

Schemes (2)

• Decentralised Grain Storage Plan in the Cooperative Sector — 313 PACS godowns

Body: Pilot rolled out **31 May 2023** (11 PACS, 9,750 MT); by **July 2026**: **313 PACS, 1.80 LMT (= 180,000 tonnes)**. **3rd Advance Estimates 2025-26: foodgrains 376.563 MT, +5.3%; NFSA covers ~80 crore**

Detail: PACS = village **short-term credit** cooperative; tier 1 of PACS → DCCB → StCB, refinanced by NABARD; long-term credit runs through SCARDBs

Detail: Aims: cut **wastage**, prevent **distress sales**, reduce transport to **Fair Price Shops**, turn PACS into **rural service hubs**

Detail: Convergence of four schemes: **AIF** (interest subvention) · **AMI** (back-ended capital subsidy) · **SMAM** (Custom Hiring Centres) · **PMFME** (micro food processing)

Detail: **97th Amendment 2011: Art. 19(1)(c), Art. 43B, Part IXB; Rajendra N. Shah (2021)** struck Part IXB for intra-State societies, upheld for multi-State. **Ministry of Cooperation: 6 July 2021**

PIB 2306239 · 2026-09-03

• ECLGS 5.0 — a ■2.55 lakh crore credit guarantee

Body: Approved **5 May 2026**; implemented by NCGTC; up to **■2.55 lakh crore** additional working capital; runs to **31 March 2027**; covers **MSMEs, eligible non-MSMEs, scheduled passenger airlines**

Detail: A guarantee = Government absorbs default loss so lenders lend; **no outlay unless defaults occur — a contingent liability** (FRBM disclosure); risk = **moral hazard**

Detail: **Cover: 100% MSMEs, 90% non-MSMEs; no guarantee fee.**

Eligibility: facility as on **31 Mar 2026, ≤ 60 days past due** (NPA is 90). No overlap with **CGSE**

Detail: Non-MSME exclusions: **NBFCs, power, telecom, sugar/ethanol, IT, paper, education, beverages (not tea/coffee), tobacco**

Detail: History: launched **2020** under **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**; **1.0 MSMEs (≤■50 cr) · 2.0 26 Kamath sectors + healthcare · 3.0 hospitality, tourism, aviation · 4.0 healthcare/oxygen; 1.19 crore guarantees, ■3.68 lakh crore**, closed **31 Mar 2023**. **NCGTC: 2014, DFS**

PIB 2306876 · 2026-09-05

Welfare (1)

• NCPCR rescue campaign — 3,800 children, 575 FIRs

Body: **Pan-India Rescue and Rehabilitation** campaign **12 June–31 Aug 2026** (12 June = **World Day Against Child Labour**); **3,800+ rescued, 575+ FIRs**

Detail: NCPCR = statutory, **CPCR Act 2005**, constituted **March 2007**, under **MWCD**; **Chairperson + 6 members (≥2 women)**, 3-year term; child = **below 18**. Monitors **RTE s.31, POCSO s.44, JJ Act s.109**

Detail: **Art. 24 — no child below 14** in factory, mine or hazardous work; **Art. 21A education 6–14 (86th Amendment 2002)**; **Art. 23** no forced labour; **Art. 39(e),(f)**

Detail: **2016 amendment → Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act:** child (<14) — all work banned except **family enterprise after school (non-hazardous)** and **child artist**; **adolescent (14–18) — no hazardous work; cognizable, 6 months–2 years / ■20,000–50,000**

Detail: **ILO C138 and C182 ratified June 2017**; **UNCRC ratified 1992**; **PENCIL portal (Labour Ministry, 2017)**; **NCLP since 1988**; **Census 2011: ~10.1 million** child workers

PIB 2306641 · 2026-09-04

Polity/Bodies (5)

• Bihar–Jharkhand MoU on Sone river water sharing

Body: Signed before Union Home Minister **Amit Shah**, with CMs **Hemant Soren** (Jharkhand) and **Samrat Choudhary** (Bihar) and Jal Shakti Minister **C.R. Patil**; settles a roughly **25-year** dispute, the **fourth** inter-state water agreement this year via the **Inter-State Council**

Detail: Dispute dates to the carving of **Jharkhand out of Bihar in November 2000** — a boundary drawn across a basin. Benefits districts including **Bhojpur** and **Buxar**

Detail: The **Sone** rises at **Amarkantak** (as do the **Narmada** and **Johilla**); it is the **largest right-bank tributary of the Ganga after the Yamuna** and joins near **Patna**. **Indrapuri (Dehri) Barrage** anchors the Sone canal system

Detail: **Article 262(1)** — Parliament may provide for **adjudication** of inter-State river water disputes; **262(2)** — Parliament may **bar the Supreme Court and all other courts**

Detail: **Water = Entry 17, State List**, expressly **subject to Entry 56, Union List**. Two 1956 Acts — **Inter-State River Water Disputes Act** (tribunal awards carry the force of a **Supreme Court decree**) and the **River Boards Act** (largely unused)

• NHRC takes suo motu cognizance — how the notice-and-report power works

Body: NHRC issued notices to the **Police Commissioners of Delhi** and **Gautam Budh Nagar** and **SP Mainpuri** on a Greater Noida assault case; report in **two weeks**; also launched the **Human Rights Quiz 2026** on MyGov ahead of its **33rd Foundation Day**

Detail: Statutory under the **Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993**; constituted **12 October 1993**

Detail: **2019 amendment:** Chairperson may be a **former CJI** or a **Supreme Court Judge**; three human-rights members, **at least one woman**; term **3 years or age 70**

Detail: Appointed by the **President** on a **six-member committee headed by the PM**; removed only after a **Supreme Court inquiry**

Detail: **Civil-court powers** while inquiring, but **recommendatory** — cannot punish or itself award compensation; **one-year limitation**; **armed forces — only a report from the Central Government (Section 19)**

PIB 2305587 · 2026-09-01

• CEC meets 1,000 Booth Level Officers in Goa — the electoral-roll machinery

Body: CEC **Gyanesh Kumar** called BLOs the first interface between the **ECI** and citizens; rolls are **concurrently audited** by **Booth Level Agents** of recognised parties

Detail: **Art. 324** — ECI superintendence incl. **President and Vice-President elections**; **local bodies → State Election Commissions (Arts. 243K, 243ZA)**. **Art. 325** — one general roll. **Art. 326** — adult suffrage, **18 via the 61st Amendment 1988**

Detail: **RPA 1950 = rolls**; **RPA 1951 = conduct of elections**; plus **Registration of Electors Rules 1960**

Detail: Chain: **CEO (State) → DEO (district) → ERO (constituency) → BLO (polling station)**; **BLO appointed by the ERO**. **Form 6** inclusion, **6A** overseas, **7** deletion, **8** correction

Detail: **BLA = party appointee (audit)**; **BLO = official**. **ECI: three-member since 1993**; **2023 Act** — PM, a Cabinet Minister, LoP; term **6 years/65**; CEC removed like an SC judge, ECs on CEC's **recommendation**

PIB 2306072 · 2026-09-02

• 28th Western Zonal Council at Panaji — the five zones

Body: Chaired by **Amit Shah**, **Panaji, 7 Sep 2026**; Vice-Chairman **CM of Goa**; organised by the **Inter-State Council Secretariat**; **70 meetings since June 2014**. Western Zone: **Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, DNH & DD**

Detail: **Five Zonal Councils under Sections 15–22, States Reorganisation Act 1956 — statutory, advisory**; **Nehru's idea**

Detail: **Chairman = Union Home Minister** (all five); **Vice-Chairman = member CM, annual rotation**; members: **CMs + 2 Ministers per State**. **Standing Committee of Chief Secretaries** screens issues first

Detail: **NE States in no Zonal Council → North Eastern Council (Act of 1971, Shillong)**; **A&N and Lakshadweep = special invitees to the Southern Council**

Detail: **Inter-State Council: Art. 263, set up 1990 (Sarkaria)**, chaired by the **PM** — constitutional. Agenda: **FTSCs, ERSS-112**

PIB 2306926 · 2026-09-05

• National Commission for Safai Karamcharis — new appointments and the law it monitors

Body: Chairperson Bhagwat Prasad Makwana, Vice-Chairperson Kaishab Bihari, three Members; tenure to 31 March 2028; under MoSJE
Detail: NCSK Act 1993 lapsed Feb 2004; the Commission continues as a non-statutory body by Cabinet resolution. NCSC = constitutional (Art. 338) — do not merge
Detail: 1993 Act: dry latrines. 2013 PEMSAR Act: adds hazardous sewer/septic-tank cleaning, rehabilitation, offences cognizable and non-bailable; NCSK monitors under Section 31
Detail: Art. 17 (untouchability) with Arts. 21 and 23. Safai Karamchari Andolan (2014): ■10 lakh per sewer death; Dr Balram Singh (2023): ■30 lakh death, ■20 lakh permanent disability
Detail: NAMASTE (2023, MoSJE + MoHUA): profiling, PPE, Ayushman cards, mechanisation; extended to waste pickers 2024

Economy (5)

• Q1 FY 2026-27 GDP estimates — 7.8% real growth

Body: MoSPI; Quarterly Estimates of GDP for Q1 (April–June) FY 2026-27, with National Accounts Statistics 2026
Detail: Real GDP ■81.36 lakh crore, +7.8%; nominal GDP ■88.27 lakh crore, +10.3%; real GVA ■73.82 lakh crore, +8.2%; nominal GVA ■80.53 lakh crore, +11.5%
Detail: Identity — GDP (market prices) = GVA (basic prices) + product taxes – product subsidies. GVA is the producer side at prices received; GDP the expenditure side at prices paid
Detail: Real GVA grew faster than real GDP, so net product taxes grew more slowly than underlying value added
Detail: Use GVA for sectoral performance (undistorted by tax/subsidy changes), GDP for economy size and international comparison. Constant-price base 2022-23; the nominal-minus-real gap is the implicit deflator (~2.5 pp for GDP)

• Semicon 2.0 — notifications for all six pillars

Body: MeitY; Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced notifications for all six pillars of Semicon 2.0, covering 10 categories, building on the first Semicon India Programme
Detail: Claims cited — 85,000 semiconductor engineers trained in four years against a ten-year target; students from Tier-II and Tier-III cities have designed more than 250 chips
Detail: The six pillars — 1 Design (including a Deployment-Linked Incentive) · 2 Machines and Materials · 3 Fabs (silicon wafer, compound semiconductors/photronics/sensors, display) · 4 ATMP/OSAT · 5 R&D · 6 Talent Development
Detail: Value chain — Design (a design-only firm is fabless) → Fabrication in a fab (front end) → ATMP/OSAT, Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (back end). Fabs are extraordinarily capital-intensive; ATMP is less capital-intensive, so countries usually enter at the back end
Detail: India has long been strong in design with almost no fabrication. Compound semiconductors — gallium nitride, silicon carbide — suit power electronics, RF and high-temperature use, hence EVs, telecom and defence

• Sugar stock limit cut to 2,000 quintals; onion buffer released by Kanda Express

Body: Dealer limit 4,000 → 2,000 quintals, 15 Sep–30 Nov 2026; 30-day holding cap; Kolkata keeps 4,000 (supplies the east and North-East). PSF onion disposal began 24 Aug via NAFED and NCCF
Detail: 1 quintal = 100 kg; 2,000 quintals = 200 tonnes. Ex-mill sugar prices down ~20%
Detail: Stock limits flow from Section 3, Essential Commodities Act 1955; the 2020 ECA amendment (which freed cereals, pulses, onion, potato) was repealed with the farm laws in 2021
Detail: Kanda Express: rake 1 450 MT to Delhi (27 Aug), rake 2 840 MT to Chennai (31 Aug) for PDS at 1 kg/card; 19 cities, ■35/kg retail
Detail: PSF (2014-15; Dept of Consumer Affairs since 2016) = onion/potato buffer. FCI = foodgrain central pool. Core inflation excludes food and fuel; RBI target 4% ±2
 PIB 2305404 · 2026-09-01

• JCR upgrades India to 'A-' — the sovereign rating ladder

Body: Japan Credit Rating Agency raised India's long-term foreign and local currency ratings BBB+ → A-, Stable; country ceiling to 'A'
Detail: Investment-grade floor = BBB- (S&P/Fitch) = Baa3 (Moody's); below it is speculative grade. A- puts India in the A band
Detail: Country ceiling caps ratings of issuers domiciled in the country — an upgrade for Indian corporates too
Detail: Evidence cited: FY26 real GDP 7.8%, Q1 FY27 7.8%; fiscal deficit 4.7% (FY25) → 4.4% (FY26) with capex sustained; IBC, RBI supervision; contained CAD on a services surplus; reserves > short-term external debt
Detail: Sequence: Morningstar DBRS May 2025, S&P Aug 2025, R&I Sep 2025, JCR Sep 2026. Big three = S&P, Moody's, Fitch; Indian CRAs (CRISIL, ICRA, CARE, India Ratings) regulated by SEBI
 PIB 2306033 · 2026-09-02

• India–EU FTA — what 95% of tariff lines means

Body: Goyal at the India–Belgium High-Level Dialogue, Mumbai: 2 billion people, ¼ of global GDP, ■ of world trade, USD 24 trillion; tariffs cut on >95% of goods lines; India–EU trade ≈ USD 140 billion, doubled in a decade
Detail: Ladder: PTA → FTA (own external tariffs) → customs union (common external tariff) → common market → economic union. EU = customs union + single market
Detail: Commission negotiates for all 27; Council and Parliament approve; mixed agreements need national ratification. Rules of origin stop third-country routing
Detail: Timeline: launched 2007, suspended 2013, relaunched June 2022, concluded 27 Jan 2026. India's run: UAE 2022, Australia 2022, EFTA 2024, UK 2025, EU 2026; left RCEP 2019
Detail: Outside the FTA: CBAM (steel, aluminium, cement, fertiliser), definitive from 2026. Antwerp-Bruges = Europe's 2nd-largest seaport; John Cockerill makes Bofors ammunition
 PIB 2306782 · 2026-09-04

IR/Diplomacy (3)

• 26th SCO Summit at Bishkek — the 25th anniversary year

Body: Council of Heads of State, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, 31 Aug–1 Sep 2026; host President Sadyr Zhaparov
Detail: SCO founded 2001 from the Shanghai Five (1996) + Uzbekistan; India and Pakistan joined 2017, Iran 2023, Belarus 2024 — 10 members
Detail: Secretariat at Beijing; RATS at Tashkent — the most repeated SCO fact
Detail: Outcomes: Bishkek Declaration, 4 MoUs, 20+ decisions on climate, nuclear safety, energy, drugs
Detail: Indian initiatives adopted: English as an official SCO language (alongside Russian and Chinese), Civilisation Dialogue Forum (first edition to be hosted by India), Young Scientist Forum, Young Author's Conclave
Detail: India's frame: Security, Connectivity, Opportunity; no double standards on terrorism; connectivity must respect sovereignty and territorial integrity
 PIB 2305735 · 2026-09-01

• India–Belgium Joint Statement — PM Bart De Wever's visit

Body: Belgian PM Bart De Wever in India 2–4 Sep 2026 with Defence and Foreign Trade Minister Theo Francken; 9,000+ Indian soldiers died in Flanders in WWI; relations since 1947, 80th anniversary 2027
Detail: Inaugural India–Belgium Strategic Dialogue, Brussels, 15 July 2026 (EAM + Belgian Deputy PM/FM), anchored in the India–EU Strategic Partnership
Detail: Belgium backs India's permanent UNSC seat; reciprocal non-permanent support — India 2028-29, Belgium 2037-38. Non-permanent seats: 10, 2-year terms, elected by the UNGA by two-thirds; India has served 8 times (last 2021-22)
Detail: India–EU FTA negotiations concluded 27 Jan 2026; pending — Investment Protection Agreement and GI Agreement; TTC ministerial, Brussels, July 2026; Comprehensive Strategic Agenda 2030
Detail: Belgium: Brussels hosts the EU and NATO; federal monarchy — Flanders / Wallonia / Brussels; founding member of EU and NATO; Antwerp diamond and port hub. Trade policy is an exclusive EU competence
 PIB 2306302 · 2026-09-03

• **Raksha Mantri's three-day Sri Lanka visit — the whole relationship in one card**

Body: 8–10 Sep 2026, Colombo; framed under **Neighbourhood First** and **MAHASAGAR (2025)**, broadening **SAGAR (2015)**
Detail: India: **first responder after Cyclone Ditwah (2025)**; ~USD 4 billion in the **2022 crisis**, ahead of the IMF's USD 2.9 billion (2023)
Detail: Geography: **Palk Strait**, **Gulf of Mannar**, **Adam's Bridge**; **Trincomalee** energy hub. **Katchatheevu ceded 1974** (Indira Gandhi–Bandaranaike); **1976 fishing agreement**; dispute = **bottom trawling** (banned by Sri Lanka 2017)
Detail: **Indo-Sri Lanka Accord, 29 July 1987** → **13th Amendment**, **Provincial Councils, IPKF 1987–90**; war ended **May 2009**
Detail: **Hambantota 99-year lease (2017)**; **Colombo Port City**; **first defence MoU April 2025**; exercises **Mitra Shakti (Army)**, **SLINEX (Navy)**; **Colombo Security Conclave**

Environment (4)

• **Tiger landscapes workshop — IBCA, ADB and the NTCA sign up to natural-capital finance**

Body: **IBCA + ADB + NTCA** workshop, New Delhi, 2–3 Sep 2026; **IBCA–ADB MoU** on landscape conservation and **nature-positive financing**; Minister **Bhupender Yadav**
Detail: **Project Tiger launched 1 April 1973**; **NTCA statutory via the 2006 amendment** to the **WLPA 1972**, chaired by the **Environment Minister** — **NBWL is chaired by the PM**
Detail: Tiger reserve = **core/critical habitat (inviolable) + buffer (coexistence)**; notified by the **State on NTCA recommendation**; de-notification needs **NBWL approval**
Detail: **All India Tiger Estimation** every **4 years** with **WII**; 2022 cycle **3,682**; **50+ reserves**. Tiger: **Schedule I**, **IUCN Endangered**, **CITES Appendix I**
Detail: **IBCA** — India-initiated, **seven big cats** (tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, **puma**, **jaguar** — the last two not Indian); **DG S.P. Yadav**. **ADB: 1966, Manila**
PIB 2305823 · 2026-09-02

• **Home Secretary reviews GLOF and avalanche preparedness of five Himalayan States/UTs**

Body: **Govind Mohan** with **Uttarakhand, HP, Sikkim, Arunachal, J&K + NDMA, CWC, IMD, DGRE**; shift from response to **risk-informed planning**; expedite the **2024 GLOF mitigation programme**
Detail: **GLOF** = failure of a **moraine or ice dam**; triggers — **avalanche into the lake, piping, earthquake, rapid melt**
Detail: Precedents: **South Lhonak Lake, Sikkim, 4 Oct 2023** (Teesta-III dam destroyed); **Kedarnath 2013** (Chorabari); **Chamoli Feb 2021** (rock-ice avalanche)
Detail: **NDMA chaired by the PM**, **SDMA by the CM**, **DDMA by the Collector** — **Disaster Management Act 2005**, amended 2025. **MHA is nodal but does not chair**
Detail: **CWC** → **Jal Shakti**; **IMD** → **Earth Sciences**; **DGRE (ex-SASE)** → **DRDO**. **National GLOF programme 2024: ~200 high-risk lakes**. Mitigation = **map, monitor, lower the lake, warn along the flow path**
PIB 2306291 · 2026-09-03

• **National Biodiversity Authority crosses ₹200 crore in benefit-sharing**

Body: Cumulative **ABS > ₹200 crore**; **₹8.23 crore** sanctioned to **27 SBBs** and **5 UTBCs** from **bitter melon, okra, chilli, onion** accessed by **Nunhems, East West Seeds, Bayer**
Detail: Market-sourced seed → provider untraceable → distributed by **area under cultivation**; **MP ₹1.17 cr**, **Maharashtra ₹1.01 cr** (>49% of onion area)
Detail: **CBD, Rio 1992** — conservation, sustainable use, **benefit-sharing**. **Nagoya Protocol (2010; in force 2014)** = **ABS**, India ratified **2012**, hosted **COP-11 Hyderabad**. **Cartagena (2000)** = **biosafety/LMOs**
Detail: **Biological Diversity Act 2002**: **NBA (Chennai, 2003)** → **SBBs** → **BMCs** (People's Biodiversity Register). **Foreign entities need NBA approval**; **Indian entities intimate the SBB**
Detail: **ABS Guidelines 2014: 0.1–0.5%** of gross ex-factory sales. **2023 Amendment**: decriminalised; exempted **AYUSH practitioners / codified traditional knowledge**; widened **foreign-controlled company**
PIB 2307004 · 2026-09-05

• **International Vulture Awareness Day — from crisis to recovery**

Body: **Panchkula, 6 Sep 2026**; workshop 'From Crisis to Recovery'; Minister at the **Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre, Pinjore** (first **VCBC, 2001, BNHS**)
Detail: 1990s crash: **diclofenac** (veterinary NSAID) → **kidney failure**; **Gyps species down >97%**. Vet use **banned 2006**; **ketoprofen** and **aceclofenac banned 2023**; safe drug **meloxicam**
Detail: **Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020–25**; **Vulture Safe Zones** (~100 km radius); **vulture restaurants** = safe feeding sites
Detail: **Nine species: Critically Endangered** — **White-rumped**, **Indian** (**Long-billed**), **Slender-billed**, **Red-headed**; **Endangered** — **Egyptian**; **Near Threatened** — **Himalayan Griffon**, **Cinereous**, **Bearded**. All **Schedule I**
Detail: Consequences of loss: **feral dogs, rabies**, slow carcass decay. Other **VCBCs: Rajabhatkhawa (WB), Rani (Assam)**. **IVAD = first Saturday of September**

Sci/Tech (1)

• **Geothermal energy — India's first wells at Puga Valley**

Body: **National Policy on Geothermal Energy, Sep 2025** (nodal **MNRE**); **July 2026: ONGC Energy Centre** commissioned the **first two wells at Puga, Ladakh** (>14,000 ft, 1,000 m deep) → first **1 MW** demonstration plant
Detail: Interior: **crust 5–8 km oceanic / 24–56 km continental** → **mantle ~2,900 km** → **outer core liquid Fe-Ni** → **inner core solid**; core **5,000–6,000 °C**; heat from **U, Th, K decay + residual heat**
Detail: Plant types: **dry steam, flash, binary cycle** (binary uses **70–80 °C** fluid); water **reinjects**; **round-the-clock**, unlike solar and wind
Detail: **GSI: 381 hot springs, 10 provinces, ~10.6 GW prospect, 42 promising sites** — **Himalayan, Naga-Lushai, A&N, SONATA, West Coast, Cambay, Aravalli, Mahanadi, Godavari, South Indian Cratonic**
Detail: Projects: **Gandhinagar** (solar-geothermal, 50–90 kW), **Ankleshwar** (repurposed oil wells), **Tawang**. Global leaders: **USA, Indonesia, Philippines, Türkiye, NZ, Kenya, Iceland**. **Net Zero 2070**
PIB 2306688 · 2026-09-04