

Government launches SCAN Portal to streamline PDS system

Key Points:

- ❖ The Ministry Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, government of India has launched SCAN (Subsidy Claim Application for NFSA) Portal and 'Anna Chakra' to modernise the Public Distribution System in the country.
- ❖ The SCAN Portal and the Anna Chakra tool is expected to increase the efficiency of the world's largest public distribution system. The Public Distribution System is part of the Food Security system of the country where the targeted poor and vulnerable section of the population are provided food grains at a highly subsidised price or even free.



Who launched the SCAN Portal and Anna Chakra

- ❖ The SCAN portal and the Anna Chakra was launched by Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution & Renewable Energy, in New Delhi on 5 December 2024.

About the SCAN Portal

- ❖ The SCAN (Subsidy Claim Application for NFSA) Portal is a single window system for settlement of claims of subsidy under the Public Distribution System.
- ❖ Under the Public Distribution System apart from the Food Corporation of India the state government also procure foodgrains from

the farmers and hand it over to the FCI which maintains the buffer stock.

- ❖ From this buffer stock foodgrains are provided to the states to distribute to the beneficiaries of various central government schemes covered under National Food Security Act (NFSA) and Other Welfare Schemes.
- ❖ The difference between the cost of procurement of foodgrains by the state government and the Central Issue Price is reimbursed to the state government as a food subsidy.
- ❖ The subsidy amount to the state government is processed and paid by the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) of the Union Ministry for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. The state can file their food subsidy claim on the SCAN Portal, which will be processed by the DFPD and funds will be released to the state government. It will make the whole process transparent and lead to faster settlement of subsidy claims.

About Anna Chakra

- ❖ The Anna Chakra is "PDS Supply Chain optimization tool of the DFPD. It has been developed by the Ministry in collaboration with the World Food Programme and IIT Delhi's Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer.
- ❖ The Anna Chakra is an online system developed to improve the efficiency in the logistics of the food grains supply across the country.
- ❖ It will track the movement of foodgrains from the farmers to the Godowns and to the ration shops.
- ❖ It will identify the best supply route using advanced algorithms. This will increase the efficiency in the movement of food grains across the supply chain and reduce fuel consumption, time, and logistics costs.

ISRO successfully launch ESA Probe 3 Spacecraft using PSLV C-59 Rocket

Key Points:

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched the European Space Agency (ESA) Probe 3 Spacecraft from the First Launch Pad, Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSCSHAR), Sriharikota Andhra Pradesh, on 5 December 2024.
- ❖ The ESA Probe 3 was launched onboard ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) C-59. The mission was to be launched on 4 December 2024, but it was postponed to 5 December 2024 due to technical issues.
- ❖ It was NewSpace India Limited's (NSIL) second successful mission in a fortnight after the launch of the GSAT-20/ GSAT-N2 satellite aboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket.

NSIL's ESA Probe 3 Mission

- ❖ ISRO undertook the mission for NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), which entered into a contract with the ESA to launch the Europa Probe 3 spacecraft using the PSLV rocket. NSIL was set up by the government of India in 2019 as an ISRO marketing arm.
- ❖ Its main job is to market ISRO's satellite launch capability worldwide and attract clients. The PSLV rocket has emerged as one of the most reliable and costcompetitive launch vehicles in its category worldwide, with charges ranging from \$18 million to \$28 million per launch.

About the ESA Probe 3 Spacecraft

- ❖ The ESA Probe 3 spacecraft is a technology demonstrator of the ESA. The spacecraft has two satellites.
- ❖ It is the world's first precision formation-flying mission in which a pair of satellites will fly together, maintaining a fixed configuration as if they were a single large rigid structure in space. The satellites will

study the Sun's corona, the Sun's outermost atmosphere.

About the PSLV Rocket

- ❖ The PSLV is an ISRO's medium-lift launch vehicle that can launch satellites weighing up to 1,750 kg into sun-synchronous polar orbits at 600 km altitude.
- ❖ The PSLV C-59 is a third-generation launch vehicle of ISRO and is a four-stage rocket. It is 44.5 meters tall. PSLV has been ISRO's most successful launch vehicle, with a success ratio of 97 %. It had only two failures—in 1993, when it was being developed, and in the 2017 IRNSS mission.

About Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

- ❖ The government of India established the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on 15 August 1969. It comes under the administrative control of the Department of Space, Government of India. ISRO is the National Space Agency of India. Its prime goal is to develop and apply space technology to meet various national needs and encourage and promote science education.
- ❖ Headquarters: Bengaluru
- ❖ Chairman: S.Somnath

OECD Raises India's FY25 Growth Forecast to 6.8%

Key Points:

- ❖ The OECD has raised India's GDP growth forecast for FY25 to 6.8%, driven by strong public infrastructure spending, private investment, and agricultural recovery. Despite global risks, the economy is expected to maintain nearly 7% growth through FY26. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has upgraded India's GDP growth forecast for FY25 to 6.8%, up from 6.7%, citing robust public infrastructure spending,

strong private consumption, and recovery in agricultural output.

- ❖ This growth momentum is expected to be sustained through FY25 and FY26, with investment and rural income growth being central to the economy's expansion. Despite global economic uncertainties and geopolitical risks, India's economic resilience points to a promising future.

Mahaparinirvan Diwas 2024

Key Points:

- ❖ Mahaparinirvan Diwas, observed annually on December 6, marks the death anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, fondly known as Babasaheb Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution.



- ❖ Mahaparinirvan Diwas, observed annually on December 6, marks the death anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, fondly known as Babasaheb Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution. A leader, thinker, and reformer, Dr. Ambedkar dedicated his life to fostering equality and eradicating caste-based discrimination.
- ❖ The 69th death anniversary of Dr. Ambedkar will be observed at Prerna Sthal, Parliament House Complex, under the aegis of the Dr. Ambedkar Foundation (DAF), on behalf of the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The event will feature floral tributes from

prominent leaders, including Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, and members of Parliament.

Early Life and Education

- ❖ Born on April 14, 1891, in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Ambedkar rose from a marginalized background to become a beacon of hope for millions. His early experiences of caste-based discrimination shaped his resolve to combat social injustice. A scholar of unparalleled intellect, he pursued education at prestigious institutions, including Columbia University and the London School of Economics, earning multiple doctorates.

Nepal and China Sign Framework for BRI Cooperation

Key Points:

- ❖ Nepal and China have signed a Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Cooperation Framework during PM K P Sharma Oli's visit to China. The agreement aims to implement long-pending BRI projects focusing on infrastructure like roads, railways and telecommunication to transform Nepal into a land-linked country. During Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli's official visit to China, both countries signed the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Cooperation Framework.



\$50 million ADB loan for Meghalaya's Water Harvesting Project

Key Points:

- ❖ Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed to provide a \$50 million loan to finance the setting up of a water harvesting system in Meghalaya and enhance water security in the state. An agreement for this purpose was signed between India's government and the ADB representative in New Delhi on 5 December 2024. The loan agreement was signed by Juhi Mukherjee, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Mio Oka, Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission.



Opposition Moves Resolution To Impeach Jagdeep Dhankhar



Key Points:

- ❖ The Opposition gave notice for a motion of noconfidence against Rajya Sabha chairperson Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday (December 10), the first such action in India's parliamentary history.
- ❖ A similar motion had been considered by the Opposition during the Budget Session

in August, but was not followed through on that occasion.

- ❖ **What is the process and the requirements for impeaching the chairperson of Rajya Sabha, who is also the Vice President of India? How did the framers of the Constitution view this action?**
- ❖ Under Article 64 of the Constitution of India, the Vice President "shall be ex officio Chairman of the Council of the States". Since the Vice President and Rajya Sabha chairperson must be the same individual, the process for their removal is also the same – and is laid down under Article 67.
- ❖ Under this provision, the Vice President "shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office" unless the Vice President resigns before that by sending a letter to the President, or is removed from office.
- ❖ **The requirements for removing or impeaching the Vice President are provided under Article 67(b). It states that the Vice President may be removed if a majority "all the then members of the Council (Rajya Sabha)" passes a resolution for his removal, which must then be "agreed to" by the House of the People (Lok Sabha).**
- ❖ Under this provision, "no resolution...shall be moved unless at least fourteen days' notice has been given of the intention to move the resolution".

What happens after the notice for impeachment is given?

- ❖ Upon the expiry of the 14-day period, Rajya Sabha will take up the resolution for discussion.
- ❖ The procedure outlined in Article 67(b) will then follow. In the present case, it is unclear if the resolution will be taken up by the House.

- ❖ This is because the Winter Session of Parliament is scheduled to conclude on December 20, which is less than 14 days away.
- ❖ There are no precedents to determine whether this same resolution can be considered in the next Session of the House.
- ❖ In any case, given the arithmetic in Parliament, it is almost certain that the resolution will be defeated. This is largely a symbolic move of protest by the Opposition that alleges the Vice President is unfair and partisan in the way he conducts the House.
- ❖ Resolutions for removal should be passed by an effective majority (the majority of all Rajya Sabha members at the time) in the Rajya Sabha and by a simple majority in the Lok Sabha.

Previous resolutions moved for removal of Speaker, Lok Sabha

S. No.	Speaker	Motion Date	Motion moved by	Deputy Speaker	Motion decided as
1.	G.V. Mavalankar	December 18, 1954	Vigneshwar Missir, Socialist Party MP from Bihar	A. Ayyangar,	Motion negated
2.	Sardar Hukum Singh	November 24, 1966	Shri Madhu Limaye	S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao	Motion rejected as less than 50 members rose in the Chair
3.	Bairam Jakhar	April 15, 1987	Shri Somnath Chatterjee	Thambi Durai	Motion negated

Russian built INS Tushil Commissioned in Indian Navy

Key Points:

- ❖ The Russian-built multi-role stealth-guided missile frigate INS Tushil was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 9 December 2024 at the Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia.
- ❖ The flag-raising ceremony was held in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Russian Deputy Minister of Defence Alexander Vasilyevich Fomin, Ambassador of India to Russia Vinay Kumar, and other senior officials from both countries.
- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is on an official visit to Russia from 8 to 10

December 2024 to attend the 21st Meeting of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Mission on Military and Military-Technical Cooperation, which will be held in Moscow on 10 December 2024.



Type of Warship	Description	Examples
Aircraft Carriers	Large ships capable of carrying and launching aircraft.	INS Vikramaditya, INS Vikrant (under construction)
Destroyers	Versatile warships with anti-air, anti-ship, and anti-submarine capabilities.	INS Kolkata, INS Visakhapatnam, INS Imphal
Frigates	Smaller than destroyers, with multi-role capabilities.	INS Shivalik, INS Nilgiri
Corvettes	Compact warships designed for coastal defense and patrol duties.	INS Kamorta, INS Kiltan
Submarines	Submersible vessels used for stealthy underwater operations.	INS Kalvari, INS Arihant
Patrol Vessels	Smaller craft used for patrolling, search and rescue, and other coastal missions.	INS Saryu, INS Sunayna
Mine Countermeasures Vessels	Designed for mine-clearing operations.	INS Nireekshak, INS Karwar
Landing Platform Docks	Amphibious assault ships for launching troops and equipment ashore.	INS Jalashwa, INS Shardul
Offshore Patrol Vessels	Used for patrolling and surveillance in offshore waters.	INS Vikram, INS Vajra
Research Vessels	Ships dedicated to scientific research and oceanographic studies.	INS Sagardhwani, INS Sindhughosh (research variant)



About INS Tushil and Project 1135.6 class

- ❖ INS Tushil is the seventh ship of the Project 1135.6 frigate to be built for the Indian Navy by Russia. The first three (Talwar, Trishul, Tabar) frigates of the project were built by the "Baltiysky zavod" shipyard in St. Petersburg, Russia and delivered to the Indian Navy.
- ❖ The next three (Teg, Tarkash, Trikanth) were constructed by "Yantar Shipyard" in Kaliningrad.
- ❖ In 2016, India signed an agreement with Russia to buy four more frigates of the Admiral Grigorovich class (NATO calls them Krivak III).

- ❖ Two were to be built in Russia (Tushil and Tamal), and two were to be built by Goa Shipyard in India.
- ❖ The first ship manufactured by Goa Shipyard, 'Triput' was launched in waters on 24 July 2024.

Russian Ship Offered to India

- ❖ The two frigates, Tushil (Admiral Butakov) and Tamal (Admiral Istomin) were being built for the Russian Navy, and construction started in 2013.
- ❖ Both frigates are powered by gas turbine engines, which were to be supplied by the Zorya-Mashproekt company in Mykolaiv, Ukraine.
- ❖ After Russia annexed Crimea of Ukraine in 2014, the Ukrainian government refused to supply the engines to Russia.
- ❖ The Russians then offered these under-construction frigates to India; subsequently, an agreement was signed in 2016 between the two countries.
- ❖ India bought the gas turbine engine from Ukraine, which is fitted in these frigates.
- ❖ The Indian Naval Ships are powered by diesel or gas-powered turbines.

Indigenous Content on INS Tushil

- ❖ Unlike the six earlier frigates, the INS Tushil uses a lot of Indian equipment. Around 26% of the frigates' equipment is of Indian origin, and 33 Indian-made systems are onboard the frigate.
- ❖ Ins Tushil includes made-in-India PJ-10 BrahMos missiles, sonar systems, surface surveillance radar, depth charge rocket launchers, and communications systems.
- ❖ INS Tushil is a stealth frigate capable of anti-submarine warfare. It has a hangar for helicopters like the Kamov 28 and Kamov 31.
- ❖ INS Tushil is designed for bluewater operations and is capable of conducting air,

surface, underwater, and electromagnetic warfare.

Sanjay Malhotra Appointed 26th Governor of RBI

Key Points:

- ❖ The Revenue Secretary, Union Ministry of Finance, Sanjay Malhotra, has been appointed the 26th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). He will assume office on 11 December 2024 after the incumbent Governor, Shaktikanta Das, retires on 10 December 2024. The Appointment Committee of the Union Cabinet approved Sanjay Malhotra's appointment as Governor of RBI on 9 December 2024. Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the meeting, which was attended by the Union Minister for Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah.



Term of Sanjay Malhotra as 26th RBI Governor

- ❖ Sanjay Malhotra has been appointed for three years, starting 11 December 2024. The central government can dismiss him before the completion of his tenure, or he can resign from his office.
- ❖ Under section 8 of the Reserve Bank of India Act 1934, the Central government appoints the Governor and four Deputy Governors of the RBI.
- ❖ According to the RBI Act 1934, the Governor or the Deputy Governor can be

appointed for a maximum term of five years and is eligible for reappointment.

- ❖ It means that one term of the Governor or the Deputy Governor can be up to 5 years. Normally, the government appoints a Governor and Deputy Governor for three years, and if necessary, it reappoints them for another fresh term, as Shaktikanta Das was reappointed in 202.

About Sanjay Malhotra

- ❖ Sanjay Malhotra is an IAS officer of the 1990 batch of the Rajasthan Cadre who assumed the office of revenue secretary on December 1, 2022. He is an IITian and holds a degree in Computer Science Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur. He also holds a Master's in Public Policy from Princeton University, United States of America.

About Shaktikanta Das

- ❖ Shaktikanta Das, an IAS Officer and former secretary at the Departments of Revenue and Economic Affairs assumed office as the 25th Governor of the RBI on 12 December 2021.
- ❖ He was reappointed for a term of three years in 2021, and he retired on 10 December 2024.
- ❖ He is the fifth governor of the RBI and has a tenure of six years.
- ❖ In 2023, he became the second RBI Governor after Raghuram Rajan(2014)to have won the 'Governor of the Year award' of Central Banking, an international economic research journal.
- ❖ He received an 'A+' rating for two years in a row and was ranked among the top three central bankers in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Card 2024 by U.S based Global Finance magazine.

About RBI Governor

- ❖ Reserve Bank of India was established on 1 April 1935 under the provision of the

Reserve Bank of India Act 1934. Initially, its headquarters or central office was in Calcutta(now Kolkata), but it was shifted to Bombay(now Mumbai) in 1937. First Governor - Sir Osborne Smith (01-04-1935 to 30-06-1937) First Indian Governor- Chintaman Dwarkanath Deshmukh (11-08-1943 to 30-06- 1949)Longest tenure Shortest Tenure -K. G. Ambegaokar 14-01-1957 to 28-02-1957

Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam 2024 concluded in Vijayawada

Key Points:

- ❖ The three-day Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam 2024 successfully concluded on 8 December 2024 at the Tummalapallivari Kshetrayya Kalakshetram Auditorium in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. The festival was organised to pay rich tribute to Telugu culture and Carnatic music and provide a platform for lesser-known artists to perform.



Organiser of the Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam

- ❖ The three-day Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam, which took place from 5 to 8 December 2024in Andhra Pradesh, was organised by the Union Ministry of Tourism in partnership with the Union Ministry of Culture, the Union Ministry of Textile, and the government of Andhra Pradesh.

Who inaugurated the Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam?

- ❖ The Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for Tourism, Suresh Gopi, on 6 December 2024. Union Minister of State for Tourism Kandula Durgesh was also present.

Venue of the Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam

- ❖ The cultural and musical festival was held at three places in Andhra Pradesh. It was held at Durga Ghat on the banks of the Krishna River, Shree Durga Malleswari Swami Vaarla Temple, and Tummalapallivari Kshetranya Kalakshetram Auditorium in Vijayawada.

About the Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam

- ❖ The Krishnaveni Sangeetha Neerajanam festival was a part of the Union Ministry Tourism initiative to promote Music Tourism by highlighting lesser-known yet culturally significant destinations through such festivals.
- ❖ The events were hosted in lesser-known tourist sites of Andhra Pradesh, which are rich in spirituality and heritage, such as Srikakulam, Ahobilam, Mangalagiri, Rajahmundry, and Tirupati.
- ❖ The festival attempted to encourage people to visit these sites, boosting local tourism and employment in these areas.
- ❖ Around 193 artists, including accompanists, participated in 35 performances over three days, enthralling the audience with their performances.
- ❖ During the festival, legendary composers like Thyagaraja, Annamacharya, Ramadasa, and Shyama Shastri were honoured with renditions of their works.
- ❖ The lyrical beauty of the Telugu language was celebrated through soul-stirring Devi Kritis, Pancharatna Kirtanas, and lecture demonstrations.

LIC's Bima Sakhi Scheme launched by PM Modi at Panipat, Haryana

Key Points:

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Bima Sakhi scheme of the public-sector insurance company, the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), at Panipat in Haryana on December 9, 2024.
- ❖ The prime minister said his government was committed to empowering women, and the LIC's Bima Sakhi scheme is a step in that direction.
- ❖ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was also present at the inauguration ceremony. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that besides creating income opportunities for 2 lakh women, the LIC's Bima Sakhi scheme will help achieve the government's target of Insurance for All by 2047.

About the Bima Sakhi scheme of the LIC

- ❖ The Bima Sakhi scheme is for women, and they will receive training for the first three years to promote financial literacy and awareness about insurance products among people, especially in rural areas. These women trainees, called Bima Sakhi, will also receive a stipend in addition to the commission for selling the LIC insurance policies. After completing the training, the women can become LIC insurance agents. In the scheme's first year, LIC will recruit 2 lakh women.

Eligibility & Benefit of the Scheme

- ❖ Women in the age group 18-70 years are eligible to become Bima Sakhi.
- ❖ They should be at least the 10th pass.
- ❖ The scheme is not eligible for relatives of existing agents and employees or retired LIC employees.
- ❖ If women sell a minimum of 24 policies, they will receive a commission of Rs 48,000 (excluding bonus) for the first year.



- ❖ The candidates will also get a monthly stipend of Rs 7,000 per month.
- ❖ In the second year, they will get a stipend of Rs 6,000 per month, subject to certain conditions.
- ❖ In the third year, the monthly stipend will be Rs 5,000 per month, subject to certain conditions.

About Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)

- ❖ The government of India established the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) on September 1, 1956, by nationalising 245 Indian and foreign insurance companies.

The LIC was established under the Life Insurance Corporation Act 1956 provisions. It is the largest insurance company in India, and it is owned by the central government.

- ❖ Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ❖ Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director: Siddhartha Mohanty
- ❖ Slogan of LIC: “Yogakshemam Vahamyaham” taken from Bhagavad Gita.

