

MAY 2026 EDITION

GOVERNMENT POLICY REPORT



BRICS
INDIA 2026

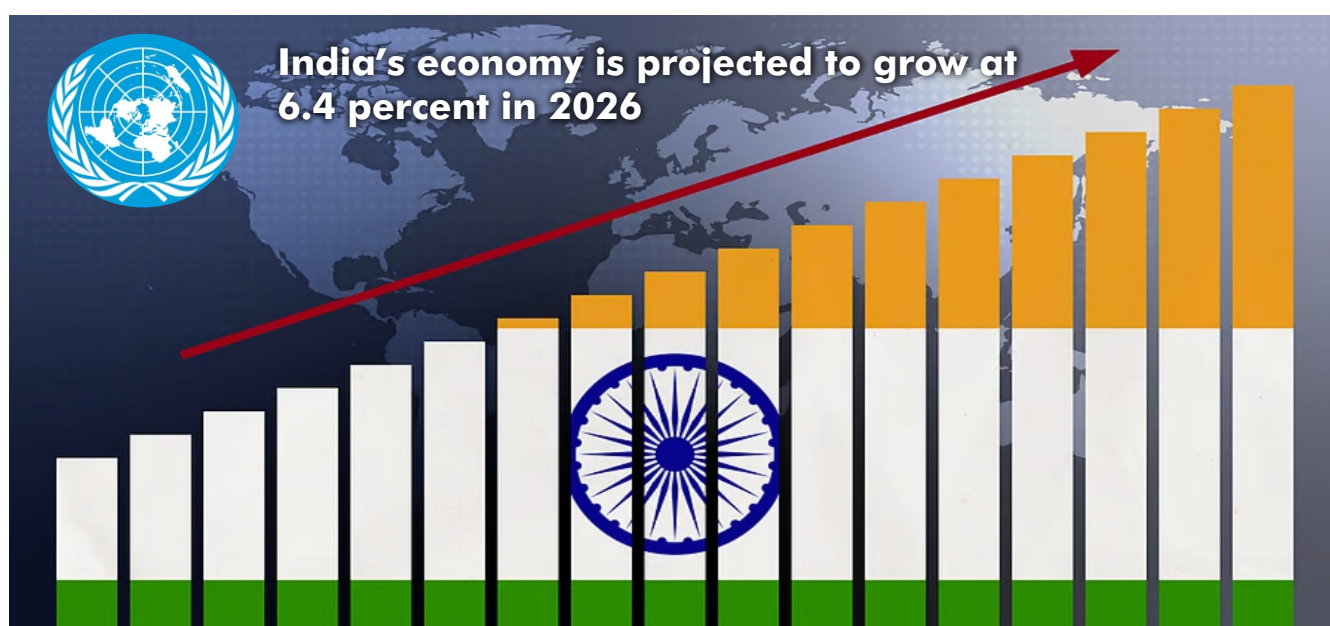
*BUILDING FOR RESILIENCE, INNOVATION,
COOPERATION AND SUSTAINABILITY*



ECONOMY

India's Economy on Firm Ground with 6.4% Growth Expected

India is expected to maintain strong economic momentum, with growth estimated at **6.4% in 2026** and rising to **6.6% in 2027**, according to the **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**. These projections are set against a backdrop of evolving global economic conditions and uneven recovery patterns across regions. They reflect India's continued position as **one of the fastest-growing major economies** amid prevailing global economic uncertainties and shifting international trade dynamics and structural changes.



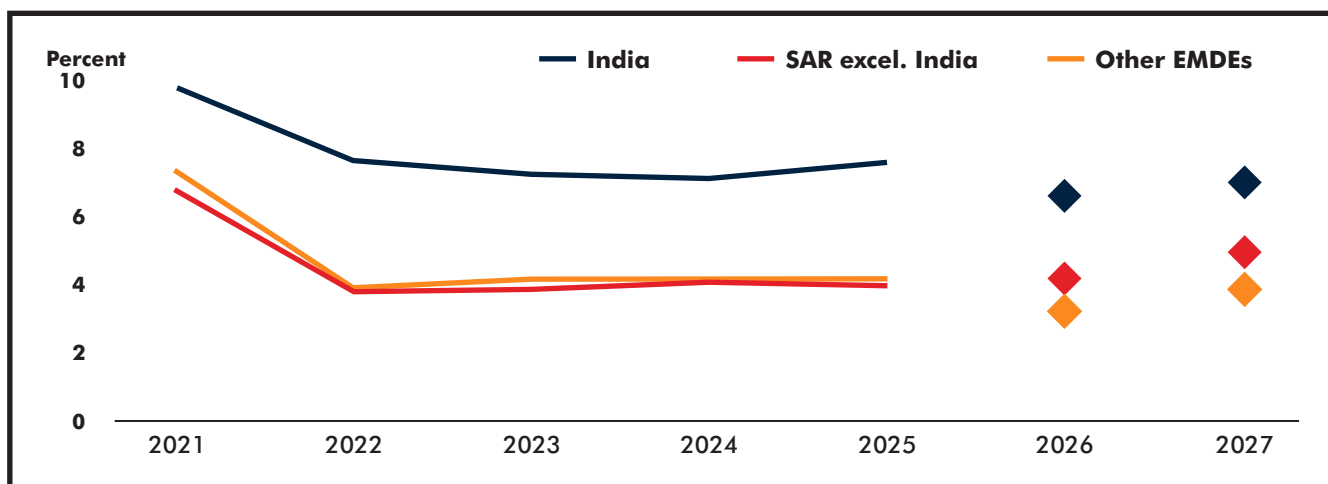
Source: <https://www.indiastrategic.in/un-outlook-indias-economy-to-grow-6-4-amid-global-headwinds/>

The growth outlook follows a **strong expansion of approximately 7.4% in 2025, supported primarily by domestic demand**. Household consumption trends have remained resilient, contributing significantly to overall economic activity. Private consumption, particularly in rural areas, along with supportive fiscal measures, has contributed to sustaining economic momentum. The services sector continues to play a dominant role in driving overall economic activity across multiple segments and industries.

MAJOR KEY DRIVERS OF INDIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH

DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION	SERVICES SECTOR EXPANSION	PUBLIC INVESTMENT	POLICY SUPPORT MEASURES	RURAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rising household spending across urban and rural areas Strong demand sustaining economic momentum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant contribution to GDP and employment Growth in sectors like finance, IT, and trade 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased government spending on infrastructure Boost to construction and related industries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiscal initiatives and reforms enhancing economic activity Incentives for industrial and manufacturing growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement in rural demand patterns Support from agricultural performance and economic growth

India is also identified as a key contributor to economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region. Its economic performance continues to influence broader regional trends and outlooks. Growth in South and South-West Asia remains significantly influenced by India's performance. **Continued public investment, infrastructure development, and policy support** are expected to sustain economic activity in the medium term across sectors and regions.



Source: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/53001d5f-a1a4-4027-88b8-e38d94816b6c/content>

Macroeconomic conditions are projected to remain stable, with **inflation estimated at around 4.4% in 2026 and 4.3% in 2027**, as highlighted in the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2026. Stable price levels are expected to support consumption and investment decisions. These projections indicate a relatively stable environment supporting both consumption and investment while ensuring financial stability and economic resilience.



Source: https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-s-economy-projected-to-grow-at-6-4-in-2026-6-6-in-2027-un-report-126042100147_1.html

However, the outlook is subject to **certain risks, including geopolitical tensions, weaker global demand, and trade-related pressures** that may affect export performance. External vulnerabilities continue to pose challenges to sustained growth in an interconnected global economy. Uncertainty in global financial conditions and foreign investment flows may also influence the sustainability of economic growth in the coming years.



URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor Inaugurated to Transform Connectivity and Growth

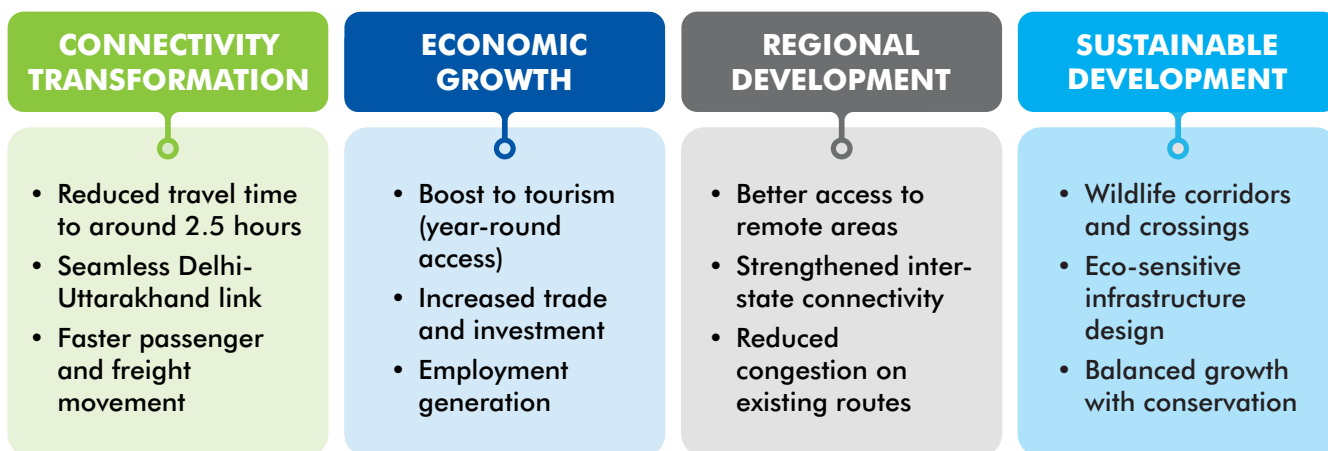
The Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor was inaugurated on **14 April 2026** in **Dehradun, Uttarakhand**, marking a significant advancement in India's transport infrastructure. The project links Delhi with major regions of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, facilitating improved inter-state movement. It reflects ongoing efforts to modernize road networks and enhance accessibility across key economic and tourism zones. The corridor is expected to strengthen overall regional integration and **improve connectivity across northern India**.



Source: <https://www.freepressjournal.in/uttar-pradesh/pm-modi-inaugurates-210-km-delhidehradun-economic-corridor-boosting-connectivity-and-growth>

The approximately 213-kilometre, six-lane access-controlled corridor has been developed at a cost exceeding Rs.12,000 crore. Designed for high-speed and efficient travel, it reduces the journey time between Delhi and Dehradun from over six hours to around 2.5 hours. This substantial reduction is expected to improve route efficiency, ensure smoother traffic flow, and reduce dependence on congested conventional highways. It also enhances travel reliability and promotes safer transportation conditions.

CONNECTIVITY AND GROWTH THROUGH ECONOMIC CORRIDOR



The corridor is expected to support economic expansion by strengthening access to Uttarakhand's tourism circuits and emerging commercial areas. Improved road infrastructure may facilitate increased visitor movement throughout the year, contributing to stable income generation for local communities. **It is also likely to encourage private investment, enhance trade linkages, and create new employment opportunities in the region.** Such developments are expected to contribute to balance regional economic progress.



Source: <https://www.news18.com/photogallery/cities/dehradun/delhi-dehradun-expressway-leopards-elephants-deer-spotted-along-wildlife-corridor-photos-ws-l-10030315.html>

Environmental considerations have been integrated into the project through targeted mitigation measures. **A key feature is the nearly 12-kilometre elevated wildlife corridor, along with multiple animal crossings in ecologically sensitive stretches.** These provisions are intended to minimize habitat disruption and ensure safer movement for wildlife across forest areas. This approach reflects a commitment to environmentally responsible infrastructure development.



Source: <https://www.news9live.com/india/delhi-dehradun-economic-corridor-north-indias-new-transport-hub-links-multiple-expressways-boosting-logistics-2957959>

Thus, the project represents a long-term infrastructure asset supporting efficient mobility and regional development. By improving accessibility and enabling faster movement, it contributes to broader economic objectives. **The corridor also demonstrates an approach that combines infrastructure expansion with environmental responsibility and sustainable growth.** It is expected to serve as a model for future large-scale infrastructure initiatives in the country.

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MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

India Proposes Amendments to IT Rules 2021 to Enhance Regulation of Digital News Content

India has proposed amendments to the **Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021**, with the objective of strengthening regulatory oversight of digital news content. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has issued a draft framework indicating its intent to expand the scope of existing rules in response to the growing role of digital platforms in news dissemination.

Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021



Source: <https://www.sconline.com/blog/post/2021/05/26/information-technology-intermediary-guidelines-and-digital-media-ethics-code-rules-2021-2/>

The proposed amendments seek to extend the applicability of the rules beyond recognized digital publishers to include users who generate, publish, or share news and current affairs content on social media platforms. This expansion reflects a **shift toward a broader classification of entities involved in digital news ecosystem**, thereby bringing such users within the ambit of regulatory compliance.



Source: <https://www.businesstoday.in/technology/story/posting-news-online-new-it-rules-may-regulate-influencers-like-publishers-523248-2026-03-31>

The draft framework further **reinforces the Digital Media Ethics Code by prescribing stricter adherence to government-issued directions and advisories**, ensuring greater clarity, consistency, and accountability in regulatory enforcement processes. These provisions are intended to ensure that news-related content complies with established legal and ethical standards, and to enable more effective enforcement of regulatory measures within the online information space.



Source: <https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/the+wire+englishpaperwireng/govt+proposes+it+rules+amendment+to+block+news+content+on+social+media+by+users+influencers+content+creators-newsid-n706597589>

In addition, the amendments propose procedural changes to the **content-blocking mechanism in relation to news shared on online platforms**, with a focus on transparency, due process, and structured stakeholder participation in decision-making. The framework provides for the **participation of intermediaries and relevant users in blocking proceedings**, allowing them to submit their responses prior to the issuance of final directions. This is intended to introduce a structured process while retaining the authority of the government in decision-making.

SALIENT PROVISIONS: IT RULES (DIGITAL NEWS)

DRAFT AMENDMENTS

- Proposed changes to IT Rules, 2021
- Regulation of digital news content

REVISED BLOCKING MECHANISM

- Intermediaries in hearings
- Users allowed representation

ENFORCEMENT OF ETHICS CODE

- Mandatory compliance with advisories
- Binding content standards

EXPANSION OF SCOPE

- Digital news publishers covered
- Users sharing news included

The proposed amendments indicate a policy approach focussed on **enhancing accountability** in the dissemination of digital news, while addressing emerging challenges in regulation, compliance, and platform-based information governance. While the measures aim to **address concerns relating to misinformation and regulatory gaps**, they also have implications for the scope of compliance obligations applicable to both publishers and individual users operating within the digital environment.





INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE BRICS WBA

Chairs and Core Members

📅 17 Feb 2026 ⌚ 4:30PM IST

HEALTHCARE

India Chairs First BRICS Health Working Group Meeting 2026

Under its 2026 BRICS presidency, India convened and chaired the inaugural Health Working Group (HWG) meeting in New Delhi, **hosted by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**. The meeting marked the formal commencement of India's health-sector engagements within the BRICS framework and outlined key areas for cooperation among member countries during the year, with a **focus on strengthening collective public health responses**. It also served as an initial platform to exchange national perspectives on priority health concerns.



Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2252335®=3&lang=1>

The meeting saw participation from an **expanded BRICS grouping comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, the United Arab Emirates, and Indonesia**. This wider representation clearly highlighted the growing importance of BRICS as a platform for addressing shared public health concerns, fostering coordinated responses, and promoting dialogue on emerging global health priorities. The diversity of participants enabled broader regional insights into healthcare challenges and policy approaches.



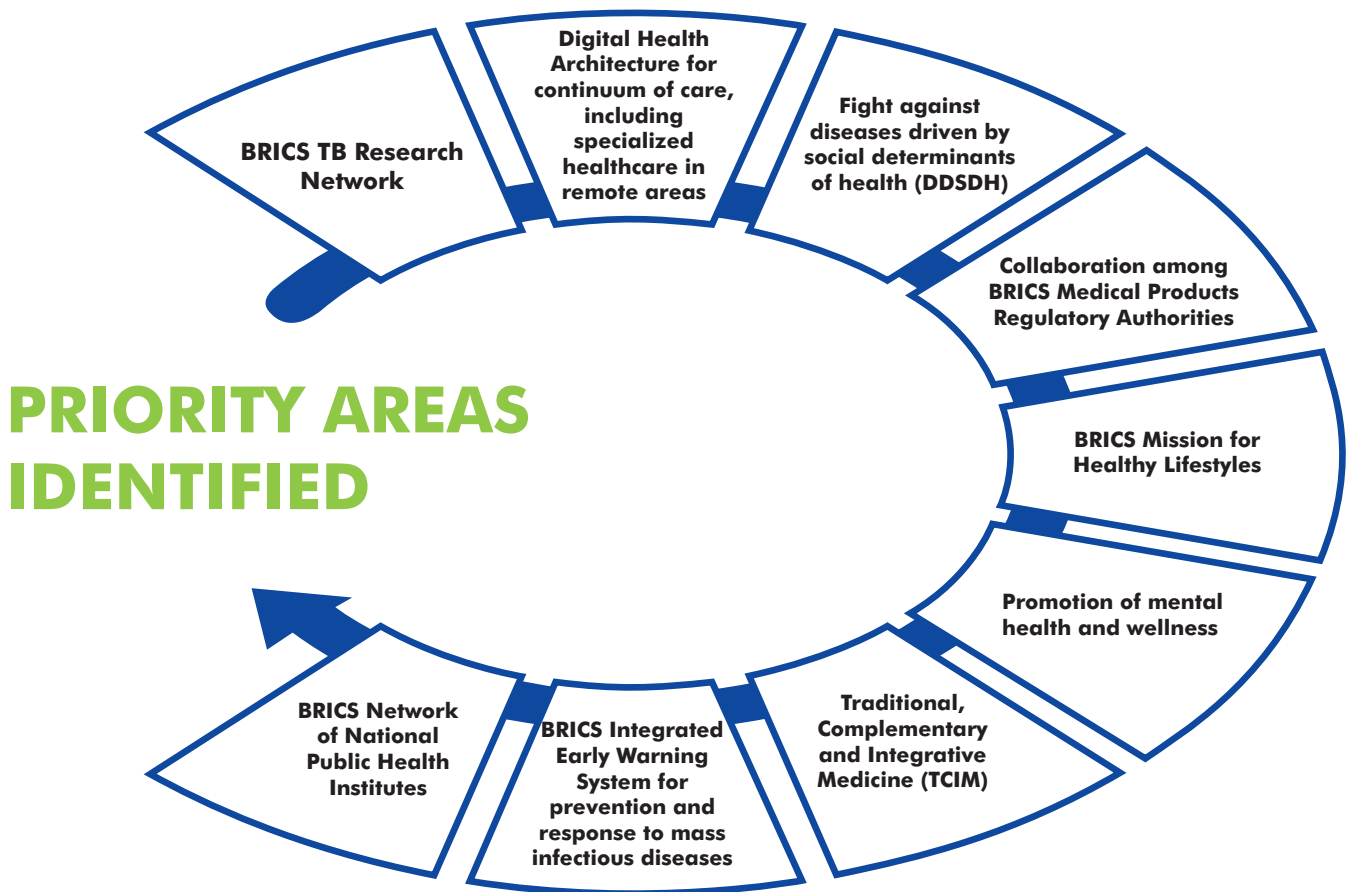
Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2252335®=3&lang=1>



Source: <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2252335®=3&lang=1>

India's chairship is guided by the overarching **theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."** Discussions focussed on strengthening health systems, improving access to affordable medicines, and enhancing preparedness for public health emergencies, while also emphasizing equitable healthcare delivery, institutional capacity building, and evidence-based policy support mechanisms. Participants also discussed **aligning national strategies with shared developmental health goals.**

India also proposed several additional priority areas, including the promotion of healthy lifestyles and mental health and wellness. These areas aim to address the rising burden of non-communicable diseases and support preventive healthcare approaches, alongside improving integration of mental health services at the primary care level and encouraging community-based health initiatives. The proposals reflected a broader approach toward **holistic and inclusive healthcare systems**.



The meeting further comprehensively covered ongoing areas of cooperation such as communicable disease control, digital health, and traditional medicine. It emphasized **continued collaboration, strengthened regulatory frameworks, effective data-sharing practices, and capacity-building initiatives** to support implementation of health strategies. The deliberations reinforced the importance of sustained coordination among BRICS countries in advancing resilient and sustainable healthcare systems, while also encouraging long-term institutional partnerships.

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NORTH-EAST CORNER

Nagaland Emergency Preparedness Exercise 2026 Rolled Out to Strengthen Disaster Response

The Government of Nagaland successfully rolled out the **8th edition of the Nagaland Emergency Preparedness Exercise (NEPEX) 2026** across the state on **April 30, 2026**, as part of its continued efforts to strengthen disaster response mechanisms. The exercise, conducted in districts including Dimapur, was coordinated by the **Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority (NSDMA)** in collaboration with multiple departments, emergency services, and local administrative bodies. The initiative aimed to ensure a coordinated and timely response to potential disaster situations across both urban and rural areas.



Source: <https://www.easternmirrornagaland.com/nagaland-nepex-8-exposes-gaps-in-disaster-response-despite-good-district-performance>

NEPEX 2026 was designed to simulate a **high-intensity earthquake scenario of magnitude 7.7**, testing the preparedness and response capabilities of various stakeholders. **Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs)** were activated, and **Incident Response Systems (IRS)** were operationalized to ensure coordinated action. The drill included search and rescue operations, evacuation procedures, medical response, logistics management, and restoration of essential services in affected areas.



Source: <https://www.easternmirrornagaland.com/nagaland-conducts-8th-nepex-2026-across-districts>



Source: <https://nagalandtribune.in/operation-night-guard-conducted-across-nagaland-to-test-air-raid-preparedness/>

Prior to the full-scale mock exercise, **Table Top Exercises (TTEx)** were conducted to assess preparedness levels and further refine response strategies. These preparatory sessions enabled departments to **review disaster management plans, define roles and responsibilities, and strengthen inter-agency coordination.** Officials emphasized that such exercises are vital for identifying operational gaps, improving response efficiency, and enhancing institutional readiness at all levels.

A key highlight of NEPEX 2026 was the launch of **“Operation Night Guard,”** a civil defence exercise involving air raid sirens and a blackout drill conducted during evening hours. Citizens were advised to switch off lights during the scheduled period, allowing authorities to **assess public responsiveness, emergency alert effectiveness, and compliance with safety instructions** under simulated conditions. This initiative underscored the importance of community participation in disaster preparedness.

OPERATIONAL MEASURES AND SUPPORTING INITIATIVES UNDER NEPEX 2026

01 INCIDENT COMMAND & CONTROL SETUP

- Deployment of Incident Response System (IRS)
- Establishment of control rooms and staging areas
- Chain-of-command testing during simulation

02 PUBLIC ADVISORY & AWARENESS MEASURES

- Government advisories issued to citizens
- Safety instructions during mock drills
- Focus on community preparedness

03 MULTI-AGENCY FIELD COORDINATION

- Involvement of police, civil defence, health, and fire services
- Joint response under a unified command system
- Real-time coordination across departments

04 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

- Testing of alert mechanisms and communication flow
- Inter-departmental information sharing
- Coordination between field teams and control centers

05 NIGHT-TIME EMERGENCY RESPONSE TESTING

- Assessment under low-visibility conditions
- Functioning of services during blackout
- Evaluation beyond daytime response

Overall, **NEPEX 2026** underscores the commitment of the Nagaland government to building a **resilient and adaptive disaster management framework**. By integrating realistic simulations, institutional coordination, technological systems, and active public engagement, the state aims to enhance its emergency response capacity. It also seeks to minimize risks to lives and infrastructure while ensuring long-term disaster preparedness.

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