The first phase covers the IAS cadre, with subsequent expansion to other Government employees.

मुख्य घोषणाएँ

यह दस्तावेज **16 अगस्त 2026 से 31 अगस्त 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. बिहार

A. **बिहार सोशल मीडिया और अन्य ऑनलाइन मीडिया नियम संशोधन, 2026:** बिहार मंत्रिमंडल ने 19 अगस्त 2026 को इस संशोधन को मंजूरी दी। इसका उद्देश्य सोशल मीडिया क्रिएटर्स को प्रोत्साहित करके सरकारी योजनाओं की सही और सत्यापित जानकारी लोगों तक पहुंचाना और सरकार की डिजिटल पहुंच बढ़ाना है। सूचीबद्ध क्रिएटर्स को प्रति 1 लाख व्यूज पर ₹10,000 दिए जाएंगे। हालांकि, एक वीडियो के लिए अधिकतम ₹1 लाख तक ही भुगतान किया जाएगा। भुगतान सत्यापित व्यूज और तय नियमों के अनुसार कंटेंट होने पर किया जाएगा।

II. महाराष्ट्र

A. **लघु खनिज नियम, 2026 में संशोधन:** महाराष्ट्र मंत्रिमंडल ने 18 अगस्त 2026 को मामूली खनिज (विकास और विनियमन) नियम, 2013 में संशोधन को मंजूरी दी। इसका उद्देश्य खुदाई से निकली मिट्टी के नियमों को आसान बनाना और इससे जुड़े मुकदमों को कम करना है। संशोधन के तहत, एक ही भूखंड में दोबारा इस्तेमाल की गई खुदाई की मिट्टी पर रॉयल्टी नहीं लगेगी। रॉयल्टी केवल उस मिट्टी पर लगेगी, जिसे भूखंड से बाहर ले जाया जाएगा। इसके अलावा, कृषि भूखंडों में खुदाई के लिए पहले से जिला कलेक्टर की अनुमति लेने की जरूरत नहीं होगी, जबकि औद्योगिक और अन्य उपयोगों के लिए यह अनुमति जरूरी रहेगी।

III. कर्नाटक

A. **सरकारी पार्क (संरक्षण) (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2026:** कर्नाटक विधानसभा ने 24 अगस्त 2026 को इस विधेयक को पारित किया। इसके अंतर्गत जन उपयोग और बुनियादी ढांचा परियोजनाओं के लिए सरकारी पार्क और उद्यान की जमीन के सीमित उपयोग और हस्तांतरण की अनुमति दी गई है। ऐसे उपयोग की सीमा कुल क्षेत्रफल के 5% तक होगी। इसके लिए राज्य सरकार के पास प्रस्ताव भेजने से पहले एक उच्चस्तरीय समिति की मंजूरी जरूरी होगी। इसके अलावा, जनहित में बागवानी और कृषि आधारित मुख्य परियोजनाओं के लिए बागवानी फार्म की जमीन के सीमित उपयोग की भी अनुमति दी गई है।

IV. तेलंगाना

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A. **तेलंगाना खाद्य और आवश्यक दवाओं के लिए मानक प्राधिकरण (TG SAFE):** तेलंगाना सरकार ने 15 अगस्त 2026 को TG SAFE के अंतर्गत खाद्य सुरक्षा विभाग और औषधि नियंत्रण प्रशासन को एक ही प्रशासनिक व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत ला दिया। इसका उद्देश्य निगरानी, नियमों के पालन, जांच और कार्रवाई को मजबूत करना है। शुरुआत में यह व्यवस्था कोर अर्बन क्षेत्र (सी.यू.आर.ई) में लागू की गई है। इसके अंतर्गत खाली पदों को प्रतिनियुक्ति, संविदा या आउटसोर्सिंग के माध्यम से भरने की भी अनुमति है।

V. आंध्र प्रदेश

A. **किसान आई.डी आधारित सरकारी खरीद व्यवस्था:** आंध्र प्रदेश ने 25 अगस्त 2026 से सरकारी खरीद केंद्रों पर अपनी उपज बेचने वाले किसानों के लिए किसान आई.डी अनिवार्य कर दी है। यह व्यवस्था खरीफ खरीद सीजन से पहले लागू की गई है। इसके अंतर्गत सत्यापित किसान की पहचान को उसकी जमीन से जोड़ा जाएगा, जिससे खेती की जानकारी की पुष्टि, भुगतान की निगरानी और सरकारी खरीद को एग्रीस्टैक किसान रजिस्ट्री से जोड़ने में मदद मिलेगी। यह व्यवस्था दालों और धान की खरीद पर भी लागू होगी। साथ ही, इससे किसानों को फसल बीमा और पीएम-किसान के लाभ प्राप्त करने में भी सुविधा होगी।

नीति स्तर की घोषणाएँ

I. दिल्ली

A. **दिल्ली–2047 का मास्टर प्लान, 2026:** आवास और शहरी कार्य मंत्रालय ने 20 अगस्त 2026 को दिल्ली–2047 के मास्टर प्लान को अधिसूचित किया। इसमें 2007 के मास्टर प्लान को संशोधित किया गया है, ताकि 2047 तक अनुमानित 3.2 करोड़ आबादी के हिसाब से दिल्ली के विकास की दिशा तय की जा सके। इसमें पुराने क्षेत्रों का पुनर्विकास और अधिक घनत्व वाला विकास, ट्रांजिट-ओरिएंटेड डेवलपमेंट (TOD), नए आवास, आर्थिक और लॉजिस्टिक्स क्लस्टर तथा यमुना की जल निकासी और पर्यावरणीय व्यवस्था को बहाल करने पर जोर दिया गया है।

II. तेलंगाना

A. **तेलंगाना ऑटोरिक्शा इलेक्ट्रिक कन्वर्जन योजना, 2026:** तेलंगाना सरकार ने 27 अगस्त 2026 को यह योजना शुरू की। इसका उद्देश्य CURE (कोर अर्बन रीजन इकोनॉमी / कोर अर्बन रीजन) क्षेत्र में चल रहे 18,766 पेट्रोल और डीजल ऑटोरिक्शा को इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों में बदलने या उनकी जगह नए इलेक्ट्रिक वाहन लेने में सहायता करना है। योजना के अंतर्गत प्रति वाहन अधिकतम ₹1.5 लाख की वित्तीय सहायता दी जाएगी। इलेक्ट्रिक में बदलाव के लिए सुरक्षा और प्रदर्शन से जुड़े मानकों का पालन करना जरूरी होगा। इस योजना के लिए विभिन्न कल्याण विभागों की

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योजनाओं के माध्यम से ₹200 करोड़ का प्रावधान किया गया है। इसका उद्देश्य प्रदूषण और ईंधन खर्च कम करना तथा शहरी परिवहन को तेजी से इलेक्ट्रिक वाहनों की ओर ले जाना है।

सामाजिक क्षेत्र की योजनाएँ

I. पुडुचेरी

A. **आवश्यक खाद्य सामग्री किट योजना:** पुडुचेरी सरकार ने 24 अगस्त 2026 को बजट 2026-27 के अंतर्गत इस योजना का प्रस्ताव रखा। इसका उद्देश्य सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (पी.डी.एस) में खाद्य सामग्री की सूची बढ़ाकर परिवारों की खाद्य और ऊर्जा सुरक्षा को मजबूत करना है। योजना के अंतर्गत राशन कार्ड धारकों को गेहूं का आटा, रागी का आटा, तूर दाल, चीनी और घी देने का प्रस्ताव है। इसके साथ ही चावल की मात्रा में भी बदलाव किया जाएगा और आवश्यक वस्तुओं की बेहतर उपलब्धता के लिए 10 उचित मूल्य की दुकानें खोली जाएंगी।

II. तमिलनाडु

A. **अन्नपूर्णी सुपर सिक्स योजना:** तमिलनाडु सरकार ने 24 अगस्त 2026 को इस योजना की घोषणा की। इसका उद्देश्य हर साल तीन घरेलू एल.पी.जी सिलेंडरों की कीमत की भरपाई करके परिवारों के खाना पकाने के ईंधन पर होने वाले खर्च को कम करना है। यह योजना पोंगल 2027 से लागू की जाएगी और 1.30 करोड़ से अधिक परिवारों को इसका लाभ मिलने की उम्मीद है। लाभार्थियों को यह राशि सीधे बैंक खाते में ट्रांसफर (DBT) के माध्यम से दी जाएगी। योजना पर हर साल लगभग ₹4,000 करोड़ खर्च होने का अनुमान है।

निवेश घोषणाएँ

I. उत्तर प्रदेश

A. **उत्तर प्रदेश–जापान निवेश बैठक:** उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने 19 अगस्त 2026 को जापानी निवेश आकर्षित करने और राज्य में विनिर्माण क्षमता बढ़ाने के लिए ₹3,191 करोड़ की निवेश परियोजनाओं की घोषणा की। इसके साथ ही यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण (YEIDA) क्षेत्र में 500 एकड़ में जापानी सिटी विकसित करने का प्रस्ताव रखा गया है। इन परियोजनाओं में ट्रैक्टर, निर्माण उपकरण और ऑटो कंपोनेंट से जुड़े उद्योग शामिल हैं। इनसे 6,400 से अधिक रोजगार के अवसर पैदा होने की उम्मीद है।

II. हरियाणा

A. **हरियाणा में 'हैपनिंग हरियाणा 2.0' (Happening Haryana 2.0) के अंतर्गत निवेश समझौते (MoUs):** हरियाणा सरकार ने निवेश आकर्षित करने, औद्योगिक विकास और रोजगार को बढ़ावा देने के लिए 24 अगस्त 2026 को हैपनिंग हरियाणा 2.0 अभियान के अंतर्गत ₹66,000 करोड़ से अधिक के MoUs पर हस्ताक्षर किए। इस पहल

मुख्य घोषणाएँ

में मंजूरियों की प्रक्रिया तेज करने, निवेशकों को सरकारी गारंटी देने और जिलेवार औद्योगिक रणनीति बनाने पर जोर दिया गया है। इसके साथ ही नए औद्योगिक विकास केंद्र और उद्योग–श्रमिक मैत्री परिषद बनाने की योजना है, ताकि उद्योगों और श्रमिकों के बीच बेहतर समन्वय हो सके।

अन्य निर्णय

I. उत्तर प्रदेश

A. **लोकमाता अहिल्याबाई मातृशक्ति यात्रा योजना:** उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने 26 अगस्त, 2026 को लोकमाता अहिल्याबाई मातृशक्ति यात्रा योजना शुरू की, जिसके अंतर्गत राज्य में रहने वाली 60 वर्ष और उससे अधिक आयु की महिलाओं को यू.पी.एस.आर.टी.सी की सामान्य बसों में मुफ्त यात्रा की सुविधा मिलेगी। इस योजना से 1 करोड़ से अधिक महिलाओं को लाभ मिलने की उम्मीद है, जो सत्यापन के लिए आधार या वोटर आई.डी का उपयोग करके इस सुविधा का लाभ उठा सकती हैं। यह योजना यू.पी.एस.आर.टी.सी के सभी सामान्य बस नेटवर्क पर लागू है, और लाभार्थियों के सत्यापन और योजना के बेहतर संचालन के लिए विशेष स्मार्ट ट्रैवल कार्ड भी जारी किए जाएंगे।

II. महाराष्ट्र

A. **महाराष्ट्र ई.एच.आर.एम.एस, महा-आई.ए.एस (Maha-IAS) और मेंटर-मेंटी (Mentor-Mentee) डिजिटल पोर्टल:** महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने 24 अगस्त 2026 को मानव संसाधन प्रशासन को डिजिटल और एकीकृत करने के लिए महा eHRMS, महा-IAS पोर्टल और मेंटर-मेंटी पोर्टल शुरू किए। इस व्यवस्था में भौतिक सेवा पुस्तिकाओं (सर्विस बुक) की जगह डिजिटल e-Service Book का इस्तेमाल होगा। इससे कर्मचारी की भर्ती से लेकर सेवानिवृत्ति तक की सेवाओं को एक ही व्यवस्था से जोड़ा जाएगा। वहीं, जिज्ञासा के माध्यम से सेवा नियमों से जुड़ी जानकारी और मार्गदर्शन AI की मदद से दिया जाएगा। पहले चरण में यह व्यवस्था IAS अधिकारियों के लिए लागू की गई है और बाद में इसे अन्य सरकारी कर्मचारियों तक बढ़ाया जाएगा।

Reform Decisions

I. Maharashtra

A. Amendment To Minor Mineral Rules
Source: Deccan Herald, The Economic Times | **Impact:** High

1. On 18th August, 2026, the Maharashtra Cabinet approved amendments to the Minor Minerals (Development and Regulation) Rules, 2013[1] (as amended in 2021).[2] The decisions aim to rationalise the **regulation of excavated earth** and reduce related litigation.
2. **Key Features -**
   a. Rule 46 of the Minor Minerals (Development and Regulation) Rules, 2013 has been amended to exempt excavated earth reused on the same plot from royalty.
   b. The amendments provide for royalty to be levied only on the quantity of excavated earth transported outside the plot.
   c. They also remove the requirement for prior permission from the District Collector where a plot is used for agricultural purposes, while retaining the permission requirement for industrial and other uses.
3. **Legal Alignment -** The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957,[3] provides the Central legal framework for the regulation and development of minerals and mining activities.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Rajasthan,[4] Andhra Pradesh[5] and Karnataka[6] are streamlining minor-mineral regulation in different ways, with Rajasthan allowing dredged material from reservoirs to be dispatched for storage-capacity restoration, Maharashtra promoting M-sand alongside digital tracking, Andhra Pradesh simplifying concession procedures and using digital platforms, and Karnataka introducing single-window mechanisms for minor-mineral approvals.
5. **Relevance -**
   a. Maharashtra records the highest illegal mining cases in India,[7] This affects the state exchequer, compliant quarry operators, infrastructure projects and communities affected by excessive extraction, while large projects such as Jayakwadi Phase-II will require substantial supplies of legally sourced sand and stone. The amendments seek to address these problems through Mahakhanij 2.0,

[1] PIB, August, 2026.
[2] Minor Minerals (Development And Regulation) Rules, 2013 (As Amended In 2021).
[3] The Mines And Minerals (Development And Regulation) Act, 1957.
[4] Rajasthan Minor Mineral Concession (Amendment) Rules, 2025.
[5] Andhra Pradesh Minor Mineral Policy, 2025.
[6] Enforcement And Monitoring Guidelines For Sand Mining.
[7] PIB, December, 2022.

A. Amendment To Minor Mineral Rules
Source: Deccan Herald, The Economic Times | **Impact:** High
greater transparency of mining and storage information, and compulsory transport passes for minerals entering the state. b. Further, under the amendment to Rule 46, no royalty will be charged on excavated earth that is used within the same plot. Royalty will apply only to the quantity of earth transported outside the plot.[8] It also eases requirements for agricultural activities by removing the need for prior permission from the district collector when a plot is used for agricultural purposes. However, prior permission will continue to be required when excavated earth is used for industrial or other non-agricultural purposes.[9] c. This decision of the Maharashtra Government addresses gaps in the earlier system, where illegal extraction could be detected but enforcement, penalty recovery and transport monitoring remained weak. High pending minor-mineral cases in districts such as Ahilyanagar, Nanded and Parbhani demonstrate these implementation challenges. Manual monitoring and gaps in tracking inter-state movement also created opportunities for revenue leakage and unfair competition for legitimate operators. d. The introduced measures are intended to improve traceability, reduce illegal transport, strengthen royalty collection and ensure a more reliable supply of legally sourced minerals for construction and infrastructure.

[8] Economic Times, Energy World, August, 2026.
[9] Economic Times, Energy World, August, 2026.

II. Bihar

A. Bihar Social Media And Other Online Media (Amendment) Rules, 2026
Source: NDTV News | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 19th August, 2026, the Bihar Cabinet approved an amendment to the Bihar Social Media and Other Online Media Rules, 2026.[10]
2. The amendment aims to expand digital outreach of Government schemes by **incentivising social media creators** to produce and disseminate content on state programmes, thereby improving public awareness, citizen engagement, and last-mile information delivery through verified online platforms.
3. **Key Features**
   a. The amendment provides empanelled social media creators an additional monetary incentive of ₹ 10,000 for every 1 lakh views on eligible videos promoting Government schemes, with a maximum payout capped at ₹ 1 lakh per video, upon reaching up to 10 lakh views.
   b. The amendment requires social media creators, pages, and channels to obtain prior empanelment with the Information and Public Relations Department as a precondition for scheme eligibility.
   c. The amendment introduces a verification mechanism for views, engagement metrics, and content compliance before disbursal of payments.
   d. It enables graded incentives linked to viewership milestones within a specified time period (e.g., 30 days), ensuring performance-based payouts.
   e. The amendments add Rules 14A, 14B and 14C and amend Rules 8(6), 11 and 11A of the Bihar Social Media and Other Online Media Rules, 2026.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment –** Aligns with the Digital India Programme,[11] which promotes digital governance, citizen engagement and online service delivery, and the National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM),[12] which aims to enhance digital awareness and capacity among citizens, enabling wider participation in digital communication ecosystems.
5. **Similar Initiatives in Other States -** States like Karnataka[13] and Maharashtra[14] have used digital media campaigns and influencer-based outreach for scheme promotion, while Kerala has institutionalised digital public communication through Government-run social media platforms.[15]
6. **Relevance -**

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[10] Bihar Social Media And Other Online Media Rules, 2026.
[11] Digital India.
[12] NDLM.
[13] The News Minute, September, 2024.
[14] Hindustan Times, June, 2025.
[15] Kerala State IT Mission.

A. Bihar Social Media And Other Online Media (Amendment) Rules, 2026
Source: NDTV News | **Impact:** Medium
a. The amendment aims to leverage Bihar's large youth population and high mobile internet penetration to create a decentralised, citizen-driven communication channel for Government programs. With over 54% of its population under the age of 25[16] and 4.5 crore internet subscribers as of September, 2022,[17] Bihar has a substantial base of digitally connected youth who can serve as content creators and amplifiers for Government messaging. b. Bihar's earlier policy allowed empanelment of individual social media operators and companies, with individual accounts generally requiring at least 1 lakh followers. The amendment adds a performance-linked payment model, using a 1 lakh-view threshold to direct payments toward content that achieves meaningful reach.[18] By incentivising this demographic to create scheme-related content in their own voice and idiom can generate more relatable, contextual communication than top-down Government advertising. c. The ₹ 10,000 incentive for videos crossing 1 lakh views creates a performance-linked model distinct from the fixed-rate amplification typical of Government advertising.[19] The 1 lakh view threshold also filters for meaningful view counts in a state of over 124 million people, reducing administrative overhead by rewarding only meaningfully viral content. d. The amendment's focus on development programs and Government services can help address low citizen awareness, a persistent challenge in translating Bihar's improved development expenditure into on-ground outcomes. Citizen-created video content that explains these allocations and associated programs in accessible, local terms can boost uptake of Government services, which is a critical link between budgetary outlays and realised benefits. e. The amendment could support a new form of hyperlocal digital livelihood by rewarding smartphone-based creators for communicating Government schemes, while its performance-linked payouts incentivise clearer, more engaging content that demonstrates actual citizen reach.

16 Dainik Bhaskar, February, 2026.
17 Patna Press, X, August, 2026.
18 The Indian Express, August, 2026.
19 NDTV, August, 2026.

III. Delhi

A. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) For Single-Window Licensing Of Cinema Halls And Multiplexes, 2026
Source: The Indian Express | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 17th August, 2026, the Delhi Government notified the Cinema Hall Licensing SOP and Integrated Single-Window System, 2026.
2. The SOP aims to **streamline the cinema hall licensing process** by eliminating multi-departmental delays, replacing fragmented approvals with a unified, technology-driven mechanism, and ensuring time-bound, transparent and accountable decision-making through an integrated institutional framework.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The SOP eliminates the requirement of separate No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from multiple departments and replaces them with a single integrated verification mechanism.
   b. It provides for a District Licensing Committee (DLC) headed by the District Magistrate to take final licensing decisions with representation from police, fire, municipal and other agencies.
   c. It introduces a District Inspection Committee (DIC) headed by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) to conduct joint inspections and generate an e-signed, geotagged verification report on the e-District Delhi portal.
   d. The SOP also mandates time-bound processing, including 7 days for application scrutiny, 45 days for inspection and 30 days for final decision, with automatic licence generation in case of delay subject to compliance.
   e. It enables a fully online licensing system covering application, fee payment, inspection, approval and issuance of licence, along with provisions for annual inspections, mock drills and enforcement mechanisms.
   f. Lastly, it mandates annual joint inspections, surprise inspections and two mock emergency drills each year, with provisions for suspension or cancellation of licences for non-compliance with safety conditions.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** It aligns with the State Reform Action Plan (SRAP) 2020 framework of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), which emphasises digitised, transparent and time-bound institutional mechanisms for service delivery and approvals.[20]
5. **Similar Initiatives in Other States -** Telangana has implemented the Telangana State Industrial Project Approval and Self-Certification System (TS-iPASS), which provides a statutory single-window clearance mechanism with time-bound approvals (up to 15–30 days), online application processing, and integration of multiple departmental

[20] State Reform Action Plan, 2021.

A. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) For Single-Window Licensing Of Cinema Halls And Multiplexes, 2026
Source: The Indian Express | **Impact:** Medium
approvals into a single interface.[21] Maharashtra has established single-window clearance systems through platforms such as Maharashtra Industry, Trade and Investment Facilitation Cell (MAITRI) portal, which integrate approvals across departments.[22] Additionally, it has introduced a single-window system for film shooting permissions through the Maharashtra Film Cell, enabling online applications and time-bound approvals.[23] 6. **Relevance -** a. The SOP was finalised in 2015 pursuant to the Supreme Court's directions following the Uphaar Cinema tragedy, but remained unimplemented under the previous Government.[24] b. Delhi's cinema infrastructure continues to lag its population. The capital currently has 130 plus operational screens across 60 cinema halls,[25] equivalent to roughly 5.6 screens per 10 lakh people based on its 2026 projected population. This is below even the national average of 6.8 screens per 10 lakh people as recorded in 2024. This is partly because the licensing burden deterred new entrants, and held up renovation of existing halls. The SOP directly supports the Central Government's push to expand India's screen count beyond the multiplex segment.[26] c. Cinema hall licensing in Delhi previously required separate no objection certificates from Delhi Police, Delhi Fire Service, and multiple other departments. In July, 2025, the Lieutenant Governor transferred licensing authority from the Delhi Police to the Revenue Department committee headed by the District Magistrate, incorporating structural, fire, electrical and disaster management expertise in a single body.[27] But the process lingered with no prescribed timeline or coordinated procedure. d. The SOP consolidates approvals into a time-bound single-window process without diluting safety requirements, reducing regulatory uncertainty and working-capital costs, particularly for smaller and standalone theatres. It directly supports smaller players who cannot absorb multi-year clearance timelines the way multiplex chains can through dedicated compliance teams.[28]

21 TG-iPASS.
22 MAITRI.
23 Maharashtra Housing And Building Laws.
24 The Tribune, August, 2026.
25 Licensed Cinema Halls in Delhi, Delhi Police.
26 PIB, June, 2026.
27 The Times Of India, July, 2025.
28 A Billion Screens Of Opportunity: India's Media And Entertainment Sector, March, 2019, Page 83.

IV. Ladakh

A. Outstanding Sportspersons (Horizontal Reservation In Direct Recruitment to Group 'C' Non-Gazetted Posts) Rules, 2026
Source: The Government Of Ladakh, The Tribune | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 19th August, 2026, the Ladakh Administration approved the Ladakh Outstanding Sportspersons (Horizontal Reservation in Direct Recruitment to Group 'C' Non-Gazetted Posts) Rules, 2026.
2. The rules aim to institutionalise a structured **reservation framework** for outstanding sportspersons in Government employment by providing a defined quota in direct recruitment, thereby incentivising sports participation and recognising sporting excellence within the public employment system.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The rules provide 4% horizontal reservation for outstanding sportspersons in direct recruitment to Group 'C' (non-gazetted) posts.
   b. They introduce a formal employment pathway through notified rules, defining eligibility and implementation mechanisms for the quota.
   c. They also define eligible sportspersons as those representing the state or country in recognised national/international competitions and medal winners in national championships.
   d. The rules include Khelo India events (Youth, Winter, Para and University Games) and recognised inter-university competitions within eligibility criteria.
   e. They mandate that beneficiaries must meet all recruitment eligibility conditions, including qualifying prescribed examinations.
   f. They provide for preparation of a separate Sports Merit List, where inter-se merit is determined based on the level of competition and achievement, with higher weightage to international and national medal performances.
   g. They establish a certificate verification mechanism through a designated committee constituted by the Department of Youth Services and Sports to examine the genuineness, recognition status and validity of sports achievements submitted by candidates.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** Aligns with the Khelo India programme,[29] National Sports Policy,[30] Khelo Bharat Niti 2025[31] and broader national efforts to promote sports excellence and integrate sportspersons into public employment frameworks.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States like Haryana provide sports quota reservations, while Uttarakhand provides 4% horizontal reservation[32] for eligible

[29] Khelo India Programme.
[30] National Sports Policy, 2001.
[31] Khelo Bharat Niti 2025.
[32] Department Of Sports Government Of Uttarakhand.

A. Outstanding Sportspersons (Horizontal Reservation In Direct Recruitment to Group 'C' Non-Gazetted Posts) Rules, 2026
Source: The Government Of Ladakh, The Tribune | **Impact:** Medium

outstanding sportspersons and Jammu and Kashmir provides special appointment scheme[33] and incentives in Government jobs.[34]

6. **Relevance -**
   a. The 4% horizontal sports reservation operationalises the wider Ladakh Sports Policy, 2026 by linking sporting achievement with access to Group C government posts, while preserving existing vertical reservations for SC, ST, ALC and resident Ladakhis.
   b. The reservation cuts across existing vertical categories rather than competing with them, so it does not reduce the share available to SC, ST or Actual Line of Control (ALC) candidates. 85% reservation for resident Ladakhis was notified in June, 2025, a vertical sports quota would have created direct allocation conflict.[35]
   c. Ladakh already has three Khelo India Centres, a State Centre of Excellence in Leh[36]and major winter-sports infrastructure, including the ₹ 53.58-crore ice-hockey rink.[37] The reservation gives this sports ecosystem a clearer post-competition pathway, consistent with the Sports Policy's emphasis on talent identification and inclusion with provisions for women and differently-abled athletes.[38]
   d. Ladakh hosted the Khelo India Winter Games for the third consecutive year in January, 2026, with around 1,000 participants from 21 states and UTs. In the previous edition, Ladakh won seven medals, including four gold.[39] Eligibility under the rules spanning Winter Games, national championships, Khelo India events, Para Games and university competitions broadens the pool of athletes who can benefit. The Winter Games and inter-university categories are what make the eligible pool viable in a UT of this size.[40]
   e. Confining the quota to Group C is a deliberate calibration with a clear limitation. It allows immediate implementation, since Ladakh recruits these posts directly. Gazetted recruitment goes through the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), making UT-specific reservation more complex.[41]

[33] Jammu And Kashmir (Appointment Of Outstanding Sports Persons) Rules, 2022.
[34] The Times Of India, June, 2026.
[35] The Tribune, August, 2026.
[36] Kashmir Thunder, March, 2026.
[37] Deccan Chronicle, January, 2026.
[38] Deccan Chronicle, January, 2026.
[39] News On Air, January, 2025.
[40] Administration Of Union Territory Ladakh, January, 2026.
[41] ETV Bharath, July, 2025.

V. Telangana

A. Telangana Standards Authority For Food And Essential Drugs (TG SAFE)
Source: The Hindu, Telangana Today | **Impact:** High

1. On 15th August, 2026, the Telangana Government brought the Food Safety Department and Drugs Control Administration under the Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential Drugs (TG SAFE).
2. TG SAFE aims to bring the Food Safety Department and Drugs Control Administration under a **unified administrative framework** to strengthen surveillance, enforcement, testing, intelligence and regulatory compliance for food and drugs in the state.
3. **Key Features -**
    a. TG SAFE provides for a unified administrative structure covering the Food Safety Department and Drugs Control Administration, while retaining their independent statutory powers under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006[42] and the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940,[43] as elaborated below:
        i. The Drug Administration and Food Safety wings continue licensing, inspection, sampling, testing and enforcement under their respective statutory frameworks.
        ii. The Enforcement wing provides intelligence gathering, risk-based inspections and prosecution support, with police personnel attached by the Police Department.
        iii. The Laboratory wing brings the Food Safety Laboratory and Drug Testing Laboratory under a common administrative framework.
    b. It introduces six functional wings covering Drug Administration, Food Safety, Enforcement, Legal and Prosecution, Laboratory, and Administration.
    c. It provides for initial implementation in the Core Urban Region Economy (CURE) region through common administrative, enforcement, legal, laboratory, intelligence and data-analysis mechanisms.
    d. It enables vacant sanctioned posts to be filled through deputation, contract or outsourcing in accordance with prescribed procedures.
    e. It establishes a state-level committee to review service rules, cadre needs, testing, legal support, intelligence, infrastructure and technology, guiding the final decision on a unified Food and Drug Department for Telangana.
4. **Legal Alignment -** TG SAFE aligns with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 which provides the national regulatory framework for food safety and standards and the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 which regulates the import, manufacture, distribution and sale of drugs and cosmetics in India.

[42] Food Safety And Standards Act, 2006.
[43] Drugs And Cosmetics Act, 1940.

A. Telangana Standards Authority For Food And Essential Drugs (TG SAFE)
Source: The Hindu, Telangana Today | **Impact:** High

5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Maharashtra operates a unified Food and Drug Administration[44] covering food safety and drug regulation, while Gujarat operates the Food and Drugs Control Administration[45] as an integrated state-level regulatory authority for food and drug regulation.
6. **Relevance –**
   a. 398 of 3,576 food samples (11.1%) failed quality checks in Telangana in 2025–26, yet the state recorded zero penalties or convictions,[46] with no criminal convictions reported from 2021–22 to 2025–26.[47] Enforcement capacity is also constrained, with only 44 of 81 sanctioned Food Safety Officer posts filled[48] and over 100 cases pending before district additional collectors in Hyderabad and Rangareddy.[49]
   b. TG SAFE addresses these gaps by creating dedicated Enforcement and Legal and Prosecution wings, enabling vacancies to be filled through deputation, contract or outsourcing, and bringing Food Safety and Drugs Control functions under a common administrative framework while retaining their statutory powers.[50]
   c. Telangana's existing enforcement workload demonstrates the scale of the regulatory challenge. In 2025, the Drugs Control Administration conducted 28,816 inspections, initiated action in 5,278 cases, carried out 244 seizures, and found 84 of 4,801 analysed samples to be not of standard quality; it also recorded 217 convictions.[51]
   d. The food and drug systems previously operated through separate administrative structures despite overlapping functions such as licensing, inspection, sampling, testing and enforcement.[52] TG SAFE directly addresses this fragmentation by creating common enforcement, laboratory, legal, intelligence and administrative mechanisms while preserving the separate statutory mandates.

[44] Maharashtra Food And Drug Administration.
[45] Gujarat Food And Drugs Control Administration.
[46] The Times Of India, August, 2026.
[47] Siasat, August, 2026.
[48] Telangana Today, August, 2026.
[49] Telangana Today, August, 2026.
[50] Deccan Chronicle, August, 2026.
[51] The New Indian Express, January, 2026.
[52] The Hindu, July, 2026.

VI. Nagaland

A. Education Management Information System (EMIS)
Source: The Government Of Nagaland | **Impact:** Medium
1. On 15th August, 2026, the Nagaland Government launched the Education Management Information System (EMIS). 2. EMIS aims to establish a **centralised digital database** for school education by integrating student, school and staff records to support planning, monitoring, resource allocation and administrative decision-making. While EMIS already existed as a school education information system, the initiative focuses on digitising and strengthening the existing system through a centralised platform. 3. **Key Features -** a. EMIS provides a centralised database covering more than 1,800 Government schools, over one lakh Government school students and more than 22,000 teaching and non-teaching staff. b. It introduces a single digital record tracking each student's educational journey from pre-primary to Class 12. c. It also provides teachers with digital access to their service records and professional development information. d. The system enables real-time reporting and data-based monitoring to support decisions relating to school infrastructure, staffing and resource allocation. e. It replaces fragmented educational records with an integrated data-management system for collecting, managing and analysing school education data. 4. **Central Policy Alignment -** The system aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020[53] which provides for technology-enabled education governance and strengthened educational data systems for planning, monitoring and administration. 5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Assam implements the Shiksha Setu Axom, 2023,[54] a digital platform to maintain real-time data on schools, students and teachers, while Meghalaya launched the Meghalaya School Performance Grading Index (MSPGI), 2025-26,[55] which uses Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) data to assess schools across 43 indicators and support school-level monitoring and planning. 6. **Relevance -** a. Nagaland's primary Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) is strong at 95.4%, above the national average of 90%, but enrolment and retention decline sharply at higher levels. While only 48.5% of students complete Classes 1-8, an estimated 45%

[53] National Education Policy (NEP), 2020.
[54] Shiksha Setu Axom, 2023.
[55] Meghalaya School Performance Grading Index (MSPGI), 2025-26.

A. Education Management Information System (EMIS)
Source: The Government Of Nagaland | **Impact:** Medium
complete secondary education, and higher secondary retention falls to just 29%, compared with 47.2% nationally.[56] b. The secondary dropout rate has also increased from 11.6% to 12.1% in the year 2024-25.[57] EMIS addresses this by maintaining a single digital record for each student from pre-primary to Class 12, allowing the Government to identify where students are dropping out and enable targeted interventions before they leave the education system. c. Nagaland's education system faces persistent gaps in monitoring and accountability, with fragmented records across schools and districts making state-level planning slow and unreliable.[58] EMIS integrates data from over 1,800 Government schools, more than one lakh students and 22,000 staff into a single system, enabling real-time monitoring, better planning and more transparent teacher deployment. d. Teacher shortages, surpluses and accountability issues further weaken school functioning. Among 397 appointments examined, 65 teachers lacked the required teaching qualifications.[59] EMIS can create verified digital staff records and auditable deployment data, helping identify irregularities and support rational redeployment to schools facing shortages. e. Lastly, resource allocation is also constrained by significant infrastructure gaps. Only 59% of schools have internet connectivity, 9.8% have Children With Special Needs (CWSN)-friendly toilets, 19% have ramps and handrails, and just 44.9% conduct medical check-ups.[60] EMIS can consolidate school-level infrastructure data, allowing the Government to identify the most deprived schools, prioritise spending and track whether improvements are delivered.

[56] Morung Express, August, 2026.
[57] Morung Express, August, 2026.
[58] World Bank, July, 2026.
[59] Nagaland Tribune, September, 2025.
[60] Morung Express, September, 2025.

VII. Tripura

A. Tripura Registry And Integration For Startup Ecosystem (T-RISE) Portal
Source: The Government Of Tripura, APAC News Network, Tripurainfo | **Impact:** Medium
1. On 17th August, 2026, the Tripura Government launched the Tripura Registry and Integration for Startup Ecosystem (T-RISE) Portal. 2. The T-RISE Portal aims to create a **single-window digital platform** connecting startups and entrepreneurs with mentors, investors, corporates, incubators, academic institutions and Government departments to facilitate startup recognition, funding, incubation, market access and investment opportunities. 3. **Key Features -** a. The T-RISE Portal provides a single-window digital ecosystem connecting startups with Government departments, mentors, investors, corporates, incubators, experts and academic institutions. b. It offers access to more than 20 mentors, 10 investors and 10 corporates across technology, finance, marketing, legal services and business strategy, with stage-specific, on-demand support based on startups' needs. c. It also facilitates engagement with Tripura-origin professionals and entrepreneurs for mentorship, investment, strategic partnerships and access to national and international markets. d. It provides a Startup One ID Card as a digital identity for recognised startups in Tripura, enabling secure verification and streamlined access to government schemes, incentives, mentoring, incubation, investor connect and events. e. It integrates funding support including Tri-Seed Funding up to ₹ 2 lakh, prototype assistance up to ₹ 10 lakh, monthly operational reimbursement of ₹ 20,000 and marketing assistance up to ₹ 5 lakh. f. It complements the state's startup ecosystem comprising the T-NEST incubation centre[61] and its partnership with T-Hub[62] (the startup innovation initiative of the Telangana Government) for mentorship, accelerator programmes, industry networks and startup support. 4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative is structurally aligned with the Department for Promotion of Industry And Internal Trade's (DPIIT) Startup India Initiative, 2016[63,64] the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region's (DoNER) North East Venture Fund (NEVF), 2017[65] and Atal Innovation Mission(AIM), 2016.[66]

61 PIB, February, 2026.
62 T-Hub Portal.
63 Department For Promotion Of Industry And Internal Trade's (DPIIT) Startup India Initiative, 2016.
64 Startup India Initiative, 2016.
65 PIB, August, 2023.
66 Atal Innovation Mission, 2016.

A. Tripura Registry And Integration For Startup Ecosystem (T-RISE) Portal

Source: The Government Of Tripura, APAC News Network, Tripurainfo | **Impact:** Medium

5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Telangana's Startup Telangana Portal, 2021[67] connects startups with mentors, investors, incubators, corporates and Government support, complemented by the T-Hub, 2015[68] ecosystem. Odisha's Startup Odisha, 2016[69] and Odisha Startup Hub (O-Hub), 2021[70] provide mentorship, investor access, incubation, business support and grants/loans.
6. **Relevance -**
    a. India's startup funding remains concentrated in major hubs, with Bengaluru and Mumbai accounting for 57.35% of tech startup funding in 2024.[71] leaving states such as Tripura largely disconnected from mainstream investor networks. The T-RISE Portal bridges this gap by connecting Tripura's startups with more than 20 mentors, 10 investors and 10 corporates through a single platform, providing access to expertise, networks and capital without relocation.
    b. Tripura's startup ecosystem remains nascent, with the latest Startup India State Ranking placing it in the "Aspiring Leader" category.[72] Limited access to institutional finance due to collateral and guarantee requirements, coupled with scarce specialised private-sector support,[73] constrains startup growth.[74] The T-RISE Portal helps bridge these gaps by connecting startups to investors, incubators, mentors and the Tri-Seed Fund.[75]
    c. Agriculture contributes 48.1% of Tripura's GSDP, while the secondary sector contributes only 9% in 2024-25, indicating limited industrial diversification and private-sector linkages.[76] The T-RISE Portal can help address this by connecting startups with corporates, domain experts and markets to build businesses around local resources, including bamboo and rubber.
    d. With Maitri Setu and railway connectivity to Chittagong Port,[77] Tripura is emerging as a gateway to Southeast Asia, supported by an 856-km Bangladesh border.[78] T-RISE can help leverage strategic advantage into startup opportunities.

[67] Startup Telangana Portal.
[68] T-Hub Portal.
[69] Startup Odisha Portal.
[70] Odisha Startup Hub (O-Hub), 2021.
[71] Whalesbook, April, 2026.
[72] Startup India Ranking 5.0.
[73] Tech Observer, November, 2024.
[74] North East Today, August, 2026.
[75] T-RISE, Government Of Tripura.
[76] Ukhrul Times, August, 2025.
[77] PIB, March, 2021.
[78] ENewsTime, August, 2026.

VIII. Sikkim

A. Online Registration And Renewal System For Tourism Establishments
Source: The Government Of Sikkim, The Economic Times | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 26th August, 2026, the Tourism and Civil Aviation Department, Government of Sikkim launched the Online Registration and Renewal System for Tourism Establishments.
2. The system aims to digitise registration and annual renewal services for tourism businesses across Sikkim, enabling stakeholders to submit applications, make fee payments and obtain certificates online while reducing paperwork and physical visits to Government offices across the state's six districts.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The system covers six categories of tourism establishments in the first phase, hotels and resorts, homestays, bed and breakfast establishments, service apartments, holiday homes and restaurants.
   b. It enables eligible establishments to submit applications for fresh registration and annual renewal, pay prescribed fees digitally and download approved registration or renewal certificates directly online.
   c. It provides integration with the Sikkim Single Sign-On (SSO) platform, named Sikkim GO[79] allowing applicants to access Tourism Department services through a single login and receive SMS notifications at different stages of application processing.
   d. The system extends digital service delivery across all six districts of Sikkim, allowing applications to be filed from home or through cybercafes without repeated visits to Tourism Department offices.
   e. The system proposes a second phase within two to three months to bring registrations for travel agents, adventure tour operators, outdoor photographers and tourist guides online, with all Tourism Department services expected to become digitally available after its completion.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The system aligns with the Digital India Programme, 2015,[80] particularly its e-Governance - reforming Government through technology and electronic service-delivery objectives.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Uttarakhand Tourism Policy, 2023[81] provides for online registration systems for tourism service providers with a target of 100% registration, the Goa Homestay and Bed and Breakfast Policy, 2025[82] enables online tourism-establishment registration through Goa Online and Kerala's Revised Scheme

[79] Sikkim GO Portal.
[80] Digital India Programme, 2015.
[81] Uttarakhand Tourism Policy, 2023.
[82] Goa Homestay And Bed And Breakfast Policy, 2025.

A. Online Registration And Renewal System For Tourism Establishments
Source: The Government Of Sikkim, The Economic Times | **Impact:** Medium

for Classification or Reclassification of Homestays, 2015,[83] (revised in 2020)[84] provides an online application mechanism for homestay classification and reclassification.

6. **Relevance -**
   a. Sikkim had 1,181 hotels, 1,981 homestays and more than 600 restaurants by late 2025, with the sector collectively capable of accommodating around 42,000–45,000 tourists a day.[85] Since these establishments require registration and annual renewal with the Tourism Department,[86] the earlier physical process imposed recurring compliance costs, particularly on homestay operators and businesses in remote areas.
   b. The system allows registration, annual renewal, fee payment and certificate downloads through the Sikkim SSO platform, replacing physical visits with a remote digital process and making compliance more accessible for more than 3,762 establishments.
   c. Sikkim also recorded a record 16.55 lakh domestic tourist arrivals in 2025, while 10.61 lakh tourists had already visited by May, 2026, putting the state on course for another record year.[87] As tourism volumes and destinations expand, the digital system enables centralised processing of registrations and renewals, allowing regulation to scale without a proportional increase in physical offices or administrative workload.
   d. The ₹ 27.72 crore gap between estimated and actual Restricted Area Permit (RAP) and Protected Area Permit (PAP) revenue in 2025.[88] While this gap relates specifically to permits, it points to wider limitations in Sikkim's fragmented tourism administration.[89]
   e. By creating a central digital record of registrations, renewals, payments and certificates, the system can strengthen compliance and revenue monitoring. Its planned expansion to travel agents, adventure operators, outdoor photographers and tourist guides will bring more tourism stakeholders into the same regulatory framework.

[83] G.O.(Ms) No.324/15/TSM, December, 2015.
[84] G.O.(Ms) No.03/2020/TSM, January, 2020.
[85] Sikkim Express, August, 2026.
[86] Office Order, Government Of Sikkim, August, 2026.
[87] East Mojo, July, 2026.
[88] Sikkim Express, August, 2026.
[89] ET TravelWorld, August, 2026.

IX. Karnataka

A. Karnataka Government Parks (Preservation) (Amendment) Bill, 2026
Source: The Government Of Karnataka, The New Indian Express | **Impact:** High

1. On 24th August, 2026, the Karnataka Legislative Assembly passed the Karnataka Government Parks (Preservation) (Amendment) Bill, 2026, amending the Karnataka Government Parks (Preservation) Act, 1975[90] to permit limited alienation and use of Government park and garden land for public utility and infrastructure projects.
2. The Bill aims to establish a statutory framework for the limited use of Government park and garden land for public purposes, subject to a prescribed ceiling and an institutional approval mechanism. Unlike the 1975 Act, which imposed a strong presumption of protection by prohibiting alienation and declaring any contravening alienation or licence null and void.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The Bill permits the state Government to sell, lease, transfer, gift, exchange, mortgage or otherwise alienate park or garden land to Government departments and companies, statutory authorities and local authorities for public purposes, subject to an overall ceiling of 5% of the total area.
   b. It requires proposals for alienation of park land to be examined by a high-level committee headed by the Additional Chief Secretary before being recommended to the state Government.
   c. It provides for land or buildings within Government parks and gardens to be used for public infrastructure and public utility projects considered to be in the public interest.
   d. The Bill includes land previously alienated from a park or garden while calculating the 5% ceiling, while excluding developments undertaken by the Horticulture Department for its administrative and allied purposes from the restriction.
   e. It permits limited use of land within horticulture farms for core horticulture projects, including post-processing facilities, cold storage units, production of improved varieties and agro-based industries directly benefiting local farming communities, subject to recorded reasons establishing public interest and necessity.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Urban and Regional Development Plans Formulation and Implementation (URDPFI) Guidelines, 2014[91] provide the national planning framework for urban and regional development, including norms for the provision and protection of parks, open spaces and recreational areas within urban settlements.

[90] Karnataka Government Parks (Preservation) Act, 1975.
[91] Urban And Regional Development Plans Formulation And Implementation (URDPFI) Guidelines, 2014.

A. Karnataka Government Parks (Preservation) (Amendment) Bill, 2026
Source: The Government Of Karnataka, The New Indian Express | **Impact:** High

5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Maharashtra regulates the preservation and development of designated open spaces through the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning Act, 1966,[92] while Tamil Nadu regulates the conversion and use of land reserved for parks and open spaces through the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act, 1971.[93]
6. **Relevance -**
    a. Bengaluru's green cover has declined from 68.2% in 1973 to 6.02% in 2025, with paved surfaces now covering 87.64% of the city, while mean air temperature has risen by 0.23°C per decade.[94] The city also has only around 1,500 acres of parkland against an estimated 30,000 acres required to meet the Urban and Regional Development Plans Formulation and Implementation (URDPFI) guidelines recommendation of 10–12 sq m.[95]
    b. This creates a concern that diverting up to 5% of protected park and garden land, equivalent to around 65 acres, could further reduce Bengaluru's limited and shrinking green cover, amid rising heat, making infrastructure diversion contentious.[96] The Bill replaces ad hoc amendments and judicial interventions with a statutory, high-level approval mechanism for public-purpose use.
    c. The 5% ceiling could become a recurring source of land for infrastructure rather than an exceptional safeguard, as multiple approvals across transport, utilities and civic projects could cumulatively fragment protected parks.[97] Allowing alienation to government departments, companies and authorities without green-space replacement, ecological valuation or public consultation could lower barriers to future diversions, turning the 5% cap into a de facto development entitlement.
    d. The Bill permits horticulture land to support post-processing, cold storage, improved variety production and agro-based industries benefiting farmers, subject to a finding of public interest and necessity.[98] However, exempting Horticulture Department administrative and "allied" activities from the 5% ceiling creates a loophole, as the undefined term "allied purposes" could enable broader interpretation and dilute the cap's safeguard.

[92] Maharashtra Regional And Town Planning Act, 1966.
[93] Tamil Nadu Town And Country Planning Act, 1971.
[94] Down To Earth, June, 2025.
[95] Millenium Post, August, 2026.
[96] Down To Earth, June, 2025.
[97] The News Minute, August, 2026.
[98] The Hans India, August, 2026.

X. Andhra Pradesh

A. Farmer ID-Based Government Procurement Framework
Source: The Hindu | **Impact:** High
1. On 25th August, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Agriculture Department made the Farmer ID (Unique Farmer Number) mandatory for farmers selling agricultural produce at Government procurement centres ahead of the Kharif procurement season. 2. The framework aims to link Government procurement with a verified digital identity of the cultivator, enabling procurement agencies to authenticate farmers and their cultivation details, improve payment traceability and integrate procurement with the state's AgriStack Farmer Registry. 3. **Key Features -** a. The framework mandates farmers seeking to sell produce at Government procurement centres to possess a valid Farmer ID, with the relevant land parcel linked to the ID. b. It directs Andhra Pradesh State Co-operative Marketing Federation Limited (AP MARKFED) to procure pulses, including green gram, black gram, red gram and chickpea, only from land parcels linked to valid Farmer IDs. c. It similarly requires the Andhra Pradesh Civil Supplies Corporation to procure paddy only from land parcels linked to valid Farmer IDs. d. The framework builds on the use of Farmer IDs for crop insurance in the state, with the identification system also expected to become a requirement for accessing benefits under PM-KISAN. e. It targets registration of 64.71 lakh Farmer IDs, of which 51.83 lakh have been registered, and directs field officials and Common Service Centres to facilitate registration of the remaining farmers. 4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Digital Agriculture Mission, 2024[99] provides the Central framework for developing digital public infrastructure for agriculture, including the AgriStack Farmers' Registry and issuance of Farmer IDs linked to farmers and their land records. 5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Uttar Pradesh began implementing the Farmer Registry under AgriStack in 2024,[100] providing farmers with unique Farmer IDs linked to their land records for accessing agricultural schemes and services, while Gujarat began implementing the same to create digitally verified farmer records linked with agricultural landholdings and became the first state in the country to generate Farmer IDs for 25% of the targeted number of farmers in the state.[101]

[99] PIB, September, 2024.
[100] Uttar Pradesh, Farmer Registry App User Manual, 2024.
[101] PIB, December, 2024.

A. Farmer ID-Based Government Procurement Framework
Source: The Hindu | **Impact:** High

6. **Relevance -**
    a. In December 2025, farmers reported that intermediaries were directly procuring paddy from cultivators below MSP and then routing the produce through the government procurement system; in some cases, farmers alleged that the full MSP was credited into their accounts but they were subsequently required to return part of it to middlemen.[102] Making Farmer ID mandatory at Government procurement centres addresses this by requiring produce sellers to be authenticated against their registered farmer and land records, strengthening traceability and reducing the scope for unauthorised procurement.
    b. The framework is further strengthened by the national expansion of AgriStack, more than 10.31 crore Farmer IDs had been generated by August, 2026, with the Union Government seeking their integration with services including Minimum Support Price (MSP) procurement.[103] The state's framework therefore moves beyond creating a digital farmer database by using Farmer ID as an operational authentication mechanism at the procurement stage, linking farmer identity, crop records and bank details for more traceable transactions and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
    c. Tenant farmers cultivate an estimated 80% of Andhra Pradesh's agricultural land, yet only 12.3% had received Crop Cultivator Rights Cards (CCRCs) as of October 2025,[104] limiting their ability to establish a formal link with the land they cultivate. The risk is particularly significant given that CCRC issuance has consistently fallen short of the state's 10-lakh annual target, with 8.31 lakh cards issued in 2024 and 5.99 lakh in 2025. While land-linked identification can curb middlemen and fraudulent procurement, it may also exclude genuine tenant cultivators whose Farmer IDs remain linked to landowners.[105]
    d. However, making the ID mandatory for procurement could exclude farmers with unresolved land, tenancy or Farmer ID records.[106] With the AgriStack Farmer Registry still being rolled out, timely registration, grievance redressal and dynamic land-record synchronisation will be critical to ensure the mandate does not create unintended exclusion.[107]

102 The New Indian Express, December, 2025.
103 PIB, August, 2026.
104 The Hans India, October, 2025.
105 Prabha News, June, 2026.
106 The Hans India, August, 2026.
107 PIB, August, 2026.

XI. Meghalaya

A. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) For District Selection Committees (DSCs)

Source: India Today NE, Hub Network | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 26th August, 2026, the Meghalaya Cabinet approved the Meghalaya Group-C Non-Technical Recruitment Reform and DSC SOP, 2026.[108]
2. The SOP aims to remove viva-voce interviews from the recruitment process for Group-C **non-technical posts** in DSCs, standardise district-level recruitment procedures, and strengthen consistency and objectivity in the conduct of state-wide recruitment.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The SOP provides for discontinuation of viva-voce interviews for Group-C non-technical posts recruited through DSCs for advertisements issued from 1st January, 2027 onwards.
   b. It retains interviews for Group-C technical posts, with the Personnel Department required to notify the posts classified as technical and non-technical.
   c. The Government will provide a three-to-four-month period for amendment of applicable service rules before the revised recruitment process becomes operational.
   d. The SOP mandates all DSCs across Meghalaya to follow standardised recruitment procedures to prevent omission of prescribed procedural requirements.
   e. It enables training of Deputy Commissioners and concerned officials for its implementation and subsequent extension to recruitment boards covering medical, rural development and police appointments.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The SOP aligns with the Union Government's Discontinuation of Interview in Recruitment of Junior-Level Posts Reform, 2016,[109] which abolished interviews for Group-C and Group-B non-gazetted Central Government posts from 1st January, 2016 to improve objectivity and expedite recruitment.[110]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Uttar Pradesh implemented the Uttar Pradesh Direct Recruitment to Junior Level Posts (Discontinuation of Interview) Rules, 2017,[111] removing interviews from direct recruitment to junior-level posts, while Odisha introduced the Odisha Civil Services (Discontinuation of Interview/Viva-voce Test) Rules, 2020[112] for specified civil-service recruitment processes.
6. **Relevance -**

[108] Hub Network, August, 2026.
[109] Union Government Discontinuation Of Interview In Recruitment Of Junior-Level Posts Reform.
[110] PIB, July, 2026.
[111] *Arvind Kumar* v. *State Of Uttar Pradesh*, WRIT - A No. - 17530 of 2021.
[112] The Times Of India, August, 2024.

A. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) For District Selection Committees (DSCs)
Source: India Today NE, Hub Network | **Impact:** Medium
a. Recent cases point to persistent concerns over transparency and procedural consistency in Meghalaya's DSC recruitment. In August, 2026, the Jaintia Students' Union sought postponement of the West Jaintia Hills Grade-IV examination, citing unresolved results from a 2021 recruitment process and concerns over shortlisting, evaluation methods and answer scripts.[113] b. This SOP can reduce variation in practices relating to shortlisting, merit-list preparation and appointments across districts. The decision to discontinue interviews for non-technical Group C posts further reduces dependence on a relatively subjective stage of selection and gives greater weight to measurable written or skill-based assessment. c. The fairness of DSC examinations was also reported to be sub-judice before the Meghalaya High Court.[114] The reforms seek to address these concerns through a common SOP for all 12 district-level DSCs, supported by mandatory training of Deputy Commissioners and other officials. d. Separately, a May, 2026 complaint from South Garo Hills alleged that candidates who failed a prescribed typing test were still allowed to proceed to interviews and were subsequently appointed.[115] These concerns highlight the need for a more standardised and auditable recruitment process. e. The SOP and the removal of interviews are collectively intended to make recruitment more uniform, transparent and easier to audit, while strengthening adherence to established recruitment rules.

[113] Shillong Times, August, 2026.
[114] HighlandPost, August, 2026.
[115] Shillong Times, May, 2026.

Policy Level Announcements

I. Delhi

A. Master Plan For Delhi 2047 (MPD-2047)
Source: The Government Of Delhi, CNBC TV18 | **Impact:** High

1. On 20th August, 2026, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (Delhi Division) notified the Master Plan for Delhi – 2047 (MPD-2047) in the Gazette of India, comprehensively revising the Master Plan of Delhi-2021[116] notified on 7th February, 2007.
2. The Master Plan aims to develop Delhi into a globally competitive, environmentally resilient, and inclusive capital for an estimated 3.2 crore residents by 2047, shifting urban planning from a purely regulatory approach to a development-oriented framework.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The Master Plan adopts a two-pronged spatial development strategy, combining redevelopment and densification of existing brownfield areas (cooperative group housing societies, Delhi Development Authority (DDA) housing schemes, resettlement colonies, General Pool Residential Areas) with policy-led planned development of new urban extensions to meet a projected demand of nearly 40 lakh additional housing units by 2047.
   b. It proposes a 138-hectare education hub in Narela to house universities, research institutions, skill-development centres, and startups as part of a dedicated innovation and research ecosystem vertical.
   c. It embeds and strengthens the existing Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) framework originally envisaged under MPD-2021 by integrating revised TOD regulations and inclusionary zoning around metro corridors (within 500 metres) and regional transport nodes.
   d. MPD-2047 promotes land pooling for planned expansion and lowers the redevelopment threshold to 3,000 sq. m, enabling renewal of ageing neighbourhoods and potentially adding around 7 lakh homes.[117]
   e. The Master Plan also designates Specialised Economic Zones, including a High Density Corridor Zone along Urban Extension Road-II, integrating residential, warehousing, logistics, and commercial land use for high-value economic activity.
   f. It provides for modern industrial and logistics clusters linked to highways, rail networks, and urban transport corridors, incorporating warehousing, distribution centres, and integrated freight facilities to improve supply-chain efficiency.
   g. It mandates interception and treatment of all 22 drains discharging into the

[116] Master Plan Of 2021, The Delhi Development Authority.
[117] MPD-2047, Redevelopment of Ageing Neighbourhoods.

A. Master Plan For Delhi 2047 (MPD-2047)
Source: The Government Of Delhi, CNBC TV18 | **Impact:** High
Yamuna through sewage treatment, constructed wetlands, and bioremediation, with drain corridors restored and integrated with green spaces and floodplains into continuous ecological corridors (11 of the 22 drains already intercepted). 4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Master Plan is notified by the Central Government under Section 11-A of the Delhi Development Act, 1957,[118] and is explicitly framed within the Viksit Bharat @2047 vision,[119] positioning Delhi's Master Plan as a model for globally competitive, innovation-driven, high-liveability urban development at the national capital scale. 5. **Similar Initiatives in Other States -** Maharashtra has undertaken comparable long-range planning through two distinct frameworks: the Mumbai Development Plan 2034[120] (for Greater Mumbai) and the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Plan 2034.[121] Gujarat has used Ahmedabad's Town Planning Scheme model for large-scale land pooling, readjustment and infrastructure-led neighbourhood redevelopment previously in 2018.[122] 6. **Relevance -** a. The Master Plan of Delhi was notified in 2007 for a 2021 horizon for a period of 14 years and **never comprehensively revised**. By August, 2026, Delhi had been operating approximately five years beyond its planning horizon while the successor plan remained unnotified. Delhi's population is expected to cross 3.2 crore in the next two decades.[123] Structural vulnerabilities stem from proliferation of unauthorised colonies and dense informal settlements. Four- to five-storey buildings on tiny plots across North, North-West, South-West Delhi, and along the Yamuna creates high earthquake, flooding, and heat-wave risks.[124] b. The Master Plan shifts Delhi from reactive regularisation of unauthorised development toward a forward-looking land-use framework that links projected demand, spatial planning, mobility and economic growth. c. To address a projected housing shortfall of nearly 40 lakh units by 2047, the Master Plan combines brownfield densification with planned urban extensions, enabling higher-Floor Area Ratio (FAR)[125] redevelopment of existing housing areas

[118] Delhi Development Act, 1957.
[119] Viksit India, 2047.
[120] Mumbai Development Plan 2034.
[121] MMRDA.
[122] Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office, Best Practices Compendium , Page 61.
[123] The Hindu, August, 2026.
[124] Millennium Post, September, 2012.
[125] Floor Area Ratio is a zoning metric that regulates the amount of building space allowed relative to the building's lot size. It is the ratio of a building's total floor area to the size of the land plot it sits on.

A. Master Plan For Delhi 2047 (MPD-2047)
Source: The Government Of Delhi, CNBC TV18 | **Impact:** High
while reducing reliance on large-scale greenfield acquisition.[126] The Master Plan addresses this through a proactive spatial planning framework, utilising GIS-based planning. d. Rapid urban growth and poor infrastructure have led to a sharp decline in cycling and high pedestrian and cyclist fatalities. Cyclists and pedestrians account for almost half of the road fatalities in the country. [127] Transit oriented development zoning that expands the 416-km Metro network and Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) while integrating walking, cycling, last-mile connectivity, and land-use planning to reduce private vehicle dependence.[128] e. Delhi's water supply in 2021 (i.e., 935 million gallons per day) lagged behind the demand for 1,380 million gallons per day[129] (which is projected to reach 1,600 million gallons per day by 2047).[130] Under the Master Plan, local bodies are encouraged to designate parks and gardens as "flood sinks," where excess rainwater can temporarily collect and recharge groundwater. f. Additionally, solid waste is expected to surge from 13,500 TPD in 2026 to 25,764 TPD by 2047, and sewage treatment (814 MGD) is estimated to fall short of the 1,285 MGD requirement.[131] The Master Plan addresses this through infrastructure-first development, specifically adding 231 million gallons per day of sewage capacity by 2028. g. However, the Master Plan's effectiveness will depend on whether the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) and Delhi Development Authority (DDA) revise their respective regulations and zoning codes in parallel.

[126] NDTV, August, 2026.
[127] The Hindu, November, 2021.
[128] Economic Times, August, 2026.
[129] Budget 2021-2022, Delhi Jal Board, Page 11.
[130] The Business Standard, August, 2026.
[131] Press Trust Of India, August, 2026.

II. Telangana

A. Telangana Autorickshaw Electric Conversion Scheme, 2026
Source: The Hindu, Hyderabad Mail | **Impact:** High

1. On 27th August, 2026, the Telangana Government launched the Telangana Autorickshaw Electric Conversion Scheme, 2026.
2. The scheme aims to convert or replace 18,766 petrol and diesel autorickshaws operating in the CURE area with electric vehicles through targeted financial assistance, reducing transport emissions and fuel expenditure while supporting the transition towards net-zero urban public transport.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The scheme provides financial assistance of up to ₹ 1.5 lakh per vehicle for retrofitting an existing autorickshaw with an approved electric kit, capped at the actual cost of the kit, installation and standard accessories.
   b. It enables eligible owners to surrender their existing petrol or diesel autorickshaw and purchase a factory-built L5M electric three-wheeler, with a flat ₹ 1.5 lakh subsidy adjusted upfront against the on-road price through empanelled dealers.
   c. Covers 18,766 registered autorickshaws in the CURE area, including 11,254 diesel and 7,512 petrol vehicles, identified through the Transport Commissioner's database.
   d. Mandates certified electric autos and fixed-battery retrofits with a minimum 100 km range, while swappable-battery kits must offer at least 70 km per pack, with prescribed safety, certification and warranty standards.
   e. Provides ₹ 200 crore through a Single Scheme, Multiple Funding Streams model, with ₹ 50 crore each from the SC, ST, Backward Classes and Minorities Welfare departments, supported by three-tier implementation and digital application, verification, scrapping and subsidy systems.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The scheme aligns with the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme, 2024,[132] which accelerates electric mobility through demand incentives for electric vehicles, including commercial electric three-wheelers. It also aligns with the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), 2019,[133] which provides a national framework for improving urban air quality, including measures to address vehicular emissions.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Delhi's Electric Vehicles Policy, 2026 (2.0)[134] provided ₹ 30,000 purchase assistance for e-autos, scrapping incentives of up to ₹ 7,500 and 5% loan interest subvention, while Assam's Electric Vehicle Policy, 2021[135]

[132] PM E-DRIVE Scheme, 2024.
[133] National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), 2019.
[134] Delhi's Electric Vehicles Policy, 2026, ET Government, July, 2026.
[135] Assam's Electric Vehicle Policy, 2021.

A. Telangana Autorickshaw Electric Conversion Scheme, 2026
Source: The Hindu, Hyderabad Mail | **Impact:** High

introduced EV incentives and a retrofit incentive of 15%, capped at ₹ 15,000, for three-seater autorickshaws.

6. **Relevance -**
   a. Hyderabad faces significant vehicular pollution, with vehicles contributing around 45% of the city's air pollution. In winter 2025–26, PM2.5 was 176 µg/m³, while PM10 reached 185 µg/m³. These levels are up to 35 and 37 times the WHO guidelines, respectively.[136] Telangana has a large autorickshaw fleet, as of 31 March 2025, the state had 5.15 lakh registered autorickshaws.[137]
   b. The vehicular pollution load of Hyderabad and Secunderabad at 1,500 tonnes per day, with three-wheelers accounting for 34% of the pollution load by vehicle category.[138] The 18,766 petrol and diesel auto-rickshaws covered under the scheme are a significant source of urban emissions, particularly in stop-start traffic.[139] The scheme provides up to ₹ 1.5 lakh per vehicle for electric retrofitting or replacement, eliminating tailpipe emissions while mandatory scrapping prevents old vehicles from continuing to operate.
   c. Fuel prices in Hyderabad stood at ₹ 115.69 per litre for petrol and ₹ 103.82 per litre for diesel on 31st August, 2026, increasing the operating costs for auto-rickshaw drivers covering 80–100 km daily.[140] Although electric three-wheelers have lower running costs, high upfront costs remain a barrier. The ₹1.5 lakh subsidy reduces this capital burden, lowering fuel expenses while supporting cleaner mobility and livelihoods.
   d. Mandating a certified range of at least 100 km for fixed batteries and 70 km per pack for swappable systems ensures converted autos can complete a full work shift without unexpected mid-day battery depletion.[141]
   e. Further, the scheme also links environmental policy with social welfare by drawing ₹ 50 crore each from the SC, ST, Backward Classes and Minority welfare departments. This aligns the funding with the beneficiary profile and enables targeted subsidy delivery.[142]

[136] The Times Of India, February, 2026.
[137] Telangana Transport Department.
[138] Telangana Transport Department.
[139] The Hindu, August, 2026.
[140] NDTV Profit, August, 2026.
[141] The New Indian Express, August, 2026.
[142] The Hindu, August, 2026.

III. Jammu And Kashmir

A. Land Pooling Policy, 2026

Source: The Government Of Jammu And Kashmir, The Greater Kashmir | **Impact:** High

1. On 17th August, 2026, the Housing and Urban Development Department notified the Jammu and Kashmir Land Pooling Policy, 2026.[143] It applies to areas notified under the Jammu and Kashmir Development Act, 1970[144] and establishes a structured framework for landowner consortia, development authorities and licensed developers.
2. The policy aims to facilitate planned urban development through **voluntary pooling of land** by landowners, enabling integrated infrastructure creation, housing development, and urban expansion while allowing participating landowners to retain a stake in the developed land.
3. **Key Features -**
    a. The policy introduces a land pooling framework requiring a minimum 70% contiguous land participation threshold for scheme eligibility.
    b. It mandates that landowners must have clear titles and dispute-free land, while excluding forests, water bodies, heritage sites, Government land, and areas under litigation or unauthorised colonies.
    c. It also provides for developer entities to undertake schemes, requiring licensing from the Development Authority and registration with Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act (RERA), 2016A, along with formation of landowner-developer consortia.
    d. The policy introduces a **60:40 land-sharing mechanism**, where landowners/developer consortia retain 60% of pooled land while 40% is reserved for Development Authorities for city-level infrastructure and public utilities.
    e. It establishes timelines and governance mechanisms, including consortium formation within 60 days, scheme submission within 6 months, infrastructure completion within 3 years, and a two-stage grievance redressal mechanism.
    f. The consortium must submit a scheme containing the layout plan, proposed land use, ownership details, built-up area, infrastructure facilities and implementation schedule, with mandatory provision for water supply, sewerage, drainage, power and transportation.
    g. It provides for External Development Charges (EDC) and Internal Development Charges (IDC) to finance infrastructure at city and neighbourhood levels.
    h. It enables a single-window digital system for applications, approvals and monitoring to improve transparency and efficiency.

[143] Government Order No. 172-JK(HUD) Of 2026.
[144] J&K Development Act, 1970.

A. Land Pooling Policy, 2026
Source: The Government Of Jammu And Kashmir, The Greater Kashmir | **Impact:** High

i. It sets an outer time limit of 5 years for completion of land pooling schemes, with phased execution permitted
j. It provides for proportionate redistribution of developed land/built-up space among landowners based on their pooled contribution.
k. It clearly delineates operation and maintenance responsibilities, with public infrastructure maintained by Development Authorities/ULBs and internal areas by developer/consortium.

4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the Union Government's urban development approach under schemes such as Urban Challenge Fund[145] and AMRUT 2.0,[146] which promotes planned urbanisation, infrastructure-led growth, and land value capture mechanisms.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Delhi has implemented land pooling for urban expansion under the Delhi Development Authority framework,[147] while Gujarat[148] and Haryana[149] have adopted land pooling and town planning schemes for urban infrastructure development and land reconstitution.
6. **Relevance -**
   a. J&K has historically suffered from challenges associated with fragmented land holdings, inadequate infrastructure with urban plans that have faced implementation challenges over the years. Fragmented plot-level development often outpaces infrastructure provision, creating a mismatch between housing growth and planned urban services.
   b. The Srinagar Metropolitan Region Master Plan 2035,[150] was prepared for a metropolitan population of around 30 lakh by 2035. It projects a backlog of approximately 12,000 dwelling units and projects that around 3 lakh houses would be required by 2035 to accommodate population growth and clear the backlog, with a further 25,000 units[151] envisaged for floating populations and rehabilitation. The plan projects a total housing stock of about 5.93 lakh dwelling units[152] and proposes approximately 7,500 hectares of additional land to accommodate around 2.5 lakh additional households.[153] Land pooling can expand the supply of planned,

145 PIB, February, 2026.
146 PIB, December, 2022.
147 DDA - Landpooling.
148 ScienceDirect - Gujarat Landpooling.
149 The Times Of India, May, 2026.
150 Master Plan 2035, Srinagar Metropolitan Region.
151 Master Plan 2035, Srinagar Metropolitan Region, Page 53.
152 Master Plan 2035, Srinagar Metropolitan Region, Page 53.
153 Master Plan 2035, Srinagar Metropolitan Region, Page 54.

A. Land Pooling Policy, 2026
Source: The Government Of Jammu And Kashmir, The Greater Kashmir | **Impact:** High
developable land without requiring costly individual acquisition. c. The SDA notes that high land prices driven by the demand–supply gap constrain access for EWS, LIG and MIG households. Compulsory acquisition in J&K is also increasingly slow, costly and fiscally difficult, therefore the policy enables development authorities to assemble land for master-plan implementation without large upfront acquisition costs. d. The policy links land pooling with mandatory water, sewerage, drainage, power and transport infrastructure, enabling integrated development of 60% of qualifying land while recovering external infrastructure costs. This can shift J&K from fragmented expansion toward planned, infrastructure-led urban growth.[154] e. Moreover, requiring clear, dispute-free titles, RERA registration, and licensed developers reduces litigation risks for homebuyers, making land pooling schemes bankable for private institutional lenders. f. Nonetheless, implementation will depend on institutional capacity that the policy does not itself create. J&K relies on existing development authorities despite gaps in metropolitan governance and service coverage. Without adequate staffing and a functional online system, the 70% participation threshold could prove difficult to achieve, risking delays similar to Delhi's land pooling experience.

[154] The News Now, August, 2026.

IV. Assam

A. Assam Hydrocarbon Exploration, Production And Upstream Ecosystem Development Policy, 2026
Source: Indian Gazette News, The Times Of India | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 18th August, 2026, the Assam Cabinet approved the Assam Hydrocarbon Exploration, Production and Upstream Ecosystem Development Policy, 2026.
2. The policy aims to expand hydrocarbon exploration into **untapped and underexplored areas** of Assam by reducing investment barriers for exploration and supporting the development of the state's upstream hydrocarbon ecosystem.
3. **Key Features -**
    a. The policy provides GST-related concessions and other fiscal support to encourage fresh exploration and investment in hydrocarbon blocks.
    b. It provides support for deployment of new drilling rigs and associated equipment into the state to facilitate exploration activities.
    c. It seeks to attract Oil India Limited (OIL), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and private companies to undertake exploration in untapped and underexplored areas of Assam.
    d. It also enables exploration in areas with identified hydrocarbon potential, including parts of north Assam such as Dhemaji, where dedicated exploration has remained limited.
    e. Lastly, the policy seeks to strengthen the upstream hydrocarbon ecosystem and encourage fresh exploration as production from existing oil fields is projected to decline over the coming decade.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy complements the Union Government's Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP), 2016[155] which provides the national framework for hydrocarbon exploration and production, including through the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP), 2016[156][157] for allocation of exploration blocks, while the Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 for North-East India[158] provides a regional framework for expanding hydrocarbon production, infrastructure, investment and access to petroleum products across the North-Eastern states.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Rajasthan's Integrated Clean Energy Policy, 2024[159] provides a state-level framework for promoting investment in renewable energy, energy storage and other clean energy technologies, while Gujarat's

[155] Hydrocarbon Exploration And Licensing Policy (HELP), 2016.
[156] Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP), 2016.
[157] PIB, August, 2025.
[158] PIB, February, 2016.
[159] Rajasthan Integrated Clean Energy Policy, 2024.

A. Assam Hydrocarbon Exploration, Production And Upstream Ecosystem Development Policy, 2026
Source: Indian Gazette News, The Times Of India | **Impact:** Medium
Integrated Energy Policy, 2025[160] provides a framework for strengthening the state's energy sector, including natural gas infrastructure and greater use of gas in the energy mix. 6. **Relevance -** a. Assam accounts for approximately 22% of India's domestic hydrocarbon production, making its output trajectory nationally significant.[161] India's domestic crude oil production has declined for three consecutive years.[162] Assam is part of this broader decline, with ONGC and Oil India Limited OIL producing 10.66% and 9.71% below their respective crude targets in Assam during April, 2025 to January, 2026.[163] The policy reduces exploration risk through a 10-year incentive framework, including deferred land-premium payments upon hydrocarbon discovery and fiscal concessions on exploration equipment. b. Ageing fields and limited exploration over nearly two decades have constrained new discoveries, increasing the risk of declining production without development of new reserves.[164] The policy promotes exploration in underexplored hydrocarbon areas, offers long-term investor certainty, and encourages public and private participation. c. The challenge is compounded by the maturity of Assam's producing fields, with ONGC's Assam onshore crude output falling from around 160,000 tonnes in May, 2002 to 85,250 tonnes in September, 2025.[165] The decline also affects state royalty revenues and downstream industries that depend on hydrocarbon production for feedstock. d. This is especially relevant following the June, 2026 Assam–Nagaland boundary agreement,[166] which removed a longstanding obstacle to mineral-oil operations in boundary areas and could open up additional areas for future exploration. e. However, the policy's effectiveness will depend on whether its incentives translate into actual exploration, commercially viable discoveries and sustained production. The 10-year framework provides policy certainty, but geological and commercial risks remain.[167]

[160] Gujarat Integrated Renewable Energy Policy, 2025.
[161] CEIC/Ministry Of Petroleum.
[162] Business Standard, August, 2026.
[163] Sentinel Assam, April, 2026.
[164] The Assam Tribune, August, 2026.
[165] ET, Prime, April, 2026.
[166] PIB, June, 2026.
[167] The Times Of India, 2026.

V. Manipur

A. In-Principle Approval To The Manipur Outstanding Sportspersons (Special Appointment) Policy, 2026
Source: Tripura Chronicle | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 28th August, 2026, the Manipur Cabinet gave in-principle approval to the Manipur Outstanding Sportspersons (Special Appointment) Policy, 2026.[168]
2. The policy aims to establish a structured mechanism for the recruitment, development, retention and deployment of meritorious sportspersons in Manipur, while enabling selected athletes to continue competitive sports alongside a long-term Government career.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The policy provides a 5% reservation in Government posts for outstanding sportspersons who have brought distinction to Manipur.
   b. Recruitment under the policy will be carried out through a transparent and strictly merit-based process, providing institutional recognition and employment opportunities to eligible athletes.
   c. Sportspersons appointed under the policy will be expected to maintain their competitive performance. If an athlete fails to perform for three consecutive years, they may be withdrawn from sports-related duties and reassigned to regular duties.
   d. The broader objective of the policy is to provide greater institutional support and long-term employment opportunities to sportspersons who have represented Manipur and achieved distinction in major competitions.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The policy aligns with the Khelo Bharat Niti, 2025,[169] which seeks to establish sports as a viable career option, provide athlete-centric support and strengthen mechanisms for recognising high-performing sportspersons.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Haryana's Outstanding Sportspersons (Group A, B and C) Service Rules, 2021[170] created a dedicated cadre for outstanding sportspersons, while the Punjab Sports Policy, 2023[171] provides a 3% reservation framework for sportspersons in Government jobs and employment pathways for high-performing athletes.
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Manipur has produced 19 Olympians across five disciplines[172] despite having a

[168] Tripura Chronicle, August, 2026.
[169] Khelo Bharat Niti, 2025.
[170] Haryana Outstanding Sportspersons (Group A, B, And C) Service Rules, 2021.
[171] The Print, July, 2026.
[172] Economic Times, June, 2026.

A. In-Principle Approval To The Manipur Outstanding Sportspersons (Special Appointment) Policy, 2026

Source: Tripura Chronicle | **Impact:** Medium

population of only about 33 lakh, or 0.24% of India's population.[173] This reflects exceptionally high sporting productivity, but the earlier employment framework largely benefited only gold medallists, leaving many elite athletes without similar livelihood security. The policy addresses this by extending Government job eligibility to gold, silver and bronze medallists and reserving 5% of Home Department posts for outstanding sportspersons.

b. The need for broader recognition is evident from the Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2026, where Manipuri athletes won one gold, two silver and one bronze. Since silver and bronze medallists also represent India at the highest level,[174] there arises a need for a more inclusive employment framework for high-performing athletes. The policy addresses this by extending formal appointment opportunities to silver and bronze medallists as well.

c. Manipur has also won the North East Games overall championship three consecutive times, in 2018 with 159 medals, 2022 with a reported 237 medals, and 2024 with 130 medals, including 52 gold.[175] Sustaining such performance requires long-term training and often involves sacrificing conventional career opportunities. The policy provides a structured livelihood pathway while retaining accountability through a clause that allows reassignment of athletes who fail to perform for three consecutive years.

[173] The Sangai Express, July, 2026.
[174] News On Air, 2026.
[175] Indian Express, October, 2018, The Frontier Manipur, 2024.

Social Sector Schemes

I. Odisha

A. The Bidesh Sikhyaruti Scheme
Source: The Indian Express | **Impact:** Medium
1. On 18th August, 2026, the Government of Odisha launched the Bidesh Sikhya Bruti Scheme under the Mukhyamantri Medhabi Chhatra Protsahan Yojana (MMCPY).[176] 2. The scheme aims to support **meritorious Schedule Caste (SC) / Schedule Tribe (ST) students** from Odisha in accessing higher education opportunities at top-ranked global universities by providing financial assistance. 3. **Key Features -** a. The scheme provides financial assistance up to ₹ 25 lakh per student, including ₹ 15 lakh for tuition, ₹ 7 lakh for living expenses, and ₹ 3 lakh for miscellaneous costs. b. It proposes selection of 50 SC/ST students annually for postgraduate and doctoral studies in top 200 QS-ranked foreign universities. c. It also allocates 30 seats for general streams under the Higher Education Department, 10 for engineering/technical courses, and 10 for professional courses such as medical and agriculture. d. The scheme mandates application through an online portal within a defined window (18–31 August, 2026) for transparent selection. e. It enables coverage of multiple disciplines including technical, professional, and general higher education streams. 4. **Central Initiative Alignment** - Aligns with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020,[177] which emphasises global exposure, equity in higher education, and support for disadvantaged groups. 5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States like Telangana[178] and Karnataka[179] have implemented overseas scholarship schemes for SC/ST students to support higher education in foreign universities. 6. **Relevance -** a. The Centre's overseas scholarship schemes provide limited slots: 125 annually under the National Overseas Scholarship (NOS), including 115 for SC candidates, and 20 under the Tribal Affairs scheme, including 17 for STs and 3 for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG).[180] Against these national limits, Odisha's 50 annual slots represent more than the Centre's total ST allocation. b. As of September, 2025, Odisha faced a 68% vacancy in teaching posts in state

[176] Mukhyamantri Medhavi Chhatra Protsahan Scholarship Scheme (Secondary Level- Class 11 And 12).
[177] NEP, 2020.
[178] Ambedkar Overseas Scholarship Scheme Karnataka.
[179] Dr Ambedkar Scholarship Scheme.
[180] National Overseas Scholarship For SC Candidate, Ministry Of Social Justice And Development.

A. The Bidesh Sikhyaruti Scheme
Source: The Indian Express | **Impact:** Medium
universities with 1,353 out of 2,027 teaching posts unfilled.[181] SC and ST communities together constitute roughly 40% of Odisha's population,[182] the scheme, thus, substantially expands access beyond the Central quota helping more candidates from these communities gain the qualifications needed to compete for these vacancies. c. The Central NOS scheme for ST candidates caps family income at ₹ 6 lakh[183] per annum, whereas Odisha's scheme extends eligibility to families earning up to ₹ 12 lakh.[184] This extends the benefit to a new segment of people doubling the application base without diluting the target logic. d. Notably, of the 50 annual awards, 10 are earmarked for engineering and technical education, 10 for medical, agriculture, architecture and allied technical streams, and 30 for higher education. There are 32 doctoral awards against 18 postgraduate ones. A Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) weighted allocation builds a pipeline of SC and ST researchers and prospective faculty, addressing the persistent under-representation of these communities in senior academic and research positions in Odisha's universities and technical institutions. e. Applicants must secure admission to a top-200 QS-ranked university and cannot receive overlapping scholarships. The ₹ 25 lakh annual award, covering tuition and living and academic costs, is designed to make overseas study genuinely affordable rather than dispersing smaller grants that may still leave admission financially out of reach.[185]

[181] The Times Of India, September, 2025.
[182] ST And SC Development, Minorities And Backward Classes Welfare Department.
[183] Scholarship And DBT, Ministry Of Tribal Affairs.
[184] Odisha Plus, August, 2026.
[185] Odisha Plus, August, 2026.

II. Gujarat

A. Loan For Study Abroad Scheme (Amendment), 2026
Source: The Economic Times | **Impact:** Medium
1. On 19th August, 2026, the Gujarat Government announced an amendment to the Loan for Study Abroad Scheme.[186] 2. The scheme aims to expand access to financial assistance for **unreserved category students** by increasing the income eligibility threshold, thereby enabling more middle-income families to pursue higher education in foreign institutions. 3. **Key Features -** a. The scheme also offers up to ₹ 15 lakh at 4% simple interest. b. It increases the annual family income eligibility limit from ₹ 6 lakh to ₹ 10 lakh to widen beneficiary coverage. c. The scheme provides loan assistance to unreserved category students for pursuing higher education abroad and supports financing of education-related expenses such as tuition, accommodation and living costs. d. It enables inclusion of students previously excluded due to lower income ceiling restrictions. e. It is implemented through the Gujarat Unreserved Educational and Economic Development Corporation (GUEEDC). 4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** Aligns with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020[187] to promote global exposure and access to higher education. 5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States like Odisha[188] and Telangana[189] have introduced overseas education assistance schemes providing financial support to students for higher studies abroad. Karnataka has essentially implemented multiple overseas education support schemes, including the Prabuddha Overseas Scholarship Scheme[190] for SC/ST students and Overseas Education Loan Schemes[191] through the Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation (KMDC). 6. **Relevance -** a. Under the earlier scheme students were required to have an annual family income of ₹ 6 lakh or less to qualify, a threshold that had remained static while overseas tuition and living costs rose sharply. Raising the family-income ceiling from ₹ 6 lakh to ₹ 10 lakh expands eligibility to households that may be above traditional welfare thresholds but still unable to self-finance overseas education, addressing a

[186] The Indian Express, August, 2026.
[187] NEP 2020.
[188] The Indian Express, August, 2026.
[189] Ambedkar Overseas Scholarship Scheme Karnataka.
[190] Prabuddha Overseas Scholarship Scheme.
[191] Karnataka Overseas Education Scheme.

A. Loan For Study Abroad Scheme (Amendment), 2026
Source: The Economic Times | **Impact:** Medium
key affordability gap.[192] b. The scheme provides loans of up to ₹ 15 lakh at 4% simple interest, well below typical commercial education-loan rate. Extending this concessional credit to families earning ₹ 6–10 lakh annually substantially lowers the cost of financing overseas education for households previously reliant on market-rate loans. c. Nationally, approximately 8.95 lakh students went abroad for higher education in 2023,[193] up from around 3.70 lakh in 2016, a near two and a half times increase in seven years. Gujarat, particularly the Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat and Anand belts, contributes disproportionately to this outflow. d. A state scheme confined to families below ₹ 6 lakh was reaching only a fraction of the Gujarati students actually going abroad, most of whom were financing degrees through commercial loans, property mortgage or family borrowing at unfavourable terms.[194] e. GUEEDC was established specifically for the economically disadvantaged unreserved population of Gujarat, mirroring corporations that exist for SC, ST and Socially and Economically Backward Communities (SEBC). Comparable SEBC study-abroad loan schemes operate separately in the state. f. Unreserved-category students from low and lower-middle income households historically fell between categories, ineligible for reservation-linked schemes and priced out of commercial credit. Raising the ceiling for this specific corporation corrects a coverage gap without altering the eligibility architecture of other categories. g. The income revision widens eligibility but leaves collateral requirements unchanged: loans up to ₹ 7.5 lakh require property security worth 1.5 times the loan amount, while larger loans require property of equivalent value to be mortgaged. These conditions may still limit access for newly eligible households without suitable collateral, making actual disbursement trends important for assessing the amendment's impact.[195]

[192] ANI, August, 2026.
[193] News On Air, December, 2024.
[194] Desh Gujarat, August, 2024.
[195] Startup Gujarat, August, 2026.

III. Uttarakhand

A. Establishment Of Agniveer Employment Cell
Source: The Times Of India | **Impact:** Medium
1. On 25th August, 2026, the Uttarakhand Cabinet approved the establishment of a dedicated employment cell for Agniveers, making it the first state in India to institutionalise post-service rehabilitation for personnel under the Agnipath scheme. 2. The cell aims to **facilitate transition of Agniveers into civilian life** by providing structured employment support, skill-development and linkage with job opportunities across sectors. 3. **Key Features –** a. The cell acts as a single-window platform connecting Agniveers with employment opportunities in Government departments, public sector units and private sector enterprises. b. It facilitates skill assessment, certification and training support, aligned with industry requirements and vocational institutions. c. The Government provides a 10% horizontal reservation for Agniveers in state Government services as part of the wider employment-support framework. d. The cell facilitates the development of a digital portal and monitoring framework to track employment outcomes and ensure effective rehabilitation. e. Notably, complementary measures include reservation/priority in state jobs, training support and sectoral employment pathways (tourism, logistics, security, disaster management, etc.). 4. **Central Initiative Alignment –** It aligns with the Agnipath Scheme (2022),[196] which envisages short-term military service followed by transition into the civilian workforce, supported by skill certification, education pathways and employment facilitation mechanisms. 5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States –** Haryana[197] has implemented one of the most structured reservation frameworks, providing 20% reservation in police recruitment and additional quotas in Group C posts and uniformed services for ex-Agniveers. Uttar Pradesh has also announced 20% horizontal reservation for ex-Agniveers in police recruitment, including constables, Provincial Armed Constabulary personnel, fire services and jail warders.[198] 6. **Relevance –** a. Uttarakhand has 1,39,361 ex-servicemen, including 1,32,576 Army, 3,470 Air Force and 3,315 Navy veterans, underscoring its strong military-linked population.[199]

[196] Agnipath Yojana.
[197] Sainik Welfare Haryana.
[198] The Times Of India, October, 2025.
[199] PIB, March, 2025.

A. Establishment Of Agniveer Employment Cell
Source: The Times Of India | **Impact:** Medium
Under Agnipath, only 25% of Agniveers are retained after four years, while 75% return to civilian life,[200] creating a clear need for a state-level employment cell to support resettlement, skill recognition, jobs and self-employment. b. The state has provided reservation in services including police, forest and disaster management, along with age relaxation and recruitment preference.[201] Uttarakhand recorded an average of about 2,051 disaster incidents annually during 2015–2024, requiring trained personnel capable of operating in difficult terrain and emergency conditions.[202] Placing former Agniveers in disaster-management and related services can strengthen both resettlement and state capacity. c. Agniveers receive military, trade, security and on-the-job training, but these skills need formal civilian recognition. Skill mapping and certification can improve their transition into civilian employment by aligning military experience with nationally recognised job roles and qualifications.[203] d. The establishment of the cell is particularly relevant to Uttarakhand's strong military-linked population. Data published by the Ministry of Defence record around 1.40 lakh ex-servicemen in Uttarakhand as of June, 2024, indicating the scale of the state's defence community and the need for a specialised institutional mechanism for the newer Agniveer cohort.[204] e. Uttarakhand has also announced special grants for ex-servicemen and Agniveers to establish homestays, support for self-employment infrastructure in border villages, and a dedicated cell to connect returning Agniveers with state schemes. The initiative converts multiple existing benefits into a coordinated resettlement pathway.[205]

[200] PIB, March, 2026.
[201] Information And Public Relations Department, Uttarakhand.
[202] The New Indian Express, August, 2026.
[203] PIB, March, 2026.
[204] Unstarred Question No. 2434, Rajya Sabha, August, 2025, Page 4.
[205] The Times Of India, August, 2026.

IV. Jharkhand

A. Cabinet Approval To CM Schools Of Excellence Expansion

Source: The Government Of Jharkhand | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 25th August, 2026, the Jharkhand Cabinet approved proposals to establish 100 new Chief Minister (CM) Schools of Excellence.
2. The initiatives aim to improve quality of school education, enhance learning outcomes, and school attendance among adolescent girls, while expanding access to modern educational infrastructure.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The initiative approves ₹ 721.43 crore for developing 100 new CM Schools of Excellence, expanding beyond the existing 80 schools already functioning in the state.
   b. It also includes setting up residential schools for girls in five newly created blocks with an allocation of around ₹ 49.99 crore to improve access to schooling in underserved areas.
   c. It forms part of a broader cabinet package approving 53 decisions across sectors, including education reforms, infrastructure and governance improvements.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment –** Aligns with Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan,[206] Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)[207] principles, which aims to improve school infrastructure, learning quality and adolescent health outcomes.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** States such as Delhi (Schools of Excellence model)[208] Odisha (Adarsha Vidyalayas)[209] and have implemented comparable interventions combining quality education with adolescent health.
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Jharkhand recorded a historic zero primary dropout rate in 2024-25, down from 6.41% in 2014-15, and reduced its secondary dropout rate from 23.2% to 3.5%, placing fourth nationally in secondary retention improvement.[210] However, a 2022 Gyan Vigyan Samiti survey of 138 primary and upper-primary schools found that 20% were single-teacher institutions, 90% of whose students were from Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes, and that 40% of primary schools were run entirely by para-teachers.[211]
   b. A survey of 40 single-teacher schools in Manika block, Latehar, conducted in 2025, found active teaching in only five schools on the day of observation, a

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206 Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.
207 Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan.
208 Indian Express, March, 2024.
209 Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya Sangthan.
210 The Usthadian, May, 2026.
211 Forward Press, December, 2022.

A. Cabinet Approval To CM Schools Of Excellence Expansion
Source: The Government Of Jharkhand | **Impact:** Medium
student-teacher ratio averaging 59:1, and children sitting idle in 87.5% of schools.[212] c. Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024[213] found that learning levels in rural Jharkhand remain weak, with only 19.6% of Std III children able to read Std II-level text, rising to 45.3% in Std V and 69.5% in Std VIII. d. Scaling the School of Excellence model can provide a stronger platform for improved teaching, digital learning and academic support within the public system. The 80 Schools of Excellence operating since May, 2023 represent the state's first structural response to the quality deficit. e. In 2023, 39,719 applications were received against 11,986 seats across the 80 schools. The Jharkhand CM's office separately recorded 37,309 students appearing in the entrance examination.[214] Adding 100 more Schools of Excellence therefore expands access to a model that is already heavily oversubscribed, reducing the gap between demand for higher-quality government schooling and available seats. f. The additional ₹ 49.99 crore for girls' residential schools in five newly created blocks can strengthen educational access where distance and the absence of nearby secondary schooling constrain participation.[215] This is consistent with the national Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) model, which uses residential schooling to improve access and continuity from upper-primary through Class XII for girls from disadvantaged communities.[216]

[212] The Times Of India, June, 2025.
[213] Annual Status Of Education Report (Rural), 2024, Page 74.
[214] Press Release Archive, Jharkhand Government, August, 2026.
[215] The Economic Times Education, August, 2026.
[216] Samagra Shiksha.

V. Rajasthan

A. Rajasthan Government School Infrastructure Roadmap 2026-29
Source: DNA India | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 22nd August, 2026, the Rajasthan Chief Minister's Office announced a three-year infrastructure roadmap for Government schools covering financial years 2026-27 to 2028-29.
2. The roadmap aims to transform Government schools across all 41 districts of Rajasthan into safe, well-equipped, modern, inclusive, and technology-enabled learning centres through an estimated expenditure of ₹ 12,500 crore on new construction, repairs, and digital infrastructure.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The roadmap allocates ₹ 2,487.75 crore for 3,587 new school buildings, ₹ 8,378.30 crore for 83,783 classrooms, ₹ 1,129.45 crore for major repairs in 22,589 schools, and ₹ 340.40 crore for 13,616 toilet complexes, alongside ₹ 1,087 crore for technology infrastructure including 9,000 smart classrooms, 80,000 tablets and 7,000 Information and Communication Technology (ICT) labs to be completed by December, 2026.
   b. It runs alongside an active pipeline of school development works worth ₹ 3,006.34 crore already approved or under tendering, including ₹ 620 crore for 518 new buildings (181 already under construction) and a separate ₹ 600 crore proposal for 894 buildings financed through loan approval from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
   c. It also follows a state Government order for a new school building at Rampura Kanwarpura in Jaipur's Bagru constituency, funded through ₹ 12 lakh from the District Mineral Foundation Trust and ₹ 6 lakh from the MLA fund, with construction scheduled to begin 1st September, 2026.[217]
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The roadmap aligns with the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan,[218] the Centre's integrated scheme for school infrastructure, digital learning, and inclusive education, and draws on NABARD's Rural Infrastructure Development Fund[219] for supplementary school-building finance.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Madhya Pradesh has pursued a similar multi-year school infrastructure upgrade under its CM Rise Schools programme[220] Uttar Pradesh has scaled smart classroom[221] and ICT lab deployment under Operation

[217] The New Indian Express, August, 2026.
[218] Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.
[219] NABARD RIDF.
[220] CM Rise Programme.
[221] Economic Times, June, 2025.

A. Rajasthan Government School Infrastructure Roadmap 2026-29
Source: DNA India | **Impact:** Medium
Kayakalp,[222] and Bihar has announced comparable large-scale classroom and toilet construction targets under its school infrastructure mission.[223] 6. **Relevance -** a. The roadmap directly addresses Rajasthan's school-safety deficit. A statewide audit of 65,308 schools found 56% of rooms dilapidated or requiring major repairs, including 3,768 entirely unsafe Government schools, 83,783 dilapidated classrooms and 2.19 lakh rooms needing major repairs.[224] The audit followed the July, 2025 Jhalawar school collapse that killed seven students.[225] The proposed 3,587 new school buildings, 83,783 classrooms and major repairs across 22,589 schools therefore target a quantified structural backlog. b. The roadmap accelerates the ₹12,335 crore five-year plan submitted to the Rajasthan High Court in March 2026, compressing the same core school rebuilding and repair targets into a ₹12,500 crore three-year programme ending in 2028–29. The roadmap also addresses major gaps in basic amenities and links infrastructure spending with educational outcomes. Government data tabled in the Rajasthan Assembly show 611 Government schools without their own buildings, 2,047 schools without toilets and 1,049 without drinking-water facilities in 2025–26.[226] c. In March, 2026, the Rajasthan High Court recorded the state's own estimate that around ₹ 20,000 crore was required for Government-school construction and repairs, against only ₹ 1,624 crore sanctioned and ₹ 1,000 crore proposed for FY2026–27, which the Court termed inadequate.[227] The roadmap therefore represents a major scaling-up of the response. The ₹ 12,500 crore roadmap substantially increases the financing available to clear the infrastructure backlog. d. Rajasthan schools also faced a significant technology gap. The official data of Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) 2024–25 show that only 56,702 of Rajasthan's 1.06 lakh schools had computer facilities, while only 49,967 had functional computers for pedagogical use.[228] The roadmap addresses this deficiency by expanding digital-learning infrastructure, with 9,000 smart classrooms, 7,000 ICT labs and 80,000 tablets, backed by ₹ 1,087 crore for digital education.

[222] Operation Kayakalp.
[223] Bihar InfraTales.
[224] The Indian Express, January, 2026.
[225] PIB, July, 2025.
[226] The Indian Express, August, 2026.
[227] Live Law, March, 2026.
[228] Ministry Of Education, Government Of India, 2024-2025 Report.

VI. Haryana

A. Haryana Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Healthcare Strengthening Drive

Source: The Financial World, The Economic Times | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 18th August, 2026, the Haryana Government launched a statewide initiative to mobilise CSR support to upgrade district-level healthcare infrastructure and improve treatment for haemophilia patients.
2. The drive aims to equip 23 district civil hospitals with essential biomedical equipment and enhance access to **specialised care for haemophilia patients** across the state.
3. **Key Features –**
   a. Under the drive, CSR contributions will be mobilised from banks, PSUs, industries and corporate entities through coordinated district-level efforts led by Deputy Commissioners.
   b. Corporate entities can sponsor specific biomedical equipment or provide financial assistance for haemophilia treatment.
   c. Under the drive, procurement of equipment may be routed through Haryana Medical Services Corporation Limited (HMSCL) to ensure transparent, standardised and timely procurement.
   d. The drive focuses on nearly 1,000 registered haemophilia patients in the state, where annual treatment costs are around ₹ 50 crore, averaging ₹ 4-5 lakh per patient.
   e. Institutional mechanisms under the drive include appointment of nodal officers at the district level, coordination with health authorities and regular monitoring and reporting of CSR proposals.
   f. It is expected to reduce referrals to tertiary care centres, improve patient outcomes and strengthen district-level healthcare delivery.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment –** It aligns with the National Health Policy 2017[229] objective of strengthening primary and secondary healthcare infrastructure. It complements Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres by improving district-level service delivery.[230] It also conforms to Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013,[231] which mandates eligible companies to spend at least 2% of their average net profits on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Karnataka[232] has leveraged CSR partnerships to upgrade district hospitals and establish dialysis units under public–private collaboration models, improving access to specialised care at the district level.

229 PIB, December, 2017.
230 Ayushman Arogya Mandir.
231 Section 135 - CSR.
232 E- health Network, March, 2017.

A. Haryana Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Healthcare Strengthening Drive
Source: The Financial World, The Economic Times | **Impact:** Medium

Maharashtra[233] has utilised CSR funds through structured platforms like the Chief Minister's Relief Fund and district planning mechanisms to procure medical equipment and strengthen public hospitals.

6. **Relevance -**
   a. The initiative addresses identified biomedical equipment gaps across all 23 District Civil Hospitals. Haryana's district-wise assessment found specific equipment requirements, and the Government expects CSR-supported procurement to strengthen local diagnosis and treatment while reducing referrals to tertiary hospitals.
   b. Strengthening district-level care is particularly important for patients requiring repeated specialised treatment. In Karnal, haemophilia and thalassaemia patients have reported travelling to Delhi, Chandigarh and Rohtak because dedicated local facilities were unavailable, illustrating the burden created by gaps in district-level capacity.
   c. The initiative also addresses the high recurring burden of haemophilia treatment. Haryana has nearly 1,000 registered haemophilia patients, with annual treatment costs of around ₹ 50 crore, averaging ₹ 4–5 lakh per patient; uninterrupted treatment is important to prevent disability and complications.[234]
   d. The programme builds on Haryana's existing use of CSR to strengthen public hospitals. Earlier CSR partnerships provided ₹ 3.60 crore of anaesthesia workstations and defibrillators, ₹ 20.50 crore of X-ray and Truenat equipment, and ₹ 1.84 crore for ICU beds. Routing new CSR funding through HMSCL also provides a common mechanism for transparent procurement, quality control and timely delivery.[235]

[233] Hindustan Times, December, 2017.
[234] PIB, August, 2026.
[235] PIB, May, 2026.

VII. Uttar Pradesh

A. Amendment To The Financial Handbook Maternity Leave Rule
Source: The Hindustan Times | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 22nd August, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved a proposal allowing 180-day maternity leave to state Government women employees twice during their **entire service period** without the condition of a two-year gap between the two leaves.
2. The amendment aims to extend maternity leave flexibility to women Government employees, including in cases of adopted children, by removing the mandatory two-year gap requirement between two instances of leave across an employee's service tenure.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The amendment revises Rule 153(1) of the Uttar Pradesh Financial Handbook,[236] governing maternity leave for state employees and removes the two-year gap condition previously required between two maternity leave instances.
   b. The amendment follows Allahabad High Court rulings holding that the Financial Handbook's two-year interval requirement cannot restrict maternity benefits guaranteed under Central law. Earlier decisions relied on Section 27 of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, while the Shikha Yadav judgment, 2026 applied the overriding provision of the Code on Social Security, 2020.[237]
   c. The amendment also extends maternity-leave entitlement to eligible employees in cases involving adopted children, subject to applicable rules.
4. **Legal Alignment -** The amendment aligns the state's service rules with the maternity-benefit provisions of the Code on Social Security, 2020,[238] which has been in force since 21st November, 2025 and prescribes no minimum interval between pregnancies.
5. **Similar initiatives In Other States -** Madhya Pradesh[239] and Rajasthan[240] have similarly extended maternity leave provisions for state Government employees while Tamil Nadu[241] has expanded maternity benefits under its Fundamental Rules, providing up to 365 days of maternity leave for women Government employees (including extension to third child) and relaxing earlier restrictive conditions through policy and judicial interventions.
6. **Relevance -**

236 Budget UP - Chapter 13.
237 Hindustan Times, August, 2026.
238 The Code on Social Security, 2020.
239 The Indian Express, April, 2026.
240 *Smt. Neeraj v. State Of Rajasthan*, CW-4384/2020.
241 The Times Of India, August, 2026.

A. Amendment To The Financial Handbook Maternity Leave Rule
Source: The Hindustan Times | **Impact:** Medium

a. Notably, for Uttar Pradesh, the female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) is placed at 24.7% and female Worker Population Ratio (WPR) is at 24.0% for women aged 15+, both below national levels.[242] Removing the mandatory two-year interval between maternity-leave spells reduces the risk that closely spaced pregnancies force women employees to choose between caregiving and continuity of service. The amendment can therefore support retention of women already in Government employment, particularly during early and mid-career stages when childbirth-related exits are most likely.

b. The same issue has been dragged to the court on various occasions as seen in the cases of Richa Shukla (2019),[243] Preeti Singh (2021),[244] Anupam Yadav (2022),[245] and Swati Srivastava (2024).[246] As recently as July, 2026, two nursing officers again approached the Court after their second maternity leave was rejected for not meeting the two-year interval. Amending the rule removes the underlying cause of this recurring litigation.[247]

c. The Cabinet has removed the interval condition, allowing 180 days of maternity leave twice during service and expressly extending the benefit to adoptive mothers, strengthening caregiving support across different forms of parenthood.

d. The Uttar Pradesh Handbook previously imposed restrictions absent from the applicable Central maternity-benefit framework. The *Shikha Yadav and another* v. *State of U.P. and Ors.* judgment[248] specifically held that the Code on Social Security, 2020 contains no mandatory interval between pregnancies and prevails over inconsistent executive instructions. The amendment therefore removes a rule that courts had already found legally unsustainable.[249]

e. The fiscal impact should remain limited to temporary replacement and workforce-management costs, as the two-spell cap remains unchanged. The amendment also turns court-led exemptions into a uniform statewide entitlement, reducing departmental ambiguity and ensuring consistent eligibility across Government services.

242 PLFS Labour Report, January-December, 2025, Tables 16, 17.
243 *Smt. Richa Shukla* v. *State Of U.P.*, Service Single No. 32394 of 2019.
244 *Preeti Singh* v. *State of U.P. through Secretary*, Service Single No. 9907 of 2021.
245 *Smt. Anupam Yadav* v. *State of U.P. & Ors.*, 2022(11) ADJ 669.
246 *Smt. Swati Srivastava* v. *High Court of Judicature at Allahabad & Anr.*, 2024 AHC 42109.
247 The New Indian Express, July, 2026.
248 *Shikha Yadav and another* v. *State of U.P. and Ors.*, 2026 LiveLaw (AB) 478.
249 Live Law, July, 2026.

B. Amendment To The Uttar Pradesh Maintenance And Welfare Of Parents And Senior Citizens Rules, 2014
Source: The Indian Express | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 25th August, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved amendments to the Uttar Pradesh Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Rules, 2014[250] to strengthen protections for elderly citizens.
2. The amendment aims to ensure a dignified life for senior citizens, protect them from neglect or abuse, and provide clear, time-bound legal mechanisms for redressal.
3. **Key Features –**
   a. The amendment empowers parents to **disinherit or evict children/relatives from property** in cases of neglect, non-maintenance or abuse.
   b. It introduces Rules 22A, 22B and 22C to define a structured procedure for disinheritance and eviction.
   c. It also mandates that complaints must be heard within 30 days, ensuring time-bound resolution.
   d. The amendment establishes a district-level mechanism, where complaints are filed with the District Magistrate, who is required to monitor cases and submit periodic reports to the Government.
   e. It also provides for a toll-free helpline to enable senior citizens to lodge complaints easily and access assistance remotely.
   f. Lastly, it creates a clear, enforceable and transparent procedural framework, addressing earlier ambiguity in exercising disinheritance rights.
4. **Legal Alignment –** The amendment aligns with the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007,[251] which mandates children/relatives to provide maintenance and empowers states to frame rules for protection of life, property and dignity of senior citizens.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States –** Delhi[252] has established district-level Maintenance and Appellate Tribunals along with monitoring mechanisms for protection of senior citizens' life and property. Maharashtra has Maintenance Tribunals, welfare schemes and senior citizen helplines (including 14567 Elderline) for grievance redressal and support services.[253]
6. **Relevance -**
   a. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data for 2024 records 32,602 crimes against senior citizens nationally, a 16.9% increase over 27,886 in 2023, among the

[250] Uttar Pradesh Maintenance And Welfare Of Parents And Senior Citizens Rules, 2014.
[251] The Maintenance And Welfare Of Parents And Senior Citizens Act, 2007.
[252] Social Welfare - Delhi Government.
[253] Social Welfare - Maharashtra Government.

B. Amendment To The Uttar Pradesh Maintenance And Welfare Of Parents And Senior Citizens Rules, 2014

Source: The Indian Express | **Impact:** Medium

sharpest year-on-year rises for any vulnerable group category.[254] The state has a below-national-average share of elderly in its population, because it still has high fertility and a younger age structure. However in 2026, about 9% of the state's population was aged 60 plus. [255]

b. The amendment strengthens protection for elderly parents facing neglect, abuse or denial of maintenance by creating a clearer process to disinherit or seek eviction of children and dependent relatives from their property.

c. The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007[256] and the existing Uttar Pradesh Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Rules, 2014 did not give authorities a general power to evict children or relatives merely on grounds of neglect or ill-treatment. Eviction could be ordered only in limited circumstances, where property had been transferred subject to an obligation to provide basic amenities and maintenance and that obligation was subsequently breached.

d. By inserting Rules 22A, 22B and 22C, the state has sought to create an explicit administrative procedure for complaints, eviction and enforcement, giving senior citizens a clearer remedy to protect possession and control over their property.[257]

e. Lastly, forcing elderly parents to file eviction suits in civil courts resulted in years of litigation during which they remained exposed to domestic abuse. Authorising District Magistrates to issue eviction orders under a 30-day summary procedure provides rapid legal protection, and introduces administrative accountability, allowing the Government to track implementation across districts.

[254] NCRB, 2024, Volume II, Table 6A.1.
[255] Data For India, January, 2025.
[256] Maintenance And Welfare Of Parents And Senior Citizens Act, 2007.
[257] The Times Of India, August, 2026.

VIII. Tamil Nadu

A. Enhanced Coverage Under The Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme
Source: The Hindu | **Impact:** High

1. On 19th August, 2026, the Tamil Nadu Government announced an increase in the annual coverage under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme (CMCHIS) from ₹ 5 lakh to ₹ 25 lakh per family.
2. The enhanced coverage aims to improve financial protection against **high-cost medical treatment** and expand access to specialised healthcare services under the state health insurance framework.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. It increases the annual health insurance coverage under CMCHIS from ₹ 5 lakh to ₹ 25 lakh per family.
   b. The enhanced coverage provides cashless treatment for eligible beneficiaries through empanelled Government and private hospitals under the existing CMCHIS framework.
   c. It also expands financial protection for high-cost secondary and tertiary healthcare procedures covered under the scheme.
   d. It provides specialised medical and surgical services for transgender persons under CMCHIS through seven Government medical college hospitals.
   e. It continues to operate through the state's existing health insurance delivery and empanelment framework.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** CMCHIS operates in convergence with Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), 2018[258] in Tamil Nadu. The integrated arrangement extends hospitalisation coverage to eligible beneficiaries through the combined Central and state health insurance framework.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States –** Rajasthan provides health coverage of up to ₹ 25 lakh per family under its Mukhyamantri Ayushman Arogya Yojana (MAAY),[259] while Gujarat's Mukhyamantri Amrutum (MA) Yojana[260] provides cashless coverage for eligible families, including secondary and tertiary healthcare services.
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Tamil Nadu's share of out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) increased from 34.6% to 38.7%, while per capita OOPE rose from ₹2,280 to ₹2,448 as government health expenditure declined. OOPE further increased to 43.4% in 2022–23,[261] leaving

[258] Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), 2018.
[259] Mukhyamantri Ayushman Arogya Yojana.
[260] Gujarat's Mukhyamantri Amrutum (MA) Yojana.
[261] South First, May, 2026.

A. Enhanced Coverage Under The Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme
Source: The Hindu | **Impact:** High

households vulnerable to financial stress from expensive treatments. While the existing ₹ 5 lakh CMCHIS ceiling provides substantial protection, it may be inadequate for high-cost procedures such as oncology, transplants, prolonged ICU care and specialised surgeries. Raising coverage to ₹ 25 lakh therefore strengthens financial protection against exceptionally high medical expenses.

b. The CMCHIS evaluation recorded 9.12 lakh claims involving ₹ 1,151.9 crore, implying an average claim of ₹ 12,629.[262] This indicates that the ₹ 5 lakh ceiling is well above the value of most claims and is therefore not the primary constraint for routine cases. However, specialists reported examples of procedures costing ₹ 8 lakh or more against a CMCHIS package rate of ₹ 1 lakh [263] The higher ceiling can improve protection for catastrophic cases, but its effectiveness will depend on simultaneously revising package rates and expanding the procedure list so that high-cost treatments are actually reimbursable.

c. The insurance hike is paired with major capital investments, including a ₹ 300 crore 400-bed multi-super-speciality hospital in Perambur, a ₹ 471.80 crore integrated cancer unit at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH), and five new regional cancer centers.[264] Higher insurance limits under the extension keep these advanced facilities accessible to low-income patients.

d. Access to specialised and gender-affirming healthcare remains limited, particularly outside major urban centres. The extension extends specialised medical and surgical services for transgender persons to seven Government medical college hospitals across Tamil Nadu, rather than concentrating such services in Chennai.[265] This addresses a geographic access gap by bringing specialised care closer to beneficiaries across different regions of the state.

e. Lastly, CMCHIS covers a large low-income population and forms a central component of Tamil Nadu's approach to universal health coverage.[266] However, the scheme remains largely hospitalisation-focused, leaving outpatient care, medicines and diagnostics outside admission insufficiently addressed.

[262] Report On Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme Tamil Nadu, IIT Madras, Page 8–9.
[263] Report On Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme Tamil Nadu, IIT Madras, Page 8–9.
[264] Deccan Chronicle, August, 2026.
[265] National Health Mission Tamil Nadu, Department Of Health And Family Welfare Government Of Tamil Nadu.
[266] Report On Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme Tamil Nadu, IIT Madras, Page 5.

B. Extension Of Maternity Leave For Women Government Employees, 2026
Source: The Hindu Businessline | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 18th August, 2026, the Tamil Nadu Government announced the extension of maternity leave entitlement to women state Government employees for a third child.
2. The measure aims to **extend maternity leave** protection by providing women Government employees the same leave entitlement for a third child as presently available for their first two children.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. It provides 365 days of maternity leave to women state Government employees for a third child.
   b. The measure also provides the third childbirth with the same duration of maternity leave as the first and second childbirths.
   c. It applies to women employees of the Tamil Nadu Government.
4. **Legal Alignment -** The Code On Social Security, 2020[267] provides 26 weeks of maternity leave for women with fewer than two surviving children and 12 weeks for women with two or more surviving children. Tamil Nadu's 365-day entitlement for women state Government employees therefore provides a substantially higher maternity leave benefit than the statutory minimum under the central law.
5. **Relevance -**
   a. Tamil Nadu's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has fallen below 1.4, well below the replacement level of 2.1, while nearly 16% of its population is now aged above 60. The combination of declining fertility and population aging has emerged as a major public health challenge within the state. The measure removes a service-rule disincentive against a third birth marking a notable shift for a state historically associated with strong family-planning policies towards a more pro-natalist policy orientation.[268]
   b. Before the change, women Government employees with two or more surviving children were entitled to only 12 weeks, compared with 365 days for earlier births.[269] This meant maternity protection was linked to the number of children rather than the mother's need for post-pregnancy recovery and childcare. Extending 365 days to the third child closes this disparity by providing equal maternity protection across the first three births.
   c. The differential treatment had also become contentious following the Supreme Court's 2025 intervention on maternity benefits, in *K. Umadevi* v. *The Government of Tamil Nadu*, declared maternity leave a fundamental right under Article 21 and

[267] The Code On Social Security, 2020.
[268] Republic, August, 2026.
[269] The Hindu, August, 2026.

B. Extension Of Maternity Leave For Women Government Employees, 2026
Source: The Hindu Businessline | **Impact:** Medium
conflicting Madras High Court interpretations of amended Rule 101(a)[270] of the Fundamental Rules Of The Tamil Nadu Government, 2010.[271] The new entitlement provides a clear policy response by removing the 84-day restriction for third births, reducing ambiguity for women employees and the administration. d. Linking maternity leave to birth order placed women having a third child under greater work–family pressure, as they were required to return to Government service after just 12 weeks while recovering from childbirth and caring for a newborn. This shorter leave period could increase work–family strain, encourage premature returns to work and, where care responsibilities become difficult to reconcile with employment, contribute to women's withdrawal from the workforce. e. The Madras High Court reinforced the above concern in *Shayee Nisha* v. *The Registrar General*, observing that the need for post-delivery care does not diminish with a third pregnancy and finding no justification for restricting maternity leave to 12 weeks.[272]

[270] The Times Of India, January, 2026.
[271] The Fundamental Rules Of The Tamil Nadu Government, 2010.
[272] The Times Of India, April, 2026.

C. Annapoorani Super Six Scheme
Source: The Hindu | **Impact:** High
1. On 24th August, 2026, the Tamil Nadu Government announced the Annapoorani Super Six Scheme, 2026. 2. The scheme aims to **reduce household expenditure** on cooking fuel by reimbursing eligible families for the cost of three domestic LPG cylinders annually from Pongal 2027. 3. **Key Features -** a. The scheme provides for reimbursement of the cost of three domestic LPG cylinders annually to eligible families through DBT, with implementation scheduled from Pongal 2027. b. It provides coverage to 130.16 lakh families across Tamil Nadu, with an estimated annual expenditure of approximately ₹ 4,000 crore. c. It provides eligibility to families with an annual income not exceeding ₹ 2.5 lakh, middle and marginal farmers and families of persons with disabilities. d. It introduces a reimbursement mechanism under which beneficiaries will purchase LPG cylinders through existing distribution channels and the Government will credit the cost directly to their bank accounts based on information obtained from oil marketing companies. e. The scheme targets three cylinders annually in its first phase, despite the broader six-cylinder commitment under the Annapoorani Super Six framework. 4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The Scheme complements the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), 2016, which supports access to LPG connections for eligible households, by providing state-funded assistance towards recurring LPG refill costs. 5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Rajasthan provides subsidised LPG cylinders at ₹ 450 to eligible households,[273] while Madhya Pradesh provides LPG cylinders at ₹ 450 to eligible women under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana and Ladli Behna framework.[274] 6. **Relevance -** a. Domestic LPG prices increased by ₹ 60 per cylinder in March, 2026 and another ₹ 29 in June, 2026, taking the cumulative increase to ₹ 89, amid supply disruptions and global price pressures linked to the war. India imports around 60–65% of its LPG requirements.[275] This has increased the cooking-fuel burden on households, particularly those with limited disposable income. The scheme addresses this by

[273] The Hindu, December, 2023.
[274] The Times Of India, July, 2024.
[275] Business Standard, June, 2026.

C. Annapoorani Super Six Scheme
Source: The Hindu | **Impact:** High

reimbursing three LPG cylinders annually to families with annual income up to ₹ 2.5 lakh, providing around ₹ 2,800 in annual relief at current prices.

b. An average Indian household consumes around 6–8 LPG cylinders annually.[276] The Central scheme already provides ₹ 300 per cylinder for the first four refills annually to PMUY beneficiaries, broadly covering their average annual consumption, while non-PMUY consumers continue to benefit from regulated domestic LPG prices below the international cost.[277] The scheme is expected to cover 130.16 lakh families at an estimated annual cost of ₹ 4,000 crore, creating a substantial administrative and fiscal requirement.

c. The Government proposes to use oil marketing company LPG purchase data to identify eligible consumers and credit the reimbursement after purchase, rather than creating a new beneficiary-identification system.[278] This is enabled by the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) framework, which already links LPG consumption records with beneficiaries' bank accounts for targeted transfers.[279]

d. The above can facilitate delivery at scale by linking the benefit to actual LPG consumption while reducing additional registration and verification requirements. With rollout scheduled from Pongal 2027, the scheme can also leverage existing LPG and banking infrastructure for implementation.

e. The recurring ₹ 4,000 crore annual subsidy will require careful fiscal management alongside existing commitments such as the ₹ 1,000 monthly Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai[280] and the expanded free bus travel under Vetri Payanam.[281]

f. Tamil Nadu's 2026–27 Revised Budget projects a fiscal deficit of ₹ 1.22 lakh crore (3.0% of GSDP), a revenue deficit of ₹ 55,775 crore (1.37% of GSDP), and outstanding liabilities of ₹ 10.99 lakh crore (27% of GSDP), indicating limited fiscal headroom for additional recurring commitments.[282]

g. This is particularly relevant given that committed expenditure is already estimated at ₹ 2.12 lakh crore, absorbing 60.44% of revenue receipts, while subsidies and transfers are projected at ₹ 1.74 lakh crore. A recurring annual expenditure of ₹ 4,000 crore would therefore add a sizable and continuing burden to the state's revenue account.[283]

276 Free Press Journal, November, 2025.
277 PIB, June, 2026.
278 The Hindu, August, 2026.
279 PIB, December, 2026.
280 The Hindu, May, 2026.
281 The Times Of India, August, 2026.
282 Tamil Nadu Revised Budget Analysis 2026-27, NFPRC Foundation.
283 Indian Express, August, 2026.

IX. Bihar

A. Women-Centric Schemes: Startup Assistance, PhD Fellowship And Police Didi Expansion

Source: Bhaskar English, The Times Of India | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 26th August, 2026, the Bihar Government launched women-centric schemes including the Bihar Ki Beti Startup Challenge, Mukhyamantri Balika PhD Fellowship and Police Didi (Abhaya Brigade) initiative.
2. The schemes aim to promote women's economic empowerment, enhance access to higher education, and strengthen safety mechanisms for women and girls, while expanding participation in employment and entrepreneurship.
3. **Key Features –**
   a. The schemes provide financial assistance of ₹ 50,000 to ₹ 2 lakh to around 2,100 women entrepreneurs under the Bihar Ki Beti Startup Challenge to support early-stage business ventures.
   b. They also introduce a PhD fellowship of ₹ 10,000 per month for four years for approximately 1,000 female research scholars to support higher education and research.
   c. The schemes deploy 4,700 scooters and motorcycles under the Police Didi (Abhaya Brigade) to enhance patrolling and safety around schools, colleges and public spaces.
   d. The Police Didi initiative deploys women police personnel to improve safety and accessibility for girls and women, particularly in educational institutions.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment –** It aligns with Beti Bachao Beti Padhao,[284] Startup India,[285] and Mission Shakti,[286] focusing on education, entrepreneurship and safety of women.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States –** States such as Rajasthan (Indira Mahila Shakti schemes),[287] Tamil Nadu (Pudhumai Penn scheme for girls' education)[288] and Uttar Pradesh (Mission Shakti for women safety and empowerment)[289] have implemented similar integrated women-centric interventions.
6. **Relevance –**
   a. Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data for October–December 2025 placed the urban female labour-force participation rate at 13.5%, against 25.5% nationally.[290]

[284] Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme.
[285] StartUp India Initiative.
[286] Mission Shakti.
[287] MyScheme - Indira Mahila Shakti Prashikshan.
[288] Pedhumai Penn.
[289] Mission Shakti.
[290] PLFS, October-December, 2025.

A. Women-Centric Schemes: Startup Assistance, PhD Fellowship And Police Didi Expansion
Source: Bhaskar English, The Times Of India | **Impact:** Medium
All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2023–24 similarly points to a steep narrowing of women's representation at the highest levels of education: Bihar had 2,407 women among 5,694 PhD scholars, compared with 98,826 women enrolled at the postgraduate level.[291] b. Bihar Startup Policy, 2022[292] provides women-led startups an additional 5% incentive, but the new Bihar Ki Beti Startup Challenge goes further by earmarking ₹ 50,000–₹ 2 lakh for 2,100 women, giving potential entrepreneurs direct early-stage capital to test and develop business ideas. c. The schemes also complement Bihar's existing startup ecosystem, where the state had funded 1,500+ startups under Startup Bihar and its Startup Policy, 2022.[293] The new incentive for women-only challenges can create an earlier entry point for innovative ideas before they progress to larger seed-funding and incubation programmes. d. Additionally, providing around 1,000 women ₹ 10,000 per month for four years can reduce the financial pressure associated with remaining in higher education through a multi-year doctoral programme. The Mukhyamantri Balika PhD Fellowship addresses the relatively narrow pipeline of women entering advanced research.[294] e. Fear of eve-teasing and street harassment is a major driver of secondary and college dropouts among girls.[295] Deploying 4,700 mobile two-wheelers on fixed school-commute beats builds a visible police presence around educational institutions. f. The Police Didi model also strengthens the last-mile link between women and formal policing. Bihar Police is deploying women-led teams to interact with students, identify vulnerable locations, respond to complaints such as stalking and harassment, and connect women with Dial-112, thereby improving mobility support by preventive patrolling and accessibility of female police personnel.[296]

[291] All India Survey On Higher Education, 2023-2024, Page T-6.
[292] Bihar Startup Policy, 2022.
[293] Bihar Startup Policy, 2022.
[294] CM Bihar, August, 2026.
[295] India Today, October, 2018.
[296] The Indian Express, August, 2026.

B. Proposal To Establish Bihar's First Women's University
Source: The Hindu | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 27th August, 2026, the Bihar Government announced the establishment of the state's first dedicated women's university, aimed at strengthening women's access to higher education and leadership opportunities.
2. The initiative seeks to promote **gender equality in higher education**, expand academic infrastructure, and create a supportive ecosystem for women's academic and professional advancement.
3. **Key Features –**
   a. The university will be a women-only institution, with admissions restricted to female students.
   b. It will be entirely managed and staffed by women, including professors, administrative personnel and the Vice-Chancellor.
   c. The institution aims to provide specialised academic programmes and research opportunities tailored to women's needs and participation in diverse sectors.
   d. It is intended to promote leadership, skills, confidence and self-reliance among women through higher education.
   e. The proposal revives an earlier plan and reflects expansion of specialised universities in Bihar, signalling a broader push in higher education infrastructure.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment –** Aligns with Beti Bachao Beti Padhao,[297] National Education Policy (NEP) 2020,[298] and Gender Inclusion Fund objectives,[299] which emphasise improved access, equity and inclusion in education.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States –** States such as Uttar Pradesh (Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Avadh University women-focused colleges)[300] and Tamil Nadu (Mother Teresa Women's University) have established women-centric higher education institutions to enhance female participation.[301]
6. **Relevance –**
   a. AISHE's 2023–24 survey places Bihar's female Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at 18.8%, against 31.2% nationally, while the state's overall GER is 17.7% compared with 30% nationally.[302] Bihar already has around 14 lakh women enrolled in higher education, slightly more than 13.6 lakh men, yet the state has only 8 colleges per lakh

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[297] Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.
[298] National Education Policy, 2020.
[299] Gender Inclusion Fund.
[300] RMLAU - Centre For Women Studies.
[301] Mother Teresa University - Department Of Women Studies.
[302] PIB, July, 2026.

B. Proposal To Establish Bihar's First Women's University

Source: The Hindu | **Impact:** Medium

population aged 18–23, compared with an all-India density of 32.[303]

b. The initiative directly creates a women-only university with women across the student, faculty and administrative structure, giving the state a dedicated institutional platform for higher education, research and academic leadership. The announcement also sits alongside the state's ₹ 10,000-monthly PhD fellowship for about 1,000 women, creating support at both institutional and individual level.

c. Its all-women staffing model extends the intervention beyond student admissions. The Government has proposed that the Vice-Chancellor, professors, employees and students will all be women, potentially creating additional academic, administrative and leadership opportunities for women within Bihar's higher-education system.[304]

d. The initiative is particularly relevant given Bihar's relatively low female Labour-Force Participation Rate (LFPR). According to the PLFS Annual Report 2025, the female LFPR for persons aged 15 years and above in Bihar was 24.7%, compared with 40.0% nationally, underscoring the potential for improvements in women's educational attainment to translate into wider labour-market gains.[305]

e. A Bihar transport-sector study found that 27% of women had forgone education or employment opportunities because of transport availability, affordability or safety concerns.[306] Women's overall mobility is 37% lower than men according to the report. Integrating the university with hostels and safe transports like Pink Bus[307] could therefore widen its effective catchment beyond women who can already commute easily.

[303] India Today, July, 2026.
[304] CM Bihar, August, 2026.
[305] PLFS, January-December, 2025.
[306] Patna Press, August, 2026.
[307] Micro Save Consulting, August, 2026.

X. Puducherry

A. Essential Food Kit Scheme
Source: The Hindu, The Hindu | **Impact:** Medium
1. On 24th August, 2026, the Puducherry Government proposed the introduction of the Essential Food Kit Scheme as part of the Union Territory (UT) Budget, 2026-27, The decision aims to **strengthen household food and energy security** by expanding the range of essential commodities available through the Public Distribution System. 2. **Key Features -** a. It proposes the distribution of essential food kits containing wheat flour, ragi flour, toor dal, sugar and ghee to ration cardholders. b. It provides for suitable modification of the quantity of rice currently supplied to ration cardholders to accommodate the proposed diversified food basket. c. It provides for the establishment of small cost-price outlets at 10 key locations to improve access to essential commodities. 3. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The National Food Security Act, 2013[308] and Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, 2024[309] provide the Central framework for foodgrain support through the Public Distribution System. 4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Tamil Nadu distributes rice and specified essential commodities, including sugar, wheat and pulses, through its Universal Public Distribution System (PDS),[310]while Keralam distributes subsidised essential commodities through its Public Distribution System[311] and Supplyco network.[312] 5. **Relevance -** a. India's PDS has largely secured cereal access, but protein quality remains weak. An analysis conducted by the Council On Energy, Environment and Water in 2023–24 on Household Consumption Expenditure Survey found that nearly 50% of Indians' protein intake comes from cereals, rising to 60% among the poorest households, while pulses contribute only 11% of protein intake.[313] A study similarly found that over two-thirds of surveyed households consumed less protein than recommended.[314] b. The Essential Food Kit addresses this gap by adding toor dal as a regular PDS entitlement, providing a high-quality protein source, while ragi flour diversifies the cereal basket with a nutrient-dense millet rich in calcium, iron and dietary

308 National Food Security Act, (NFSA), 2013.
309 Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, 2024.
310 Tamil Nadu Public Distribution System (PDS), Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation.
311 State Planning Board, Economic Review, 2016.
312 SupplyCo Kerala Portal.
313 CEEW, December, 2025.
314 ICRISAT Pressroom, February, 2025.

A. Essential Food Kit Scheme
Source: The Hindu, The Hindu | **Impact:** Medium
fibre.[315] Ghee further enhances the basket by providing dietary fat and fat-soluble vitamins such as A, D, E and K,[316] making the PDS more nutritionally diverse. c. Puducherry's PDS itself is being rebuilt after fair price shops remained non-functional from 2019 to 2024.[317] Free rice distribution and shop operations resumed in 2024, while in February, 2026 Puducherry became the second location for a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)-based food-subsidy pilot,[318] indicating renewed investment in digital PDS delivery.[319] d. Puducherry has around 3.4 lakh ration card holders.[320] The Essential Food Kit leverages such a restored network to distribute wheat flour, ragi flour, toor dal, sugar and ghee, while 10 cost-price outlets can improve access in locations with limited fair-price-shop coverage. e. Lastly, the scheme makes greater use of Puducherry's existing welfare infrastructure. With ₹ 2,110 crore allocated to major welfare programmes in 2025–26,[321] expanding every benefit through separate delivery systems could increase administrative costs. Instead, the initiative leverages the existing PDS and ration-card databases to deliver a wider nutritional basket through the Essential Food Kit.

315 The Times Of India, November, 2024.
316 The Times Of India,October, 2025.
317 Deccan Herald, August, 2024.
318 PIB, February, 2026.
319 News On Air, February, 2026.
320 The New Indian Express, August, 2026.
321 News On Air, March, 2025.

Investment Announcements

I. Haryana

A. Signing Of MoUs Worth ₹ 66,000 Crore Under Happening Haryana 2.0
Source: The Hindu Businessline | **Impact:** High

1. On 24th August, 2026, the Haryana Government signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) worth over ₹ 66,000 crore with various companies during the 'Happening Haryana 2.0' international outreach campaign in Mumbai.
2. **Key Features –**
   a. The outreach resulted in signing of MoUs worth ₹ 66,000 crore across multiple sectors, including manufacturing, logistics, IT services, and engineering industries.
   b. The Government emphasised a "project movement, not file movement" approach, focusing on faster approvals, policy stability and proactive project facilitation.
   c. It introduced a framework of five investor guarantees, including policy stability, time-bound approvals, project handholding, skilled workforce alignment, and linkage of investment with employment and MSME growth.
   d. The state outlined a district-wise industrial strategy, identifying sectoral focus areas:
      i. North Haryana: food processing, pharmaceuticals, logistics;
      ii. Central Haryana: engineering, textiles, automobiles;
      iii. South Haryana: IT, electronics, e-mobility, GCCs; and
      iv. Western Haryana: agro-industry, renewable energy, export-oriented units.
   e. It provides for creation of new growth nodes by integrating land, infrastructure, skills and connectivity to attract investment across regions.
   f. The Government also constituted an Industry–Worker Friendship Council to resolve industrial disputes and improve labour–industry coordination.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment –** It aligns with the Union Government's PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan[322] and National Logistic Policy, 2022[323] and Make in India,[324] focusing on industrial growth, investment promotion, and employment generation.
5. **Relevance –**
   a. Haryana's economy is already expanding rapidly, with GSDP for 2026–27 (at current prices) is projected to be ₹ 15.18 lakh crore, representing a growth of 11% over the Revised Estimates (RE) for 2025–26 (₹ 13.68 lakh crore).[325] and industry contributing ₹ 3.53 lakh crore to the GSVA. The state also accounts for around

[322] Department For Promotion Of Industry And Internal Trade.
[323] PIB, September, 2022.
[324] Make In India.
[325] Haryana Budget Analysis, NFPRC Foundation, Page 2.

A. Signing Of MoUs Worth ₹ 66,000 Crore Under Happening Haryana 2.0
Source: The Hindu Businessline | **Impact:** High
3.6% of India's economy despite having only about 1.3% of its geographical area.[326] The investment push therefore seeks to deepen an already significant industrial base rather than create a new one. b. The Make in Haryana Industrial Policy was notified on 26th May, 2026 and was launched on 1st June, 2026, superseding the Haryana Enterprises and Employment Policy 2020, with five-year validity and targets of ₹ 5 lakh crore in investment and 10 lakh jobs.[327] The Mumbai outreach is the second collection round against that framework, with 20 corporates signing MoUs worth ₹ 66,871 crore on day two of Happening Haryana 2.0.[328] c. The initiative also addresses investor concerns over approval delays through five guarantees covering policy stability, time-bound approvals, project hand-holding, industry-aligned skills and connectivity, and linkages with local employment, MSMEs and regional development.[329] d. The initiative introduces an AI-enabled Single Window 2.0 covering approvals, land allocation, incentives and regulatory clearances in one system. The district-cluster strategy seeks to reduce industrial concentration in the Gurugram-Faridabad belt by linking district-specific clusters with land, skills and connectivity, supporting more balanced regional growth. e. Land allocation is where most state MoU pipelines stall in the country. 70% of the ₹ 1.10 lakh crore in MoUs from the June launch for Haryana had already moved to the ground, and that 108 of 123 signatory companies had been provided land.[330]

[326] PRMS Haryana, CM Press Release, August, 2026.
[327] Startup Feed, June, 2026.
[328] The Tribune, August, 2026.
[329] APAC, June, 2026.
[330] Free Press Journal, August, 2026.

II. Uttar Pradesh

A. UP–Japan Investment Projects And Japanese City Proposal
Source: The Print | **Impact:** High

1. On 19th August, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Government announced investment projects worth ₹ 3,191 crore and a proposed 500-acre Japanese City in the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority area under the Uttar Pradesh-Japan Investment Meet 2026.
2. The initiative aims to **attract foreign direct investment**, particularly from Japanese firms, to strengthen manufacturing capacity, generate employment, and develop an integrated industrial ecosystem in the Yamuna Expressway region, while positioning Uttar Pradesh as a global manufacturing hub.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The initiative proposes investment projects worth ₹ 3,191 crore by private firms in Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA), including manufacturing facilities for tractors, construction equipment and auto components.
   b. It provides for the establishment of a 500-acre Japanese City in YEIDA to create a dedicated industrial and business ecosystem for Japanese companies.
   c. It also enables large-scale employment generation, with proposed projects expected to create over 6,400 jobs across sectors.
   d. The initiative allocates land in YEIDA sectors for industrial units, including a ₹ 2,025 crore project and ₹ 1,166 crore worth of additional projects by participating firms.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** Aligns with the Government of India's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) promotion framework and Make in India initiative,[331] aimed at boosting manufacturing, technology transfer and global value chain integration.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** - Gujarat[332] and Tamil Nadu[333] have developed dedicated industrial clusters for foreign investors, including Japanese industrial townships and sector-specific manufacturing zones.
6. **Relevance -**
   a. The YEIDA location, alongside Noida International Airport and the Yamuna Expressway industrial ecosystem, gives the projects strong infrastructure access, while the proposed Japanese City can anchor suppliers and ancillary firms around the initial manufacturing base. This also builds on the state's existing Japan investment pipeline, including MoUs from February, 2026, helping convert broader

[331] Make In India.
[332] Mandal Japanese Corporate Industrial Park.
[333] Invest Tamil Nadu.

A. UP–Japan Investment Projects And Japanese City Proposal
Source: The Print | **Impact:** High

commitments into identifiable manufacturing assets.[334]

b. The ₹ 3,191 crore committed by Escorts Kubota and Minda Corporation is more concrete than typical Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)-stage announcements, with named investors, identified YEIDA sectors and defined projects. This is notable against the state's ₹ 32.92 lakh crore Global Investors Summit (GIS) 2023 pipeline across 18,645 MoUs, where ground-level conversion has remained significantly lower than headline commitments.[335]
c. The initiative coincides with a sharp rise in Japan's India investment interest, with Japanese FDI into India up 284% over the last decade and a new ₹ 6,800 crores investment target being prepared ahead of PM Modi's Japan visit. This gives the state an opportunity to position itself early as a preferred destination for Japanese manufacturing capital.
d. Escorts Kubota's ₹ 2,025 crore project in YEIDA Sector 10 is expected to create over 3,800 jobs,[336] while Minda Corporation's ₹ 1,166 crore projects in Sectors 10 and 24 may generate around 6,440 jobs. Their focus on tractors, construction equipment, electric vehicle components, electronics and exports strengthens YEIDA's emerging auto-manufacturing cluster near Noida International Airport.
e. The proposed 500-acre Japanese City can reduce entry and coordination costs for Japanese firms by clustering anchor companies, suppliers and service providers. With serviced land and Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) facilitation, it could help create a self-reinforcing Japanese manufacturing ecosystem in Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA).
f. The investments also support the state's broader growth ambitions through technology transfer, localisation and export-oriented manufacturing. Kubota's export plans and Minda's Japanese technology partnerships can help shift the YEIDA-Jewar corridor from primarily logistics and real estate toward higher-value manufacturing.

334 The Hindu, August, 2026.
335 The Times Of India, February, 2023.
336 The Hindu, August, 2026.

B. Uttar Pradesh Infrastructure And Industrial Projects Package
Source: The Government Of Uttar Pradesh | **Impact:** High

1. On 25th August, 2026, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved a set of **infrastructure, industrial and youth-focused projects** worth ₹ 21,608 crore, signalling a major push toward connectivity-led growth and investment promotion.
2. The decisions aim to enhance logistics efficiency, strengthen industrial ecosystems, attract private investment and generate employment, particularly in emerging manufacturing corridors.
3. **Key Features –**
   a. The Cabinet approves a ₹ 10,761 crore Ganga Expressway extension to Haridwar, designed as a six-lane (expandable to eight-lane) corridor to boost connectivity, tourism and regional economic integration.
   b. It sanctioned ₹ 7,968.30 crore for the Jhansi Link Expressway, strengthening Bundelkhand connectivity and linking defence and industrial corridors.
   c. It approved the development of a Sultanpur industrial cluster (₹ 272.25 crore) with integrated manufacturing and logistics infrastructure to attract industries.
   d. It also approved private industrial investments worth ₹ 2,606 crore in Bijnor, Unnao and Kanpur Dehat, supported through Letters of Comfort under state incentive policies.
   e. The Cabinet also approved a 130-crore-can annual production capacity at the Unnao facility and up to 75,000 tonnes annually of French fries production at the proposed Bijnor facility.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment –** It aligns with PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan,[337] Bharatmala Pariyojana,[338] focusing on integrated infrastructure, logistics efficiency, manufacturing expansion and digital inclusion.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States –** States such as Gujarat (industrial corridor-led development)[339] Maharashtra (multi-modal logistics parks and expressways)[340] and Tamil Nadu (industrial parks and EV ecosystem push) have adopted similar infrastructure-led growth strategies to attract investment and boost employment.
6. **Relevance –**
   a. At present, NH-34 is the principal road connection between Bijnor District and Haridwar. The ₹ 10,761 crore Ganga Expressway extension creates a six-lane alternative and connects Haridwar into the state's expressway network, including

[337] PM GATI Shakti Master Plan.
[338] PIB, March, 2021.
[339] NICDC.
[340] PIB, April, 2025.

B. Uttar Pradesh Infrastructure And Industrial Projects Package
Source: The Government Of Uttar Pradesh | **Impact:** High
the longer Prayagraj–Haridwar axis.[341] The ₹ 7,968.30 crore Jhansi Link Expressway provides dedicated connectivity to the Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority and the Jhansi node of the state's Defence Industrial Corridor. [342] b. Sultanpur sits in a district where no major industrial cluster exists despite the Ganga expressway corridor passing through it. The Sultanpur Integrated Manufacturing and Logistics Cluster (IMLC) at ₹ 272.25 crore is a targeted intervention to address eastern Uttar Pradesh's industrial deficit. Locating the Sultanpur cluster beside the Purvanchal Expressway provides serviced infrastructure and logistics connectivity for manufacturing investment.[343] c. Canpack India's ₹ 1,573.62 crore aluminium beverage-can plant in Unnao with an annual capacity of 130 crore cans and a 26-hectare footprint in the IMLC industrial corridor is the largest, and represents import substitution in a segment currently dominated by South and Southeast Asian production. d. The Cabinet's approval of Letters of Comfort for three projects brings another ₹ 2,606.04 crore of identified private manufacturing investment into Bijnor, Unnao and Kanpur Dehat, including a ₹ 1,573.62 crore aluminium-can plant, ₹ 794.27 crore food-processing expansion and ₹ 238.15 crore building-products facility.[344] The geographical spread supports the state's effort to move industrial investment beyond a small number of established urban centers.

[341] The Economic Times, August, 2026.
[342] APAC News Network, August, 2026.
[343] APAC News Network, August, 2026.
[344] APAC News Network, August, 2026.

III. Maharashtra

A. District Industrial Investment Commitments
Source: The Free Press Journal | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 19th August, 2026, the District Industries Centre held the 'Invest in Parbhani' conference, at which memoranda of understanding were signed with 162 entrepreneurs for industrial investment of over ₹ 1,622 crore in Parbhani district.
2. It aims to **decentralise industrial investment towards Marathwada** by mobilising local entrepreneurs, expanding access to state industrial schemes for small units, and creating employment within the district.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The conference secured investment commitments exceeding ₹ 1,622 crore across 162 units, with projected employment for 15,617 persons locally.[345]
   b. It routes clearances and MoU formalities through a single window in line with the state Ease of Doing Business policy, alongside guidance to entrepreneurs on documentation, finance and incentive criteria.
   c. It provides for groundbreaking of the sanctioned units by Dussehra, with regular review meetings to track implementation.
   d. It also announced a new Udyog Bhavan and Planning Bhavan for the district, together with a Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Training.
   e. Lastly, the conference proposes local skilling for unskilled workers and oilseed processing units to raise value addition, and seeks state sanction for Maharashtra's first integrated compressed biogas cluster in Parbhani using pressmud, napier grass, cow dung and biological waste.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Rajasthan hosted district-level investor meets across all districts ahead of the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit,[346] while Madhya Pradesh held Regional Industry Conclaves at Ujjain, Jabalpur,[347] Gwalior[348] and Rewa to draw investment outside its core industrial hubs.
5. **Relevance -**
   a. Parbhani has 73,509 registered MSMEs, but 79% are service enterprises and only 21% are manufacturing, with just 2.9% of the workforce employed in small and medium enterprises. Despite 866.7 ITI seats per lakh youth, only 22% of trainers are certified and skilling enrolment is 237.7 per lakh youth, limiting conversion of enterprise and training capacity into jobs.[349] Securing MoUs worth ₹ 1,622 crore with 162 entrepreneurs, expected to generate 15,617 jobs, could significantly

345 Free Press Journal, August, 2026.
346 Economic Times, December, 2024.
347 Newsonair, July, 2024.
348 Deccan Herald, August, 2024.
349 Brief Industrial Profile Of Parbhani District, DCMSME.

A. District Industrial Investment Commitments
Source: The Free Press Journal | **Impact:** Medium
expand the district's industrial capacity, with the proposed investment roughly five times the existing investment in medium and large industrial investment.[350] b. Maharashtra accounts for about $107 billion (₹ 10.15 lakh crore) in cumulative FDI, but investment remains concentrated around major industrial centres such as Mumbai, Pune and Nashik. Less industrialised districts such as Parbhani face weaker private investment and fewer formal employment opportunities.[351] The conference's investment summit model brings investors and Government agencies directly to the district, helping decentralise investment promotion and channel capital into under-industrialised regions. c. The focus on agro-processing is also directly linked to Parbhani's existing economic base. The district administration identifies a substantial agrarian economy and opportunities in agri-processing and allied industries,[352] while the latest initiative specifically proposes local skill training and processing of the district's oilseed output.[353] d. This can connect existing agricultural production with higher-value processing within the district, while also enabling agricultural waste to be monetised through a circular-economy model. Proposed investments focus on agro-processing, solar energy, Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) and waste-to-wealth activities, alongside single-window clearances and new industrial support infrastructure.[354] e. The initiative also complements the wider industrial development taking place in the Marathwada region. The 7,855-acre Bidkin Industrial Area, developed under the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor, has created a large industrial platform in the region, with the Central Government identifying its potential to catalyse industrial development in Marathwada.[355] f. Parbhani faces constraints in finance, infrastructure, skills and converting investment commitments into operational projects. Resource-based industries can create local value chains and employment, while district-level facilitation can reduce administrative barriers. However, the ₹ 1,622 crore remains an MoU commitment, making actual project conversion and job creation the key test of the conference.

[350] The Free Press Journal, August, 2026.
[351] The Free Press Journal, August, 2026.
[352] Brief Industrial Profile Of Parbhani District, DCMSME.
[353] The Free Press Journal, August, 2026.
[354] The Free Press Journal, August, 2026.
[355] PIB, September, 2024.

IV. Madhya Pradesh

A. Madhya Pradesh Development Projects Package
Source: ELets News Network | **Impact:** High
1. On 25th August, 2026, the Madhya Pradesh Cabinet approved development projects worth ₹ 10,630 crore across infrastructure, agriculture, social welfare and public service sectors. 2. The initiative aims to strengthen road connectivity, improve project implementation efficiency, enhance farmer incentives, and expand public service delivery systems through integrated sectoral investments and institutional mechanisms. 3. **Key Features –** a. The initiative provides ₹ 4,600 crore loan-backed financing for 12 major road corridors through Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation under National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) Infrastructure Development Assistance. b. This includes ₹ 3,960.09 crore Seoni–Balaghat four-lane corridor, the six-laning of the Eastern Bhopal Bypass, and development of the Bhopal–Vidisha, Khalghat–Manawar and Mandsaur–Sitamau–Basai–Suwasra corridors. c. The Government provides ₹ 1,740 crore for 19 social-welfare schemes and directs district administrations to prepare relief and rescue plans in response to excessive rainfall. d. The Government is expanding farmer-facing services through village-level Farmer ID registration and planned fertiliser booking through WhatsApp, while also approving posts for Dhanwantri University in Ujjain. e. It also introduces a mutual-consent land acquisition mechanism, offering up to four times land value to farmers to expedite infrastructure execution. 4. **Central Initiative Alignment** – Aligns with the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan[356] and National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP),[357] focusing on integrated infrastructure planning, faster approvals and multimodal connectivity. 5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States –** States such as Uttar Pradesh (expressway-led infrastructure expansion)[358] and Gujarat (industrial corridor and logistics infrastructure development)[359] have undertaken similar large-scale cabinet-led approvals. 6. **Relevance –** a. An audit conducted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in 2026 found the state's road works being awarded without clear land possession. Notably, in

[356] PM Gatishakti Masterplan.
[357] National Infrastructure Pipeline.
[358] Invest UP.
[359] Gujarat Infrastructure Development Board.

A. Madhya Pradesh Development Projects Package
Source: ELets News Network | **Impact:** High
one Bhopal project, failure to hand over the required right-of-way left the work incomplete even after it was retendered. Earlier audits similarly recorded projects delayed because compensation was unpaid or sale deeds were not executed. The Cabinet's mutual-consent land purchase mechanism, offering four times the land value immediately, directly targets this pre-construction bottleneck.[360] b. Fertiliser distribution suffers from uneven allocation, delayed availability and weak real-time tracking. Madhya Pradesh's Agriculture Department itself identifies unequal distribution, lack of real-time monitoring and delays in fertiliser reaching farmers as weaknesses of the existing system. The package's village-level Farmer ID drive and proposed WhatsApp fertiliser booking can improve identification of demand, allocation and farmer access.[361] c. The ₹ 3,960 crore four-laning of the 91.64-km Seoni–Balaghat road can improve access between complementary regional economies. Balaghat is an important mineral and forest-produce centre, while Seoni has strong agricultural and tourism activity. Higher-capacity connectivity can therefore support freight movement, market access and tourism while reducing travel bottlenecks.[362] d. While establishing Dhanwantri Health University, the Madhya Pradesh Assembly was explicitly told that a second health university was needed so that examinations, evaluation, results and student enrolment could be completed on time across the geographically large state. Approving 244 posts for the new Ujjain university provides the manpower required to make that decentralised administrative structure operational.[363] e. The package also strengthens resilience and public-service capacity beyond physical infrastructure. Districts have been directed to prepare advance plans for both excess and deficient rainfall, while ₹ 1,740 crore for 19 social-welfare schemes, 244 posts for Dhanwantri Health University and ₹ 80 crore for MP-Computer Emergency Response Team provide longer-term capacity for vulnerable groups, health education and cybersecurity.[364]

[360] Development Of Roads In Madhya Pradesh By MP Public Works Department, Report Of the Comptroller And Auditor General Of India, March, 2023.
[361] E-Vikas MP Krishi.
[362] The Sun Today, August, 2026.
[363] MP Vidhan Sabha. July, 2026.
[364] The Times Of India, August, 2026.

V. Andhra Pradesh

A. Approval Of ₹ 31,387 Crore AM AI Factory Green Integrated AI Data Centre Project
Source: The Hindu Businessline, The New Indian Express | **Impact:** High

1. On 22nd August, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Government approved AM AI Factory (Vizag) Pvt. Ltd. to establish a 512-MW green integrated AI Data Centre Facility in Visakhapatnam district.
2. The project aims to develop large-scale **artificial intelligence and data-centre infrastructure** in Andhra Pradesh through a green integrated facility at Amanam village in Bheemunipatnam mandal.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The project provides for the establishment of a 512-MW Green Integrated AI Data Centre Facility at Amanam village in Bheemunipatnam mandal of Visakhapatnam district.
   b. It provides for an investment of over ₹ 31,387 crore by AM AI Factory (Vizag) Pvt. Ltd. for development of the data centre.
   c. It provides for completion of the project within two years and four months from the stipulated commencement period.
   d. It is also expected to generate employment for up to 1,000 people through the proposed facility.
   e. It provides fiscal incentives including exemptions from stamp duty and electricity duty, alongside non-fiscal support for power infrastructure and water supply.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The project aligns with the IndiaAI Mission, 2024,[365] which seeks to expand India's AI compute infrastructure, the Green Energy Open Access Rules, 2022,[366] which facilitate access to renewable energy and Draft Data Centre Policy, 2020,[367] which seeks to promote data-centre parks, improve enabling infrastructure and establish India as a global data-centre hub.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Telangana signed an agreement with CtrlS Datacenters in 2025 for a ₹ 10,000 crore, 400-MW AI Data Centre Cluster[368] and has supported a ₹ 60,000 crore expansion of Amazon Web Services' data-centre infrastructure. Uttar Pradesh introduced the Uttar Pradesh Data Centre Policy, 2026[369] targeting over ₹ 2 lakh crore in investment and more than 2 GW of AI-ready and green data-centre capacity.
6. **Relevance -**
   a. India's data-centre capacity has increased from 375 MW in 2020 to around 1,500

[365] PIB, October, 2025.
[366] PIB, May, 2023.
[367] Draft Data Centre Policy, 2020.
[368] Telangana State Portal, January, 2025.
[369] Uttar Pradesh Data Centre Policy, 2026.

A. Approval Of ₹ 31,387 Crore AM AI Factory Green Integrated AI Data Centre Project
Source: The Hindu Businessline, The New Indian Express | **Impact:** High

MW in 2025, yet this remains modest relative to the country's rapidly growing data and AI requirements.[370] India hosts nearly 20% of the world's data but only around 3% of global data-centre capacity, with capacity projected to reach approximately 4.8 GW by 2030.[371]

b. The project therefore represents a significant addition to national compute capacity, helping address the emerging infrastructure deficit and support the expansion of AI workloads.

c. India's data-centre infrastructure remains concentrated in seven major clusters, with Mumbai and Chennai alone accounting for about 66% of installed capacity. The sector is nevertheless expected to expand rapidly, with installed capacity projected to rise from around 1.65 GW in 2025 to 5–6 GW by 2030, driven by AI workloads, digitalisation and data-localisation requirements.[372]

d. Conventional data centres rely on low-power-density racks (5–10 kW), whereas generative AI workloads require high-density racks (30–100+ kW) with advanced liquid cooling.[373] The project provides purpose-built infrastructure for next-generation AI models.[374]

e. Power accounts for up to 70% of operational costs in hyperscale data centres.[375] Integrating green renewable power (solar/wind open access) lowers power costs and helps cloud providers meet corporate decarbonization targets.

f. The Visakhapatnam facility essentially adds 512 MW to Andhra Pradesh's emerging 5.6-GW data-centre cluster, supporting geographic diversification and strengthening the state as an eastern AI-computer hub.

g. Andhra Pradesh has also secured around 5.6 GW of data-centre commitments against its 6-GW target, supported by incentives such as 20-year exemptions from transmission charges, electricity duty and cross-subsidy surcharges.[376] However, converting commitments into operational capacity remains a key challenge.

h. The project's ₹ 31,387-crore investment provides evidence that the incentive framework can mobilise large-scale private capital and deepen the emerging Visakhapatnam ecosystem.

370 PIB, March, 2026.
371 Observer Research Foundation, September, 2025.
372 Financial Express, August, 2026.
373 DATACENTERS.com, August, 2025.
374 Swarajyamag, August, 2026.
375 Systemiq, February, 2026.
376 Multibagg AI, April, 2026.

B. Development Of 1,325 MW Wind Energy Projects In Ananthapuramu
Source: The Telugu Times | **Impact:** Medium
1. On 25th August, 2026, the Andhra Pradesh Government and Suzlon Group broke ground on 1,325 MW wind energy projects in the Ananthapuramu region of Andhra Pradesh through a groundbreaking ceremony attended by the state Government. 2. The projects aim to expand renewable energy capacity in Andhra Pradesh, attract **clean-energy investment** and strengthen the state's wind energy manufacturing and employment ecosystem. 3. **Key Features -** a. The project provides for the development of wind energy projects with a combined capacity of 1,325 MW in the Ananthapuramu region. b. It is expected to attract approximately ₹ 10,500 crore in investment and generate around 1,600 direct and indirect green jobs. c. It expands Suzlon Group's ongoing wind energy portfolio in Andhra Pradesh, where the company is currently executing approximately 1,600 MW of wind projects. d. It builds on Suzlon's existing blade manufacturing facility in Ananthapuramu, which operates four production lines with an annual manufacturing capacity of 1,260 MW. e. It complements Suzlon's green-skilling initiatives in the state, under which around 12,000 individuals, including 3,000 women, have been trained through skill development facilities in Uravakonda and Vijayawada. 4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy, 2018[377] provides the Central policy framework for promoting large grid-connected wind-solar hybrid systems and efficient utilisation of transmission infrastructure. 5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Gujarat implements the Gujarat Renewable Energy Policy, 2023[378] which provides a state framework for developing wind, solar and wind-solar hybrid projects and attracting private renewable energy investment. Tamil Nadu implements the Tamil Nadu Repowering, Refurbishment and Life Extension Policy for Wind Power Projects, 2024[379] which facilitates the replacement and upgrading of ageing wind turbines to increase wind generation capacity and improve utilisation of high-wind-potential sites. 6. **Relevance -** a. Andhra Pradesh had 15.98 GW of installed renewable energy capacity as of March,

[377] National Wind-Solar Hybrid Policy, 2018.
[378] Gujarat Renewable Energy Policy, 2023.
[379] Tamil Nadu Repowering, Refurbishment And Life Extension Policy For Wind Power Projects, 2024.

B. Development Of 1,325 MW Wind Energy Projects In Ananthapuramu
Source: The Telugu Times | **Impact:** Medium
2026, including 7.5 GW of solar and 4.4 GW of wind,[380] while its Integrated Clean Energy Policy targets 78.5 GW of solar and 35 GW of wind by 2029.[381] The scale of the target implies a requirement for around 30.6 GW of additional wind capacity from the existing base. Suzlon's 1,325 MW wind projects therefore provide a material addition towards closing this deployment gap, equivalent to around 4.3% of the additional wind capacity required, with the company already executing another 1,600 MW of wind projects in the state. b. The state added 3,865.63 MW of renewable capacity in FY2025–26, compared with only 1,085.15 MW in FY2024–25 and less than 150 MW annually during FY2021–24, demonstrating a sharp but recent acceleration in deployment.[382] Suzlon's 1,325 MW projects, together with its existing approximately 1 GW of orders from Tata Power Renewable Energy and Waaree Forever Energies, strengthen the project pipeline and provide continuity to the recent acceleration in renewable capacity addition. c. Andhra's electricity demand reached a record peak of over 14,000 MW in March, 2026,[383] while its data-centre pipeline of approximately 5.6 GW is expected to create substantial additional round-the-clock power demand.[384] This creates a need for reliable renewable generation alongside grid expansion, particularly as data-centre operators increasingly seek renewable power. d. An established wind corridor can also contribute to this requirement by providing generation that complements solar and can support the continuous power needs of emerging industrial and data-centre loads. e. The state has an estimated 237 GW of renewable-energy potential, but achieving its 2029 targets will require substantial investment in generation as well as transmission and grid stabilisation.[385] f. Suzlon's Ananthapuramu manufacturing facility with its production capacity, supports over 1,200 direct and indirect jobs, and has contributed to an existing ₹ 15,500-crore investment footprint in Andhra Pradesh. The new ₹ 10,500-crore investment not only strengthens the renewable energy initiative but also the local manufacturing and employment ecosystem.

380 Ministry Of New and Renewable Energy, March, 2026.
381 Climate Policy Initiative, August, 2026.
382 GreentechLead, July, 2026.
383 ET Energyworld, March, 2026.
384 ET Energyworld, April, 2026.
385 ET Government, August, 2026.

Other Decisions

I. Uttarakhand

A. Draft Uttarakhand Electricity Regulatory Commission (Deviation Settlement Mechanism And Related Matters) Regulations, 2026
Source: The Government Of Uttarakhand, The Solar Quarter | **Impact:** Medium
1. On 18th August, 2026, the Uttarakhand Electricity Regulatory Commission (UERC) issued draft regulations for the Deviation Settlement Mechanism (DSM) and related matters under Section 181 of the Electricity Act, 2003.[386] 2. The draft regulations aim to strengthen grid discipline, operational security and financial accountability by establishing a commercial mechanism to settle differences between scheduled and actual power injection or drawal by all entities connected to the state grid, including intra-state electricity traders. 3. **Key Features -** a. The draft regulations apply to all state grid-connected entities and entities engaged in intra-state purchase and sale of electricity, while inter-state generating stations supplying power outside Uttarakhand remain governed by CERC (Deviation Settlement Mechanism and Related Matters) Regulations, 2024.[387] b. The draft regulations calculate deviations for each 15-minute time block based on schedules finalised by the State Load Despatch Centre (SLDC), with separate deviation charge mechanisms for general sellers, run-of-river hydro stations, municipal solid waste plants, wind and solar generators, standalone energy storage systems, and buyers. c. They require state entities to adhere to schedules issued by the SLDC and provide for deviation charges based on actual injection or withdrawal against scheduled quantities. d. They classify wind-solar generators separately, allowing deviations up to 5% for solar/hybrid projects and 10% for wind projects at the contract rate, with higher deviations attracting reduced or penal charges. e. They channel settlements through a dedicated Deviation and Ancillary Service Pool Account managed by the SLDC,[388] with monthly surplus transferred to a newly created state Power Systems Development Fund. f. They empower UERC to investigate suspected gaming, including deliberate mis-declaration of capacity for financial gain, and to disallow deviation-related earnings obtained through deceptive practices, while repealing the state's existing

[386] The Electricity Act, 2003.
[387] Deviation Settlement Mechanism (DSM) Regulations, 2017.
[388] The Deviation and Ancillary Service (DAS) Pool Account is a regional financial settlement fund managed by Regional Load Despatch Centres (RLDCs) under Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) guidelines to handle grid imbalances and ancillary services.

A. Draft Uttarakhand Electricity Regulatory Commission (Deviation Settlement Mechanism And Related Matters) Regulations, 2026
Source: The Government Of Uttarakhand, The Solar Quarter | **Impact:** Medium

DSM Regulations, 2017 framework upon finalisation.

4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The draft regulations align with the CERC (Deviation Settlement Mechanism and Related Matters) Regulations, 2024[389] and the Electricity Act, 2003's[390] grid-discipline provisions, adapting the central DSM architecture, including QCA recognition for renewable generators, to Uttarakhand's state grid.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Rajasthan[391] and Gujarat[392] have similarly notified state-level DSM regulations aligned with the central framework, each introducing QCA-based forecasting and scheduling mechanisms for their growing renewable energy capacity.
6. **Relevance -**
   a. The draft regulations aim to modernise Uttarakhand's decade-old deviation framework. They will replace the DSM Regulations, 2017 and align intra-state scheduling and settlement with the CERC's DSM Regulations, 2024 and the Electricity Grid Code, 2023,[393] creating clearer commercial incentives for generators and buyers to adhere to scheduled injection and drawal.[394]
   b. This is particularly relevant to Uttarakhand's seasonal power imbalance. As of June, 2024, 51.4% of Uttarakhand's contracted capacity was hydro and 74.9% was non-fossil, while the Central Electricity Authority noted that winter demand peaks precisely when hydro generation declines. In 2023-24, peak demand reached 2,635 MW against which only 2,405 MW was met.
   c. DSM alone cannot solve the underlying capacity shortage, but tighter scheduling and financial penalties for deviations can reduce avoidable imbalances and give the SLDC greater operational predictability.[395]
   d. The draft regulations prepare the grid for greater renewable and storage integration. Uttarakhand expects around 266 MW/665 MWh of battery storage and 61.25 MW of solar capacity to be commissioned over the next three years. They explicitly cover wind, solar, hybrid projects and standalone storage, while introducing QCAs as a single point for forecasting, scheduling, metering, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) coordination and deviation settlement, reducing fragmented responsibility across renewable generators.

[389] CERC 2024.
[390] The Electricity Act, 2003.
[391] Powerpeak Digest - RERC.
[392] Powerpeak Digest - Gujarat.
[393] Electricity Grid Code, 2023.
[394] UERC, August, 2026.
[395] The Times Of India, April, 2025.

A. Draft Uttarakhand Electricity Regulatory Commission (Deviation Settlement Mechanism And Related Matters) Regulations, 2026
Source: The Government Of Uttarakhand, The Solar Quarter | **Impact:** Medium
e. They also strengthen financial discipline around grid imbalances. The SLDC will issue deviation accounts weekly, payments must be made within seven days, delayed payments beyond nine days attract 0.04% daily interest, and repeat defaulters must maintain a Letter of Credit equal to 110% of their deviation liability.[396] f. They also close opportunities for strategic mis-scheduling. The UERC can investigate deliberate mis-declaration or “gaming” and disallow deviation earnings obtained through such practices, while surplus collections will flow into a State Power Systems Development Fund (PSDF) for power-system development.[397]

[396] UERC, August, 2026.
[397] UERC, August, 2026.

II. West Bengal

A. The Composite Transfer And Packing Grant

Source: The Government Of West Bengal, Millennium Post | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 27th August, 2026, the West Bengal Government introduced a Composite Transfer and Packing Grant, replacing the existing transfer grant and packing allowance system for state Government employees.
2. The grant aims to **simplify relocation benefits**, reduce administrative burden, and provide financial relief to employees during transfers and retirement-related relocation.
3. **Key Features –**
   a. The grant replaces the earlier dual system of transfer grant and packing allowance with a single composite lump-sum grant.
   b. It provides a lump-sum grant up to ₹ 50,000 or 80% of basic pay (whichever is lower) without requiring submission of receipts.
   c. It grants the full amount for transfers involving relocation of 30 km or more, while transfers within 30 km receive one-third of the admissible amount, subject to change of residence.
   d. The grant also extends the benefit to retiring employees settling at a new location, thereby covering post-retirement relocation.
   e. It simplifies claims by making the grant independent of luggage volume, receipts, or proof of expenditure, ensuring ease of disbursement.
4. **Central Policy Alignment -** The grant is broadly aligned with the 7th Central Pay Commission (CPC)–based Travelling Allowance (TA) rules[398] and the Department of Expenditure guidelines on Composite Transfer Grant (CTG),[399] which standardise relocation benefits for Government employees.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States** – Karnataka under the Karnataka Civil Services Rules, also provides for travelling allowance and related entitlements during transfers, forming a rule-based reimbursement framework linked to actual expenditure and service conditions.[400]
6. **Relevance** –
   a. The grant modernises a 27-year-old framework (dating back to 1999), replacing separate transfer grant and packing allowance provisions with a single lump-sum benefit and eliminating receipt-based claims, reducing administrative paperwork.
   b. The predecessor framework (under West Bengal Service Rules, Part II[401]) required employees to produce receipts for transportation of personal effects, claim

[398] Ministry Of Finance - Travelling Allowance Rules.
[399] Composite Transfer Grant.
[400] Karnataka Civil Services Rules, 2017.
[401] West Bengal Service Rules, Part II.

A. The Composite Transfer And Packing Grant

Source: The Government Of West Bengal, Millennium Post | **Impact:** Medium

packing allowance separately at flat rates, and process two distinct instruments, transfer grant and packing allowance, through the finance department before receiving relief. The new grant, sanctioned as a single lump sum of up to ₹ 50,000 or 80% of basic pay whichever is applicable, requires no receipts.[402]

c. The structure of the grant broadly aligns West Bengal with the Central Government's Composite Transfer Grant model,[403] which also provides 80% of basic pay and one-third entitlement for shorter relocations, although the Centre uses a 20 km threshold compared with a 30 km threshold under the grant.

d. Lastly, extending the grant to employees retiring on or after 31st May, 2026 also brings post-retirement relocation within the welfare framework, easing settlement costs for employees moving away from their final place of posting.[404]

402 Millennium Post, August, 2026.
403 N0.19030/1/2017-EtV, Ministry Of Finance, Department Of Expenditure, July, 2017, Page 4.
404 Memorandum No. 3205-F(P1), Government Of West Bengal, August, 2026.

III. Uttar Pradesh

A. Lokmata Ahilyabai Matrushakti Yatra Yojana
Source: ANI News, The Hindu | **Impact:** High
1. On 26th August, 2026, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the Lokmata Ahilyabai Matrushakti Yatra Yojana.[405] 2. The yojana aims to provide lifelong fare-free public bus travel to **women aged 60 years and above**[406] residing in Uttar Pradesh, reducing transport costs and improving mobility and independent access to public transport for elderly women across the state. 3. **Key Features -** a. The yojana provides lifelong free travel to more than 1 crore women aged 60 years and above who are residents of Uttar Pradesh on general buses operated by the Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC).[407] b. It enables eligible women to avail the facility by presenting an Aadhaar Card or Voter ID as proof of identity, age and eligibility while travelling. c. The yojana covers UPSRTC's general bus services across Uttar Pradesh, making the concession applicable beyond individual cities or specified routes. d. The UPSRTC introduces special smart travel cards for eligible beneficiaries to support structured verification and implementation of the free-travel entitlement. 4. **Central Scheme Alignment -** The yojana broadly aligns with the Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY), 2021,[408] an implemented Union Government umbrella scheme for senior-citizen welfare, dignity and social inclusion. 5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Karnataka's Shakti Scheme, 2023[409] provides fare-free travel to eligible women on state-run non-premium buses, while Tamil Nadu's Vidiyal Payanam Scheme, 2021[410] provides free travel for women on ordinary Government buses. Punjab's Free Bus Travel for Women Scheme, 2021[411] similarly provides fare-free travel to women residents on eligible Government-owned buses. 6. **Relevance -** a. The yojana converts a recurring mobility barrier into a permanent entitlement for an estimated beneficiary base of over 1 crore women, with around 88,438 expected to use the facility daily.[412] b. The yojana directly reduces recurring transport costs for elderly women, with the

[405] ANI, August, 2026.
[406] The Hindu, August, 2026.
[407] Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation.
[408] Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana, 2021.
[409] Karnataka Shakti Scheme, 2023.
[410] Tamil Nadu Vidiyal Payanam Scheme, 2021.
[411] NDTV, March, 2021.
[412] The Print, August, 2026.

A. Lokmata Ahilyabai Matrushakti Yatra Yojana
Source: ANI News, The Hindu | **Impact:** High
Government estimating an expenditure of about ₹ 22.5 crore per month. Improved mobility can support easier access to healthcare, family networks and essential services.[413] The age-gated yojana narrows the beneficiary population but focuses the entitlement on those with the least earning capacity and the greatest dependence on subsidised public transport. It is also expected to increase tourism especially in religious spaces like Ayodhya, Prayagraj and Varanasi.[414] c. Implementation of the yojana has been designed to minimise entry barriers, as eligible women can currently obtain a zero-fare ticket by showing Aadhaar or Voter ID, without waiting for a dedicated smart card. The yojana extends to both UPSRTC-operated and contracted ordinary buses across the state. d. Lastly, the yojana converts Uttar Pradesh's periodic free travel for women, such as the Raksha Bandhan concession, into a continuing entitlement for senior women and fulfils the 'Sashakt Nari' commitment in the Lok Kalyan Sankalp 2022, strengthening the welfare framework around women's mobility and independence.[415]

[413] The Indian Express, August, 2026.
[414] The Hindustan Times, August, 2026.
[415] The Times Of India, August, 2026.

IV. Bihar

A. Bihar Sovereign AI Infrastructure Stack (The Atmanirbhar AI Stack)
Source: [Manufacturing Today] | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 21st August, 2026, the Department of Information Technology, Government of Bihar signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ConveGenius.AI to build the state's Atmanirbhar AI infrastructure.
2. The initiative aims to build and govern Bihar's own AI stack, retaining state control over data, policies, and AI governance, while creating AI-powered citizen services tailored to local needs and supporting India's wider sovereign AI push.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The initiative establishes a state-governed AI infrastructure foundation, keeping AI models, data, and governance policies under Bihar Government control rather than third-party or central platforms.
   b. It introduces B-ONT, an ontological mind map functioning as a unified knowledge graph of the state's schemes and services, designed to help AI agents navigate Government information and simplify citizen access to schemes.
   c. It partners with ConveGenius.AI, an organisation with over 12 years of experience deploying technology infrastructure across Indian states, working alongside technology partners including AWS, Adobe, Intel, Google, and Snowflake.
   d. It also supports contextual skilling programmes to prepare workers, technicians, and businesses for AI adoption and AI-driven jobs, linking the infrastructure push to a proposed state AI policy.[416]
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative aligns with the IndiaAI Mission under MeitY,[417] which promotes sovereign AI compute infrastructure, indigenous datasets, and AI-based citizen service delivery, positioning Bihar's state-level AI stack as a sub-national extension of India's broader sovereign AI strategy.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Telangana has deployed its own AI-based citizen service platforms under the state's AI Mission,[418] Andhra Pradesh has partnered with technology firms for a state-specific AI governance framework,[419] and Odisha has piloted AI-driven scheme-navigation tools for citizen service delivery.
6. **Relevance -**
   a. Bihar's total population stands at approximately 13 crore, of whom about 88% are rural,[420] and 58% are below 25 years of age, the highest youth share of any state in India. Per capita NSDP at constant prices is ₹ 36,342, which is 31.7% of the all-India

[416] The Print, May, 2026.
[417] IndiaAI Gov.
[418] The Hindu, August, 2025.
[419] IBM Newsroom, February, 2026.
[420] Macro And Fiscal Landscape Of The State Of Bihar, NITI Aayog, 2025.

A. Bihar Sovereign AI Infrastructure Stack (The Atmanirbhar AI Stack)
Source: Manufacturing Today | **Impact:** Medium

average, ranking Bihar at the bottom of state per capita income tables.[421] The state therefore holds the largest concentration of young, low-income. Predominantly rural population is precisely the segment for whom general-purpose AI trained on English and urban data produces the least relevant output. A sovereign stack built on a Bihar-specific semantic ontology is an aspirational infrastructure for the state.

b. Urban internet access in Bihar stood at 94% in 2025 against rural access of 48%, a 46-percentage-point gap, with gender gaps of 15% points in digital literacy and 28% difference in e-commerce access.[422] Among the poorest 20% of households, only 2.7% have computer access and 8.9% have internet access.[423] SwiftChat's low-bandwidth, feature-phone-compatible model is therefore better suited to Bihar's access constraints than smartphone-dependent cloud platforms. ConveGenius will build a semantic ontology for Bihar, described by its CEO as "Bihar's asset" that will connect to various departments in the state, and that will also create revenue generation opportunities."[424]

c. Bihar's digital service delivery currently relies on national platforms, including the ServicePlus portal, which are designed for generic national use and carry no state-specific contextual layer. Reports indicate that rural beneficiaries in Bihar must travel to block towns or Common Service Centres to access services that are nominally digital, because interfaces are not designed in local dialects and authentication failures are frequent, which will improve through the AI stack.[425]

d. The Prime Minister's stated objective of preparing 1 crore youth with AI capabilities is referenced in both the ConveGenius press release and the Bihar Government's framing of the MoU. ConveGenius's existing deployment record, over 14 crore student profiles reached through its SwiftChat and SwiftPAL platforms across 16 states, gives this alignment a delivery pedigree.[426]

e. Bihar's own education infrastructure is among India's largest in raw scale, with one of the highest school-age populations of any state, and the MoU's skilling component will power contextual programmes for workers, technicians and enterprises.

421 Bihar Economic Survey 2025-26.
422 IJARPS Journal, 2025.
423 Manu Mayank, Digital Bihar Inclusive Growth.
424 IT Voice And FM Live, August, 2026.
425 Manu Mayank, Digital Bihar Inclusive Growth.
426 IndianWeb2 And IT Voice, August, 2026.

V. Haryana

A. Diesel Generator Set Subsidy Scheme And Assistance For Purchase And Conversion Of Boilers To Cleaner Fuels
Source: The Tribune | **Impact:** Medium
1. On 19th August, 2026, the Haryana Industry and Commerce Department notified the Diesel Generator Set Subsidy Scheme and Boiler Conversion Assistance Scheme. 2. The initiative aims to **reduce industrial air pollution** by incentivising Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to adopt cleaner fuel-based technologies, including Central Pollution Control Board-compliant diesel generator sets and Piped Natural Gas (PNG)/Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)-based boilers, while ensuring compliance with air quality standards in high-pollution industrial clusters across Haryana. 3. **Key Features –** a. The initiative provides 50% reimbursement up to ₹ 20 lakh for purchase of new Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) - compliant diesel generator (DG) sets targeting installation of 1,400 units in Gurugram and Faridabad. b. It provides 50% subsidy up to ₹ 5 lakh for installation of Retrofit Emission Control Devices (RECDs)[427] in existing DG sets to reduce emissions. c. It introduces financial assistance of 50% up to ₹ 20 lakh for purchase of 1,000 PNG/CNG-based industrial boilers, promoting cleaner fuel transition. d. The initiative also enables 50% subsidy up to ₹ 10 lakh for conversion of existing coal/diesel boilers to cleaner fuels, with eligibility linked to compliance norms and Udyam registration. e. It mandates phased implementation over three stages (two years each) covering NCR districts first, followed by state-wide expansion, with compliance to CPCB norms and Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) directions. 4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** It aligns with CPCB emission standards and CAQM directives for NCR air quality management,[428] and complements the Bureau of Energy Efficiency's Assistance in Deploying Energy Efficient Technologies in Industries and Establishments (ADEETIE) scheme promoting energy-efficient technologies in MSMEs.[429] 5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Delhi has implemented restrictions and retrofit mandates on diesel generators under CAQM directions,[430] while Gujarat has

[427] A retrofit emission control device (RECD) is an add-on pollution control system which attaches to an existing engine's exhaust system, most commonly on diesel generators to capture or convert harmful pollutants before they reach the air.
[428] Commission For Air Quality Management.
[429] BEE-ADEETIE.
[430] PIB, June, 2026.

A. Diesel Generator Set Subsidy Scheme And Assistance For Purchase And Conversion Of Boilers To Cleaner Fuels
Source: The Tribune | **Impact:** Medium
promoted gas-based industrial fuel transition through subsidy-linked schemes.[431] 6. **Relevance -** a. The CAQM banned industrial and commercial diesel generator use across the National Capital Region from May, 2023 and required emission control devices, failing which generators would not be permitted anywhere in NCR even for essential services.[432] The state notification[433] records that emissions from ageing DG sets can exceed permissible standards by up to 11 times and contribute 7 to 18%of ambient air pollution. b. At the time, industry associations noted that no subsidy existed, PNG access was limited, and most small units lacked retrofit capital. Dual-fuel and emission-control conversions each cost roughly ₹ 5–15 lakh.[434] The initiative therefore provides the financing missing from a mandate enforceable since 2023. c. Further, CPCB data cited in 2023 showed 1.2 lakh DG sets added annually in NCR's organised sector and another 30,000–40,000 in the unorganised sector, with retrofitting at just 20% and nil, respectively. The intervention safeguards industrial continuity in Haryana, where earlier deadlines reportedly put 24,000 units in Faridabad, 15,000 in Gurugram and 25,000 in Panipat at risk of closure.[435] d. Small and micro enterprises that depend on inefficient boilers using conventional fuels such as coal, pet coke and heavy fuel oil can face significant costs in shifting to cleaner systems. Haryana's provision of 50% financial assistance (up to ₹ 20 lakh for new PNG/CNG or other gaseous-fuel boilers) and (up to ₹ 10 lakh for converting existing boilers) reduces the upfront investment required and can accelerate the transition to cleaner industrial fuels and technologies.[436] e. The first phase targets 1,400 new DG sets in Gurugram and Faridabad, a limited share of the installed base given that Gurugram alone had over 4,000 registered DG sets in 2023. Coverage is intended to expand to the remaining NCR districts in phase two and non-NCR areas in phase three, with each phase spanning two years.[437]

[431] SDS FIN - CBG Plants In Gujarat.
[432] The Tribune, August, 2026.
[433] Notification No. 02/05/2026-1IB-II, Industries and Commerce Department, Haryana Government, August, 2026.
[434] The Tribune, June, 2026.
[435] The Tribune, October, 2022.
[436] The Tribune, August, 2026.
[437] PIB, June, 2026.

VI. Maharashtra

A. Snakebite Notification Framework In Maharashtra, 2026
Source: The Print, The Hindu | **Impact:** Low

1. On 18th August, 2026, the Maharashtra Government declared snakebite a notifiable disease, mandating the reporting of suspected and confirmed snakebite cases and deaths.
2. The notification aims to establish systematic surveillance of snakebite cases, facilitate timely treatment and strengthen the management and availability of anti-snake venom (ASV) across the state.
3. **Key Features -**
    a. The notification mandates all hospitals, medical colleges and healthcare professionals to report every suspected or confirmed snakebite case and death to the concerned district health officer or district surgeon, with serious and fatal cases requiring immediate reporting.
    b. It provides for recording cases through the Health Management Information System (HMIS),[438] Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)[439] or other Government-specified reporting systems.
    c. It establishes state and district-level nodal mechanisms and mandates healthcare institutions to maintain patient-level records on snakebites, treatment, referrals, outcomes and ASV stocks.
    d. It enables analysis of snakebite patterns and deaths by location, season and circumstances to guide local prevention measures and district-level awareness on prevention, first aid, timely referral and treatment.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The notification aligns with the Centre's National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming (NAPSE), 2024[440] which provides for strengthened snakebite surveillance, timely treatment, ASV availability and coordinated prevention and control mechanisms at the state and district levels. Reporting through the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP)[441] can further support real-time monitoring of cases.
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Karnataka declared snakebite cases and deaths a notifiable disease in 2024,[442] mandating reporting through IHIP, followed by Tamil

[438] Health Management Information System (HMIS) is a digital or paper-based framework used to collect, store, analyse, and share health data to improve medical care and public health decision-making.
[439] Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) is a decentralised, nationwide disease monitoring system in India. Launched in November, 2004 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, it tracks communicable and non-communicable diseases to detect early warning signals of outbreaks and trigger rapid public health responses.
[440] PIB, March, 2024.
[441] IHIP, Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare.
[442] The Hindu, February, 2024.

A. Snakebite Notification Framework In Maharashtra, 2026
Source: The Print, The Hindu | **Impact:** Low
Nadu in 2024 under the Tamil Nadu Public Health Act, 1939.[443] In 2025, Keralam notified snakebite envenomation as a disease of public health importance under Section 28 of the Kerala Public Health Act, 2023[444] enabling systematic reporting, data collection and standardised treatment protocols. 6. **Relevance -** a. Maharashtra recorded 1.29 lakh snakebite cases and 656 deaths between April, 2023 and March, 2026,[445] highlighting that snakebite is not an isolated rural emergency but a major preventable health burden. The burden is likely to be concentrated among vulnerable rural and tribal populations, where delayed access to treatment can turn a preventable bite into a fatality. b. The notification follows the deaths of three tribal schoolgirls after they were bitten by a venomous snake while sleeping at a school hostel in Japtalai village, Gadchiroli, on 9th August, 2026.[446] The notification shifts snakebite management in Maharashtra from reactive treatment to systematic public-health surveillance. c. Snakebite surveillance in India remains incomplete, especially in rural and remote areas where victims may not reach formal health facilities or seek informal care. This hampers identification of high-risk areas, seasonal trends, treatment gaps and ASV demand.[447] The notification mandates reporting of suspected, probable and confirmed snakebite cases, along with ASV stock, consumption and availability, enabling authorities to map incidence, identify shortages, redirect supplies and plan targeted prevention and treatment interventions.[448] d. Western Maharashtra's heavy monsoon rainfall[449] increases snake–human encounters in agricultural and residential areas during June–September, while delayed access to emergency care disproportionately affects rural populations, where 97% of snakebite deaths occur nationally.[450] The notification will enable systematic district-level tracking of snakebite cases, deaths and treatment needs, helping Maharashtra identify monsoon hotspots and target resources accordingly.

[443] National Health Mission Tamil Nadu, Department Of Health And Family Welfare, November, 2024.
[444] Kerala Public Health Act, December, 2023
[445] Free Press Journal, August, 2026.
[446] DD News, August, 2026.
[447] The Times Of India, August, 2026.
[448] Free Press Journal, August, 2026.
[449] The Times Of India, August, 2026.
[450] Down To Earth, July, 2026.

B. Maha eHRMS, Maha-IAS And Mentor-Mentee Digital Portals
Source: The Economic Times, APAC News Network | **Impact:** High

1. On 24th August, 2026, the Chief Minister of the state inaugurated the Maha electronic Human Resource Management System (eHRMS), Maha-IAS Portal and Mentor-Mentee Portal.
2. The initiative aims to **digitise and integrate human-resource administration** for Maharashtra Government employees by creating a unified employee database, replacing physical service records with digital e-Service Books, automating service-related orders and processes, and enabling digital access to employee services from recruitment to retirement.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The initiative introduces structured digital e-Service Books to replace physical service books in use since 1935, with employee records automatically updated through the automated e-Order Module and notifications issued through SMS or email.
   b. It provides an integrated HR architecture covering rules and procedures across 123 establishments under 42 Government departments, with the first phase covering Maharashtra-cadre IAS officers and subsequent phases extending coverage to other State Government employees.
   c. The initiative also enables employees to use the Maha eHRMS mobile application for remote access to salary slips, attendance records and leave applications, while integrating services including Sevaarth, Maha PAR, National Pension System (NPS), DigiLocker, e-Office, iGOT Karmayogi, Bhashini and e-Cabinet.
   d. It introduces Jigyasa, an indigenous AI-based assistant trained on IAS and All India Services rules to provide guidance on service records, applicable rules and entitlements, alongside AI tools including Maha-AI and Anubhav AI.
   e. The associated portals provide the Maha-IAS Portal as a repository for IAS service information and the Mentor-Mentee Portal to enable senior officers to transfer field experience, administrative skills and institutional knowledge to junior officers.
4. **Central Initiative Alignment -** The initiative aligns with Mission Karmayogi – National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (2020),[451] whose architecture includes electronic Human Resource Management Systems (eHRMS) and the iGOT Karmayogi digital platform.[452]
5. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Karnataka's Human Resource Management

[451] PIB, August, 2026.
[452] iGOT Karmayogi Digital Platform.

B. Maha eHRMS, Maha-IAS And Mentor-Mentee Digital Portals

Source: The Economic Times, APAC News Network | **Impact:** High

System (HRMS), 2005[453] digitised employee service particulars and payroll administration, while Keralam's Service and Payroll Administrative Repository for Kerala (SPARK), 2008[454] established an integrated personnel, payroll and accounts platform with unique Permanent Employee Numbers and digitised service records.

6. **Relevance -**
   a. Maharashtra has 13.45 lakh state Government employees across 123 establishments and 42 departments,[455] with physical service books in use since 1935.[456] The initiative extends beyond the state workforce to employees of recognised and grant-aided educational institutions, non-agricultural universities and affiliated aided non-Government colleges, agricultural universities, and Zilla Parishads, significantly broadening its administrative reach.[457]
   b. Maha eHRMS additionally replaces paper records with digital e-Service Books and automated e-Orders, reducing delays, manual errors and fragmented record-keeping.
   c. Service-record inaccuracies can also delay pension and other retirement benefits, particularly when records have to be reconstructed or verified across departments.[458] The Bombay High Court has dealt with cases[459] where missing or incomplete employment records affected an employee's claim to higher pension, highlighting how gaps in record-keeping can obstruct access to legitimate retirement benefits.
   d. By linking e-Service Books with Sevaarth, NPS and DigiLocker, Maha eHRMS brings service, payroll, pension and supporting documents into a connected digital system, enabling faster verification and reducing dependence on physical records.
   e. Maharashtra's IAS cadre has 435 authorised officers, making it the fourth-largest in India,[460] with service matters governed by both the State General Administration Department and the central Department of Personnel and Training.[461] The upgraded Maha-IAS Portal consolidates all Department of Personnel and Training circulars, All India Services rules and General

453 Karnataka's Human Resource Management System, March, 2005.
454 Kerala's Service and Payroll Administrative Repository, 2008.
455 The Times Of India, August, 2026.
456 FM Bharat, August, 2026.
457 The Times Of India, August, 2026.
458 The Times Of India, June, 2025.
459 *Kiran Rajaram Jadhav* v. EPFO, 2026:BHC-AS:14389 and New Indian Express, April, 2026.
460 Department Of Personnel And Training.
461 Department Of Personnel And Training.

B. Maha eHRMS, Maha-IAS And Mentor-Mentee Digital Portals
Source: The Economic Times, APAC News Network | **Impact:** High
Administration Department resolutions, while Jigyasa, an AI-based assistant, provides guidance on service records, entitlements and administrative matters through a single interface, enabling faster and more consistent access to information.[462] f. The initiative also addresses the loss of institutional knowledge as experienced officers retire. The Mentor-Mentee Portal, integrated with the broader capacity-building ecosystem including iGOT Karmayogi, creates a structured channel for senior officers to transfer experience and administrative knowledge to junior officials.[463]

[462] Prokerala, August, 2026.
[463] FM Bharat, August, 2026.

VII. Puducherry

A. PONFAIT Collective Brand Identity For MSME Products And Enterprises
Source: The Hindu | **Impact:** Medium

1. On 22nd August, 2026, the Pondicherry Industrial Promotion Development and Investment Corporation Limited (PIPDIC), in association with the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), launched PONFAIT as a collective brand identity for **products, services and enterprises** from Puducherry.
2. The initiative aims to strengthen the visibility and market recognition of local MSMEs by bringing products and enterprises from across the Union Territory under a common brand identity.
3. **Key Features -**
   a. The initiative introduces PONFAIT as a collective brand identity for MSME products, services and enterprises originating from Puducherry.
   b. It forms part of the 'Made in Puducherry' initiative to recognise and promote locally produced goods and services and strengthen market opportunities for MSMEs.
   c. It covers enterprises across sectors including coastal tourism, fisheries and marine industries, pharmaceuticals and medical products, textiles and apparel, handicrafts and handlooms, manufacturing and small industries.
   d. It also covers traditional and locally rooted sectors including woodcraft, traditional food products, masonry art and sculptures.
   e. It is being implemented by PIPDIC in association with EDII to support MSME visibility, product promotion and market access.
4. **Similar Initiatives In Other States -** Uttar Pradesh has implemented the One District One Product (ODOP) Programme, 2018[464] to promote district-specific products through branding, marketing and enterprise support, while Madhya Pradesh has implemented One District One Product, FY 2020-21[465] to identify and promote locally specialised products and strengthen their market visibility.
5. **Relevance -**
   a. Puducherry's economy grew 8.12% in 2025-26,[466] while the secondary sector accounted for 42.35% of GSVA[467] and the Union Territory had more than 33,000 registered MSMEs.[468] Yet, the RAMP Strategic Investment Plan highlights limited market access, high marketing and shipping costs, and low awareness of the Open

[464] Uttar Pradesh One District One Product (ODOP) Programme, 2018.
[465] Madhya Pradesh, One District One Product (ODOP), FY 202-21.
[466] Deccan Chronicle, 2026.
[467] Indian Brand Equity Foundation.
[468] Deccan Chronicle, August, 2026.

A. PONFAIT Collective Brand Identity For MSME Products And Enterprises
Source: The Hindu | **Impact:** Medium
Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) and Government e-Marketplace (GeM). b. The initiative addresses this common constraint through a single “Made in Puducherry” identity, giving diverse MSMEs a shared platform to build recognition, access wider markets and compete on provenance and quality rather than price alone. c. Further, market access has also been identified as a priority for Puducherry’s MSMEs. During the Union MSME Minister’s July, 2026 review, market access, technology, finance, skills and quality infrastructure were identified as key areas requiring greater attention, alongside improved uptake of schemes supporting marketing, procurement, quality and competitiveness.[469] d. The initiative addresses the market-access gap by providing MSMEs a shared promotional platform and collective brand to access organised retail, trade fairs, e-commerce and other markets while reducing individual branding costs. e. Puducherry is simultaneously making major investments in its blue economy and fisheries, including the ₹ 1,433 crore PY-SHORE project, the ₹ 369.8 crore Blue Port initiative at Karaikal and ₹ 132.44 crore allocated to fisheries in the 2025-26 Budget.[470] These investments can boost production and infrastructure, but supply growth alone may not raise producer incomes. Including fisheries and marine products links infrastructure with market positioning, helping Puducherry products compete on quality and origin rather than volume and price. f. Puducherry is also seeking to develop an export-oriented MSME ecosystem, including plug-and-play infrastructure and digital single-window approvals. A 2025 Reverse Buyer-Seller Meet brought together more than 300 MSME exporters and more than 25 buyers from 16 countries,[471] covering various products. g. However, Puducherry’s commercial identity remains tourism-led, while its pharmaceuticals, textiles, handicrafts and food products lack a common origin brand. The initiative creates a unified Puducherry identity, helping diverse enterprises access external markets under a recognised provenance.

469 Business Standard, July, 2026.
470 Deccan Chronicle, August, 2026.
471 Knowledge And News Network, October, 2025.

Notes

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clpg@nationfirstpolicy.org

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@NFPRC_Ind
nfprcfoundation.substack.com
nfprcfoundation
samparka@nationfirstpolicy.org