

YEAR-END POLICY REVIEW: INDIA

(2025)

Preface

The year **2025** marked a significant phase in India's policy and regulatory landscape, with the Government undertaking a series of reforms aimed at strengthening governance frameworks, accelerating economic growth, deepening social protection, and preparing the country for long-term structural transformation. Across domains such as digital governance, manufacturing, labour, taxation, energy, and financial services, several key schemes, policies, and legislative measures were introduced, amended or operationalised with far-reaching implications.

This document presents a curated **Year-End Policy Review of India**, highlighting **seven** of the most impactful policy initiatives undertaken by the Government of India during the year. The selection has been guided by the scale of impact, policy significance, cross-sectoral relevance and long-term implications of these reforms.

This publication has been prepared by the Policy Access research team with the objective to present each policy in a clear format outlining its core intent, key provisions, stakeholders impacted and broader significance.

As India advances towards its development goals under the *Viksit Bharat* vision and navigates an increasingly complex domestic and global environment, informed engagement with public policy becomes critical. This Year-End Policy Review is intended as a modest contribution towards enhancing that understanding.

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Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules, 2025

(By: Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology)

Give full operational effect to the DPDP Act, 2023, by translating legal principles into implementable rules. Establish a citizen-centric data protection framework focused on privacy, accountability, and responsible data use. Aim to curb unauthorised commercial use of personal data, reduce digital harms, and support a trusted digital economy. Balance individual rights with innovation-friendly compliance for organisations.

Key Provisions

18-Month Compliance Period for organizations' adaption process

Enable online filing & tracking of complaints through a portal & mobile app

Reinforce rights to access, correction, updating, and erasure of personal data

Notify affected individuals of Prompt data breaches

Impose additional obligations on Significant Data Fiduciaries

Require Data Fiduciaries to respond within 90 days to all rights-related requests

Allow individuals to nominate a person to exercise their data protection rights

Establish a fully digital Data Protection Board of India with 4 members

Who it affects?



Private sector entities and digital platforms (Data Fiduciaries)



Large digital platforms (Significant Data Fiduciaries)



Citizens (Data Principals)



Government ministries & departments



Regulatory bodies - Data Protection Board of India & TDSAT

Why it matters?

- Converts the DPDP Act from a principles-based law into an operational framework.
- Strengthen accountability with clear compliance duties and enforcement mechanisms, while providing regulatory clarity to industry on consent, security, and breach response.
- Decisive step toward a structured and enforceable digital data governance regime in India.

Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS), 2025

(By: Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology)

To strengthen India's electronics value chain beyond finished goods and chip fabrication by boosting Domestic Value Addition (DVA) and integrating Indian firms into Global Value Chains (GVCs). ECMS incentivises domestic manufacturing of critical electronic components and supports horizontal linkages with automobile, power, and industrial sectors, thereby deepening manufacturing capabilities across the economy.

Key Provisions

Targeted financial incentives for manufacturing electronic components

Focus on import substitution for high-dependency components currently sourced from global markets.

Performance-linked incentives tied to incremental production and value addition

Emphasis on quality standards, testing, and certification infrastructure to meet global standards

Total outlay of ₹22,919 crore with a scheme tenure of six years

Support for scale and capacity expansion across the electronics component value chain

Eligibility for both domestic & foreign manufacturers, encouraging technology transfer & global investment.

Alignment with semiconductor and electronics ecosystem policies, enabling upstream-downstream integration.

Who it affects?



Electronics component manufacturers



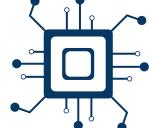
Global electronics firms



Indian electronics ecosystem



Consumers



Technology and design firms

Why it matters?

- Reduces supply chain vulnerabilities exposed during global disruptions.
- Supports job creation, technology absorption, and manufacturing depth.
- Positions India as a credible alternative in global electronics supply chains.
- Addresses India's structural weakness in electronics components manufacturing

Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025

(By: Ministry of Law and Justice)

The Act responds to the rapid growth of India's online gaming sector in the absence of a unified legal and institutional framework. While segments such as e-sports and social games offered innovation and employment potential, the unchecked expansion of online money games led to serious social, financial, psychological, and public health harms. Fragmented State-level regulation, cross-border operations, and links to fraud and money laundering created enforcement gaps. It seeks to promote responsible online gaming while prohibiting online money games through a uniform national framework.

Key Provisions

Recognition and promotion of e-sports and online social games

Central registration and classification of online games

Ban on advertising and promotion of online money gaming

Total prohibition of online money games, irrespective of skill or chance

Establishment of a central Online Gaming Authority

Coverage of cross-border and offshore gaming services offered in India

Criminal penalties, including imprisonment, fines, platform blocking

Prohibition on financial transactions & payment facilitation for money games

Who it affects?



Online gaming platforms (e-sports, social, and educational games)



Banks & payment intermediaries



Advertisers and influencers



Citizens & users, especially youth



Online money gaming operators (prohibited entities)



Online Gaming Regulatory Authority

Why it matters?

- From a governance perspective, the Act establishes Union-level regulatory control to address inter-State and cross-border risks. It replaces fragmented regulation with a uniform and enforceable framework.
- From an industry perspective, the Act provides regulatory clarity by clearly separating permissible gaming activities from prohibited money gaming, enabling responsible growth in e-sports and social gaming while curbing high-risk and socially harmful business models.

Labour Code Reforms

(By: Ministry of Labour and Employment)

India's labour regulatory framework was fragmented across 29 central labour laws, many of which were outdated, overlapping, and complex to comply with. This resulted in high compliance burdens, weak enforcement, limited coverage for informal workers, and regulatory uncertainty for industry. The Labour Codes address these gaps by simplifying laws, modernising provisions, and expanding worker protection. Reforms comprising four central legislations: **the Code on Wages, 2019; the Industrial Relations Code, 2020; the Code on Social Security, 2020; and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020.**

Key Provisions

Consolidation of 29 central labour laws into four Labour Codes

Single registration, single licence, and single return systems

Universal minimum wages with a statutory floor wage across sectors

Expansion of social security coverage to unorganised, gig, and platform workers

Fixed-term employment with parity in wages and benefits

Higher thresholds, simplified norms for lay-off, retrenchment, standing orders

Inspector-cum-Facilitator model with digital, risk-based inspections

Mandatory digitisation of compliance, records, and grievance mechanisms

Who it affects?



Workers across organised, unorganised, gig, and platform sectors



Employers and industries, including MSMEs



Trade unions and worker organisations



Central and State Governments and labour departments



Labour inspectors and regulatory authorities

Why it matters?

- For governance, it creates a unified, transparent, and technology-enabled labour regulatory system, improving enforcement and accountability while reducing administrative complexity.
- From an industry perspective, the reforms provide regulatory clarity, lower compliance costs, and introduce flexibility in workforce management, while ensuring basic wage and social security protections.
- Together, the reforms aim to promote formalisation, employment growth, and a balanced labour ecosystem aligned with India's evolving economy.

GST Reforms 2025

(By: GST Council of India)

Despite the success of GST since its introduction in 2017, the tax structure had become complex due to multiple rate slabs, inverted duty structures, compliance burdens, and higher costs for essential goods. These issues affected affordability for citizens, cash flows for MSMEs, and dispute resolution for tax authorities. The GST Reforms, 2025 aim to simplify the rate structure, reduce the tax burden on essential goods and services, improve compliance, and stimulate consumption and manufacturing-led growth.

Key Provisions

Introduction of a simplified two-slab GST structure at 5% and 18%

Lower GST rates on agricultural machinery, irrigation equipment, and bio-pesticides

Reduction of GST on medicines, medical devices, and exemption of health and life insurance premiums

Higher GST rates on luxury and sin goods such as tobacco, pan masala, aerated drinks, and high-end vehicles

Reduction of GST on essential household goods and food items to 0% or 5%

Significant GST rate cuts on automobiles, consumer durables, and construction materials

Rationalisation of GST rates for MSMEs, handicrafts, textiles, and toys to correct inverted duty structures

Simplification of registration, return filing, refunds, and digital compliance processes

Who it affects?



Service sector businesses



Farmers and agri-based industries



MSMEs, manufacturers, and exporters



Citizens and households



Central and State Governments



GST Council and tax authorities

Why it matters?

- For governance, reforms strengthen cooperative federalism through consensus-based rate rationalisation while simplifying tax administration and reducing disputes. A two-rate structure improves transparency, compliance, and revenue predictability for States.
- From an industry perspective, the reforms lower tax-induced costs, improve affordability, correct structural inefficiencies, and boost demand across sectors.
- Overall, the reforms reinforce GST as a citizen-centric, business-friendly, and growth-oriented indirect tax system aligned with India's long-term economic objectives.

Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Act

(By: Department of Atomic Energy)

To modernise India's civil nuclear energy framework by enabling scaled nuclear capacity addition, regulated private and joint-venture participation and strengthened safety and liability mechanisms, while retaining strategic state control over sensitive nuclear activities. The Act seeks to position nuclear energy as a reliable, low-carbon baseload source, supporting India's clean energy transition and long-term energy security in accordance to Viksit Bharat development goals.

Key Provisions

Strategic state control retained over nuclear fuel production, heavy water and radioactive waste management.

Permits private Indian companies to build, own, operate and decommission nuclear power plants

Facilitation of advanced nuclear technologies, including Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)

Removal of automatic supplier liability, aligning India with international nuclear liability norms.

Statutory status to the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)

Consolidated nuclear law framework replacing Atomic Energy Act, 1962 & Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010

Dedicated redressal and appellate mechanisms for regulatory and liability disputes

Revised nuclear liability regime with graded operator liability caps

Who it affects?



Nuclear power operators and utilities



Private Sector



Regulatory Bodies



Heavy engineering and equipment manufacturers



Research institutions and nuclear scientists

Why it matters?

- Enables rapid expansion of baseload nuclear power critical for India's energy security goals.
- Mobilises private capital and technology beyond the capacity of the public sector alone.
- Improves regulatory clarity and investor confidence in India's nuclear sector.
- Strengthens safety oversight while modernising liability norms to global standards

Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws), 2025

(By: Ministry of Finance)

To deepen insurance penetration and strengthen India's insurance ecosystem by enabling greater capital inflows, competition and innovation, while enhancing regulatory oversight and policyholder protection, in line with the goal of Insurance for All by 2047. The Act also aims to improve risk coverage across life, health and general insurance segments, supporting household financial resilience and long-term economic stability.

Key Provisions

Allows up to 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Indian insurance companies

Strengthens powers of insurance regulatory body, IRDAI.

Amends the Insurance Act, 1938, LIC Act, 1956, and IRDAI Act, 1999 to modernise sector governance.

Facilitates entry of global insurers and reinsurers, improving capital availability and risk capacity.

Sets up Policyholders' Education and Protection Fund to promote insurance awareness & safeguard consumer interests

Enables greater product innovation and distribution flexibility across life, health and general insurance

Reduces Net Owned Funds (NOF) requirement for foreign reinsurers from ₹5,000 crore to ₹1,000 crore

Procedural and compliance requirements have been simplified to improve ease of doing business.

Who it affects?



Insurance companies



Foreign insurers



Policyholders & consumers



Insurance intermediaries



Regulatory bodies

Why it matters?

- Unlocks global capital and expertise to expand insurance coverage and product depth.
- Improves insurance penetration and financial resilience for households and businesses.
- Strengthens regulatory oversight and consumer confidence in the insurance market.
- Positions insurance as a core pillar of India's long-term financial security framework.

About Policy Access :

Policy Access partners with businesses to navigate India's complex policy and regulatory landscape through a blend of deep government insight, technical expertise, and on-ground execution.

Our strength lies in the diverse experience of our team including former government officials, public policy specialists, sector experts, and industry leaders who bring decades of hands-on experience in policymaking, regulatory engagement, narrative building and market access.

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