

DAILY PT POINTERS

6th January, 2024



HEADLINES OF THE DAY

**The Hindu: GSII-Polity and Governance / GSIII-S&T
(Page 1)**

As Centre's Digi Yatra takes off, flyers may be unknowingly signing up for it



- Digi Yatra is a mobile application-based facility conceived to achieve contactless, seamless processing of passengers at airports based on Facial Recognition Technology (FRT).
- It helps travelers pass through various checkpoints at the airports through paperless and contactless processing using facial features to validate their identity and travel details.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: GSIII-Economy (Page 1)

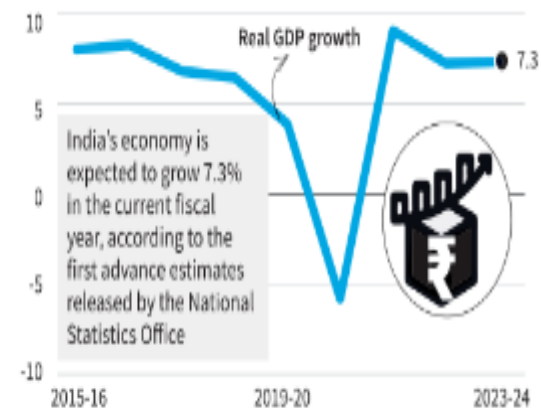
India's GDP is estimated to grow by 7.3%, says NSO

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

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) on Friday, which reckon the economy will outperform the 7% uptick recently projected by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

With GDP growth in the

First estimates



India's economy is expected to grow 7.3% in the current fiscal year, according to the first advance estimates released by the National Statistics Office

Source: CME, Reuters

December PMI signals services

- 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), which reckon the economy will outperform the 7% uptick recently projected by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- the manufacturing sector output is estimated to grow to 6.5 per cent in the current fiscal compared to 1.3 per cent in 2022-23.
- The agriculture sector is projected to see a growth of 1.8 per cent this fiscal, lower than the four per cent expansion recorded in the previous financial year.

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The Hindu: GSIII-Internal Security (Page 1)

Navy thwarts hijacking attempt in Arabian Sea

Marine commandos evacuate all 21 crew members on board *Lila Norfolk* after Indian Navy's patrol aircraft issued a 'forceful warning' to the pirates; destroyer *INS Chennai* renders support



- the Marine Commando Force, also called MARCOS, was raised in February 1987.
- It is the special forces unit of the Indian Navy.
- Initially, the U.S. Navy SEALs and British special forces trained a few officers of the Indian navy who formed the first core of MARCOS
- They also participated in the 1999 Kargil War.
- Since 1995, MARCOS are permanently deployed for counter-terrorism operations in Jammu and Kashmir against militants.
- MARCOS had participated in efforts against the 2008 Mumbai attacks alongside the National Security Guards,
- MARCOS have also been deployed in anti-piracy operations

The Hindu: GSIII-Space (Page 5)

Cabinet gives nod to 'Prithvi' programme for earth observation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Friday cleared a ₹4,797-crore programme called 'Prithvi' (Earth) that is expected to subsume five existing schemes of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

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

dran, Secretary, MoES, told *The Hindu*. The DOM was cleared by the Cabinet in 2021 at an outlay of ₹4,000 crore for five years.

The research and development and operational (services) activities of the Ministry are carried out by its 10 institutes. They are the India Meteorological Department, the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, the Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology, the National Centre for Coastal Research, the National Centre for Seismology, the National Institute of Ocean Technology, the In-

- The Union Cabinet Chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has approved the overarching scheme “PRITHvi Vlgyan (PRITHVI)” of Ministry of Earth Sciences, for implementation during the period from 2021-26 at an overall cost of Rs. 4,797 crore. The scheme encompasses five ongoing sub-schemes namely “Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)”, “Ocean Services, Modelling Application, Resources and Technology (O-SMART)”, “Polar Science and Cryosphere Research (PACER)”, “Seismology and Geosciences (SAGE)” and “Research, Education, Training and Outreach (REACHOUT)”.
- 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 technology for exploration and sustainable harnessing of oceanic resources for societal applications.

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The Hindu: GSIII-S&T (Page 5)

ISRO tests fuel cell-based power system in space

THE HINDU BUREAU
BENGALURU



- ISRO has successfully tested a 100 W class Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cell based Power System (FCPS) in its orbital platform, POEM3, launched onboard PSLV-C58 on January 1, 2024.
- The objective of the experiment was to assess Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel cell operation in space and to collect data to facilitate the design of systems for future missions.

RBI revises definition of politically-exposed persons for KYC purpose

The central bank has also asked chairpersons and chief executives of banks and other financial services, which are into lending business, to make the changes effective immediately.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has changed the definition of Politically-Exposed Persons (PEPs) under its norms, a move that will make it easier for those individuals to carry out various banking transactions, including availing loans.
- Certain changes have been made in the RBI's Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.
- The earlier norms pertaining to PEPs were open-ended and there was a lack of clarity on the definition, apparently leading to issues for bankers, parliamentarians and others. There were also concerns in certain quarters that PEPs were finding it difficult to get loans or open bank accounts.
- In the amended KYC master direction, the central bank defines PEPs as "individuals who are or have been entrusted with prominent public functions by a foreign country, including the heads of states/governments, senior politicians, senior government or judicial or military officers, senior executives of state-owned corporations and important political party officials". The new rules also include a person who is entrusted by a foreign country with a public function

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Indian Express: Economy-GSIII (Page 13)

UN report revises India's 2024 GDP growth forecast downward to 6.2%

The report said GDP in the larger South Asian region grew by an estimated 5.3 per cent in 2023 and is projected to increase by 5.2 per cent in 2024, driven by a robust expansion in India, "which remains the fastest-growing large economy in the world".



- A United Nations report revised India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for the 2024 calendar year to 6.2 per cent from its earlier estimate of 6.7 per cent.
- The report said GDP in the larger South Asian region grew by an estimated 5.3 per cent in 2023 and is projected to increase by 5.2 per cent in 2024, driven by a robust expansion in India, "which remains the fastest-growing large economy in the world".
- In 2022, FDI (foreign direct investment) flows to India rose by 10 per cent, making it the third largest host country for announced greenfield projects. Another driver of fixed capital formation in the country is the increased government spending on roads, railways, and renewable energy projects, which can have a crowd-in effect on private sector investment

Indian Express: Governance-GSII / Defence-GSIII

Army reviews Gen Naravane's book: What Rules govern writing by serving and retired personnel?

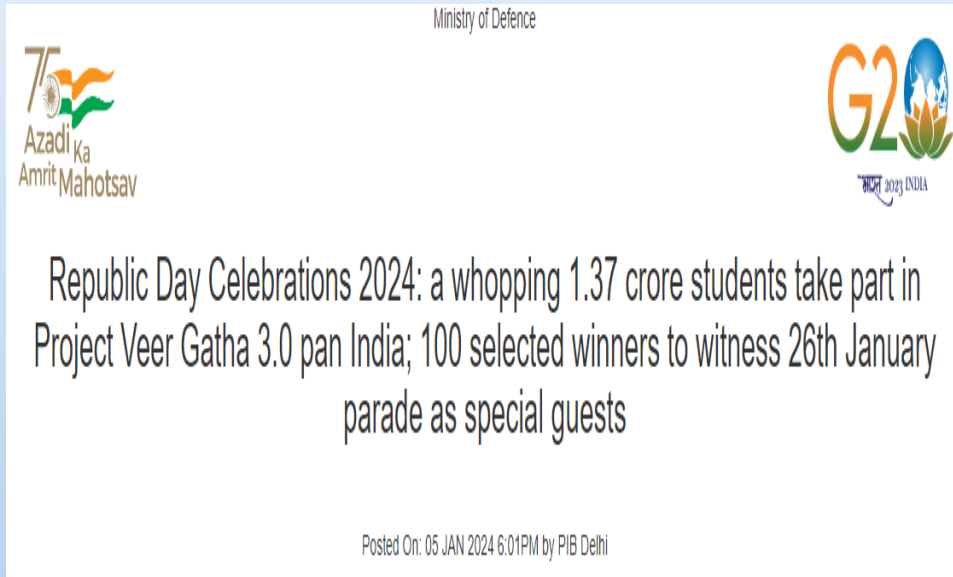
The Army Rules do not explicitly state the process that is to be followed by retired defence services officers while publishing a book. Other retired Chiefs have published their memoirs earlier.

Why is the book being reviewed by the Army?

- Under Section 21 of The Army Rules, 1954, serving personnel are not allowed to “publish in any form whatever or communicate directly or indirectly to the press any matter in relation to a political question or on a service subject or containing any service information”.
- Also, it is prohibited to “publish or cause to be published any book or letter or article or other document on such question or matter or containing such information without the prior sanction of the Central Government”.
- Serving officers also cannot “deliver a lecture or wireless address on a matter relating to a political question or on a service subject or containing any information or views on any service subject” without prior sanction.

HEADLINES OF THE DAY

PIB: Defence-GSIII / Governance-GSII



- The third edition of Project 'Veer Gatha', a joint initiative of Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education as part of Republic Day celebrations, has witnessed an overwhelming pan India response.
- Launched on July 13, 2023, Project Veer Gatha 3.0 introduced a range of thought-provoking topics for essay and paragraph writing.
- Students were given the option to explore themes such as their chosen role model, particularly focusing on Gallantry Award winners.
- Furthermore, students were encouraged to delve into the life stories of any freedom fighter that inspired them such as Rani Laxmibai.
- The suggested topics also included the 1857 First War of Independence, and the significant role of Tribal Uprising in the Freedom Struggle. This diverse set of topics not only enriched the content of Veer Gatha 3.0, but also fostered a deeper understanding of the historical and cultural heritage among the participants.

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PIB: Governance-GSII / Economy-GSIII

Ministry of Tourism conducts training in Bhitarkanika National Park, Odisha under Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme

Programme Aimed at Enhancing Livelihood Opportunities for Local Communities

Posted On: 05 JAN 2024 5:33PM by PIB Delhi



- Ministry of Tourism (MoT) in collaboration with Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) launched the fourth training programme under the Amrit Dharohar Capacity Building Scheme on 5th January 2024 for local community members, boat owners, and Forest department officials of Bhitarkanika National Park
- Amrit Dharohar initiative, part of the 2023-24 budget announcement, was launched by MoEF&CC during June 2023 to promote unique conservation values of the Ramsar Sites in the country while generating employment opportunities and supporting local livelihoods. This initiative is to be implemented in convergence with various Central Government ministries and agencies, State Wetland Authorities, and a network of formal and informal institutions and individuals, working together for a common cause.