




17 February 2024

National and International New

<p><b>Himachal's GDP to see growth at 7.1%</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Despite facing severe challenges from nature, <b>Himachal Pradesh is projected to experience a GDP growth of 7.1%.</b></li> <li>• The State's economy has shown resilience despite the <b>heavy monsoon rains that caused significant damage in July 2023.</b></li> <li>• In the financial year <b>2023-24</b>, the GDP growth is expected to increase from <b>6.9% in the previous year to 7.1%.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Economic survey projects that the <b>State's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant prices</b> will increase by over ₹9,428 crore in the current financial year compared to the previous year.</li> <li>• The survey highlights Himachal Pradesh's substantial <b>hydroelectric potential</b>, with the State possessing about <b>25% of the national potential.</b></li> <li>• It is estimated that about <b>24,000 MW of hydroelectric power can be generated</b> from the construction on the five perennial river basins in the State.</li> <li>• Currently, <b>11,209 MW of the total hydroelectric potential have been harnessed.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>DAC Clears ₹84,560 Crore Deals for Torpedoes, Refueller Aircraft, and More</b></p> 	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DAC(Defence Acquisition council)</b> has approved new deals including torpedoes and refueller aircraft, among others, worth ₹84,560 crore.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These deals aim to enhance the attacking capabilities of <b>submarines, improve reconnaissance, and strengthen maritime capabilities.</b></li> <li>• The approval includes the <b>procurement of heavy weight torpedoes for Navy's submarines, flight refueller aircraft for the Air Force,</b> and other equipment like anti-tank mines, radars, and software-defined radios.</li> <li>• Additionally, amendments to the <b>Defence</b></li> </ul>



**Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020** were approved, focusing on benchmarking, cost computation, payment schedule, and procurement quantity.

**Gulf Stream**



**Context:**

- A recent study suggests that the **Gulf Stream** could collapse as soon as **2025**, potentially leading to a mini ice age.

**Key points:**

- The **Gulf Stream** is a major ocean current that profoundly impacts **climate, weather, and marine ecosystems, starting in the Gulf of Mexico and extending across the Atlantic Ocean to Europe.**
- It flows northeastward along the eastern coast of the United States before veering eastward into the Atlantic Ocean and towards Europe.

**Impacts:**

- The **Gulf Stream's impact on climate and weather** has significant economic implications for industries like **agriculture, fishing, tourism, and transportation.**
- It influences **sea routes and shipping lanes**, affecting navigation and **trade between North America and Europe.**
- For example, ports such as **Miami and Savannah in the USA** benefit from the Gulf Stream's moderating influence, maintaining relatively mild temperatures year-round.
- Similarly, the **Port of Rotterdam in the Netherlands and the Port of Hamburg in Germany** benefit from the Gulf Stream, facilitating year-round shipping activities without significant interruptions due to ice formation.
- The **Port of Antwerp in Belgium** also benefits. Changes in the Gulf Stream could have far-reaching consequences for coastal communities, economies, and ecosystems.

**Chabahar port**

**Context:**

- India has encouraged Central Asian nations to utilize the **Chabahar port in Iran** to boost connectivity and trade with India and other global partners.

**Key points:**

- During the **sixth Regional Dialogue of Secretaries of Security Councils/National**



**Security Advisers on Afghanistan** in Bishkek, India's Deputy National Security Adviser, Vikram Misri, emphasized the need for an **"inclusive and representative"** government in Afghanistan, advocating for a consensus-based approach towards the **Taliban-led administration**.


- In discussions with representatives from **Iran, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan**, Misri extended invitations for Central Asian neighbors to leverage the Chabahar port and the Shahid Beheshti terminal for maritime trade with India and beyond.

**Chabahar port**

- Chabahar Port, situated in **southeastern Iran on the Gulf of Oman**, is Iran's sole oceanic port, comprising **two separate ports** named **Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti**.
- It is approximately **170 kilometers west of Gwadar, a Pakistani port**.
- The port is strategically located on the **Makran coast of Sistan and Baluchistan Province**, at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz, providing Iran with direct access to the **Indian Ocean**.
- Due to its proximity to Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and other Central Asian countries, it is often referred to as the **"Golden Gate" to these landlocked nations**.
- Chabahar is also **700 kilometers away from Zahedan, the capital of the Sistan and Baluchistan province**.



Kerala Regional News

<p>Kottarakara to host Kerala's first campus industrial park and R&amp;D centre</p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As part of efforts to promote 'work near home' (WNH) culture and create high-end technical jobs in rural areas and Tier III cities, the Kerala Startup Mission and Institute of Human Resources Development are setting up the State's first campus industrial park and R&amp;D centre at the College of Engineering, Kottarakara.</li> <li>Zoho Corporation will offer training in cutting-edge technologies, including AI and robotics at the centre.</li> </ul>
<p>Kerala Brand logo unveiled</p> 	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kerala's Industries Minister, P. Rajeev, unveiled the logo and web portal for the "Kerala Brand" initiative.</li> <li>This ambitious project aims to enhance global access and demand for high-quality products made in Kerala, encompassing various sectors like food, spices, coir, textiles, and Ayurveda.</li> </ul> <p><b>About:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The branding initiative will safeguard the interests of both the manufacturers and customers by assuring the quality and authenticity of the products based on well-laid protocols and certification.</li> <li>The entrepreneurs who wish to market their products under the Kerala Brand can apply through the dedicated web portal <a href="http://www.keralabrand.industry.kerala.gov.in">www.keralabrand.industry.kerala.gov.in</a> set up by the Department of Industries and Commerce.</li> </ul>
<p>Kerala has the highest unemployment rate in 15-29 age group: survey</p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While Kerala boasts impressive social indicators like high literacy and life expectancy, it grapples with a significant challenge: youth unemployment.</li> </ul>



- A recent survey revealed that **Kerala has the highest unemployment rate in the 15-29 age group, exceeding 28%** compared to the national average of 10%.
- This poses a major concern for the state's economic development and social fabric.
- Also, in terms of the **Worker Population Ratio (WPR)**, which is the percentage of employed persons in the population, Kerala is still lagging behind most of the north and northeast States, despite the State being home to over 30 lakh migrant workers.
- According to the results of the survey conducted in the last three years for a period from July to June, Kerala is in 23rd position with 50.5% WPR in 2022-2023 among the 28 States in the country, followed by Bihar, Delhi, Goa, Haryana, Manipur, and Punjab.

State government finalizes rates of Supplyco subsidized goods

Revised prices of essential goods

Item	Quantity for ration card holder a month	Rate in open market (in ₹)	Revised price with 35% subsidy (in ₹)
Moong dal ( <i>cherupayar</i> )	1 kg	142.50	92
Urad dal ( <i>uzhunnu ball</i> )	1 kg	146.57	95
Chana ( <i>vankadala</i> )	1 kg	107.57	69
Red cow peas ( <i>vanpayar</i> )	1 kg	116.57	75
Toor dal ( <i>thuvara parippu</i> )	1 kg	171.50	111
Chilli	0.5 kg	126.25	82
Coriander	0.5 kg	60.14	39
Sugar	1 kg	42.89	27
Coconut oil	0.5 L	85.04	55
Jaya rice	10 kg	45.31/kg	29/kg
Kuruva rice	10 kg	46.22/kg	30/kg
Matta rice	10kg	47.47/kg	30/kg
Raw rice	10kg	40.07/kg	26/kg

Context:

- The Kerala government issued orders revising the prices of 13 essential commodities supplied through Supplyco outlets in the State.
- The Cabinet had green-lit a proposal submitted by the Food and Civil Supplies department to revise the pricing mechanism of items sold through Supplyco.
- As a result, the subsidy provided for commodities was brought down to 35% of the open market rates.
- Aim is to make these goods more affordable and accessible, particularly for low-income families.

About:

- In the absence of a mechanism that constantly reviewed the prices, some items were sold with subsidies as high as 70%.
- This has led to a huge financial liability for the State-run agency that has been finding it increasingly difficult to pay its suppliers and replenish its stock.

CSIR-NIIST transfers technology for single-use biodegradable tableware

Context:

- The National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST), Thiruvananthapuram, a constituent laboratory of





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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

CSIR, has signed an agreement with East Corridor Consultant India Pvt. Ltd., a Lucknow-based clean-tech start-up, for transferring its technology for manufacturing single-use biodegradable tableware from rice and wheat waste.

- The developed cutlery is shelf-stable for up to 10 to 12 months and can serve hot/boiled solid and liquid food.
- It has enough tensile strength to hold food item according to its shape and can resist microbial growth for up to 12 months in India's humid atmospheric conditions.

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