

09TH December 2024

Center approves 11 Kendriya Vidyalyayas in Madhya Pradesh

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the setting up of 85 Kendriya Vidyalyayas (KVs). Of these, 11 Kendriya Vidyalyayas are from Madhya Pradesh.



Key Points

- ❖ Under the National Education Policy 2020, almost all Kendriya Vidyalyayas have been designated as PMSHri Schools, underscoring the implementation of NEP 2020 and serving as exemplary schools for others.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh got 11 Kendriya Vidyalyayas – Ashok Nagar District Ashok Nagar, Nagda District Ujjain, Maihar District Satna, Tirodi District Balaghat, Barghat District Seoni, Niwari District Niwari, Khajuraho District Chhatarpur, Jhinhari District Katni, Sabalgarh District Morena, Narsingharh District Rajgarh and Central Academy Police Academy Kanhasaiya District Bhopal.

25 years of Hornbill Festival of Nagaland

The Hornbill Festival, a prominent cultural event in India, is marking its 25th edition in 2024. This annual celebration takes place in Kohima, Nagaland.



Key Points

- ❖ The Hornbill festival was launched in 2000 by the Nagaland government as a celebration of Naga culture.
- ❖ The Hornbill Festival, also famous as the “Festivals of Festivals”, derives its name from the elusive Hornbill bird.
- ❖ This year the international partners of the Hornbill festival are the United Kingdom, United States, Japan, and Peru.
- ❖ The partner state of this year's Hornbill festival is Sikkim.
- ❖ The Hornbill Festival is jointly organised by the State government's Tourism and Art & Culture Department at the Kisama Heritage Village.

Government launches SCAN Portal to streamline PDS system

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.



Key Points

- ❖ The SCAN Portal and the Anna Chakra tool is expected to increase the efficiency of the world's largest public distribution system.
- ❖ The SCAN (Subsidy Claim Application for NFSA) Portal is a single window system for settlement of claims of subsidy under the Public Distribution System.

About Anna Chakra

- ❖ Anna Chakra is a pioneering tool for optimizing the supply chain of the PDS in India.
- ❖ It has been developed in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT) at IIT-Delhi.
- ❖ This initiative employs advanced algorithms to identify optimal routes for the transportation of food grains.

Public Distribution System

- ❖ The PDS is an Indian food Security System established to address food scarcity by providing foodgrains at affordable prices
- ❖ It operates under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, ensuring food security for nearly two-thirds of India's population based on Census 2011 data.

- ❖ The Public Distribution System (PDS) in India originated during World War II as a wartime rationing measure and evolved through several phases.
- ❖ In the 1960s, PDS expanded in response to food shortages, with the establishment of the Agriculture Prices Commission and the FCI to ensure domestic procurement and storage.
- ❖ By the 1970s, PDS became a universal scheme, and in 1992, the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) aimed to strengthen and expand PDS reach in remote areas.
- ❖ The Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), launched in 1997, focused on the poor by categorizing beneficiaries into Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) households.
- ❖ The Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), launched in 2000, further targeted the poorest families.

Armed Forces Flag Day 2024

India celebrates Armed Forces Flag Day annually on December 7 to honour the valor, sacrifices, and dedication of the Indian Armed Forces.



Key Points

- ❖ The observance of Armed Forces Flag Day began on December 7, 1949, under the aegis of the Defence Ministry.
- ❖ The day was established to collect funds through the distribution of symbolic flags, highlighting the sacrifices made by the military and raising awareness about their welfare.
- ❖ In 1993, the Ministry of Defence unified various welfare funds, including those for war victims, ex-servicemen, and the Kendriya Sainik Board, into a single Armed Forces Flag Day Fund.

Sri Lanka's Shammi Silva Takes Over Asian Cricket Council Presidency Role

Sri Lanka's Shammi Silva has taken over as the president of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), succeeding India's Jay Shah.



Key Points

- ❖ Sri Lanka's Shammi Silva has taken over as the president of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), succeeding India's Jay Shah, who recently became the chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- ❖ Jay Shah assumed the office of International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman, replacing Greg Barclay.

- ❖ Shah had vacated the position after three terms as ACC President.
- ❖ Shammi Silva has previously functioned as the chairman of the organisation's Finance & Marketing Committee.

RBI Keeps Repo Rate Unchanged

The RBI maintained the repo rate at 6.5% for the 11th consecutive time, signaling a neutral policy stance.

Key Points

- ❖ The Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) was cut by 50 basis points to 4%, releasing ₹1.16 trillion in liquidity to address tight liquidity conditions.

GDP and Inflation Outlook:

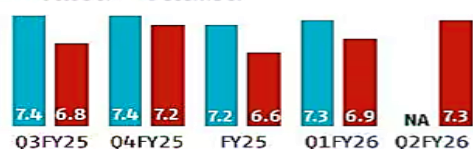
- ❖ FY 2024-25 GDP growth forecast lowered to 6.6% from 7.2%.
- ❖ Inflation projection raised to 4.8%, with easing food inflation expected from Q4.
- ❖ Monetary Policy Committee Votes: Two external members supported a 25 bps rate cut, indicating potential easing in February 2025.

CAUTIOUS APPROACH

RBI's projections at MPC meets (in %)

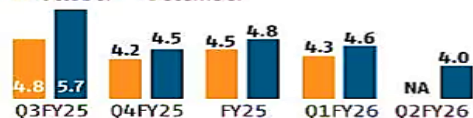
Growth forecast

October December



Inflation forecast

October December



News Shorts

- ❖ Arianespace's Vega-C rocket successfully launched the Sentinel-1C Earth-observation satellite on December 5, 2024, after a two-year suspension due to a failure in its previous mission in 2022.
- ❖ Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, received the 3rd PSU Transformation Award in the "Innovative Product Development" category.
- ❖ Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched India's first 24x7 sign language DTH

channel, Channel 31, under the PM e-VIDYA initiative

- ❖ India has been named to Chair the 68th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), marking its first-time leadership of this prestigious UN body.
- ❖ Former Chilean President Veronica Michelle Bachelet Jeria has been awarded the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2024.
- ❖ The Assam Forest Department captured the first photographic evidence of a Royal Bengal Tiger in Sonai-Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary.

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. The "Hornbill Festival," celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2024, is associated with which Indian state?
 - A) Manipur
 - B) Nagaland
 - C) Arunachal Pradesh
 - D) Meghalaya

Answer- B

2. Armed Forces Flag Day is observed annually in India on?
 - A) November 26
 - B) December 7
 - C) January 15
 - D) August 15

Answer- B

○○○○

