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Agriculture & Economy

Govt Ensures MSP Above 50% Cost, Boosts Farmer Welfare

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reiterated the government's commitment to fixing the MSP at over 50% of production costs and procuring crops, a stark contrast to Congress's earlier policies. The budget for agriculture has seen a fivefold increase under PM Modi. Subsidized fertilizers and promotion of natural farming are key priorities. Shri Chouhan, praised as "Kisano Ke Laadle" by VP Dhankhar, emphasized sustainable farming.

Source: PIB - The Press Information Bureau



Education & Social Development

Central school push: 85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas, 13 in J&K; 28 Navodayas, N-E focus

The Union Cabinet approved a ₹8,231 crore expansion for 85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and 28 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs). Jammu & Kashmir will get the most KVs (13), and Arunachal Pradesh leads in JNVs (8). These schools aim to benefit rural and central government employee children. Spread across 19 states and UTs, this move is expected to accommodate nearly one lakh students and create 6,600 jobs.

Source: The Indian Express

RBI Holds Repo Rate, Lowers CRR Amid Inflation Concerns

Economy

Balancing act

The RBI on Friday tried to find a balance between inflation management and supporting economic growth

- The RBI kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5% for a record 11th meeting in a row
- The Cash Reserve Ratio — the proportion of deposits that banks must set aside with the central bank — has

- been cut by 50 basis points to 4%
- The cut will infuse ₹1.16 lakh crore into the banking system and will soften short-term interest rates and enhance capacity of banks to extend credit



The RBI held the repo rate at 6.5%, cutting the CRR for banks by 50 basis points to 4% to ease liquidity. Inflation spiked to 6.2% in October, prompting a cautious approach. Growth projections for FY 2024-25 were lowered to 6.6%. Governor Shaktikanta Das highlighted persistent inflation reducing disposable income and GDP growth.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper

Ties nosedive

India's relations with Bangladesh have been fraught with tensions since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led regime

Aug. 5: Hasina resigns as Prime Minister and flees Dhaka to take refuge in India

Aug. 8: An interim government under the leadership of Muhammad Yunus is sworn in



Nov. 25: Hindu leader Chinmoy Krishna Das is arrested, leading to protests in Dhaka and at Bangladesh missions in several Indian cities

Dec. 2: Protesters breach security at Bangladesh mission in Agartala, pull down flag; India calls it "regrettable"

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri will visit Dhaka on December 9.

International Relations



International Relations

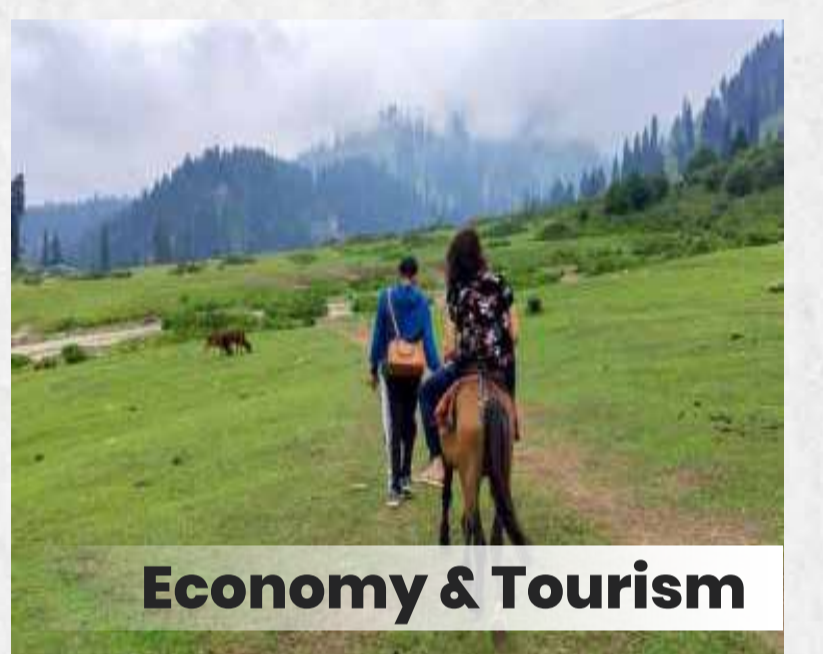
'Leave at the earliest': India's advisory for its citizens as rebels seize major cities in Syria

As rebels seize Aleppo, Homs, and other key Syrian cities, India advised its citizens to "leave at the earliest" and avoid travel to Syria. The MEA highlighted escalating violence led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and Turkish-backed militias. The advisory includes emergency contacts for the Indian Embassy in Damascus. The unrest, part of a renewed offensive, marks the first major attack on Aleppo since 2016.

Source: The Indian Express

J&K to Get Four New Tourist Spots with World Bank Support

The Union government, in collaboration with the World Bank, plans to develop four new tourist destinations in Jammu and Kashmir. This initiative aims to boost tourism and economic development in the region, leveraging international support for infrastructure and facility enhancements to attract visitors.



Economy & Tourism

Source: The Hindu Newspaper

India's Diplomatic Push Amid Tensions with Bangladesh

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's visit to Dhaka marks India's first high-level diplomatic outreach since the fall of Sheikh Hasina's government amid bilateral tensions. Talks aim to address recent issues, including attacks on Hindu minorities in Bangladesh and vandalism at Indian missions.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper



Polity & Governance

NREGA Workers Protest Job Card Deletions and Wage Delays

Rural workers staged protests at Jantar Mantar against NREGA systemic issues, including Aadhaar-linked wage delays and job card deletions. They demand immediate corrective actions from the government.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper

DGCA to Implement Revised Pilot Norms from July 2025

The DGCA informed the Delhi High Court that new regulations for pilots, focusing on improved safety standards and operational efficiency, will be enforced starting July 2025. The norms aim to address concerns over pilot fatigue, training protocols, and work conditions. The court welcomed the timeline while monitoring implementation progress.



Polity & Governance

Source: The Hindu Newspaper



International Relations

Jaishankar Credits Trump for Reviving Quad's Strategic Role

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar acknowledged the Trump administration's role in reviving the Quad's second iteration, highlighting its equitable burden-sharing model. He dismissed claims of India being a weak link and discussed the impact of the China standoff on bilateral ties, emphasizing de-escalation and restoring border stability.

Source: The Hindu Newspaper

New Delhi Metro Corridor to Boost NCR Connectivity

The 26.46-km Rithala-Narela corridor, costing ₹6,230 crore, aims to boost connectivity across NCR. The project is set for completion in four years, adding 21 elevated stations to the metro network.



Economy & Infrastructure

Source: The Hindu Newspaper

SC to Hear Plea on Lowering Mullaperiyar Dam's Water Level

The SC will hear a petition seeking to reduce the Mullaperiyar dam's water level to 120 ft due to safety concerns following recent landslides in Wayanad. The dam's age and structural concerns are key points in the petition.

Environment

Source: The Hindu Newspaper

RBI Hikes FCNR(B) Interest Rate Ceilings to Boost Capital Inflows

Cyclone Fengal, a slow-moving storm, caused significant damage across Tamil Nadu, posing unique challenges for disaster management. The prolonged nature of the cyclone led to extensive flooding, infrastructure damage, and disruptions in daily life. Authorities continue to assess the long-term impact and recovery efforts.



Economy

Source: The Indian Express

Leveraging Momentum in India's Manufacturing Sector Revival

India's manufacturing sector shows signs of robust recovery, driven by government policies, global demand, and domestic reforms like PLI schemes. Analysts highlight the need to sustain momentum by addressing infrastructure bottlenecks, skill gaps, and supply chain vulnerabilities to maintain long-term growth.

Economy & Infrastructure

Source: The Hindu Newspaper

Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore' Campaign to Boost Good Governance

Polity & Governance

The nationwide campaign Prashasan Gaon Ki Ore will run from December 19-24, 2024, during Good Governance Week. It aims to improve service delivery and redress public grievances at the district, tehsil, and panchayat levels, engaging over 700 District Collectors. Workshops on innovations and reports like the Good Governance Index 2023 will highlight achievements. A dedicated portal will track campaign progress.

Source: PIB - The Press Information Bureau