




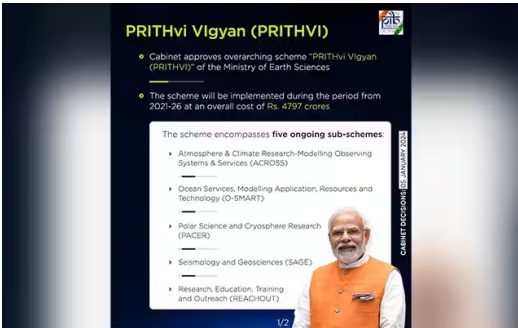
06 January 2024

National and International News

<p><b>NSO estimate on India's GDP</b></p> 	<p><b>Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>india's real GDP growth in 2023-24 is estimated at <b>7.3%, compared to 7.2%</b> a year ago, as per the first advance estimates of national income released by the <b>National Statistical Office (NSO)</b></li> <li>The economy will outperform the 7% uptick recently projected by the <b>Reserve Bank of India (RBI)</b>.</li> <li>GVA growth for the farm sector is <b>estimated to more than halve from 4% a year ago to 1.8% this year</b>, as is the case for Trade, Hotels, Transport, Communication and Services.</li> </ul>
<p><b>National Statistical Office (NSO)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSO acts as the <b>nodal agency under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation</b> for planned development of the statistical system in the country</li> <li>It <b>lays down and maintains norms and standards</b> in the field of statistics, involving concepts and definitions, methodology of data collection, processing of data and dissemination of results.</li> <li>The National Statistical Office(NSO) consists of the <b>Central Statistical Office (CSO)</b>, the <b>Computer center and the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)</b>.</li> <li>It compiles and releases the <b>Index of Industrial Production (IIP)</b> every month in the form of 'quick estimates'; conducts the <b>Annual Survey of Industries (ASI)</b>; and provides statistical information to assess and evaluate the changes in the growth, composition and structure of the organized manufacturing sector.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Greenfield corridors in Kerala</b></p>	<p><b>Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari announced <b>greenfield corridors aimed at enhancing road connectivity in Kerala</b>.</li> <li>He virtually inaugurated three projects and laid the foundation stone for nine national highway projects totalling 105 km and costing ₹1,464 crore under the <b>Bharat Pariyojana scheme</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points</b></p>




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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One of the greenfield corridors is the 121-km <b>NH-966 Kozhikode-Palakkad</b> stretch estimated at ₹10,371 crore. The stretch will reduce travel time between Palakkad and Kozhikode from four to one-and-a-half hours.</li> <li>• The <b>NH-744 Kollam-Sengottai stretch</b> and the <b>Thiruvananthapuram Outer Ring Road</b> are the other greenfield corridors.</li> <li>• Additionally, the <b>SH1/NH 183 Thiruvananthapuram-Kochi stretch</b>, Kutta Malappuram Economic Corridor, and the NH-544 Angamali-Kundanur stretch will be upgraded for improved connectivity under the project.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bharatmala Pariyojana</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is an <b>umbrella program for the highways sector</b> that focuses on optimizing efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country.</li> <li>• This will be done by development of <b>Economic Corridors, Inter Corridors and Feeder Routes, National Corridor Efficiency Improvement, Border and International connectivity roads, Coastal and Port connectivity roads and Green-field expressways.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>‘Prithvi’ programme for earth observation</b></p> 	<p><b>Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Union Cabinet cleared a ₹4,797-crore programme called <b>‘Prithvi’ (Earth)</b> that is expected to subsume five existing schemes of the <b>Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)</b>.</li> <li>• A major component of the Ministry is the <b>Deep Ocean Mission or DOM</b> [one of whose objectives is to send a manned submersible 6,000 metres into the Indian Ocean].</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Prithvi programme broadly <b>subsumes all of our other major activities</b></li> <li>• These programmes are to improve and increase             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>long-term observations of the atmosphere, ocean, geosphere, cryosphere, and solid earth</b> to track changes in the planet;</li> <li>○ develop models to understand and predict weather, ocean and climate hazards,</li> <li>○ and understand the science of climate change;</li> <li>○ explore polar and high-seas regions of the earth to discover new phenomena and resources;</li> <li>○ develop techno-logy for exploration and sustainable harnessing of oceanic resources</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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	<p>for societal applications;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ and translate knowledge and insights from earth system science into services for societal, environmental, and economic benefit.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Satellite for Mauritius</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Cabinet approved an agreement between the <b>Indian Space Research Organisation and the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council</b> to jointly develop a “small satellite.”</li> <li>● It is expected to cost <b>₹20 crore</b>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ISRO tests fuel cell-based power system in space</b></p> 	<p><b>Context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully tested a <b>100 W-class Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cell-based Power System (FCPS)</b> in its orbital platform, POEM3</li> <li>● The FCPS payload is significant as it has potential applications in India’s space station which is proposed to come up by 2035.</li> <li>● It provided a wealth of data on the performance of various static and dynamic systems that formed part of the power system and the physics at play.</li> </ul>

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