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National & International News

Himachal's GDP to see growth at 7.1%

- Despite facing severe challenges from nature, **Himachal Pradesh is projected to experience a GDP growth of 7.1%.**
- The State's economy has shown resilience despite the **heavy monsoon rains that caused significant damage in July 2023.**
- In the financial year **2023-24**, the GDP growth is expected to increase from **6.9% in the previous year to 7.1%.**

Key points:

- The Economic survey projects that the **State's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant prices** will increase by over ₹9,428 crore in the current financial year compared to the previous year.
- The survey highlights Himachal Pradesh's substantial **hydroelectric potential**, with the State possessing about **25% of the national potential.**
- It is estimated that about **24,000 MW of hydroelectric power can be generated** from the construction of the five perennial river basins in the State.
- Currently, **11,209 MW of the total hydroelectric potential has been harnessed.**

DAC Clears ₹84,560 Crore Deals for Torpedoes, Refueller Aircraft, and More



Context:

- **DAC (Defence Acquisition Council)** has approved new deals including torpedoes and refueller aircraft, among others, worth ₹84,560 crore.

Key points:

- These deals aim to enhance the attacking capabilities of **submarines, improve reconnaissance, and strengthen maritime capabilities.**
- The approval includes the **procurement of heavy-weight torpedoes for the Navy's submarines, flight refueller aircraft for the Air Force,** and other equipment like anti-tank mines, radars, and software-defined radios.
- Additionally, amendments to the **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020** were approved, focusing on benchmarking, cost computation, payment schedule, and procurement quantity.



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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.



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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

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**.

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