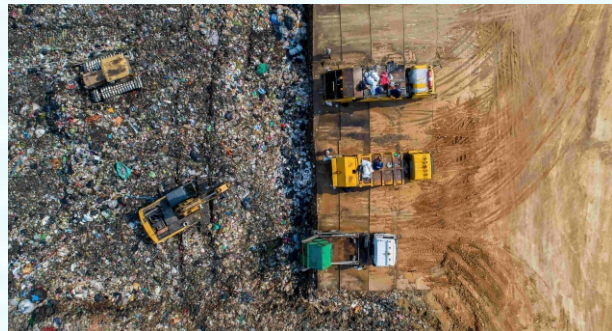
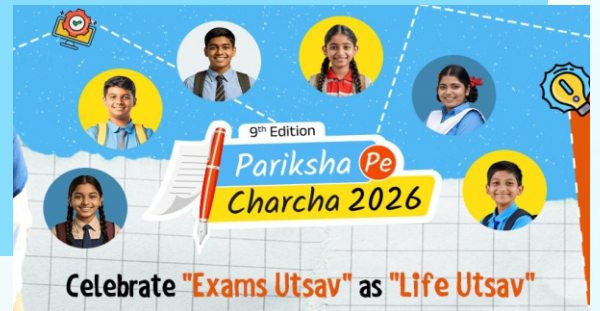


# GOVERNMENT POLICY REPORT

FEBRUARY 2026 EDITION



## PreciSense 2026 Workshop Highlights Need for Accurate Data in Water Conservation

The national workshop **PreciSense 2026**, held at Pune, has drawn attention to the growing importance of accurate and reliable data in water conservation and management nationwide. The workshop was **jointly organised by the Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS) and the Indian Society for Hydraulics**, under the aegis of the Ministry of Jal Shakti. The event brought together policymakers, researchers, engineers, and technology providers to deliberate on strengthening **India's hydrometric and meteorological data systems in practice**.



Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2217329&reg=3&lang=2>

Senior officials from the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation highlighted that **accurate, real-time data has become indispensable for effective water governance and resilience planning**. With increasing climate variability, reliable hydrological information is crucial for flood forecasting, drought preparedness, reservoir operations, and river basin planning. Speakers stressed that **traditional measurement systems must now be complemented with advanced digital sensing and automated data acquisition technologies at scale**.



Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2217329&reg=3&lang=2>

Experts participating in the workshop underlined that precise hydrometric data forms the backbone of **evidence-based water conservation policies** globally. High-quality data enables better hydraulic modelling, infrastructure design, and disaster risk reduction. CWPRS showcased its **role in providing calibration, testing, and validation services for hydrological instruments**, which helps ensure standardization and reliability of data collected across different regions of the country.



Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2217329&reg=3&lang=2>

A significant outcome of PreciSense 2026 was the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with key institutions, including the Water Resources Department of Maharashtra, the National Institute of Rock Mechanics, and the India Meteorological Department. These partnerships aim to strengthen collaborative research in areas such as dam safety, geotechnical investigations, and integration of meteorological and hydrological datasets more effectively.

## TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM AND BROCHURES

<p><b>01</b></p> <p>Flow Measurement, Calibration and Testing in Closed Conduits</p>	<p><b>02</b></p> <p>National Facility for Precision Hydrometric Testing, Calibration and Certification</p>	<p><b>03</b></p> <p>CWPRS &amp; Dam Safety Evaluation</p>
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The workshop also featured **exhibitions by technology firms demonstrating modern sensors, telemetry systems, and data analytics platforms for water monitoring**. Participants agreed that a shift towards data-driven decision-making is essential to address rising water demand, climate risks, and sustainability objectives. The deliberations at PreciSense 2026 reaffirmed that **accurate, timely, and standardized data will be central to India's long-term water conservation strategy** going forward.

## Lucknow Emerges as Uttar Pradesh's First City with Zero Fresh Waste Dumping Sites

**Lucknow** has achieved a major milestone in urban sanitation by becoming the **first city in Uttar Pradesh to attain the status of “zero fresh waste dump” city**. This accomplishment reflects the city's successful transition to **100 percent scientific processing** of municipal solid waste under the Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban. With no newly generated waste being sent to open dumping grounds, the development marks a significant leap towards cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable urban living.



Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2216806&reg=3&lang=1>

The state capital generates **approximately 2,000 to 2,100 metric tons of municipal solid waste every day**, driven by rapid urbanization, a population of nearly 40 lakh, and more than 7.5 lakh commercial establishments. Addressing this challenge required a **comprehensive overhaul of waste collection, transportation, and processing systems**. The Lucknow Municipal Corporation implemented an integrated approach to ensure that fresh waste is collected daily and processed without delay.



Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2216806&reg=3&lang=1>

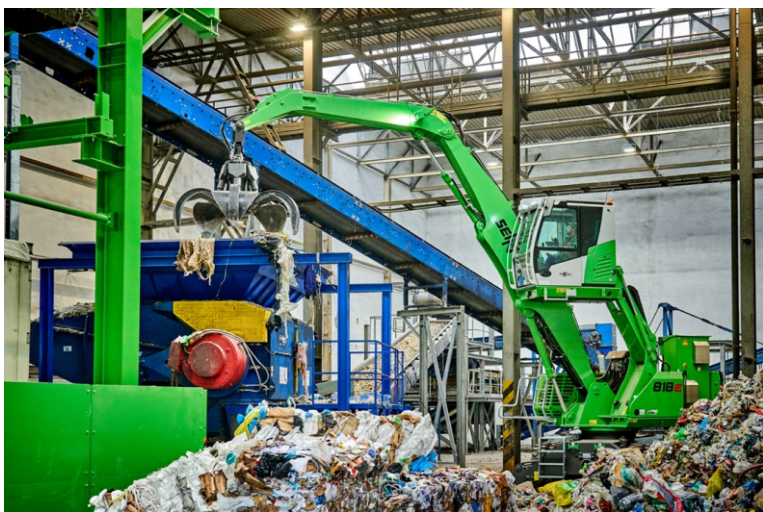
A key driver of this achievement is the **commissioning of the Shivari Solid Waste Management Plant, which has a processing capacity of 700 metric tons per day.** Along with two existing waste processing facilities of similar capacity, the city now has adequate infrastructure to scientifically process its entire daily waste generation. This has eliminated the need for open dumping of fresh waste and formally positioned Lucknow as a “zero fresh waste dump city”.

**SCIENTIFIC WASTE PROCESSING IN LUCKNOW**

- Achieved 100% scientific processing of daily municipal solid waste
- Eliminated fresh waste dumping at open landfill sites
- Established adequate processing capacity
- Ensured same-day treatment of newly generated waste
- Reduced landfill dependency through recycling

Equally important is the emphasis on source segregation and efficient collection. **Door-to-door waste collection now covers over 96 percent of the city, while source segregation levels have crossed 70 percent.** Organic waste is treated through composting, whereas non-biodegradable waste is recycled or converted into **refuse-derived fuel** for industrial use, significantly reducing environmental stress.

Beyond fresh waste management, Lucknow has also made **notable progress in treating legacy waste accumulated over the years, reclaiming land and improving environmental quality.** The city's achievement stands as a replicable model for other urban centers in Uttar Pradesh and across India, demonstrating how policy commitment, infrastructure investment, and systematic execution can transform urban waste management into a pillar of sustainable development.



Source: <https://www.tradeindia.com/products/refuse-derived-fuel-rdf-processing-plant-7335831.html>

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# 03

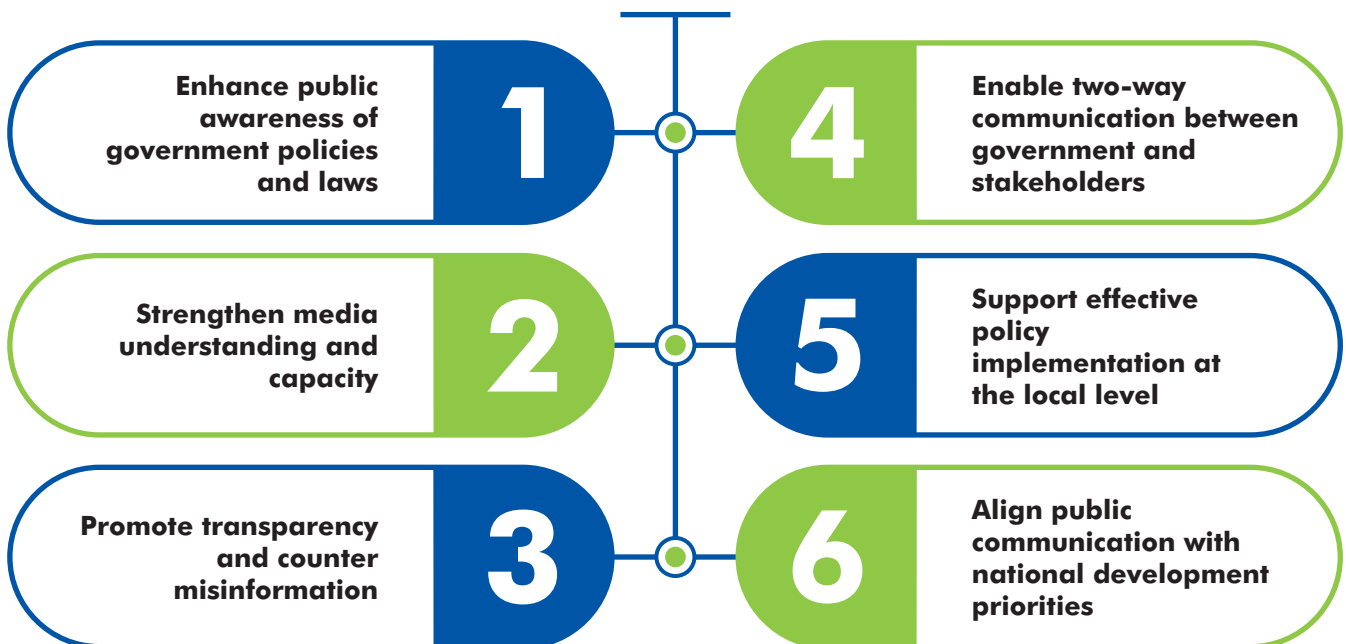
## MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

### Vartalap Aims to Strengthen Public Awareness of VB-G RAM G Act

Vartalap, a series of government-led media workshops, intensified public outreach on the newly enacted **Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 (VB-G RAM G)** during January 2026, with a strong emphasis on rural inclusion and clarity. **Organized by the Press Information Bureau (PIB)** in collaboration with district administrations, these one-day “Vartalap” sessions convened journalists and local officials to explain the Act's objectives, implementation framework and channels for citizen engagement.

### KEY OBJECTIVES OF VARTALAP: GOVERNMENT-MEDIA ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

#### OBJECTIVES



PIB in Dehradun described the workshops as focused on **strengthening livelihood security and clarifying operational details for frontline media**, especially those covering rural and urban development beats, so they can accurately inform rural communities about entitlements and programme processes. Officials underlined Vartalap's role in countering misinformation and **improving transparency between government departments, the press and Gram Panchayats**, thereby reinforcing trust in public institutions.



Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2219664&reg=3&lang=2>

**Regional Vartalap events in Goa, Tehri and Budgam were explicitly framed as capacity-building forums** where journalists could query officials, receive fact sheets and learn reporting protocols designed to translate technical provisions into accessible public information, particularly for first-time beneficiaries. PIB statements emphasize that **these dialogues are intended to ensure consistent, factual coverage and to promote two-way communication** that helps administrators fine-tune local roll-out.



Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2217002&reg=3&lang=2>

Beyond media sensitization, the government framed Vartalap as part of a broader communications strategy to **facilitate implementation of VB-G RAM G's rural development and employment goals under the Viksit Bharat @2047 vision**, aligning outreach with national development priorities. The PIB noted that by equipping journalists with accurate materials and contact points, Vartalap will **help citizens understand their rights under the Act and the procedures for grievance redressal**, improving programme uptake at grassroots level.

## Viksit Bharat–G RAM G Act, 2025 At a Glance

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>1 Replaces MGNREGA</b><br/>A modern rural employment framework aligned with <b>Viksit Bharat 2047</b></p>  | <p><b>5 Support to Agriculture</b><br/>Pause in work for aggregate <b>60 days</b> during peak sowing and harvesting seasons</p> |
| <p><b>2 Enhanced Employment Guarantee</b><br/><b>125 days</b> of wage employment per rural household</p>   | <p><b>6 Predictable Funding Framework</b><br/>Shift to <b>normative funding</b> with protected employment guarantee</p>         |
| <p><b>3 Focused Nature of Works</b><br/><b>Four priority areas</b> covering water security, rural infrastructure, livelihood infrastructure and climate resilience</p> | <p><b>7 Strong Transparency and Oversight</b><br/>AI based monitoring, real time dashboards and mandatory social audits</p>     |
| <p><b>4 Local planning with National Integration</b><br/>Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans linked with <b>national spatial platforms</b></p>                                 | <p><b>8 Centrally Sponsored Structure</b><br/>Shared <b>Centre–State responsibility</b> with calibrated cost sharing</p>        |

Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressNoteDetails.aspx?NotelId=156634&ModuleId=3&reg=3&lang=2>

Thus, the Vartalap series illustrates a **deliberate push by central and district authorities to place clear, government-verified information at the centre of public discourse** on the VB-G RAM G Act — using the media as a bridge to reach rural stakeholders and strengthen implementation at ground level.

# 04 EDUCATION

## #ParikshaPeCharcha 2026 Captured the Collective Voices of the Education Ecosystem



The ninth edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC) 2026 (#ParikshaPeCharcha 2026) emerged as a powerful reflection of the collective concerns and aspirations of India's education community, uniting millions of students, teachers, and parents in a nationwide dialogue on examinations, well-being, and holistic learning. **Originally conceptualized in 2018 as an annual interaction between the Prime Minister and students** to address exam stress, PPC has steadily evolved into a mass movement emphasizing confidence, resilience, and a supportive education culture.



Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/education/pariksha-pe-charcha-2026-over-4-crore-registrations-higher-previous-year-guinness-record-board-exams-10467075/>

In the lead-up to PPC 2026, the programme shattered previous participation records, with **over 4.5 crore students registering on the MyGov portal** and an additional **2.26 crore individuals participating through associated activities**, bringing the **total engagement to more than 6.76 crore nationwide**. This unprecedented scale highlights the widespread resonance of the initiative among diverse educational stakeholders and underscores the **urgency of topics such as exam stress management, life skills, and positive learning mindsets** that echo across classrooms and families.

## EXAM WARRIORS MODULE ON NAMO APP

Laugh Hard  
Cards

Tech Guru

Be a Warrior,  
Not a Worrier!

Exams Test Your  
Current  
Preparation,  
Not You. Chill!

Aspire,  
Not to Be,  
But to Do

Unlike earlier editions confined to New Delhi, this year's PPC adopted a truly **pan-India format**, with Prime Minister connecting directly with students in **regions including Coimbatore, Raipur, Dev Mogra, and Guwahati**. By bringing the dialogue into local contexts, the event acknowledged the varied challenges faced by learners from different states, school systems, and socio-economic backgrounds.



Source: <https://organiser.org/2026/01/28/337175/bharat/pariksha-pe-charcha-2026-emerges-as-a-nationwide-student-movement-engaging-over-6-76-crore-students-across-bharat/>

The conversations went beyond rote exam preparation to **address mental health, discipline, creativity, and technology**, illustrating the community's demand for a more holistic educational experience. Moreover, the record registrations — which **surpassed last year's Guinness World Record tally of over 4 crores** — reflect a collective desire among students and educators to reframe examinations as opportunities for growth rather than stress.



Source: <https://www.timesnownews.com/education/pm-modis-pariksha-pe-charcha-2026-breaks-its-own-world-record-with-over-4-cr-registrations-article-153416164>

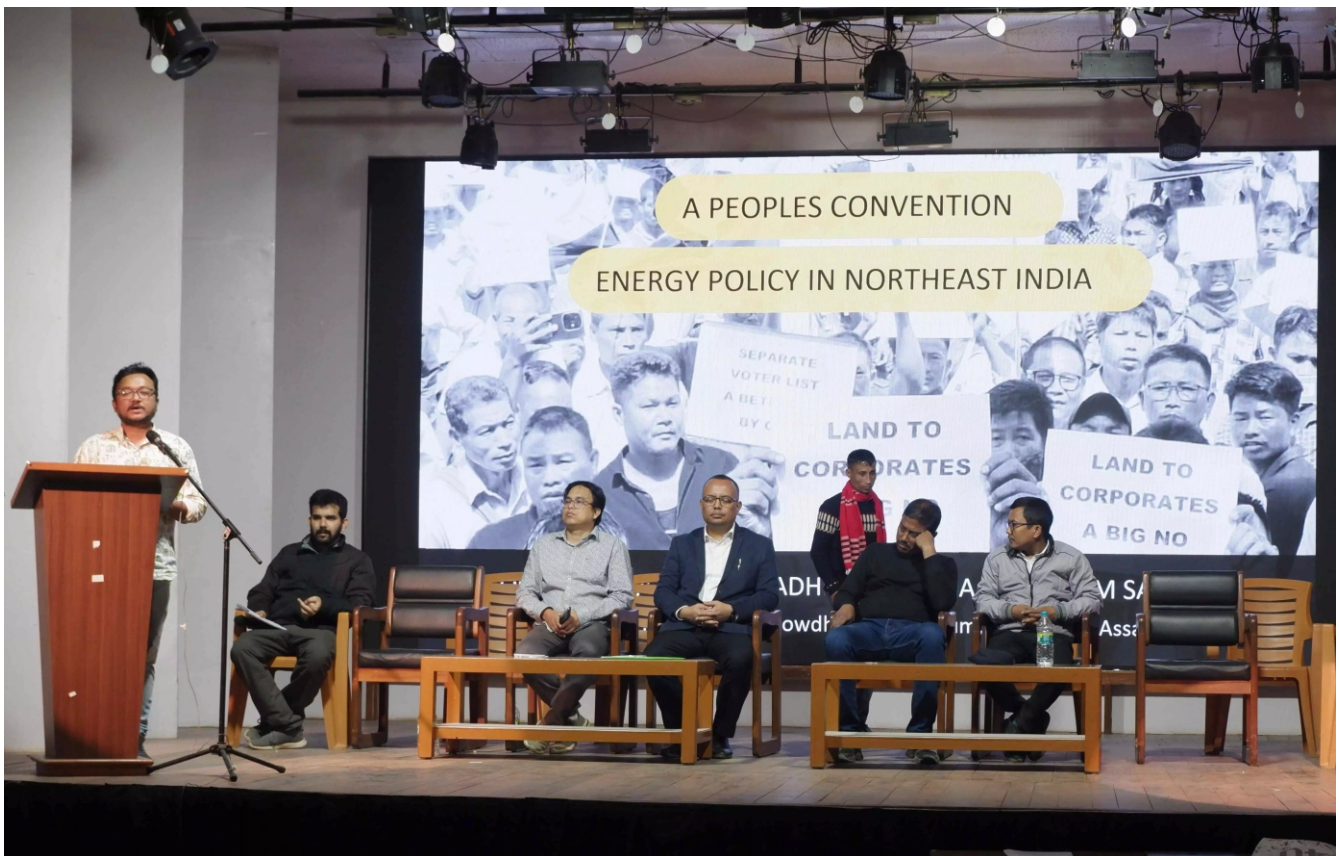
Consequently, #ParikshaPeCharcha 2026 transcended its identity as a yearly event. It is an **inclusive platform where the education community's voices converged**, echoing a shared call for supportive, balanced, and empowering approaches to learning and examinations. The overwhelming participation reaffirmed that educational reform in India is increasingly **driven by dialogue, empathy, and collective responsibility** rather than top-down instruction.

# 05

## NORTH-EAST CORNER

### Northeastern States Unite to Sign the Guwahati Declaration on the Energy Policy

In a landmark move on January 30, 2026, over 15 peoples' organisations from across India's Northeast convened in **Guwahati** to sign the **Guwahati Declaration on Energy Policy 2026** — a collective response to mounting concerns over existing and proposed energy initiatives in the region. The declaration was adopted at a regional energy policy convention **organised by the Joint Struggle Committee for Protection of Land Rights**, an umbrella body representing grassroots movements primarily from Assam and neighbouring states.



Source: <https://nenow.in/north-east-news/indigenous-groups-sign-guwahati-declaration-against-large-scale-energy-projects-in-northeast-india.html/attachment/unfiled-design-1-905>

The declaration articulates deep anxieties among indigenous communities regarding what participants described as “anti-people” and extractive energy policies that threaten land, water, forests and livelihoods without adequate consent or participation. Representatives from **Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Sikkim** voiced strong opposition to the **unchecked expansion of hydropower, mining and large infrastructure projects** that, they warned, could trigger one of the largest displacements of indigenous peoples in recent history.



Source: <https://arunachaltimes.in/index.php/2026/02/01/guwahati-declaration-signed-for-protection-of-land-rights-forests/>

Speakers including human rights advocates highlighted that **energy strategies being pursued by central and state governments often neglect social and environmental safeguards in the ecologically fragile northeastern landscape**. They criticized rapid hydropower targets, such as ambitious generation capacities planned in Arunachal Pradesh. These targets as being driven by **corporate interests** at the expense of local rights and ecological balance, fueling what many attendees described as **unsustainable development**.



Source: <https://www.business-humanrights.org/en/latest-news/india-guwahati-declaration-raises-indigenous-rights-concerns-over-large-scale-energy-projects/>

Among the Declaration's key demands are the complete implementation of **constitutional protections for tribal areas (such as Sixth Schedule and Articles 371 provisions)**, mandatory environmental and social impact assessments for energy projects, **enforcement of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)** in line with international standards, and the repeal of laws that weaken forest protections. Organizers also called for stronger safeguards against corporate and state incursions on indigenous territories.

## KEY POINTS OF THE GUWAHATI DECLARATION

1	2	3	4	5
<b>PROTECTION OF INDIGENOUS AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS</b>	<b>MANDATORY COMMUNITY CONSENT AND PARTICIPATION</b>	<b>STRONGER ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS</b>	<b>OPPOSITION TO EXTRACTIVE AND LARGE-SCALE ENERGY PROJECTS</b>	<b>REPEAL OF WEAKENING FOREST PROTECTION LAWS</b>
Full implementation of Sixth Schedule, Article 371 provisions, and the Forest Rights Act, 2006	Enforcement of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and respect for people's mandate in public hearings	Mandatory Environmental and Social Impact Assessments for all energy projects, including renewables	Rejection of mega dams, mining, and other large projects labeled as "green" solutions	Repeal of the Forest (Consevation) Amendment Act, 2023 to safeguard Northeast forests

Supporters of the Guwahati Declaration frame it as a democratic assertion of regional agency, aiming to **reorient energy policy toward sustainability, community rights and equitable development**, thereby forging a unified voice for Northeastern India's diverse indigenous peoples in debates over the future of energy in the region.

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