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National and International News

<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 Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020</b> were approved, focusing on benchmarking, cost computation, payment schedule, and procurement</li> </ul>



	<p>quantity.</p>
<p><b>Gulf Stream</b></p> 	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A recent study suggests that the Gulf Stream could collapse as soon as 2025, potentially leading to a mini ice age.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• It flows northeastward along the eastern coast of the United States before veering eastward into the Atlantic Ocean and towards Europe.</li> </ul> <p><b>Impacts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Gulf Stream's impact on climate and weather has significant economic implications for industries like agriculture, fishing, tourism, and transportation.</li> <li>• It influences sea routes and shipping lanes, affecting navigation and trade between North America and Europe.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• The Port of Antwerp in Belgium also benefits. Changes in the Gulf Stream could have far-reaching consequences for coastal communities, economies, and ecosystems.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chabahar port</b></p>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India has encouraged Central Asian nations to utilize the Chabahar port in Iran to boost connectivity and trade with India and other global partners.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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</li> </ul>



**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.**



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