

Daily Current Affairs



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Financial Express



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10 MCQ QUIZ

Top 10 MCQ from
today's session

- Which article of the Indian Constitution authorized the use of Hindi in the proceedings of the High Court of Rajasthan in 1950?
भारतीय संविधान का कौन सा अनुच्छेद 1950 में राजस्थान उच्च न्यायालय की कार्यवाही में हिंदी के उपयोग को अधिकृत करता है?
- **A. Article 343 / अनुच्छेद 343**
- B. Article 348(2) / अनुच्छेद 348(2)**
- C. Article 351 / अनुच्छेद 351**
- D. Article 356 / अनुच्छेद 356**

- What is the primary objective of the Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak Bill, 2024?
भारतीय वायुवान विधेयक, 2024 का मुख्य उद्देश्य क्या है?
- **A. Promoting international air travel / अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हवाई यात्रा को बढ़ावा देना**
- **B. Simplifying aviation personnel licensing / विमानन कर्मियों के लाइसेंस को सरल बनाना**
- **C. Regulating air traffic control / वायु यातायात नियंत्रण को विनियमित करना**
- **D. Introducing private airlines in India / भारत में निजी एयरलाइनों की शुरुआत करना**

- Universities in India can now admit students twice a year under new guidelines. What are the two admission periods?
भारत में विश्वविद्यालय अब नई दिशानिर्देशों के तहत वर्ष में दो बार छात्रों को प्रवेश दे सकते हैं। ये दो प्रवेश अवधियां कौन सी हैं?
- **A. May/June and November/December / मई/जून और नवंबर/दिसंबर**
- **B. July/August and January/February / जुलाई/अगस्त और जनवरी/फरवरी**
- **C. April/May and September/October / अप्रैल/मई और सितंबर/अक्टूबर**
- **D. March/April and October/November / मार्च/अप्रैल और अक्टूबर/नवंबर**

- Nepal signed an agreement with China for building the **Trans-Himalayan Multi-Dimensional Connectivity Network (THMDCN)**. What is a major concern for India regarding this project?

नेपाल ने चीन के साथ ट्रांस-हिमालयन मल्टी-डाइमेंशनल कनेक्टिविटी नेटवर्क (THMDCN) के निर्माण के लिए समझौता किया। इस परियोजना को लेकर भारत की मुख्य चिंता क्या है?

- **A. Economic instability in the region / क्षेत्र में आर्थिक अस्थिरता**
- B. Environmental degradation / पर्यावरणीय क्षरण**
- C. Security concerns near sensitive border areas / संवेदनशील सीमा क्षेत्रों के पास सुरक्षा चिंताएं**
- D. Trade imbalance with China / चीन के साथ व्यापार असंतुलन**

- What are the two main components of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)?
चीन की बेल्ट एंड रोड इनिशिएटिव (BRI) के दो मुख्य घटक क्या हैं?
- **A. Maritime Economic Corridor and Trade Road / समुद्री आर्थिक गलियारा और व्यापार मार्ग**
- **B. Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road / सिल्क रोड इकोनॉमिक बेल्ट और 21वीं सदी का समुद्री सिल्क रोड**
- **C. Global Trade Route and Digital Silk Road / वैश्विक व्यापार मार्ग और डिजिटल सिल्क रोड**
- **D. Eurasian Trade Network and Maritime Connectivity Road / यूरेशियन व्यापार नेटवर्क और समुद्री कनेक्टिविटी रोड**

- The **SHe-Box Portal** was launched by which Indian Ministry?
SHe-Box पोर्टल किस भारतीय मंत्रालय द्वारा लॉन्च किया गया था?
- **A. Ministry of Law and Justice / विधि और न्याय मंत्रालय**
- B. Ministry of Home Affairs / गृह मंत्रालय**
- C. Ministry of Women and Child Development / महिला और बाल विकास मंत्रालय**
- D. Ministry of Labour and Employment / श्रम और रोजगार मंत्रालय**

- What percentage of representation do women currently have in India's Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)?
भारत की केंद्रीय सशस्त्र पुलिस बलों (CAPFs) में वर्तमान में महिलाओं का प्रतिनिधित्व कितने प्रतिशत है?
- **A. 4.4%**
- **B. 5.5%**
- **C. 6.2%**
- **D. 7.1%**

- The **International Debt Report 2024** revealed an increase in external debt for developing countries. What is the total debt reported for low- and middle-income countries?
अंतरराष्ट्रीय ऋण रिपोर्ट 2024 ने विकासशील देशों के लिए बाहरी ऋण में वृद्धि का खुलासा किया। निम्न और मध्यम आय वाले देशों के लिए कुल ऋण कितना बताया गया है?
- **A. USD 6.5 trillion**
- **B. USD 7.8 trillion**
- **C. USD 8.8 trillion**
- **D. USD 9.2 trillion**

- Which country has the world's largest population of cheetahs?
किस देश में दुनिया में चीता की सबसे बड़ी आबादी है?
- **A. South Africa / दक्षिण अफ्रीका**
- B. Namibia / नामीबिया**
- C. Botswana / बोत्सवाना**
- D. India / भारत**

- On which date is **International Cheetah Day** observed annually?
अंतर्राष्ट्रीय चीता दिवस प्रतिवर्ष किस तारीख को मनाया जाता है?
- **A. 1st December / 1 दिसंबर**
- B. 3rd December / 3 दिसंबर**
- C. 4th December / 4 दिसंबर**
- D. 5th December / 5 दिसंबर**

YOU ARE
enough

ROW IN RAJYA SABHA
Currency notes found on Congress MP's seat
NEWS > PAGE 4

INDIRA GANDHI PEACE PRIZE
Bachelet, ex-President of Chile, to be honoured
NEWS > PAGE 3

PLACES OF WORSHIP LAW
Mosque panel opposes pleas against 1991 Act
NEWS > PAGE 5

DISTRESS ZONE
The cyclone that battered Tamil Nadu
Slow-moving Fengal posed many challenges
GROUND ZERO > PAGE 7

LETHAL SPELL
Starb on fire as India is bowled out for 180
SPORT > PAGE 14

INSIDE



Jai Shankar praisers Trump administration

NEW DELHI
The Trump administration deserves a "lot of the credit" for the take-off of the Quad in its second iteration, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Friday. > PAGE 3

Priyanka slams BJP for calling Rahul a 'traitor'

NEW DELHI
Congress leader and Lok Sabha member from Wayanad Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday slammed the BJP for calling the leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi "a traitor of the highest order". > PAGE 4

Jharkhand CM allots portfolios to 11 Ministers

PATNA
Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Friday allocated portfolios among 11 Ministers of his Cabinet, keeping the key Home Department to himself. He also lent several portfolios not allocated to anyone. > PAGE 4

29 people killed in Israeli strikes on Beit Lahia

BEIT LAHIA
Gaza's civil defence agency said at least 29 people were killed on Friday by Israeli strikes around Kamel Adwan Hospital in the northern city of Beit Lahia, one of northern Gaza's last functioning health centres. > PAGE 12

Farmers postpone Delhi march after police use tear gas

The Hindu Bureau CHANDIGARH

Protesting farmers announced the postponement of their "Delhi Chalo" march after the Haryana Police used tear gas to disperse them at Shambhu on the Punjab-Haryana boundary on Friday. Pushing through the police barricades, they had tried to retrace their foot march to lay siege to the national capital. The farmers had attempted to march to Delhi on February 13 and 21 too, but were stopped by police personnel at Shambhu and Khanasari on the Punjab-Haryana boundary. They are pressing for fulfilment of their demands, with legal guarantee for Minimum Support Price (MSP) and a farm loan waiver being the key ones. On Friday, the group of 101 farmers started their

Amid high inflation, RBI keeps repo rate at 6.5%

The Monetary Policy Committee takes notes of the recent slowdown in growth momentum

MPC downgrades growth, inflation estimates for 2024-25 to 6.6%; retail inflation projected at 4.8%

Persistent inflation reduced the disposable income of consumers and dented consumption, says Das

Lalatendu Mishra MUMBAI

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday held its 11th meeting in a bid to keep policy rate unchanged at 6.50% for the 11th bi-monthly review in a row. However, acknowledging that the economy is facing tight liquidity conditions that are likely to persist for a few months, it cut the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) for banks to 4% from 4.50% in a bid to support growth. While noting the RBI's mandate is to ensure price stability while supporting

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.

growth, Mr. Das said persistently high inflation reduced the disposable income of consumers and dented private consumption which negatively impacted the real GDP growth. Real GDP growth in the July to September quarter fell to a seven-quarter low of 5.4%, compared to RBI's 7% projection. The MPC has now

the third quarter of this financial year, and start GST. The RBI has decided to reduce the cash reserve ratio (CRR) of all banks to 4% of net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) and two equal tranches of 25 bps each with effect from the fortnight beginning December 14, 2024 and December 29, 2024.

Adverse weather events The Governor also said the increasing incidence of adverse weather events, heightened geo-political uncertainties and financial market volatility posed upside risks to inflation. "The MPC believes that only with durable price stability can strong foundations be secured for high growth. The RBI has decided to increase the interest rate of the economy," he said. To ease the potential liquidity stress in the system

as more cash could be required to pay direct taxes and GST, the RBI has decided to reduce the cash reserve ratio (CRR) of all banks to 4% of net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) and two equal tranches of 25 bps each with effect from the fortnight beginning December 14, 2024 and December 29, 2024. "This reduction in the CRR is consistent with the neutral policy stance and would release primary liquidity of about ₹1.16 lakh crore to the banking system," he said.

Interest rate ceiling To attract more capital inflows, the RBI has decided to increase the interest rate ceiling on FCNR(B) deposits. Accordingly, effective from Friday, banks are permitted to raise fresh FCNR(B) deposits of 1 year to less than 3 years maturity at rates not exceeding the ceiling of overnight Alternative Reference Rate (ARR) plus 400 bps as against 250 bps at present. Similarly, for deposits of 3 to 5 years maturity, the ceiling has been increased to overnight ARR plus 500 bps as against 350 bps at present. "This relaxation will be available till March 31, 2025. In his closing remarks, the Governor said since the last policy, inflation had been on the upside, while there had been a moderation in growth. "Accordingly, the MPC has adopted a prudent and cautious approach in this meeting to wait for better visibility on the growth and inflation outlook."

STATING THE COURSE > PAGE 6

It's freezing out there



Dal lake lies shrouded in mist as Kashmir witnessed a cold wave on Friday, with the night temperature plummeting below zero degree Celsius across the valley and Srinagar recording -4.1 degree Celsius. AP

Insurgents head to Syria's third largest city Homs

Associated Press BEIRUT

Thousands of people fled the central Syrian city of Homs, the country's third-largest, as Islamist militants seized two towns on the outskirts on Friday, positioning themselves for an assault on a potentially major prize in their march against President Bashar Assad.

The move, reported by pro-government media and an opposition war monitor, was seen as part of the stunning advances by militants over the past week.

FULL REPORT > PAGE 12

Misri set to land in Dhaka on Monday as tensions mount

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

Aug. 31: Hasina resigns as Prime Minister and flees Dhaka to take refuge in India.

Aug. 31: An interim government under the leadership of Muhammad Yunus is sworn in.

Nov. 25: Hindu leader Chinnay Krishna Das is arrested, leading to protests in Agartala, 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 Wednesday. Earlier this week, Bangladesh had suspended all "visa and consular" work in the mission in Agartala in view of the security breach.

"Ashrafur Rahman was called for urgent consultations following ongoing protests outside our mission in Kolkata. Additionally, he will be part of the delegation during the Foreign Secretary-level talks between the two countries that are slated for next week. He will be back by the middle of this month," a senior official of the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata said.

On Friday, Bangladesh called back its Acting Deputy High Commissioner Shafiqur Mohammad Ashrafur Rahman in Kolkata, and Arif Mohammad, Assistant High Commissioner in its Agartala mission, for "urgent consultations". After a Hindu group committed an act of vandalism at Tripura's capital Agartala, Bangladesh strongly condemned the incident and India expressed "regret" but the Indian High Commissioner to Dhaka, Pranay Verma, was still summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka on Wednesday. Earlier this week, Bangladesh had suspended all "visa and consular" work in the mission in Agartala in view of the security breach. "Ashrafur Rahman was called for urgent consultations following ongoing protests outside our mission in Kolkata. Additionally, he will be part of the delegation during the Foreign Secretary-level talks between the two countries that are slated for next week. He will be back by the middle of this month," a senior official of the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata said. On Friday, Bangladesh called back its Acting Deputy High Commissioner Shafiqur Mohammad Ashrafur Rahman in Kolkata, and Arif Mohammad, Assistant High Commissioner in its Agartala mission, for "urgent consultations". After a Hindu group committed an act of vandalism at Tripura's capital Agartala, Bangladesh strongly condemned the incident and India expressed "regret" but the Indian High Commissioner to Dhaka, Pranay Verma, was still summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dhaka on Wednesday. Earlier this week, Bangladesh had suspended all "visa and consular" work in the mission in Agartala in view of the security breach. "Ashrafur Rahman was called for urgent consultations following ongoing protests outside our mission in Kolkata. Additionally, he will be part of the delegation during the Foreign Secretary-level talks between the two countries that are slated for next week. He will be back by the middle of this month," a senior official of the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata said.

Internet suspended
The Haryana government had suspended mobile internet services as well as bulk SMS and data services in parts of Ambala district till December 9.

In Greater Noida, Roshan Singh, head of the All-India Kisan Sabha, Gautam Buddha Nagar Committee, was arrested by the Uttar Pradesh Police. Earlier this week, the U.P. Police arrested nearly 200 farmers when they assembled in Greater Noida for a protest. Authorities were prepared with anti-rioting gear to stop us. We knew we would not be successful in the march, but we just wanted to show how they would be stopping us. The government was not treating us like citizens, they were treating us like enemies of the nation," Mr. Pandher said.

Tight security
The Delhi Police had also tightened security at borders ahead of the farmers' march. Haryana Minister Anil Vij also asked the farmers to get permission from authorities before attempting to enter Haryana. "Have they taken the permission? They do not have any permission to go to Delhi and sit there... If they get permission, they will be allowed, you are going there for a programme if you have to sit there, you need to get per-

Amid high inflation, RBI keeps repo rate at 6.5%

The Monetary Policy Committee takes notes of the recent slowdown in growth momentum

MPC downgrades growth, inflation estimates for 2024-25 to 6.6%; retail inflation projected at 4.8%

Persistent inflation reduced the disposable income of consumers and dented consumption, says Das

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday held steadfast in its battle against inflation amid weakening growth momentum, with four of its six members voting to keep policy repo rate unchanged at 6.50% for the 11th bi-monthly review in a row.

However, acknowledging that the economy is facing tight liquidity conditions that are likely to persist for a few months, it cut the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) for banks by 50 basis points to 4%, after a gap of nearly four years, in a bid to support growth.

While divisions within the MPC on a *status quo* on rates expanded from the

5:1 vote in October, the panel was unanimous on sticking to a 'neutral' stance and remaining unambiguously focused on a durable alignment of inflation with its 4% target, while supporting growth. Inflation had spiked to a 14-month high of 6.2% in October, the last available price rise number.

"The MPC took note of the recent slowdown in the growth momentum, which translates into a downward revision in the growth forecast for the current year. Going forward into the second half of this year and the next year, the MPC assessed the growth outlook to be resilient, but warranting close monitoring," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said in his statement.

While noting the RBI's mandate is to ensure price stability while supporting

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



growth, Mr. Das said persistently high inflation reduced the disposable income of consumers and dented private consumption which negatively impacted the real GDP growth.

Real GDP growth in the July to September quarter fell to a seven-quarter low of 5.4%, compared to RBI's 7% projection.

The MPC has now

downgraded the growth forecast for 2024-25 to 6.6% from 7.2%. Similarly, with inflation increasing sharply in September and October led by an unanticipated increase in food prices, the retail inflation for 2024-25 has now been projected at 4.8% compared to the 4.5% average projected till October.

"Food inflation pressures are likely to linger in

the third quarter of this financial year, and start easing only from Q4 of 2024-25, backed by seasonal correction in vegetable prices, kharif harvest arrivals, likely good rabi output and adequate cereal buffer stocks," Mr. Das said.

Adverse weather events

The Governor also said the increasing incidence of adverse weather events, heightened geo-political uncertainties and financial market volatility posed upside risks to inflation.

"The MPC believes that only with durable price stability can strong foundations be secured for high growth. The MPC remains committed to restoring the inflation growth balance in the overall interest of the economy," he said.

To ease the potential liquidity stress in the system

as more cash could be required to pay direct taxes and GST, the RBI has decided to reduce the cash reserve ratio (CRR) of all banks to 4% of net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) in two equal tranches of 25 bps each with effect from the fortnight beginning December 14, 2024 and December 28, 2024.

"This reduction in the CRR is consistent with the neutral policy stance and would release primary liquidity of about ₹1.16 lakh crore to the banking system," he said.

Interest rate ceiling

To attract more capital inflows, the RBI has decided to increase the interest rate ceiling on FCNR(B) deposits. Accordingly, effective from Friday, banks are permitted to raise fresh FCNR (B) deposits of 1 year to less

than 3 years maturity at rates not exceeding the ceiling of overnight Alternative Reference Rate (ARR) plus 400 bps as against 250 bps at present. Similarly, for deposits of 3 to 5 years maturity, the ceiling has been increased to overnight ARR plus 500 bps as against 350 bps at present. This relaxation will be available till March 31, 2025.

In his closing remarks, the Governor said since the last policy, inflation had been on the upside, while there had been a moderation in growth. "Accordingly, the MPC has adopted a prudent and cautious approach in this meeting to wait for better visibility on the growth and inflation outlook."

STAYING THE COURSE

» PAGE 6

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- The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (**RBI Act**) has been amended by the Finance Act, 2016 to provide for a **statutory** and institutionalized **framework for an MPC**.
 - Under Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934, the central government is empowered to constitute a **six-member MPC**.
 - **Function:** The MPC is entrusted with the task of **fixing the benchmark policy rate (repo rate)** required to **contain inflation** within the specified target level.
 - वित्त अधिनियम, 2016 द्वारा भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक अधिनियम, 1934 (आरबीआई अधिनियम) में संशोधन किया गया है ताकि एमपीसी के लिए एक वैधानिक और संस्थागत ढांचा प्रदान किया जा सके।
 - संशोधित आरबीआई अधिनियम, 1934 की धारा 45जेडबी के तहत, केंद्र सरकार को छह सदस्यीय एमपीसी गठित करने का अधिकार है।
 - कार्य: एमपीसी को निर्दिष्ट लक्ष्य स्तर के भीतर मुद्रास्फीति को नियंत्रित करने के लिए आवश्यक बेंचमार्क नीति दर (रेपो दर) तय करने का कार्य सौंपा गया है।


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- The MPC **replaced** the previous arrangement of **Technical Advisory Committee**.
 - **Composition:**
 - MPC will have **six members**: the **RBI Governor (Chairperson)**, the **RBI Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy**, **one official nominated by the RBI Board**, and the remaining **three members** would **represent the Government** of India.
 - The external members hold office for a period of four years.
 - एमपीसी ने तकनीकी सलाहकार समिति की पिछली व्यवस्था का स्थान लिया है।
 - संरचना: एमपीसी में छह सदस्य होंगे: आरबीआई गवर्नर (अध्यक्ष), मौद्रिक नीति के प्रभारी आरबीआई डिप्टी गवर्नर, आरबीआई बोर्ड द्वारा नामित एक अधिकारी और शेष तीन सदस्य भारत सरकार का प्रतिनिधित्व करेंगे।
 - बाहरी सदस्य चार साल की अवधि के लिए पद धारण करते हैं।

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- The **quorum** for a meeting shall be **four Members**, at least one of whom shall be the Governor and, in his absence, the Deputy Governor, who is the Member of the MPC.
 - The MPC **takes decisions based on a majority vote. In case of a tie, the RBI governor will have the second or casting vote.**
 - The **decision of the MPC** would be **binding on the RBI.**
 - किसी बैठक के लिए कोरम चार सदस्यों का होगा, जिनमें से कम से कम एक गवर्नर होगा और उसकी अनुपस्थिति में डिप्टी गवर्नर, जो एमपीसी का सदस्य होता है। एमपीसी बहुमत के आधार पर निर्णय लेती है। बराबरी की स्थिति में आरबीआई गवर्नर के पास दूसरा या निर्णायक वोट होगा। एमपीसी का निर्णय आरबीआई पर बाध्यकारी होगा।



- **Repo Rate Maintained**

- **Repo rate unchanged at 6.5%:** For the 11th consecutive bi-monthly review, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) kept the repo rate at 6.5%.

- **रेपो रेट 6.5% पर स्थिर:** 11वीं लगातार द्विमासिक समीक्षा में, मौद्रिक नीति समिति ने रेपो दर को 6.5% पर बनाए रखा।
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- **Growth and Inflation Outlook**

- **Growth forecast lowered:** Economic growth for 2024-25 has been revised downward to 6.6% from an earlier projection of 7.2%.

- **वृद्धि दर घटाई गई:** 2024-25 के लिए आर्थिक वृद्धि दर का अनुमान 7.2% से घटाकर 6.6% किया गया।

- **Retail inflation projected at 4.8%:** Higher food inflation is expected to linger due to adverse weather conditions and geopolitical uncertainties.

- **खदरा मुद्रास्फीति 4.8% पर अनुमानित:** प्रतिकूल मौसम और भू-राजनीतिक अनिश्चितताओं के कारण खाद्य मुद्रास्फीति बढ़ी रहेगी।



- **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) Changes**

- **CRR cut by 50 basis points:** CRR has been reduced to **4%** after a gap of nearly four years to boost liquidity.

- **CRR में 50 आधार अंक की कटौती:** तरलता बढ़ाने के लिए लगभग चार साल बाद CRR को **4%** तक घटाया गया।

- This move will release **₹1.16 lakh crore** into the banking system.

- इस कदम से बैंकिंग प्रणाली में **₹1.16 लाख करोड़** की नकदी आएगी।



Adverse Weather and Inflation Impact

Persistent inflation has dented consumer spending and reduced disposable incomes, affecting growth momentum.

- लगातार मुद्रास्फीति ने उपभोक्ता खर्च और उपलब्ध आय को प्रभावित किया, जिससे वृद्धि की गति धीमी हुई।

- **Interest Rate Ceiling on Deposits**
- To attract foreign deposits, **interest rate ceilings on FCNR (B) deposits** for different maturities have been increased.
 - विदेशी जमाओं को आकर्षित करने के लिए **FCNR (B) जमाओं** पर ब्याज दर सीमा बढ़ाई गई।





- **Policy Approach**

- The MPC emphasized maintaining **price stability** while supporting economic growth.

- MPC ने **मूल्य स्थिरता** बनाए रखते हुए आर्थिक विकास का समर्थन करने पर जोर दिया।

- 
- A cautious approach has been adopted to monitor inflation and growth dynamics.

- मुद्रास्फीति और वृद्धि की गतिशीलता की निगरानी के लिए सतर्क दृष्टिकोण अपनाया गया है।

Policy Rates

Policy Repo Rate : 6.50%

Standing Deposit
Facility Rate : 6.25%

Marginal Standing
Facility Rate : 6.75%

Bank Rate : 6.75%

Fixed Reverse
Repo Rate : 3.35%

Exchange Rates

INR / 1 USD : 84.6578

INR / 1 GBP : 107.9127

INR / 1 EUR : 89.5324

INR / 100 JPY : 56.5000

(As at 1.30pm of December 06, 2024)

(Source : FBIL)

[Archiv](#)

Lending / Deposit Rates

Base Rate : 9.10% - 10.40%

MCLR (Overnight) : 8.15% - 8.45%

Savings Deposit
Rate : 2.70% - 3.00%

Term Deposit Rate
> 1 Year : 6.00% - 7.25%

Reserve Ratios

CRR : 4.50%

SLR : 18.00%

SC to hear plea to reduce water level in Mullaperiyar dam

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday fixed in January a detailed hearing of a petition seeking to bring down the permissible water level of the Mullaperiyar dam in Kerala from 142 ft to 120 ft to obviate the possibility of a dam breach.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan asked petitioner-advocate Mathews J. Nedumpara, who appeared in person, to come and present his case in person in court.

Wayanad landfills

The petition filed by Mr. Nedumpara referred to the recent landslides in Wayanad, which claimed over 220 lives, making it one of the worst natural disasters in recent times. "You have raised several constitutional issues. It is better you come to court and argue the case," Justice Kant told Mr. Nedumpara.

"In view of the recent tragedy in Wayanad, the water level of the dam has to be brought below 120 ft as many experts have opined," it said. Mr. Nedumpara had red-flagged that if Mullaperiyar dam was breached, lives and properties of five million people of Kerala would be at grave risk.

Dam breach fears
The petition has said the limestone-and-silt dam was commissioned in 1895 and had an estimated lifespan of only 50 years. "The dam is now 129 years old, over double of its intended lifespan," it noted.

"People of Kerala fear that the dam may break, if it happens, it is said that the districts of Idukki, Ernakulam, Alappuzha, Kottayam will be completely washed away," the petition has claimed. The plea has argued that two judgments of the Supreme Court, in 1966 and 2018, prevented the decommissioning of the Mullaperiyar dam and the construction of a new dam in its place. It said the judgments were erroneous.

Trump administration deserves a lot of credit for Quad, says Jaishankar

External Affairs Minister says US President-elect's concerns on burden-sharing do not apply to the quadrilateral grouping as everyone contributes a fair share; there is no weak link in the alliance, he says, during discussion at India-Japan Forum

Dinakar Patel
NEW DELHI

The Trump administration deserves a "lot of credit" for the take-off of the Quad in its second iteration, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Friday.

He said the US President-elect's concerns on all-inclusiveness and burden-sharing do not apply to the quadrilateral grouping as everyone contributes a "fair share". Mr. Jaishankar said the stand-off with China impacted the relationship between the two countries, and following the engagement, there is a need for de-escalation because "there's still a very large number of forces" at the border areas.



Promoting dialogue: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at the India-Japan Forum (inaugural session in New Delhi on Friday).

"So, if I were to go by the past record, in fact, I would argue that the Trump administration deserves a lot of credit for the take-off of the Quad in its second incarnation and the fact that the Quad has since advanced would only validate their judgment," Mr. Jaishankar said on Friday while speaking at the third edition of the India-Japan Forum organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and Ananta Centre.

"Now those concerns (raised by Donald Trump) actually don't apply to the Quad as all. Burden-sharing is a kind of where everybody pays their fair share. So, it's like everybody goes for dinner and you split the bill, and everybody thinks it's the right thing to do, so, if one looks at some of the concerns which President Trump has articulated in

terms of America's commitments and why is America doing so much that doesn't apply to Quad," he said.

On India's ties with China, he said that India has a stable relationship with China. In terms of a very substantial though there are issues like huge trade imbalance. "Our entire relationship with China was predicated on the fact that the border areas would remain peaceful and stable, and we had agreements to ensure

that," he said, noting that in 2020, the Chinese brought a lot of forces to the border areas and India was forced to respond to the clash at Galwan where soldiers were killed, which subsequently affected the relationship.

Following the disengagement in Depsang and Demchok, the last two friction points of the 2020 stand-off in Eastern Ladakh, and the resumption of patrolling and access to grazing areas, the two countries are preparing for talks at the level of Special Representatives very soon. Mr. Jaishankar said the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of BRICS summit last month.

On Thursday, both sides held the 32nd meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs.

Can't prevent politicians contesting Bar elections: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court of India on Friday refused to entertain a petition to bar "active" members of political parties from contesting elections and holding office in the Bar Council of India and State Bar Councils.

"Having persons with a particular political ideology heading statutory bodies would affect the independence of those bodies," the court said, citing the petitioners' advocate Jaya Sukin argued.

"What is wrong with a member of the Bar having an ideology? This would also include political ideology," Justice Surya Kant asked. He said, "Bar bodies are intellectual bodies. Their members' beliefs will not change just because the president or chairman has an ideology... We cannot direct Parliament to enact a law or something."

Karnataka relaxes rules to give minority tag to institutions

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a major decision, the Karnataka government on Friday scrapped the criterion of a minimum number of students required from a minority community to grant the religious minority tag to higher education institutions.

"At present, institutions offering higher education and technical education have to provide admission to 50% of students belonging to the minority religion to get the religious minority institution tag. The relaxation would increase the number of non-minority students in the institutions run by minorities." The Cabinet scrapped the criterion as institutions run by Christians, Jains, Sikhs, and Parsis have been finding it difficult to admit 50% students from their respective communities in order to retain their

Admit 50% minority students in courses to get the tag

minority institution status. Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil said the decision was taken in accordance with Article 30 and the recommendation of the National Minority Commission. The Cabinet approved a ₹1,750-crore loan from the World Bank for the Higher Education Department to strengthen the infrastructure and quality of education in government colleges and universities. The project would facilitate upgrading laboratories, training of teachers, revision of curriculum, upskilling of knowledge for providing employment opportunities.

Yechury expanded CPI(M)'s understanding of RSS, BJP through his writing: Karat

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Former Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary Sitaram Yechury contributed to the understanding of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) within the party through his work. "What is this Hindu Karitra", said senior CPI(M) leader Prakash Karat at a function to release three books written by Yechury on Friday.

The books, a collection of essays, in Hindi and English, were published posthumously. Mr. Karat said the programme of the CPI(M) adopted in 1964 had just one sentence about the Jan Sangh and the RSS, and when it was updated in 2000, Yechury was a member of the commission that drafted the programme. He added that Yechury drafted



Prakash Karat, Raju Ramachandran, Prabhakar Pattnaik and Ham Bahman at the book release on Friday. (IANS/Anasent)

the section on the RSS and the RSS saying that the BJP was not an ordinary bourgeois party as the "fascistic" RSS guides and dominates it. "Mr. Yechury said the demolition of Babri Masjid was the beginning of the Hindutva fascism today cannot be dissociated with the support that it gets from the monopoly capitalism. This is a range of interests in all spheres of society are evi-

Indira Gandhi Peace Prize to be conferred on Michelle Bachelet

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2024 will be conferred on former Chilean President and prominent human rights lawyer Michelle Bachelet, a statement issued by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust on Friday.

The international jury for the award was chaired by former National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon. President Michelle Bachelet is one of the world's most prominent voices for human rights, peace, and equality. In her various roles, she has been a member of UN Women, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and as President of Chile, she has spoken strongly for gender equality and the rights of the most vulnerable sections of the population at home

Michelle Bachelet

and across the world," the statement read. "Her personal courage and example in standing for peace and the rights of marginalised people continue to inspire men and women around the world," it added. The prize honours her work to improve gender equality, human rights, democracy and development in difficult circumstances, the statement said, also noting her contributions towards fostering India's relations with Chile.

Cong. urges PM to speak to protesting farmers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi should inventively talk to farmers, accept their demand for a legal backing to minimum support price (MSP) of agricultural produce and enact a law in the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament, the Congress said on Friday.

Addressing a press conference, Congress general secretary Randhir Surjewala said the Modi government is "anti-farmer" as it is not willing to listen to the voice of farmers. "The PM has time to see movies but not meet farmers," he said, adding that the farmers should be allowed to come to Delhi.

"Is there a ban on people coming to Delhi? Is this the new normal in new India that they cannot come to Delhi, the country's capital? Anyone should be allowed to come to Delhi," he said.

Shah slams Kerala govt. for delay in giving report on Wayanad disaster

The Hindu Bureau
KALPETTA

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has highlighted the Kerala government's alleged delay in submitting its assessment memo regarding the Wayanad landslides.

In a response to a request made by Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, he said the State took about three-and-a-half months to submit the necessary documentation following the incident. The landslides occurred on July 30, causing significant damage and displacement in the region. The State government has since submitted a report estimating the recovery and reconstruction costs at ₹2.29 crore.

Mr. Shah said the Centre is "committed" to supporting the affected population. To facilitate immediate relief, the Centre released the first instalment of ₹145.60 crore on



Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra recently met Amit Shah in New Delhi and sought financial assistance for the district. (IANS/NDIA)

July 31, followed by another ₹145.60 crore on October 1. Furthermore, the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) holds ₹282.99 crore for relief operations. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) was formed on August 2 to assess the damage without waiting for the State's memorandum. The IMCT visited the affected areas from August 8 to 10. The Kerala government submitted its formal memorandum on August 19, request-

High Court seeks details of SDRF funds and utilisation

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala HC on Friday sought details regarding the details of the funds available in the SDRF and its utilisation. The court in the observations of Justice J. Prasad, said all relating to the prevention and management of natural disasters in the State came up for hearing.

The court also asked for appropriate assistance. However, Ms. Vadra said she would not be about politics. "The people of Wayanad are looking towards the State and Central governments with hope, they need not need excuse, they need urgent help," she said.

Bengal court awards capital punishment to accused in Kuttali rape and murder case

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

A court in West Bengal on Friday awarded the death sentence to the accused in the rape and murder of a minor at Kuttali in South 24 Parganas district. The sentence came within 62 days of the crime.

The man, accused of raping and murdering the 10-year-old girl at Jaynagar in Kuttali, was found guilty under sections 103 (murder), 65 (rape), and 302 (punishment for causing grievous hurt) of the Indian Penal Code (in a vegetative state) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The court awarded the death sentence to the accused. The girl's body was discovered on October 4, the charge sheet was filed on October 30, and the judgment was passed on Friday at the PO-260 court in Raipur town. Chief Minis-

Kuttali erupted in protest after the rape and murder of a 10-year-old girl came to light on October 4

ter Mamata Banerjee criticised the police and Justice for the speedy trial and conviction. The State government and capital punishment in such a case is just what the government needs. The case put in the history of the State. I congratulate the State police. The West Bengal Assembly had passed the anti-rape legislation, the Aparajita Woman and Child Bill, in September. The law has provisions for capital punishment for conviction in a rape case resulting in the victim's death or leaving them in a vegetative state. The verdict in the Kuttali case comes even as parents of the victim in the R.G. Kar case await justice.

Agusta scam: SC agrees to hear bail plea of middleman

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to examine a plea for regular bail filed by Christian Michel James, the alleged middleman in the Agusta-Westland chopper scam.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan issued a notice to the Central Bureau of Investigation returnable in four weeks. The court had refused Michel relief in February last year, advising him to approach the trial court for regular bail. On Friday, Justice Nath asked Michel's counsel, advocates Aljo Joseph, Sriram Parakkat and Vishnu Shankar, how the Bench could give any relief to his client when his earlier pleas had been denied.

Health issues
Mr. Joseph said Michel had already spent six years behind bars and was suffering from health issues. The court assured Mr. Joseph that the case would come up in January.

Indira Gandhi Peace Prize to be conferred on Michelle Bachelet

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

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The international jury for the award was chaired by former National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon.

“President Michelle Bachelet is one of the world’s most prominent voices for human rights, peace, and equality. In her various roles as the founding director of UN Women, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and as President of Chile, she has spoken strongly for gender equality and the rights of the most vulnerable sections of the population at home












Michelle Bachelet

and across the world,” the statement read.

“Her personal courage and example in standing for peace and the rights of marginalised people continue to inspire men and women around the world,” it added.


The prize honours her work to improve gender equality, human rights, democracy and development in difficult circumstances, the statement said, also noting her contributions towards fostering India’s relations with Chile.

2017 ^[1]	Manmohan Singh		b. 1932	 India	Former Prime Minister , Finance Minister , and Governor of the Reserve Bank of India
2018 ^[31]	Centre for Science and Environment		founded 1980	 India	Not-for-profit public interest research and advocacy organisation based in New Delhi, India.
2019 ^[32]	Sir David Attenborough		b. 1926	 United Kingdom	World renowned English broadcaster and natural historian
2021 ^[33]	Pratham		founded 1995	 India	Pratham is an innovative not-for-profit learning organization created to improve the quality of education based in India.
2022 ^[34]	Indian Medical Association and The Trained Nurses Association of India (jointly)			 India	The award was for every doctor, nurse, paramedic, and workers for their selfless service during the COVID-19 pandemic
2023 ^[35]	Ali Abu Awwad & Daniel Barenboim (jointly)			 State of Palestine &  Argentina	Awwad is an eminent peace activist & Maestro Barenboim is an Argentine-born distinguished classical pianist



- **Award Announcement**

- Former Chilean President **Michelle Bachelet** to receive the **Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development** for 2024.

- पूर्व चिली राष्ट्रपति मिशेल बाचेलेट को 2024 का इंदिरा गांधी शांति पुरस्कार प्रदान किया जाएगा।
- 



- **Jury and Citation**

- The international jury for the award was chaired by **Shivshankar Menon**, former National Security Adviser of India.

- पुरस्कार की अंतरराष्ट्रीय जूरी की अध्यक्षता भारत के पूर्व राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार **शिवशंकर मेनन** ने की।

- Michelle Bachelet is recognized for her advocacy for **human rights, peace, and gender equality** globally.

- मिशेल बाचेलेट को **मानवाधिकार, शांति और लैंगिक समानता** के लिए उनके वैश्विक प्रयासों के लिए सम्मानित किया गया।



- **Contributions**

- She has served as:

- **Founding Director of UN Women.**

- **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.**

- **President of Chile.**

- उन्होंने **यूएन वीमेन** की संस्थापक निदेशक, **यूएन मानवाधिकार उच्चायुक्त**, और **चिली की राष्ट्रपति** के रूप में कार्य किया है।

- 
- Recognized for her efforts to **uplift marginalized communities** and promote **democracy and development in challenging circumstances**.
 - हाशिए पर पड़े समुदायों को ऊपर उठाने और कठिन परिस्थितियों में **लोकतंत्र और विकास को बढ़ावा** देने के लिए उनकी प्रशंसा की गई।
- 

- **Significance**

- The award celebrates her **personal courage** and ability to inspire people across the world.

- यह पुरस्कार उनकी **व्यक्तिगत साहस** और दुनिया भर में लोगों को प्रेरित करने की क्षमता को मान्यता देता है।

- The statement also highlighted her efforts to **strengthen India's ties with Chile**.

- बयान में चिली के साथ भारत के संबंधों को मजबूत करने के उनके प्रयासों पर भी प्रकाश डाला गया।

IN BRIEF



8 killed, dozens injured as bus collides with tanker in UP.

Eight persons were killed and over two dozen sustained injuries when a double-decker bus collided with a tanker on the Agra-Lucknow Expressway in Kannauj district of Uttar Pradesh on Friday. The injured were shifted to the Safai Medical College. "The accident occurred around 2 p.m. in the Sakrawa area when the bus was en route to Delhi from Lucknow, Kannauj," said Amit Kumar Anand, Kannauj Superintendent of Police. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured will get ₹50,000.

Two months' stock of anti-TB drugs available, says Centre

India has sufficient stock of all essential anti-tuberculosis drugs under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme for more than two months, the Health Ministry said on Friday, adding that adequate measures had been taken for timely procurement and supply of such drugs. The Ministry said it had also started supplies "to ensure that sufficient stocks are available to meet increased requirements" owing to the Union government's new "100-day anti-TB campaign", which would be launched on Saturday. The programme will target 347 high-focus districts for intensified interventions, including screening and awareness campaigns.

Centre to develop four new tourist destinations in J&K with help from World Bank

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Buoyed by the increase in tourist footfall in Jammu and Kashmir, the government is planning to develop four new destinations with financial and technical help from the World Bank. Kokernag in Srinagar district, Baradari in Reasi district, Bhadarwah in Doda, and Doodhpathri in Budgam are the four sites which have been chosen to be developed with world class tourist infrastructure.



Hidden spots: A tourist taking a pony ride to reach Shaliganga river in Doodhpathri in Budgam district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The projects are being developed as a joint venture between The World Bank, Jammu and Kashmir Government and the Centre," a senior official in the Union Tourism Ministry said. The destinations were finalised last month after a World Bank delegation visited the State. Gulmarg, Pahalgam,

and Katra Valishno Devi and are some of the famous tourist destinations in Jammu and Kashmir at present. According to official estimates, Jammu and Kashmir received 1.2 million tourists arrivals in the first half of 2024. For development of these four new tourist destinations, the World Bank would essentially serve as a

Gyanvapi mosque committee opposes petitions against Places of Worship Act of 1991

Invalidating the law will lead to more disputes, says committee; it adds that Ayodhya verdict held that SC cannot entertain claims that stem from actions of Mughals against Hindu places of worship

Krishnadas Raigonda
NEW DELHI

Historical claims cannot be grounds for challenging the validity of a legislative enactment like the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act of 1991, the Gyanvapi mosque management has argued in the Supreme Court.



On alert: Security personnel stand guard outside the Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh, on Friday.

The Gyanvapi mosque management referred to how the Constitution Bench in the Ayodhya judgment had unequivocally held that the Supreme Court cannot entertain claims that stem from the actions of the Mughal rulers against Hindu places of worship in a court of law today. It also argued that seeking a sort of retribution against the perceived acts of previous rulers cannot be made a basis for a constitutional challenge, it said.

The *Ramjanmabhoomi* judgment had observed that "for any person who seeks solace or recourse

against the actions of any petition were listed before the Bench of Chief Justice of India Sanjay Khanna most of this week, but did not come up for hearing. The committee also blamed the 1991 law of barring Hindus, Jains, Buddhists and Sikhs from approaching courts to "reclaim" their places of worship which were "invaded" and "encroached" upon by "fundamentalist barbaric invaders".

The Centre, despite assurances, is yet to file its counter-affidavit to the challenge against the 1991 Act, which preserves the character of the religious places of worship across faiths as they existed on Independence day. In its application, filed through advocate Iqbal Ahmad Ayyubi, seeking permission to intervene in the case, the Gyanvapi mosque panel said that a challenge under Article 22 of the Constitution to a legislative enactment must be based on the unconstitutionality of its provisions. The mosque management submitted that the 1991 Act was a conscious decision by Parliament to let the past not haunt the future of the country.

Referring to the violence in Sambhal following the East, more specifically in a survey of the Jama Masjid there, the Gyanvapi mosque management said invalidating the 1991 Act would mean the rise of such disputes across the country.



Celebrating northeast: Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the inauguration of the Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav in New Delhi.

India's growth story will encompass northeast India: PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated the Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav in New Delhi with a focus on the northeastern States. "Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav is a celebration of a better future of the Northeast," Mr. Modi said.

He said that after the West-centric period, the 21st century belonged to the East, more specifically in Asia and India. He expressed his firm belief that in the time to come, India's growth story would encompass eastern India and the northeast in particular.

Terming the event as a first of its kind, Mr. Modi said the festival would open the doors to huge investment opportunities in northeastern India. Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav is a three-day cultural festival that is being celebrated for the first time from December 6 at the Bharat Mandapam. It highlights the vast cultural tapestry of northeastern India, bringing together an array of traditional arts, crafts, and cultural practices.

Mr. Modi said the first Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav would display the potential of the northeastern States to the country and the world.

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation wins global award

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India has bagged the International Social Security Association's Good Practice Award for Asia and Pacific for this year for five services provided by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).

EPFO president Mohammed Aman presented the award to the EPFO at the Regional Social Security Forum held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, earlier this week.

The EPFO received five Certificates of Merit for communication channels, conduct of proceedings, outreach programme *Nidhi Aapke Nikat* to educate and communicate with stakeholders, multi-lingual call centres, and the initiative *Prayavas* for pension order delivery.

The different communication channels in use to reach stakeholders received appreciation.

New norms for pilots can be implemented from July next year, DGCA tells Delhi HC

Jagriti Chandra
Soham Rocky Singh
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) informed the Delhi High Court on Friday that the new norms providing enhanced weekly rest and reduced night-time flying pilots to help them combat rising fatigue levels could only be implemented from July 2025 in a phased manner.

The rules, notified by the DGCA in January 2024, increased weekly rest for pilots from 36 hours to 48 hours as well as reduced night-time flying. They were to be implemented from June 2024, but following opposition from airlines, the regulator put the rules abeyance on March 26.

While hearing a writ petition filed by the Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP),



The rules were notified in January this year but kept in abeyance following opposition.

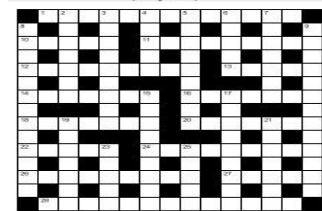
the Indian Pilots' Guild, and the Indian Commercial Pilots' Association, Justice Tara Vikas Ganai asked why the rules could not be implemented sooner. The court told the DGCA to hold another round of meeting with Air India and pilot bodies on December 18 to reach a consensus on the timeline of implementation. Two such mediation meetings have already taken place where Air India is learnt to

have pressed for wider industry consultations as well as indicated that the new norms could result in reduced salaries for pilots who operate narrow-body planes, because of a reduction in flying hours. The next hearing is on January 23.

"It is the considered view of the regulator, along with the Ministry, that to make it seamless and to address operational constraints, the readmission of the pilots, training and onboarding (of new pilots), software integration, [the implementation of the new rules] will require a phased implementation," additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhat, appearing for the DGCA, said.

Counsel for the DGCA said interests on all sides needed to be balanced, including those of passengers and the aviation sector.

TH CROSSWORD 14350



- Across**
- Quite different - otherwise Samoa American base is silent (5,2,3)
 - Peers at the ground (5)
 - Violent mob, active and aggressive (9)
 - New beginning to cut out, not opposed to a place of learning (9)

- To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site at <https://www.puzzlepage.com/india/crossword>
- Greec in the past like 11 (5)
 - Time consuming - velocity and time, nothing special (7)
 - Maritime hazard reported, I see sea bird heading west (7)
 - Moon of the fruit is for the monkey (7)
 - Temps with three quarters covered part-rejected (7)
 - Shameless in superhuman output, there is a marked rise (3-2)
 - A noble used to keep fancy car in the city (9)
 - Use a piece of fabric - order only with zero money (9)
 - Gradual illumination on both sides, time to shine (5)
 - Aggressively violent - Romeo, be gentle with Lily (3)
- Down**
- British weather, say close to the country at war (7)
 - In every survey both sides express their views on this furniture (4,5)
 - Lucky charm - Mike goes for a tie (5)
 - A land mine blast - you get stone (9)
 - "Lost in the middle" - Another name for a Japanese city (5)
 - Complaint from husband caught in unmarried circle (7)
 - Such tall growth will halt passenger movement (8,5)
 - Blockbuster drug? (13)
 - Honouring none - ordered fancy jewellery (9)
 - Essentially sent twice to protect - he got used to psychedelic drug (9)
 - Restrain him, one has left (7)
 - One not interested in a gathering (7)
 - Place to have fight - look for a prey (5)
 - Bang goes from gun barrel - shot the king (5)

SUDOKU

5			1		2			
6		2			3	7		
7	2				9	3		
5	8			1		6		
4	7		9	3		6		
3		8			6	9		

Solution to previous puzzle

9	8	6	2	3	5	4	1	7
3	5	2	6	4	1	6	9	8
5	7	4	3	6	2	9	8	1
2	1	3	4	9	8	5	7	6
7	6	1	9	5	7	2	3	4
8	3	1	9	5	4	7	6	2
7	6	9	8	2	3	1	4	5
4	2	5	1	7	6	8	3	9

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	8	6	2	3	5	4	1	7
3	5	2	6	4	1	6	9	8
5	7	4	3	6	2	9	8	1
2	1	3	4	9	8	5	7	6
7	6	1	9	5	7	2	3	4
8	3	1	9	5	4	7	6	2
7	6	9	8	2	3	1	4	5
4	2	5	1	7	6	8	3	9

FAITH

Greatness of Guru's grace

If people undertake good deeds, God bestows His blessings by helping them get the companionship of good Acharyas. Sri Ramakrishna said in a discourse that hearing Godly deeds and stories is a "raspa" and is also the easiest. Bhakti says hearing is the first step of the nine steps prescribed for devotion. Srimad Bhagavatham says King Parikshit derived divine blessings by listening to sage Sukha. Sage Yagyra Valkya says in *Brihadaranya Upanishad* that hearing is a necessary process for self-realisation. Uthukachari Venkata Kavi says nothing is impossible through listening to the story of God.

A verse in *Svetasvatara Upanishad* says (*yozya dewa para bhakti*) that a person showing devotion to God will get more clarifications on sastras by showing the same to his Guru. Saint Theerthavallur says listening is the wealth of wealth and the greatest of all wealth (*devathal Selvam - karal ah*). Chandokya Upanishad narrates Guru's greatness through the story of a disciple called Upakosalan. He rendered for 12 years the service of protecting three Agnikandas for the performance of homas and pleased with it, the three Agni deities, satisfied with the service to his Guru, taught Upakosalan about self-realisation and asked him to hear further from the Guru. The Guru Jabali was delighted and taught him all the *vidyas*.

Without Gurukrupa, there are no blessings from God. Without God's blessings, there is no devotion; without devotion, there is no liberation. Without liberation, there is no peace of mind. Without Guru's blessings, Goddess Mahalakshmi will not shower her grace. "Gurur Arul Itayel Thiru Arul Itai".

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation wins global award

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

India has bagged the International Social Security Association's Good Practice Award for Asia and Pacific for this year for five services provided by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).

ISSA president Mohammed Azman presented the award to the EPFO at the Regional Social Security Forum held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, earlier this week.

The EPFO received five Certificates of Merit for running "efficient" communication channels, conduct of e-proceedings, outreach programme *Nidhi Aapke Nikat*, running multilingual call centres, and the initiative *Prayaas* for pension order delivery.

The different communication channels in use to reach stakeholders received appreciation.

E-proceedings to determine dues from defaulting employers, have also been considered for the award

"Digital and non-digital communication strategy is being adopted for efficient and timely communication," the Union Labour Ministry said in a release on Thursday.

The EPFO uses webinars, short message service and e-mails, social media, information education communication videos and camps under *Nidhi Aapke Nikat* to educate and communicate with stakeholders.

E-proceedings, such as conducting judicial proceedings to determine dues from defaulting employers, have also been considered for the award, the Ministry said.

Employees Provident Fund Organisation

कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन



Organisation overview

Formed	4 March 1952
Jurisdiction	India
Headquarters	Bhavishya Nidhi Bhawan, 14, Bhikaiji Cama Place, New Delhi
Organisation executive	Ramesh Krishnamurthi, CPFC
Parent department	Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India
Parent Organisation	Central Board of Trustees (CBT)



- In employer contribution of 12%, 8.33% transfer to EPS (Employee Pension Scheme) and 3.67% transfer to EPF (Employee Provident Fund).
- Over and above, employer has to bear 0.50% as administrative charges on EPF and 0.50% as EDLI (employer's Deposit linked Insurance) Charges.
- So employer has to bear total 13% of basic wage

COMPANY NAME**Address****Salary Slip for the Month of: March 2022**

Employee Name		Total Days	30	
Employee Details		LOPs	4	
Employee ID		Paid Days	26	
Grade		Bank name		
Designation		A/c no.		
Department				
Earnings	Actual Salary	Earnings (Rs)	Deductions	Amount (Rs)
Basic Wage	14400	12480	EPF	1498
House Rent Allowances	5760	4992	ESI / Health Insurance	0
Conveyance Allowances	1600	1387	Professional Tax	
Medical Allowances	1250	1083	Loan Recovery	
Other Allowances	8990	7791		
Total Earnings		27733	Total Deductions	1498
Net Payable				26236
(amount in words)				
Authorized Signatory		Employee Signature		

- **Achievement**
- EPFO has won the **International Social Security Association's Good Practice Award for Asia and Pacific** in 2023.
 - ईपीएफओ को 2023 में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सामाजिक सुरक्षा संघ के एशिया और प्रशांत क्षेत्र के लिए गड प्रैक्टिस अवार्ड से सम्मानित किया गया है।



- 
- The award was presented by **ISSA President Mohammed Azman** during the Regional Social Security Forum held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. यह पुरस्कार सऊदी अरब के रियाद में आयोजित क्षेत्रीय सामाजिक सुरक्षा मंच के दौरान आईएसएसए के अध्यक्ष मोहम्मद अजमन द्वारा प्रदान किया गया।
- 

Recognized Services

Efficient communication channels.

- प्रभावी संचार चैनलों के लिए।

Conduct of e-proceedings.

- ई-कार्यवाही के संचालन के लिए।

Outreach programme **Nidhi Aapke Nikat**.

- आउटरीच कार्यक्रम **निधि आपके निकट** के लिए।

Multilingual call centres.

- बहुभाषी कॉल सेंटर के लिए।

Initiative **Prayaas** for pension order delivery.

- पेंशन आदेश वितरण के लिए पहल **प्रयास**।


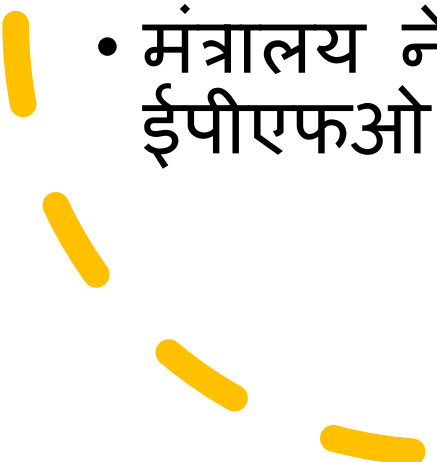
EPFO uses:

Webinars, short messages, emails, and social media for communication.

- वेबिनार, एसएमएस, ईमेल, और सोशल मीडिया का उपयोग करता है।

Information campaigns under **Nidhi Aapke Nikat**.

- निधि आपके निकट कार्यक्रम के तहत जानकारी अभियान।

- 
- E-proceedings help determine dues from defaulting employers.
 - ई-कार्यवाही डिफॉल्ट करने वाले नियोक्ताओं से बकाया राशि निर्धारित करने में मदद करती है।
 - The Ministry highlighted EPFO's adoption of **digital and non-digital strategies** for efficient communication.
 - मंत्रालय ने **डिजिटल और गैर-डिजिटल रणनीतियों** को अपनाने के लिए ईपीएफओ की सराहना की।
- 

Centre to develop four new tourist destinations in J&K with help from World Bank

Sreeparna Chakrabarty

NEW DELHI

Buoyed by the increase in tourist footfall in Jammu and Kashmir, the government is planning to develop four new destinations with financial and technical help from the World Bank. Kokernag in Anantnag district, Baradari in Reasi district, Bhadarwah in Doda, and Doodhpathri in Budgam are the four sites which have been chosen to be developed with world class tourist infrastructure.

“The projects are being developed as a joint venture between The World Bank, Jammu and Kashmir Government and the Centre,” a senior official in the Union Tourism Ministry said. The destinations were finalised last month after a World Bank delegation visited the State.

Gulmarg, Pahalgam,



Hidden spots: A tourist taking a pony ride to reach Shaliganga river in Doodhpathri in Budgam district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and Katra Vaishno Devi and are some of the famous tourist destinations in Jammu and Kashmir at present. According to official estimates, Jammu and Kashmir recorded 1.2 million tourists arrivals in the first half of 2024.

For development of these four new tourist destinations, the World Bank would essentially serve as a

primarily knowledge partner. It would also help in the promotion of the handicrafts industry. The World Bank team first visited Jammu and Kashmir in September.

Union Tourism Ministry officials said as far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, the focus would be on ecological sustainability.

Tourist Destinations: Four locations have been identified for development:

- Kokernag in Anantnag district.
- Baradari in Reasi district.
- Bhadarwah in Doda district.
- Doodhpathri in Budgam district.

ये चार स्थल विश्वस्तरीय पर्यटन बुनियादी ढांचे के साथ विकसित किए जाएंगे:

- अनंतनाग जिले में कोकरनाग।
- रियासी जिले में बारादरी।
- डोडा जिले में भद्रवाह।
- बडगाम जिले में दूधपथरी।

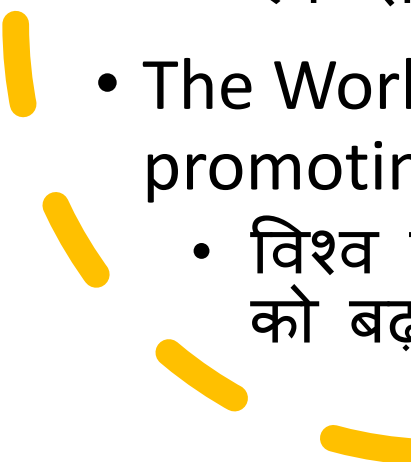


- **Collaboration with the World Bank**

- The project is a joint venture involving:

- The World Bank, the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, and the Central Government.

- यह परियोजना विश्व बैंक, जम्मू-कश्मीर सरकार, और केंद्र सरकार के बीच एक संयुक्त उपक्रम है।



- The World Bank will act as a **knowledge partner** and assist in promoting the handicrafts industry.

- विश्व बैंक एक **ज्ञान भागीदार** के रूप में कार्य करेगा और हस्तशिल्प उद्योग को बढ़ावा देने में मदद करेगा।

Tourism Growth in J&K

Tourist Footfall:

- Jammu and Kashmir recorded **1.2 million tourist arrivals** in the first half of 2024.
- 2024 के पहले छह महीनों में जम्मू और कश्मीर में **1.2 मिलियन पर्यटक** पहुंचे।

Popular destinations such as Gulmarg, Pahalgam, and Katra Vaishno Devi attract significant tourist interest.

- गुलमर्ग, पहलगाम, और कटरा वैष्णो देवी जैसे स्थान पहले से ही लोकप्रिय हैं।

Focus Areas

Ecological Sustainability:

- The Union Tourism Ministry aims to ensure the development aligns with ecological sustainability.
- केंद्रीय पर्यटन मंत्रालय पर्यावरणीय स्थिरता को प्राथमिकता दे रहा है।

Handicrafts Promotion:

- The project will promote Jammu and Kashmir's handicrafts industry as a key feature.
- परियोजना जम्मू-कश्मीर के हस्तशिल्प उद्योग को बढ़ावा देने पर भी केंद्रित होगी।

World Bank Involvement

A World Bank delegation visited Jammu and Kashmir in September to finalize the project.

- विश्व बैंक के प्रतिनिधिमंडल ने सितंबर में परियोजना को अंतिम रूप देने के लिए जम्मू और कश्मीर का दौरा किया।

In 2022, the top five Indian states with the highest number of domestic tourist visits were:

1. **Uttar Pradesh:** 317.91 million visits
2. **Tamil Nadu:** 218.58 million visits
3. **Andhra Pradesh**
4. **Karnataka**
5. **Maharashtra**

Top 5 States by Foreign Tourist Visits in 2023:

1. **Maharashtra:** 3,387,739 foreign tourists
2. **Gujarat:** 2,806,871 foreign tourists
3. **West Bengal:** 2,706,942 foreign tourists
4. **Delhi:** 1,828,116 foreign tourists
5. **Rajasthan:** 1,699,869 foreign tourists

OPPOSES CHALLENGE TO 1991 ACT

Consequences are bound to be drastic: Gyanvapi panel to SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 5

OPPOSING PETITIONS challenging the constitutional validity of the Places of Worship Act, the management committee of the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi has approached the Supreme Court, saying that the "consequences" of allowing them "are bound to be drastic".

In an intervention application, the mosque committee pointed to the violence in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh, where a court permitted the survey of the Shahi Jama Masjid by allowing an application for the appointment of a survey commissioner, the



Mosque committee referred to the Sambhal violence

very day the suit was presented, in ex parte proceedings. "The incident led to widespread violence and has claimed, as per reports, at least six citizens' lives. The declaration

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CRR CUT TO 4%, WILL RELEASE ₹1.16 LAKH CRORE

RBI holds key rate, lowers growth forecast, moves to boost liquidity

FY25 GDP projection slashed to 6.6% and inflation forecast raised to 4.8%

HITESH VYAS
MUMBAI, DECEMBER 6

IN LINE with expectations, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Friday lowered the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 50 basis points (bps) to 4 per cent to boost liquidity in the financial system, even as the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) left the repo rate — the key policy rate — unchanged at 6.5 per cent for the

11th consecutive time. The rate-setting panel, however, slashed the GDP growth estimate to 6.6 per cent in FY2025 from 7.2 per cent projected earlier and revised upwards the consumer price index-based inflation (CPI), or retail inflation, forecast to 4.8 per cent for the current fiscal from 4.5 per cent estimated earlier. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, while announcing the policy, said, "To ease the potential



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday.

liquidity stress, it has now been decided to reduce the cash reserve ratio of all banks to 4 per cent of net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) in two equal tranches of 25 bps each with effect from the fortnight beginning December 14, 2024 and December 28, 2024."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

E **What CRR cut means**

THE MOVE to cut the CRR — the percentage of a bank's total deposits that it is required to maintain in liquid cash with the RBI as a reserve — will free up Rs 1.16 lakh crore to the banking system, augmenting the lendable resources of banks.

REPORTS, PAGE 17

Jinns, gold and a 'black magic' gang: Murder of an NRI businessman

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DECEMBER 6

FOR SEVERAL months, Jimmuma [Jin Mother] had been conducting rituals at Gulf-based businessman Abdul Gaffoor's house in Kerala's Kasaragod district to cure his wife Shareefa, who suffered from back pain and depression.

On the night of April 13, 2023, Jimmuma and her associates went to Gaffoor's house when all his relatives were away and told him that he also needed to un-



The four accused were arrested on Thursday

dergo some of these rituals as part of their efforts to "exorcise the jinns" that they had convinced him was the cause of his wife's suffering. They then covered his

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

BUSINESS AS USUAL
By UNNNY



EXPRESS NETWORK

TEARGAS USED ON FARMERS MARCHING TO DELHI, 15 INJURED

HASHIMPURA CASE: SC GRANTS BAIL TO 8 CONVICTS PAGES 9, 10

Uproar in House as Dhankhar says 'wad of cash' found on Singhvi seat

Congress MP says not his money, demands probe

NIKHILA HENRY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

RAJYA SABHA Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar announced in the House Friday that "a wad of currency notes" was recovered from a seat allotted to Congress MP Abhishek Manu Singhvi at the closing of the House Thursday, triggering an uproar and a war of words between BJP and Opposition members, leading to adjournment of the Upper House. Singhvi termed the "recovery" of cash from his seat as



PM Narendra Modi, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, V-P Jagdeep Dhankhar, Speaker Om Birla and former President Ram Nath Kovind at an event at Parliament House to pay tribute to Dr B R Ambedkar on his death anniversary.

"bizarre" and demanded a probe. Dhankhar said the cash was found during a routine "anti-sabotage" security check of the

Chamber. "Apparently, a wad of currency notes was recovered by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Foreign Secy going to Bangladesh on Dec 9 for consultations: India

Visit comes amid strain in ties following violence against Hindus there, protests

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

AMID THE strain in ties between the two countries, India announced Friday that Foreign Secretary Vikram Muri will be visiting Bangladesh on December 9 for "consultations". The visit comes days after New Delhi urged Dhaka to ensure the safety and security of Hindus and other minorities there following reports of violence against them.

Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, said, "The Foreign Secretary is scheduled to visit Bangla-



A protest at West Bengal's Hill over alleged atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh.

des for Foreign Office Consultations on December 9. This is part of our structured interactions with the Bangladesh side." Last week, Bangladesh police arrested Hindu monk Chinnmyo

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

THE UNION Cabinet on Friday approved Rs 8,231 crore for what may be the largest expansion of central schools in a decade, sanctioning 85 new Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) and 28 Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs). The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir will receive the highest number of new KVs (13), while Arunachal Pradesh will get the most JNVs (8).

KVs are intended for children of central government and defence employees. JNVs, on the

other hand, are residential schools (from Class VI to XII) established in rural districts to nurture talented students from rural areas.

Currently, apart from those newly approved by the Union Cabinet on Friday, there are 1,256 functional KVs and 653 functional JNVs.

The 85 new central schools will be established over a period of eight years starting from 2025-26, while the 28 JNVs will be set up over five years from 2024-25 to 2028-29. Collectively, these schools are expected to create additional enrolment capacity for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

My mobile battery is running low. Here's a charging port that will come to my rescue!

Avoid public charging ports or portable wall chargers

Practice cyber hygiene everyday!

- Cybercriminals may steal your data and personal details

Become Cyber Smart!

RBI Kehta Hai... Make a Right Start, Become...

What the collapse of France's govt means, what happens now

RISHIKA SINGH

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 6

PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON has vowed to stay in office until the end of his term in 2027, defying calls for his resignation after the minority government of Prime Minister Michel Barnier collapsed in dramatic fashion in a historic vote in France's National Assembly on Wednesday.

Barnier, a veteran conservative who was appointed to the post by Macron only in September, has become the

shortest-serving prime minister of the French Fifth Republic that began in 1958.

The vote of no-confidence came amid disagreements among parties about government spending, but is linked to deeper issues in French politics that became evident following the snap election that Macron called in June.

Here is what to know about the political crisis in the world's seventh-largest economy, and what happens next.

Vote of no-confidence

The no-confidence vote was meant to convey parliament's rejection of the government's budget proposals. The draft aimed to cut government spending by measures including reining in pensions, and save around €60 billion through austerity measures.

However, it was unpopular among parties on both the left and the right. Support from either of these two parliamentary groups was essential for the government to survive, since none of the three major political blocs — the left-wing, the right-wing, and Barnier's centre-right — have a majority.

Anticipating a crisis, Barnier invoked Article 49.3 of the French Constitution, which allows the prime minister, after deliberation by the council of ministers, to force a Bill through the National Assembly without a vote, according to a report in *Le Monde*.

This meant the only way to prevent the Bill from passing was for the opposition parties to initiate a motion of no-confidence



French President Macron during a televised address on Thursday. Reuters

against the government. This is what they did, and succeeded.

Problem of cohabitation

Much of the current instability stems from Macron's decision to dissolve the National Assembly and call snap polls in June after right-wing parties won a significant

number of votes in the EU Parliament elections that month.

The President took a political gamble, believing that voters would be less inclined to support those parties in national polls. At that time, Macron's centre-right Ensemble coalition was the largest alliance in parliament, but no group held a majority.

But instead of galvanising in favour of Ensemble, voters favoured left-wing parties, which won the largest number of seats. Far-right parties, including Marine Le Pen's National Rally, made gains at the cost of Macron's coalition.

In France's semi-presidential, representative parliamentary democracy, the president is empowered to appoint the prime minister. After some delay, Macron cobbled together a coalition with Barnier's conservative The Republicans party.

This enraged the parties on the left, who believed they had the people's mandate as the largest bloc. While there is no legal obligation on the president to appoint the leader of the largest party in parliament, leaders of

parties with popular support are generally appointed to avoid public backlash.

Barnier's appointment led to a situation known as "cohabitation" in France — one in which the prime minister and the president belong to different parties. Periods of cohabitation are unusual, but not unheard of in France — and because the two leaders represent different political agendas and views, such periods have typically witnessed a tussle between parliament and the president in the passage of legislation.

What comes next?

Macron has said a new prime minister will be named in the coming days. A few names, mostly of centrist and centre-right leaders such as Sébastien Lecornu, François Bayrou, and Xavier Bertrand have been floated in the French media as possible candidates for the post.

Until then, Barnier will head a caretaker government. A special law will be presented by mid-December to enable the state to levy taxes from next year, based on existing rules,

and avoid a government shutdown. The new government will then prepare a budget law for 2025.

Given the deep divisions in parliament, there is no guarantee the new PM will not face similar challenges. However, according to rules under the French Constitution, the next parliamentary elections cannot be held until July 2025.

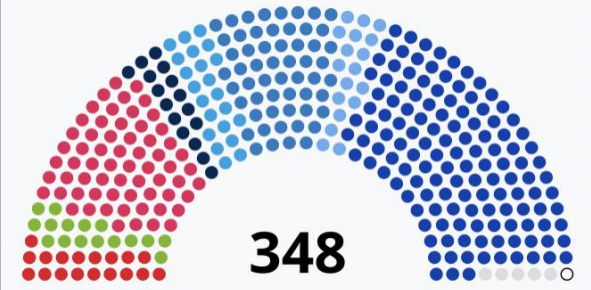
Marta Lorimer, a lecturer in politics at the UK's Cardiff University, told *France 24*, "What is at stake is France's financial stability... France is effectively going into the new year without a budget and no clear majority to pass one. Although it will be possible to extend the 2024 budget to avoid a government shutdown, this does mean that no new measures can be introduced, be it cuts or expenditures, and it is unclear how — or when — a new budget could be passed."

Concerns have been raised for France's economy and high debt as well. Rating agency Moody's said the government's fall on Wednesday "reduces the likelihood of consolidating public finances".

EXPLAINED
GLOBAL

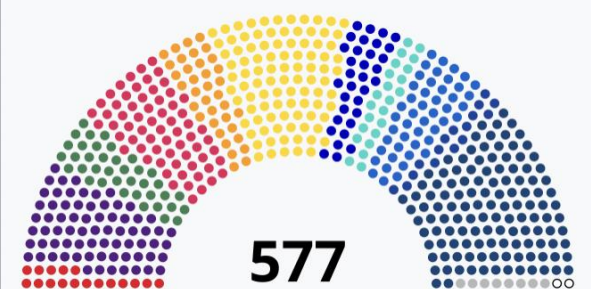
Structure

Seats **925**
348 (Senate)
577 (National Assembly)



Senate political groups


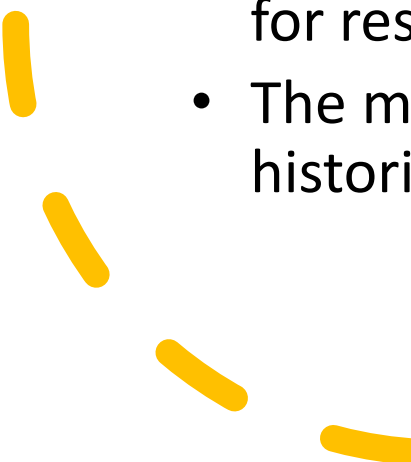
- SR (133)
- S (64)
- UC (56)
- RDPI (22)
- CRCE (18)
- LIRT (18)
- E (17)
- RDSE (16)
- RASNAG (4)



National Assembly political groups


Caretaker Government^[1] (213)

- ER (99)^[a]
- DR (47)^[b]
- LD (36)^[c]
- HOR (31)^[d]

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- **Political Crisis in France: Collapse of Government and Future Implications**
 - **Background:**
 - **President Emmanuel Macron's Minority Government:**
 - French President Macron vowed to continue his term until 2027 despite calls for resignation.
 - The minority government of Prime Minister Michel Barnier collapsed after a historic no-confidence vote in the National Assembly.
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- **Michel Barnier's Tenure:**

- Appointed by Macron in September, Barnier became the shortest-serving PM in France's Fifth Republic (since 1958).
 - His government faced internal disputes over austerity measures.
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Key Developments:

No-Confidence Vote:

- Aimed at rejecting the government's budget proposal, including measures to save €60 billion.
- Unpopular across political parties, the vote resulted in Barnier's government losing majority support.



- **Problem of Cohabitation:**

- France's semi-presidential system led to cohabitation, where the PM and President belong to different parties.
- Barnier's conservative alignment (The Republicans) clashed with left-wing and far-right factions.



- **Political Gamble:**

- Macron's coalition dissolved in June led to snap elections.
- This fragmented the parliament, benefiting far-right parties like Marine Le Pen's National Rally.

1. Legal Mechanisms:

1. Article 49.3 of the French Constitution allowed Barnier to bypass parliamentary approval for the budget.
2. This triggered widespread criticism and a motion of no-confidence.

What Comes Next:

Caretaker Government:

- Barnier will head a caretaker government temporarily.
- A special Bill will levy taxes for the next year under existing rules.

Appointment of New PM:

- Macron is set to name a new Prime Minister soon, with centrists and conservatives as potential candidates.

Financial Stability at Stake:

- France enters the new year without a clear budget or majority to pass one.
- Moody's downgraded France's financial outlook, citing rising debt concerns.

Challenges Ahead:

Economic Implications:



- Lack of new measures could hinder France's economic recovery.
- France's financial credibility faces risks from high debt and the absence of a budget.

Future Elections:

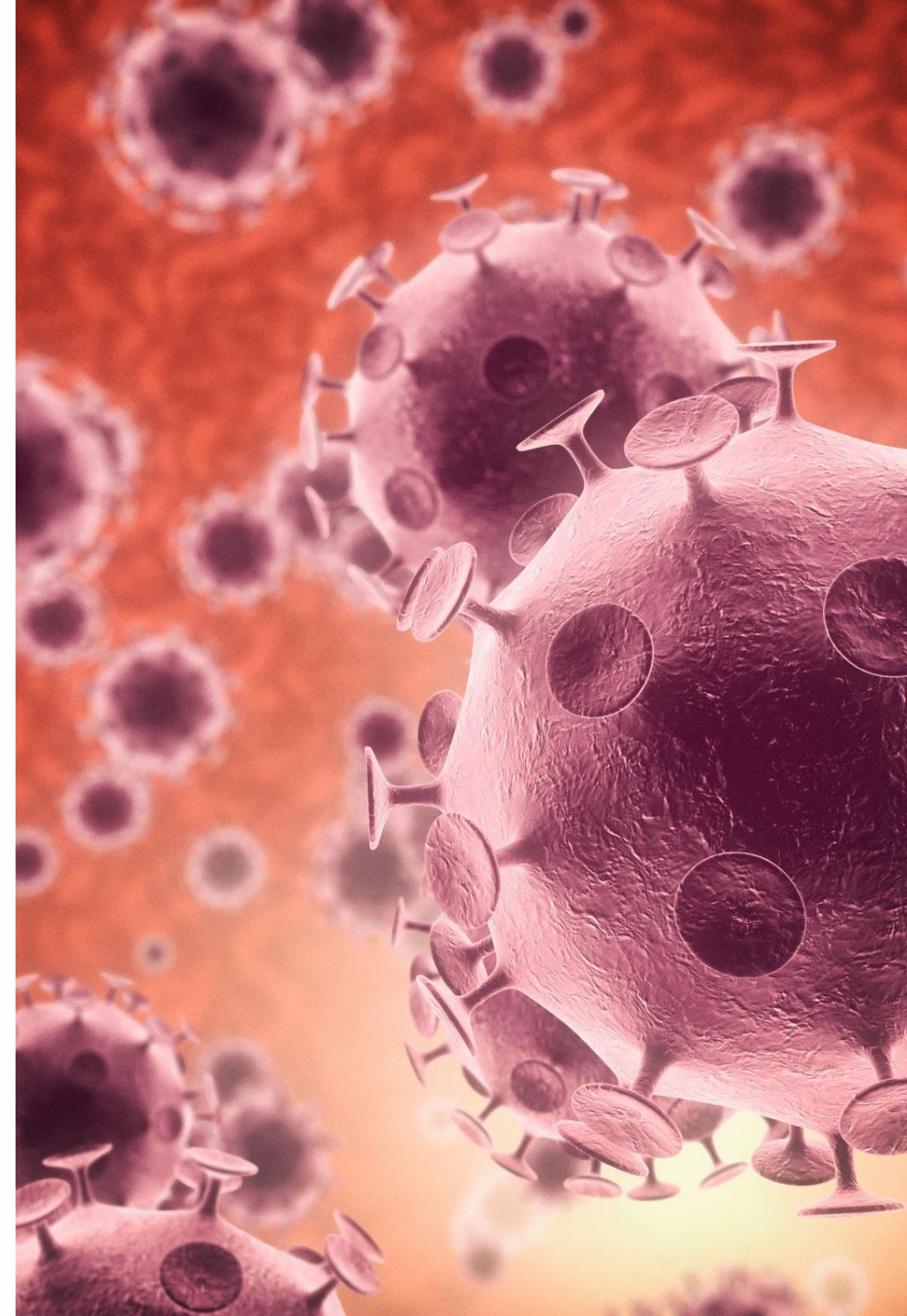
- French parliamentary elections cannot be held before July 2025 under constitutional rules.

India and Slovenia Announce Five-Year Collaboration Plan



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- India and Slovenia have announced the finalization of a Programme of Co-operation (PoC) for the period **2024–2029**.
 - **About**
 - The India-Slovenia partnership, rooted in a **1995 agreement**, has grown through programs such as the **Joint Working Group on Scientific and Technological Cooperation**.
 - The PoC will open up opportunities for joint research in transformative fields such as **hydrogen technologies and sustainable innovation**, while also facilitating greater academic exchange.
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Marburg Virus Disease (MVD)



A deadly outbreak of **Marburg Virus Disease (MVD)**, often called the **'bleeding eye disease'**, has emerged in Rwanda, Africa.

About MVD (also known as Marburg Haemorrhagic Fever)

Ebola's Twin: MVD belongs to the filovirus family, like Ebola.

- Both cause rare but severe outbreaks with high fatality rates.

Origin: First outbreak occurred in Marburg, Germany (1967).

- Subsequent outbreaks reported across Africa, including Tanzania, Ghana, and now Rwanda

Transmission: *Rousettus aegyptiacus*, a fruit bat species, is the natural reservoir.

- Virus spreads to humans from infected fruit bats.
- Human-to-human transmission occurs through contact with infected bodily fluids


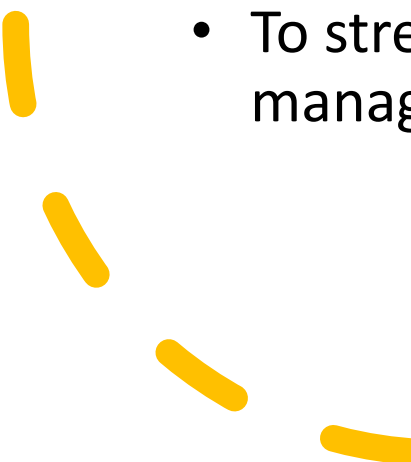
Symptoms: Severe headache, Pain, Bleeding from eyes, gums, nose

Diagnosis and Treatment: Diagnosed using ELISA or RT-PCR tests.

- No approved vaccines or specific antivirals, only supportive care.



National Legal Metrology Portal (eMaap)

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- The Department of Consumer Affairs, is developing the National Legal Metrology Portal (eMaap).
 - **About**
 - **Aim:** To integrate State Legal Metrology Departments and their portals into a **unified National System.**
 - To streamline processes for issuing licenses, conducting verifications and managing enforcement and compliance
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The background features a complex, abstract pattern of glowing blue and white lines and particles. The lines are wavy and flow across the frame, creating a sense of movement and energy. Small, bright white and blue dots are scattered throughout, some appearing to be part of the larger structures. The overall effect is reminiscent of a digital or scientific visualization, such as a network or a data stream.

Anna Chakra and SCAN Portal

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- The Union government recently launched the **Anna Chakra** and the **Subsidy Claim Application for NFSA (SCAN) portal**, ushering in reforms to modernize the Public Distribution System (PDS) and streamline subsidy claim processes.
 - **What is Anna Chakra?**
 - It is developed by the Department of Food and Public Distribution in collaboration with the **World Food Programme (WFP)** and IIT Delhi's Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT).
 - It employs advanced algorithms to **optimize food grain movement across the supply chain**, involving farmers, transporters, warehouses, and Fair Price Shops (FPS).

- **SCAN Portal**

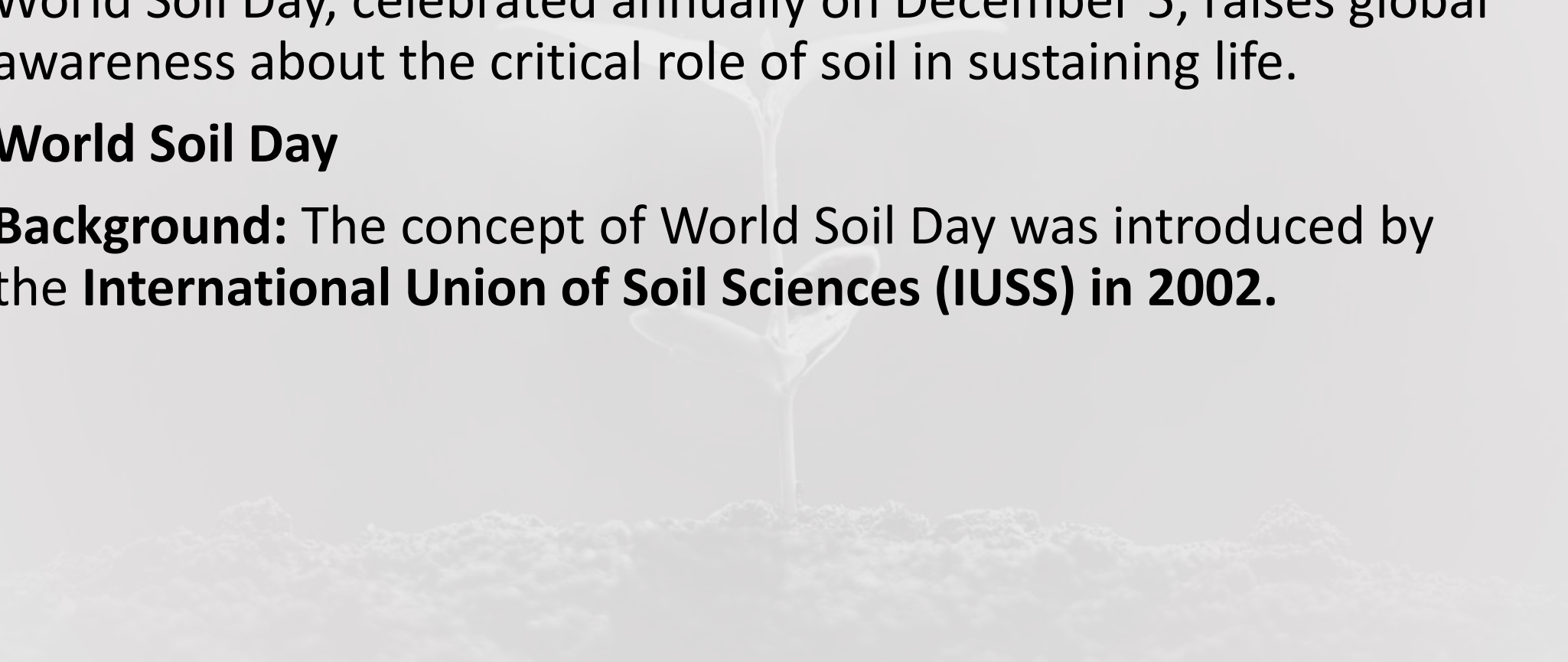
- The Subsidy Claim Application for **NFSA (SCAN) Portal** aims to simplify and expedite the subsidy claim process for states under the NFSA.


- **Key features include:**

- **Single-Window Submission:** Ensures streamlined claim submission by states.
- **Automated Workflow:** Rule-based automation of claim scrutiny, approval, and settlement.
- **Efficiency in Subsidy Settlement:** Enables real-time monitoring and reduces delays in fund disbursement.

A close-up photograph of a small, vibrant green seedling with two leaves growing out of a crack in parched, cracked earth. The soil is a mix of light and dark brown, showing deep, irregular fissures. The background is blurred, emphasizing the seedling as a symbol of resilience and hope.

World Soil Day 2024

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- World Soil Day, celebrated annually on December 5, raises global awareness about the critical role of soil in sustaining life.
 - **World Soil Day**
 - **Background:** The concept of World Soil Day was introduced by the **International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) in 2002.**

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- The FAO Conference unanimously endorsed World Soil Day in June **2013** and in December 2013, the **UN General Assembly** responded by designating 5 December 2014 as the first official World Soil Day.
 - **Theme for 2024:** Caring for Soils: Measure, Monitor, Manage.




- **Global Initiatives**

- **Global Soil Partnership (GSP):** It is an FAO-led initiative to improve global soil governance and promote sustainable soil management.
- **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD):** It works to prevent land degradation and promote sustainable land management globally.
 - It has a pledge for **land degradation neutrality (LDN) by 2030.**
- **4 per 1000 Initiative:** It aims to increase soil carbon stocks by 0.4% annually to combat climate change and enhance soil health.

- **Myth:** Shaving makes your hair grow back thicker and darker.

Burst: Shaving doesn't change the thickness or color of your hair. It might feel coarser because shaving cuts hair at the surface, leaving it with a blunt tip, which feels rougher as it grows back.



A group of people in a meeting, with several hands raised in the air, suggesting an interactive session or a discussion. The image is overlaid with a dark semi-transparent layer. In the top left corner, there is a solid orange horizontal bar and a cluster of small red dots. The text 'Thank you guys.' is written in white on the left side, with a white horizontal line underneath it.

Thank you
guys.
