




6 January 2024

National and International News

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

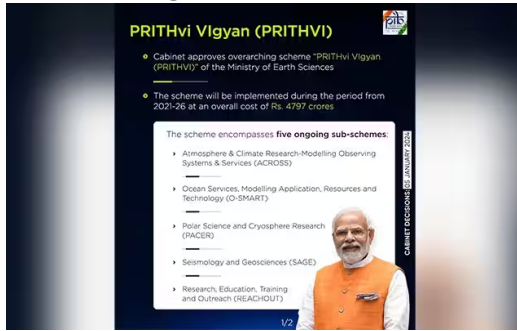


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	<p>enhancing road connectivity in Kerala.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He virtually inaugurated three projects and laid the foundation stone for nine national highway projects totalling 105 km and costing ₹1,464 crore under the Bharat Pariyojana scheme. <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the greenfield corridors is the 121-km NH-966 Kozhikode-Palakkad stretch estimated at ₹10,371 crore. The stretch will reduce travel time between Palakkad and Kozhikode from four to one-and-a-half hours. • The NH-744 Kollam-Sengottai stretch and the Thiruvananthapuram Outer Ring Road are the other greenfield corridors. • Additionally, the SH1/NH 183 Thiruvananthapuram-Kochi stretch, Kutta Malappuram Economic Corridor, and the NH-544 Angamali-Kundanur stretch will be upgraded for improved connectivity under the project.
Bharatmala Pariyojana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is an umbrella program for the highways sector that focuses on optimizing efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country. • This will be done by development of 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.



'Prithvi' programme for earth observation



Context

- The Union Cabinet cleared a ₹4,797-crore programme called **'Prithvi' (Earth)** that is expected to subsume five existing schemes of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**.
- A major component of the Ministry is the **Deep Ocean Mission or DOM** [one of whose objectives is to send a manned submersible 6,000 metres into the Indian Ocean].

Key points

- The Prithvi programme broadly **subsumes all of our other major activities**
- These programmes are to improve and increase
 - **long-term observations of the atmosphere**, ocean, geosphere, cryosphere, and solid earth to track changes in the planet;
 - develop models to understand and predict weather, ocean and climate hazards,
 - and understand the science of climate change;
 - explore polar and high-seas regions of the earth to discover new phenomena and resources;
 - develop techno-logy for exploration and sustainable harnessing of oceanic resources for societal applications;
 - and translate knowledge and insights from earth system science into services for societal, environmental, and economic benefit.

Satellite for Mauritius

- The Cabinet approved an agreement between the **Indian Space Research Organisation and the Mauritius Research and Innovation Council** to jointly develop a "small satellite."
- It is expected to cost **₹20 crore**.



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ISRO tests fuel cell-based power system in space



Context

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully tested a **100 W-class Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cell-based Power System (FCPS)** in its orbital platform, POEM3
- The FCPS payload is significant as it has potential applications in India's space station which is proposed to come up by 2035.
- 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.



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