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6 January 2024

International & National News

NSO estimate on India's GDP



Context

- 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.

National Statistical Office (NSO)

- NSO acts as the **nodal agency under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** for the 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.

Greenfield Corridors in Kerala

Context

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari announced **greenfield corridors aimed at enhancing road connectivity in Kerala**.
- He virtually inaugurated three projects and laid the foundation stone for nine national highway projects totaling 105 km and costing ₹1,464 crores under the **Bharat Pariyojana scheme**.

Key points

- 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.



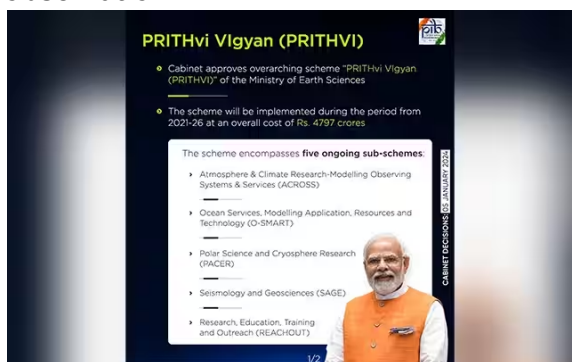
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- The **NH-744 Kollam-Sengottai stretch** and the **Thiruvananthapuram Outer Ring Road** are the other greenfield corridors.
- Additionally, the **SH1/NH 183 Thiruvananthapuram-Kochi stretch**, Kutta Malappuram Economic Corridor, and the NH-544 Angamali-Kundanur stretch will be upgraded for improved connectivity under the project.

### Bharatmala Pariyojana

- It is an **umbrella program for the highways sector** that focuses on optimizing the efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country.
- This will be done by the 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.



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## Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

### 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**.

### 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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