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# **Educrat IAS Current Affairs Magazine**

**Daily News Analysis (DNA) of the important articles of the Hindu  
& Indian Express.**

# **January 2022**

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## 1. Republic Day speech of the President

India is celebrating the 73rd Republic Day today as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav commemorating 75 years of independence.

The celebrations commenced on January 23 as Prime Minister, on the occasion of Netaji's 125th birth anniversary, unveiled the hologram statue of the freedom fighter at India Gate.

### **President's speech highlights:**

- Republic day is an occasion to celebrate what is common to us all, our Indian-ness. It is this spirit of unity and of being one nation which is celebrated.
- Two days ago, on 23rd January, all of us observed the 125th birth anniversary of Subhash Chandra Bose and should be inspired by his courage in pursuit of swaraj.
- The Preamble sums up Constitution's guiding principles – Democracy, Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. They form the bedrock on which our Republic stands.
- Rights and duties are two sides of the same coin. By fulfilling the fundamental duty of rendering national service when called upon to do so, crores of our people have transformed the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and the COVID vaccination drive into mass movements.
- The pandemic management was bound to be all the more difficult in India due to high population density and low level of resources and infrastructure needed to battle this invisible enemy. But it is only in such difficult times that the resilience of a nation shines forth. I am proud to say that we have shown an unmatched resolve against the corona virus- by raising the health infrastructure and launching the world's largest vaccination drive.
- During the pandemic, we have reached out to several other countries with vaccines and other medical help which has been appreciated by international organizations.
- As the pandemic is still wide-spread, we must remain alert and not let our guard down: Wearing mask and maintaining social distancing has become the sacred national duty of every citizen.
- A testimony to India's spirit in the face of adversity is that the economy is projected to grow at an impressive rate after going through contraction.
  - improvement in the agriculture and manufacturing sectors.
  - Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan
  - Small and medium enterprises have played an important role in providing employment and promoting innovation.
- To reap the demographic dividend, the government has created the right environment with the National Education Policy that makes a perfect blend of traditional values and modern skills.
- The Indian Navy and Cochin Shipyard Limited have built an indigenous state-of-the-art aircraft carrier IAC Vikrant which is to be inducted into our Navy- Due to such modern military capabilities, India is now counted among the world's leading naval powers.
- In a village called Sui in Haryana a programme called 'Swa-Prerit Adarsh Gram Yojana', has been launched, demonstrating sensitivity and diligence. This example of expressing affection and gratitude for one's village or native land is worth emulating.
- A new India is emerging – a Strong India and a Sensitive India; Sashakt Bharat, Samvedan-sheel Bharat.
- If all the successful people of India work sincerely for the development of their birth-places, then the whole country will benefit from the outcome of such local development.
- Today, it is our soldiers and security personnel who through their constant vigil of securing our borders and maintaining internal security within the country allow their fellow citizens to enjoy peaceful life. The entire country was deeply saddened by the tragic loss of General Bipin Rawat.
- It has been a water-shed year for women empowerment in the Armed Forces- breaking the glass ceiling women officers now have permanent commission, access to Sainik schools and NDA.
- The twenty-first century is turning out to be the age of climate change, and India has taken a leadership position on the world stage in showing the way, especially with its bold and ambitious push for renewable energy.
- India is an ancient civilisation but a young republic. For us, nation-building is a constant endeavour.



## 2. Highlights of the President's Address in the Joint Sitting before Budget Session

The President of India, Mr. Ram Nath Kovind, addressed a joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament on January 31, 2022. He outlined the major policy achievements and objectives of the government in his address. Key highlights of the address include:

### **Health and COVID-19**

- India has administered more than 150 crore vaccines in less than a year. More than 90% of adults have received at least one dose of the vaccine, while more than 70% have been fully vaccinated. Further, adolescents aged 15-18 years have been included in the vaccination drive. The precautionary dose for frontline workers and senior citizens (with comorbidities) has started.
- Eight vaccines have been approved for emergency use in the country. Of these, three have been manufactured in India, and have received approval from the World Health Organisation (WHO) for emergency use.
- The Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission was launched with an outlay of Rs 64,000 crore to improve health infrastructure. More than 80,000 health and wellness care centres have been set up under the scheme. The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission was launched to provide easy and accessible health services.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Yojana, more than 8,000 Janaushadhi Kendras have been set up to provide the poor with affordable medicines.
- India will establish the world's first WHO Global Centre of Traditional Medicine. AYUSH products worth Rs 11,000 crore have been exported from India.

### **Economy and Finance**

- GST collections have consistently remained over one lakh crore rupees during the last several months.
- Between April and November, 2021, foreign direct investment of USD 48 billion was made in India. Foreign exchange reserves of India exceed USD 630 billion.
- Between April and December 2021, India's goods exports stood at USD 300 billion.
- Through Jan Dhan accounts, Aadhaar, and mobile connectivity, people have benefitted from direct cash transfer during the pandemic. More than 44 crore people have joined the banking system.

### **Agriculture and Food Distribution**

- During the pandemic, for 19 months, 80 crore people were provided free ration under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana with an outlay of Rs 2.6 lakh crore. In view of the current situation, the scheme has been extended till March 2022.
- In 2020-21, farmers produced more than 30 crore tonne of food grains and 33 crore tonne of horticulture. The government has procured 433 lakh metric tonne (LMT) of wheat during the rabi season, benefitting around 50 lakh farmers. During kharif season, 900 LMT of paddy was procured, benefitting around 1.3 crore farmers.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme (PM-KISAN), Rs 1.8 lakh crore has been transferred to more than 11 crore farmer families.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, more than one lakh crore rupees has been paid as compensation to around eight crore farmers.
- 64 lakh hectares of land has been developed with irrigation facilities under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana and Atal Bhujal Yojana. The Ken-Betwa link project has been approved at a cost of Rs 45,000 crore to help end the water crisis in Bundelkhand.

### **MSMEs, Manufacturing and Job Creation**

- To ensure availability of credit for MSMEs, the government started a scheme for guaranteed Collateral Free Loans, with an outlay of rupees three lakh crore. This has benefitted 13.5 lakh MSME units and secured 1.5 crore jobs. In June 2021, the government enhanced the credit guarantee from three lakh crore rupees to Rs 4.5 lakh crore. New definition of MSMEs is helping small industries to expand. Traders (wholesale and retail) and street vendors have been allowed to register on the Udyam portal, to avail benefits of Priority Sector Lending.
- Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes worth Rs 1.97 lakh crore have been launched in 14 manufacturing sectors. Due to the PLI scheme in the domestic mobile manufacturing sector, India has emerged as the second largest mobile phone manufacturer in the world.
- To develop the field of electronics and technology hardware, the government announced a Rs 76,000 crore package for silicon and compound semiconductor fabrication, chip design and related ventures.
- The government has approved seven Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel Parks with an investment of around Rs 4,500 crore.



- Since 2016, 60,000 start-ups have been established in 56 different sectors in the country. In 2021, more than 40 unicorn startups have emerged in India, each with a minimum market valuation of Rs 7,400 crore.

### **Labour and employment**

- Under the Pradhan Mantri SVANidhi scheme, more than Rs 2,900 crore has been provided to 28 lakh street vendors.
- e-SHRAM portal was started to protect the interests of labourers. So far, more than 23 crore workers have joined the portal.

### **Skill development**

- Under the Skill India Mission, more than 2.25 crore youth have been skilled through ITIs, Jan Shikshan Sansthan, and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras.

### **Infrastructure and Transport**

- The Pradhan Mantri GatiShakti National Master Plan has been launched to accelerate infrastructure development.
- India has more than 1.4 lakh kilometre (km) of national highways. Under the Bharatmala Project, construction of more than 20,000 km of highways is in progress with an outlay of about six lakh crore rupees, including 23 green expressways and green-field corridors. The Delhi-Mumbai Expressway is close to the completion stage.
- During 2014-21, 24,000 km of railways route has been electrified. 11 new metro routes have commenced. The construction of 21 greenfield airports has been approved.

### **Urban and Rural Development**

- Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), two crore pucca houses have been provided to the poor. Under PMAY-Gramin, 1.17 crore houses have been approved in the last three years. Under the Svamitva scheme, more than 40 lakh property cards have been issued in 27,000 villages to provide property documents to people in rural areas.
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, in 2020-21, 36,500 km of roads were built in rural areas, at a rate of more than 100 km per day. Around six crore rural households have been provided with a tap water connection under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

### **Environment**

- At the COP-26 summit, the government committed to reducing India's carbon emissions by one billion tonne, by 2030. India also committed to becoming a net zero emission economy by 2070.
- India has also taken the initiative of 'Green Grid Initiative: One Sun, One World, One Grid'. This is the first international network of globally interconnected solar power grids.

### **Women and Child Development**

- The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was introduced to increase the minimum age of marriage for women from 18 years to 21 years.
- In 2021-22, banks have extended financial help of Rs 65,000 crore to more than 28 lakh women self-help groups. The government has also provided training to members of women self-help groups, and made them partner as 'Banking Sakhi' to deliver banking services to rural households.

### **Minority and Tribal Affairs**

- Since 2014, the government has provided scholarships to 4.5 crore students from minority communities
- Ekalavya Residential Model Schools have been expanded to every tribal majority block for the education of tribal youth.

### **Defence and Internal Security**

- In 2020-21, 87% of the approvals for modernisation of armed forces were from the 'Make in India' category. The Armed Forces have issued a list of 209 military equipment, which will not be purchased from abroad. Defence undertakings have issued a list of more than 2,800 defence equipment, which will be manufactured domestically. Ordnance Factories have been reorganised into seven defence PSUs.
- Recently, a settlement was reached between the central government, the state government of Assam and the Karbi groups to end the decades-old conflict in Karbi Anglong. The number of naxal affected districts had declined from 126 to 70.



### 3. Educrat IAS Mains DNA From The Hindu & The Indian Express

#### 3.1. China's border law and India

- It is called the law for the "protection and exploitation of the country's land border areas".
- It allows the state to "take measures to safeguard territorial integrity and land boundaries and guard against and combat any act that undermines these".
- The law encourages the development of villages for civilians in the border areas.
- The law lays down four conditions under which the state can impose emergency measures, including border shutdown.
- The new law also prohibits construction of permanent infrastructure close to the border without China's permission.

#### Rationale behind the law:

- It underscores the imperative for Beijing to exert greater control over its somewhat porous land border.
- The withdrawal of the US forces and Taliban takeover has "aggravated Beijing's concerns that Afghanistan may become a hotbed for terrorism and extremism that could spread to Xinjiang". The law is an attempt for stability of its hinterland bordering Central Asia.

#### Impact on India-China relations:

- China and India share a disputed 3,488-km boundary, third longest after Mongolia and Russia. There is a growing suspicion that China may have been stalling further negotiations on the standoff in eastern Ladakh for this new law to come into force.
- China has renamed several places in Arunachal Pradesh as part of its claim on the Indian state. The law is seen as an attempt by China to unilaterally delineate and demarcate territorial boundaries with India and Bhutan.
- The broader aim of the land border law is to give legal cover to Chinese military's transgressions across the LAC.
- There is also the possibility of limiting the water flow in the Brahmaputra River which flows from China into India as the law calls for "measures to protect the stability of cross-border Rivers and lakes". China might cite this provision in case of hydropower projects which may cause ecological disaster in India and call it a lawful action on its part.

#### Way forward:

Restoring relations, as well as the status quo along the borders, will require mutual sensitivity and an adherence to past agreements that helped keep the peace, rather than needless provocations that expand an already long list of differences.

#### 3.2. State schemes can cast a lifeline to this welfare plan

India accounts for a fifth of the total childbirths in the world, with a maternal mortality rate of 113 per 1 lakh live births.

#### Performance of PMMVY:

- Since its inception it has covered 2 crore women.
- Total amount disbursed till now 8700 crore.

#### Issues:

- The target of the scheme has remained unchanged over the years. The estimated eligible population of pregnant and lactating mothers in India was 128.7 lakh for 2017-18, but the scheme covers only 40% of the eligible population.
- In 2020-21, more than 50% of registered beneficiaries did not receive all three instalments.
- Budget allocation for the PMMVY has also been reduced as it has been clubbed under SAMARTHYA along with multiple other schemes such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.

MATTER OF HEALTH	THE INITIATIVE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Under-nutrition continues to adversely affect women in India</li> <li>&gt; Every third woman is under-nourished, while every second woman is anaemic</li> <li>&gt; Under-nourished women often give birth to babies with a low birth weight</li> <li>&gt; When poor nutrition starts in-utero, it extends throughout the life cycle</li> <li>&gt; Owing to economic and social distress, many women continue to work to earn a living for their family up to the last days of their pregnancy</li> <li>&gt; They resume work soon after childbirth, which prevents their bodies from fully recovering</li> <li>&gt; It also impedes their ability to exclusively breastfeed during the first six months</li> </ul>	<p>The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana provides maternity benefits of ₹5,000 for pregnant women and lactating mothers after their first delivery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The benefit is provided in three instalments</li> <li>■ It is a conditional cash transfer scheme and provides a partial wage compensation to women for wage-loss during childbirth and childcare</li> <li>■ The scheme ensures safe delivery and good nutrition for women</li> <li>■ The benefits are not available for employees of the Central or State governments and any public-sector undertaking</li> </ul> 



## Suggestions:

- Extend the maternity benefit under the PMMVY to the second live birth. This would be more imperative for women in the unorganized sector, who are more vulnerable to economic shocks and nutrition loss for all childbirths.
- States' schemes had relatively increased coverage and higher maternity benefits. For instance, Odisha's MAMATA, has been offering a conditional cash transfer of ₹5,000 as maternity benefit for up to two live births. There should be coordination between centre and states.
- The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 mandates 12 weeks of maternity leave for women with two or more children. Thus, pregnant and lactating mothers should receive 12 weeks of wage compensation amounting to ₹15,000.
- Simplification of the process can result in increased registration of beneficiaries. The current registration form requires a mother and child protection (MPC) card, Aadhaar card, bank passbook, and registration form for each of the three instalments. This results in delayed, rejected or pending applications.

### 3.3 The flaw in the numbers

The primary yardstick analysts use to measure the economy's health is GDP. The RBI and multilateral agencies use GDP statistics to make claims about the future growth path.

#### **But how reliable is the Indian GDP data?**

- NSO calculates real GDP by gathering nominal GDP data in rupees and then deflating this data using various price indices. The nominal data needs to be deflated twice: Once for outputs and once for inputs. But the NSO deflates the nominal data only once. It does not deflate the value of inputs.
- EG: when the price of imported oil goes down, the input costs will fall and the profits recorded by Indian firms will rise. This increase in profits is merely the result of a fall in input prices, so it needs to be deflated away. But the NSO doesn't deflate away the increase in profits. Instead, it records a purely nominal increase as a real increase in GDP, thereby overstating growth.
- NSO has not updated the sectoral weights. To make sure that the weights are reasonably accurate, the NSO normally updates them once a decade. It has now been more than 10 years since the weights were changed. Eg: the fast-growing IT sector is being underweighted, which implies that GDP growth is being underestimated.
- Once in a while, the NSO undertakes a survey to measure the size of the unorganised sector. In the meantime, it simply assumes that the sector has been growing at the same rate as the organised sector. However, starting in 2016 the unorganised sector has been disproportionately impacted by a series of **shocks**:
  - Demonitisation
  - GST
  - Pandemic etc.
- Despite these shocks, the NSO does not seem to have made any adjustments to its methodology for estimating the growth of the unorganised sector.
- There are certain problems with India's GDP data. Any analysis of recovery or growth forecast based on this data must be taken with a handful of salt.

### 3.4. Economically Weaker Sections (EWS): As defined by Govt Panel

Cabinet in January 2019 decided to amend the Constitution (103rd Amendment) for implementing 10% reservation for EWS.

#### **New committee constituted to revisit EWS criteria:**

- It followed the Supreme Court's observation that the income criterion for determining EWS was "arbitrary".
- The Supreme Court is presently hearing a number of petitions, including a special leave petition filed by the Centre against a Madras HC order on EWS and OBC reservation in the all-India quota for NEET.

#### **Key recommendations:**

- The "threshold of Rs 8 lakh of annual family income seems reasonable for determining EWS".

#### **Prime basis: Income criteria**

- The criteria include a Rs 8 lakh income ceiling for inclusion in EWS — which is the same as the criterion for deciding the "creamy layer" among the OBCs (those who are not in government).
- The notification said income shall include income from all sources i.e. salary, agriculture, business, profession, etc for the financial year prior to the year of application.
- Another criterion is that a person whose family owns or possesses 5 acres of agricultural land or more will be excluded from EWS.



- EWS may, however, exclude, irrespective of income, a person whose family has 5 acres of agricultural land and above.
- Committee has removed the criteria that excluded some categories from EWS. EG: Owners of residential properties of 1,000 sq ft and above.

**It addresses the questions raised by the Supreme Court that the criteria was 'arbitrary' by stating that:**

- 8 lakh cut off has a link with income tax exemption limit and it is therefore logical to use income tax exemption limit to determine EWS.
- By doing away with the residential assets criteria, it addressed the issue of earlier no difference between residential flat criteria of metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas.
- It asserted that the income criteria is similar to that of Creamy Layer in OBCs.

#### **FCRA amendment 2020:**

Cap on administrative expenses: Reduces the limit of usage of foreign contribution for administrative expenses from 50% to 20%.

All NGOs who wish to receive foreign funding must create and solely use a new account with the State Bank of India at New Delhi.

The government may restrict usage foreign contribution if it believes that such entity has contravened provisions of the Act.

Previously, there was no way for NGOs in India to voluntarily forfeit their FCRA registration. Under the amended FCRA, there is now a means to do so.

### **3.5. The hint of a 'one nation one NGO' regime**

Recently, the ministry of home affairs extended the validity of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) registration of non-government organisations (NGOs) by three months till March 31, 2022 (whose FCRA registration are expiring between September 29, 2020 and March 31, 2022).

#### **Reasons to regulate the funding of NGOs:**

- Some NGOs were reported to work against the national interests of the country. An Intelligence Bureau (IB) report, alleged that several foreign-funded NGOs were stalling India's economic growth.
- NGOs lack inner democracy and siphon off to pay the owners of NGOs very high salaries. Thus, reducing limit on administrative expenses is necessary.
- Some NGOs were also charged with allegations of Money laundering and terror financing.

#### **Concerns with the Amendment:**

- Limit of 20% on administrative costs of NGO severely impact some NGOs which undertake research activities where overhead costs (salaries etc.) are more.
- Blanket requirement to open an account at one specific SBI branch is manifestly arbitrary and serves no rational purpose, violating the right to equality.
- The amendment has restricted the ability to sub-grant and choked many of the niche organisations working in very remote areas which had no direct access to international funding.

#### **Why we need civil society organisations?**

- They ask for greater efficiency, delivery and accountability from the state.
- They correct the extractive nature of markets. The groups asking for environmental accountability are looking at inter-generational justice.
- Picking up causes that are so niche that it is beyond the capability of the state to come up with such initiatives.

### **3.6. The Court's Duty**

**HATE SPEECH:** it refers to words whose intent is to create hatred towards a particular group, that group may be a community, religion or race. This speech may or may not have meaning, but is likely to result in violence.

- **Viswanathan Committee 2019:**

It proposed inserting Sections 153 C (b) and Section 505 A in the IPC for incitement to commit an offence on grounds of religion, race, caste or community, sex, gender identity etc.

- **Bezbaruah Committee 2014:**

It proposed amendment to Section 153 C of IPC (promoting or attempting to promote acts prejudicial to human dignity), punishable by five years and fine or both.



## Some Cases Related to Hate Speech:

- *Shreyal Singhal vs UOI* declared void sec 66A of IT Act 2000 on the grounds that restrictions on art 19(1) were arbitrary and vague. However, it upheld sec 69 of IT Act to ensure reasonable restriction on speech.
- *Pravasi sangathan vs UOI* the SC defined hate speech as an effort to marginalize individuals based on their membership in a group.
- The court has laid down that the root cause of hate speech is not the absence of laws but rather ineffective implementation.
- SC also has widened the scope of art 21 to recognize the right to life and liberty and thus has protected victims of hate speech.

## Legal Position of Hate Speech:

### Under Indian Penal Code:

Sections 153A and 153B of the IPC: Punishes acts that cause enmity and hatred between two groups.

Section 295A of the IPC: Deals with punishing acts which deliberately or with malicious intention outrage the religious feelings of a class of persons.

Sections 505(1) and 505(2): Make the publication and circulation of content which may cause ill-will or hatred between different groups an offence.

## 3.7. Use Drones More Effectively

Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has called for more effective utilisation of drone applications to deploy unmanned aerial vehicles for surveillance, situational analysis, crime control, VVIP security, disaster management, etc.

Drone is a layman terminology for Unmanned Aircraft (UA). There are three subsets of Unmanned Aircraft- Remotely Piloted Aircraft, Autonomous Aircraft and Model Aircraft.

As part of the initiatives to make India a global hub for drones under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan and in the backdrop of the Union Government rolling out the liberalised Drone Rules 2021, experts suggested the heads of various Ministries promote effective use of the technology.

- Drone system can be used as a symmetric weapon against terrorist attacks.
- Drones can be integrated into the national airspace system.
- Deployment of drones for combat, communication in remote areas, counter-drone solutions can be done.
- Drones can be used for real-time surveillance of assets and transmission lines, theft prevention, visual inspection/maintenance, construction planning and management, etc
- Environment, Forests and Climate Change Ministry: Drones used for anti-poaching actions, monitoring of forests and wildlife, pollution assessment, and evidence gathering.
- Petroleum and Natural Gas, and Power Ministries, have been asked to fly drones for real-time surveillance of assets and transmission lines, theft prevention, visual inspection/maintenance, construction planning and management, etc.
- As a complete replacement to expensive helicopter-based videography, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting could use drones for high-quality videography of events and difficult-to-reach-places at a fraction of the cost and approvals required.

### Drone Rules 2021:

- The aim was to create a “digital sky platform” as a business-friendly single-window online system for procuring various approvals: it is an interactive airspace map dividing the country into green, yellow, and red zones.
- It seeks to regulate only the civilian usage of Drones and does not apply to drones used by the naval, military or air forces of the Union.
- The Rules mandate the requirement of obtaining a type certificate, from the Director General to operate the drone.
- No pilot licence would be needed for micro drones for non-commercial use, nano drones and for R&D organisations.
- There would be no restriction on drone operations by foreign-owned companies registered in India.
- Development of drone corridors for cargo deliveries.

**Third eye in the sky**  
Ministries have been told to exploit drone applications in their domains

<b>DEFENCE:</b> Surveillance, combat, counter drone solutions	<b>AGRICULTURE:</b> Crop & soil health monitoring, anti-locust work, insurance claim survey
<b>HOME AFFAIRS:</b> VVIP security, crime control, raids and counter-terror operations	<b>PANCHAYATI RAJ:</b> Land records and property rights
<b>HEALTH &amp; FAMILY WELFARE:</b> Delivery of medicines, sample collection for tests	<b>ENVIRONMENT:</b> Forest & Climate Change: Anti-poaching operations, monitoring wildlife
	<b>POWER:</b> Real-time surveillance of assets and transmission lines
	<b>ROAD TRANSPORT:</b> Project monitoring, incident response



### 3.8. Reading GDP Early Estimates

- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has released the First Advance Estimates (FAE) for the current financial year (2021-22).
- According to MoSPI, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will grow by 9.2% in 2021-22.
- Last financial year the GDP contracted by 7.3%.

#### First Advance Estimates of GDP:

- First introduced in 2016-17, they are the "first" official estimates of how GDP is expected to grow in that financial year.
- It is the "advance" estimates as they are published long before the financial year (April to March) is over—soon after the end of the third quarter or Q3.
- However, they do not include the formal Q3 GDP data, which is published at the end of February.

#### Significance:

- Union Finance Ministry uses it to decide the next financial year's budget allocations.
- It is important to estimate the nominal GDP — both absolute level and its growth rate.
- This will further help in calculating Real GDP and inflation.

1st quarter	2nd quarter
January February March	April May June
3rd quarter	4th quarter
July August September	October November December

#### Calculation Method:

- Advance Estimates is based on the Benchmark-Indicator method.
- The estimates available for the previous year (2020-21 in this case) are extrapolated using relevant indicators reflecting the performance of sectors: MoSPI extrapolates sector-wise estimates using indicators such as previous data of Index of Industrial Production (IIP), sale of commercial vehicles data, etc.

#### Issues:

- The pandemic has upset many such projections because of significant fluctuations during the past couple of years.
- Due to this, the MoSPI has alerted that "these are early projections" are liable for subsequent revisions depending on Covid.

#### Major Takeways:

- At 9.2%, the real GDP growth rate for FY22 is slightly lower than most expectations, including RBI's, which pegged it at 9.5%.
- For FY22, while real GDP will grow by 9.2%, nominal GDP will grow by a whopping 17.6%. The difference between the two growth rates — about 8.5 percentage points — is essentially a marker of inflation.
- While investments in the economy, and government expenditures are expected to claw back to the pre-Covid level, private consumption demand typically accounts for more than 55% of all GDP.

### 3.9. A Shelter in the Pandemic

- The 2011 Census of India reveals that the urban population of the country stood at 31.16 per cent.
- Though shelter is a basic human need, migrant workers live in extremely precarious conditions.

#### Issues:

- Most of the migrants are employed in construction, small industries, hotels, and other informal activities. Often such places are unhygienic and poorly ventilated.
- Most construction workers stay in makeshift arrangements.
- When the pandemic struck and the national lockdown was announced, most workers lost their shelter because workplaces were shut.
- Migrants living in rented apartments could not maintain social distancing.
- In suburban regions with a sizeable number of migrants, the local population wanted them to vacate houses as soon as the pandemic began, citing the lack of hygienic conditions in these dwellings. EG: Up to 88 per cent of migrants reported that they could not pay the rent.
- The absence of dignified housing is further aggravated by a lack of adequate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities.

**AMRUT 2.0**  
Total incentive allocation: ₹2.77 lakh cr  
Will target universal coverage of water supply  
Provide household tap connections in all 4,378 statutory towns  
100% coverage of household sewerage/ septage mgmt in 500 AMRUT cities

**Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)**  
Financial outlay till 2025-26: ₹1.41 lakh cr  
Will target complete elimination of open defecation  
Eradication of hazardous entry into sewers, septic tanks  
Ensure untreated wastewater does not pollute water bodies

**On Farm Front**  
Fixed subsidy on DAP raised to ₹1,650 per bag (from ₹1,200)  
CCEA also approves inclusion of potash derived from molasses



- Even though there has been an installation of public toilets through Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, their availability may not be adequate in migrant-dense clusters.

#### **Solutions:**

- AMRUT launched in 2005 was intended to make the process of urbanisation smooth; it has now entered its second phase to make cities water-secure and provide better amenities for the marginalised.
- The Rs 20 lakh crore Atmanirbhar Bharat package announced by the government included the provision of affordable rental housing complexes (ARHC) for migrant workers/urban poor.
- NITI Aayog has recommended that rental housing in the public sector could be expanded through the provision of dormitory accommodation.
- While developing social rental housing, the state should ensure that the location has proper access to transport networks, education and healthcare.
- In order to ensure good urbanisation, it is important to equally focus on the small and medium cities and address the issues of inadequate housing and lack of basic facilities in these cities too.

#### **Conclusion:**

These policy initiatives must be in sync with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8.8 which stands for providing a safe and secure working environment for all workers, particularly migrants.

### **3.10. Control rather Than Privacy**

- Puttaswamy judgment and the Justice B.N. Srikrishna committee report led to the Personal Data Protection Bill of 2019 which was later sent to the Joint Parliamentary Committee.
- Joint Parliamentary Committee report on the Personal Data Protection Bill 2019 has failed to provide robust draft legislation ensuring the privacy of citizens.

#### **Issues:**

- The report is based on the presumption that the question of the right to privacy emerges only where operations and activities of private entities are concerned. However, fundamental rights are generally enforced against the state and not against private bodies.
- Clause 35 exempts government agencies from the entire Act itself: seen as arbitrary.
- Clause 12: says personal data can be processed without consent for the performance of any function of the state: The government can use these provisions as a means of control and surveillance.
- Data protection authority (DPA):
- It is doubtful whether a single authority will be able to discharge so many functions in an efficient manner.
- The Bill entrusts the executive with the appointments.
- Violates the principle of federalism: The proposed central authority issues directions to allow processing of data on the grounds of 'public order', 'public order' is an entry in the State List.
- Issue with Mandatory data localization: it is estimated to squeeze the economy by 0.7-1.7%. This may also invite similar measures by other sovereign countries which will hamper the smooth cross-border flow of data.

#### **Way Forward:**

- While ensuring the protection of citizens' fundamental rights, it is necessary that the DPA is entrusted with the responsibility should work independently.
- If the pith and substance of the legislation are related to the State, then it has to be monitored by the State Data Protection Authority.

### **3.11. Takeaway from the Forest Report**

- India State of Forest Report is an assessment of India's forest and tree cover.
- It is published every 2 years by the Forest Survey of India under the MoEFCC.
- Data is computed through wall-to-wall mapping of India's forest cover through remote sensing techniques.

#### **Takeaways:**

- The forest and tree cover continues to increase over the past two years. Eg: 21.7% in 2020 and 21.6% in 2019.



- The total carbon stock in country's forests is estimated at 7,204 million tonnes, an increase of 79.4 million tonnes since 2019.
- Tree cover has increased by 721 sq km.
- Mangroves have increased by 17 sq km.
- 35% of the forest cover is prone to forest fires.
- Inference - Natural forests has degraded to less dense open forests.

The states with highest increase in order -  
Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha

Five states in the Northeast - Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland have shown loss in forest cover.

Pakke Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh has the highest forest cover (nearly 97%).

#### Cause of decline in forest in the North East:

- A spate of natural calamities, particularly landslides and heavy rain
- Anthropogenic activities such as shifting agriculture, pressure of developmental activities and felling of trees.

#### Issues:

- North eastern states are repositories of great biodiversity.
- Declining forests will in turn increase the impact of landslides
- Impacts water catchment in the region
- Challenges due to different ownership pattern — community ownership and protected tribal land.
- Impact due to climate change:
  - Vulnerable Forests - except Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Nagaland all states will be highly vulnerable climate hot spots.
  - India's forests are already showing shifting trends of vegetation types, Sikkim has shown a shift in its vegetation pattern for 124 endemic species.
  - By 2030, 45% of forests will experience the impact with Ladakh being the most impacted.

#### New areas of Coverage:

- For the first time forest cover in tiger reserves, tiger corridors and the Gir forest which houses the Asiatic lion has been assessed
- Buxa, Anamalai and Indravati reserves have shown an increase in forest cover while the highest losses have been found in Kawal, Bhadra and the Sunderbans reserves.

#### Shortcomings:

- Plantations – such as coffee, coconuts or mango are included under forest cover.
- Forest survey is carried out as an assessment of India's biodiversity. Such an overarching survey does not meet that objective, experts say.

### 3.12. MGNREGA

MGNREGA has played a critical role in alleviating the economic hardship stemming from the pandemic.

#### Importance:

- In 2020-21, the first year of the pandemic, 11.19 crore individuals worked under the scheme, up from 7.88 crore in 2019-20.
- Right to get unemployment allowance in case employment is not provided within fifteen days.
- Social Audit of MGNREGA works is mandatory, which lends to accountability and transparency.

#### Issues:

- In many cases, the audit found that workers were listed on the records but were missing from work sites.
- The audit found "delay (in) payment, no material supply despite payment made to vendor, wage payment done without work" and "work not found on ground despite shown completed".
- Problems of inclusion and exclusion: issues related to the existence of fake job cards, the inclusion of fictitious names.
- The MGNREGA wage rates are even lower than the state minimum wage for agriculture. The shortfall is in the range of 2-33% of the minimum wage.
- With very little autonomy, gram panchayats are not able to implement this act in an effective and efficient manner.

**MGNREGA** is to augment employment generation and social security in India.

The scheme is a demand-driven wage employment scheme, which functions under the Ministry of Rural Development.

Scheme envisages providing 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year.

## Way Forward:

- There is a need for better coordination between various government departments and the mechanism to allot and measure the work.
- Coming at a time when the employment guarantee scheme is playing a key role in lessening the distress amongst the informal labor force — all efforts should be made to ensure that such irregularities are minimized.

### 3.13. The Bare Minimum

#### Reasons for Legal Guarantee of MSP:

- MSP provides a powerful signal to the farmer to exercise the choice of sowing a particular crop because the farmer can back-calculate the expected margin.
- The significance of MSP is only when the markets do not clear the minimum price. In such a situation, the farmer gets a return less than the MSP and by this argument we are escorting the farm fraternity towards bankruptcy. A legal guarantee is, therefore, needed.
- While the MSPs technically ensure a minimum 50% return on all cultivation costs, these are largely on paper. In most crops grown across much of India, the prices received by farmers, especially during harvest time, are well below the officially-declared MSPs.
- And since MSPs have no statutory backing, they cannot demand these as a matter of right.

The MSP is the rate at which the government purchases crops from farmers, and is based on a calculation of at least one-and-a-half times the cost of production incurred by the farmers.

MSP is a “minimum price” for any crop that the government considers as remunerative for farmers and hence deserving of “support”.

#### Issues:

- Providing MSP does not allow the market to discover the prices; if market cleared prices are less than MSP, then the only buyer would be the government; this would render the government bankrupt.
- A better way to address the possible income gap is to give an income support-based direct benefit transfer (DBT).
- The MSP is already being enforced, directly or through fiat, on roughly Rs 3.8 lakh crore worth of produce. Providing legal guarantee for the entire marketable surplus of the 23 MSP crops would mean covering another Rs 5 lakh crore or so.
- Farmers face many other issues other than price, which itself is not guaranteed given the influence of politicians and cartels in mandis. They lack information on which crop to grow, are short of post-harvest technologies etc.

## Way Forward:

- It may be a good idea to declare a low MSP upfront that is legally guaranteed so that the farmers are encouraged to move to an alternate crop. This would need imaginative decentralised thinking.
- We need to modernise the markets and storage and processing facilities.
- There is a growing consensus among economists for guaranteeing minimum “incomes”, as against “prices”, to farmers.

### 3.14. Marital rape

Sec 375 of IPC: forceful sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his own wife, the wife not being 18 years, is not rape.

#### Reasons to criminalize it:

- Basic rights of women violated, violation of FR art 21, art 14.
- Various judgements have recognized right to abstain from sexual activity for all women, irrespective of their marriage status: Puttuswamy vs UOI, Suchita Srivastava vs Chandigarh administration
- Justice Verma committee recommended criminalizing marital rape in 2012
- Marital rape denies women agency over their own bodies and strengthens patriarchy
- It is a colonial era mindset which promotes the doctrine of coverture: merging of women’s identity with the husband
- Defeats the very purpose of sec 375 of IPC.

#### Problems:

- Destabilizing the institution of marriage
- Impinge on the right to privacy
- Misuse of legal provisions can lead to fake reporting and harassment of the husband



### **Way forward:**

- Focus should be on bringing behavioral changes through multistakeholder approach
- Need for gender neutral anti rape laws to recognize the same sex assaults among LGBTQ community
- Focus has to shift from morality to violence and need for choice.

### **3.15. A budget that includes (Reforms in budget needed)**

**Budget:** Article 112- statement of estimated receipts and expenditure of the government in a financial year.

- Focus on creating jobs for the unskilled through special focus on spending on infrastructure. Eg: national infrastructure pipeline
- Development of manufacturing sector eg. Bangladesh employs more than 4mn unskilled people in textile sector

### **Special investment in education and skilling:**

- Under 5% workforce is skilled in India compared to 50% in US .
- NSDC has to set achievable targets
- Budget should incentivize the states by linking the flow of additional funds to those that demonstrate standard learning outcomes.
- Gender budgeting should be linked to outcome rather than done in an ad hoc manner

### **3.16. The Manufacturing Opportunity**

- Contribution to GDP: 17%
- Employment: 12% of the workforce

#### **Need:**

- India has 3Ds- democracy, demography and demand for growth of this sector
- Can reduce dependence of people on agriculture(reduction if disguised unemployment ) and create new employment opportunities
- Increasing middle class and young population provides an attractive market for manufacturers
- Low manpower cost makes it less capital intensive
- Low ICOR when compared to heavy industries makes it more viable
- With china+1 strategy gaining more importance in the current geopolitical situation, India can use this opportunity to build its own manufacturing sector

#### **Issues:**

- Biased trade regime: towards capital intensive manufacturing sector like iron and steel since 2nd FYP.
- Complex labor laws reduced investments in this sector.
- Lack of infrastructure to support the sector: high logistic cost, issues in forward and backward linkages.
- Focus was more on assembly rather than manufacturing- imported components are simply assembled with less attention on technology transfer.
- MSME sector is facing tough competition due to cheap imports from China.
- Low labor productivity due lack of skill development-4% of workforce is formally skilled.
- Intellectual property protection and enforcement are risky and expensive in India.

#### **Measures:**

- Make in India initiative to make India into a global manufacturing hub and increase GDP share to 25%.
- PLI scheme extended to 13 sectors to increase domestic manufacturing capacity and increase foreign investment.
- Labor laws have been consolidated into 4 codes to simplify investment and EODB.
- Credit linked capital subsidy scheme for upgradation of tech in MSME sector.
- Dedicated freight corridors to improve forward and backward linkages.

### 3.17. Democratize & Empowering city government

- 74th CAA- constitutional status to urban local bodies
- 18 subjects under urban local bodies
- 35% population live in urban centres, nearly 2/3rd of country's GDP stems from cities

#### **Issues:**

- Democratic transfer of subjects have been done without any mention of financial empowerment
- Earlier 55% of revenue of cities came from octroi. With the introduction of GST cities are now dependent on grants which covers only 15% of expenditure.
- Poor cost recovery of services: user charges and service provision are caught in a vicious cycle of poor quality services leading to lack of willingness to pay and hence poor collection of user charges and fees.
- The recommendations of state finance commission are largely ad hoc and not based on sound principles of public finance.
- Existence of multiple bodies without effective coordination has led to fragmented governance in financing and expenditure.

#### **Measures:**

Effective decentralisation can be done only by devolution of 3Fs: funds, functionaries and functions.

- Grants from centre must be enhanced and cities should be given autonomy to plan their own development. Eg: Kerala's people plan.
- The term of elected representatives must be for 5 years for long term policy stability. Electing mayor for one year can lead to instability.
- Planning in cities must take into account new issues: climate change, migrants etc.
- Planning for main cities must take into account sub plans for fringe areas, satellite towns and suburban areas.

#### **Conclusion:**

- There is a need to move towards 'good urbanisation' by integrating policies and linking rural and urban areas.

### 3.18. IAS officers and central posting

The centre has proposed amendments to IAS Cadre rules (1954) to exercise greater control in central deputation of IAS officers .

#### **Current role:**

- "A cadre officer may, with the concurrence of the State Governments concerned and the Central Government, be deputed for service under the Central Government or another State Government or under a company, association or body of individuals, whether incorporated or not, which is wholly or substantially owned or controlled by the Central Government or by another State Government. Provided that in case of any disagreement, the matter shall be decided by the Central Government and the State Government or State Governments concerned shall give effect to the decision of the Central Government."
- The Centre asks every year for an "offer list" of officers of the All India Services (IAS, IPS and Indian Forest Service) willing to go on central deputation, from which it selects officers.
- While the Centre mandates the state governments to provide a list of officers, the officer too must be willing.

#### **Proposed amendments:**

- **Reason:** various state/joint cadres are not sponsoring adequate number of officers for central deputation, as part of the Central Deputation Reserve. As a result of this, the number of officers available for central deputation is not sufficient to meet the requirement at Centre.
- The letter proposed to insert an additional condition in Rule 6(1): The actual number of officers to be deputed to the Central Government shall be decided by the Central Government in consultation with State Government concerned.
- To the existing condition that "in case of any disagreement... the State Government or State Governments concerned shall give effect to the decision of the Central Government", the proposed amendment adds the words "within a specified time".
- In specific situations, where services of cadre officers are required by the Central Government in public interest, the Central Government may seek the services of such officers for posting under the Central Government.

#### **Issues:**

- It makes it mandatory for state governments to provide a fixed number of IAS officers every year for central deputation even if it is against the wishes of the officers themselves.



- Does not solve structural issues pertaining to the service: poor working conditions at junior level, lack of security of tenure at all levels etc are the reasons for shortage of IAS officers in the country.
- The term 'specific situation' for which the centre may seek the services of cadre officers had led to apprehensions that it can be used for political considerations: centre can unilaterally place services of key officers of a state ruled by a rival party under themselves.
- It undermines the idea of cooperative federalism by giving centre a greater role.
- It can lead to instability in state as officers will be fraught with uncertainty of sudden deputation.
- It can also have grave implications for independence and security of officers as states can begin to doubt loyalty of officers.

### **Conclusion:**

The amendments have to be analysed against the backdrop of cooperative federalism. In a federal setup, it is inevitable that differences and disputes between centre and states would arise. But all such issues need to be resolved while keeping the idea of larger national interest in mind.

### **3.19. A new lesson plan (Education Sector Reforms)**

- Education is a part of concurrent list.
- Related articles: art 21A right to education till 14 years of age (FR)
  - Art 45: focus on early childhood education till 6 years of age (DPSP)
  - Art 51a: duty of parents to send ward to school (FD)

The National Education Policy 2020 is an attempt to bring a shift from rote learning to critical thinking and reform the education sector in India.

### **Major points:**

- Shift to 5+3+3+4 from earlier 10+2
- Departure from silo mentality- flexibility to choose subjects across all streams rather than strict division of science, arts and commerce.
- Confluence of education and skill- vocational course with internship will nudge lower income households to send children to school.
- Making education inclusive- trying to extend RTE till 18 years of age
- Allowing foreign universities to operate in India- incorporating international perspective and innovation
- End to Hindi vs English debate: 3 language formula till class 5

### **Issues:**

- Knowledge job mismatch: silent on education related to technology like AI, cyberspace etc
- To improve education sector, 6% GDP has to be invested. NEP makes no attempt to increase resources.
- Amidst Covid, digital divide has increased. Solution to this issue has not been sought yet. According to ASER: only a quarter of children in India have access to online learning.
- Teacher student ratio is low: according to TISS, India is facing a shortfall of over 1mn teachers.
- Early childhood education is comparatively low due to lack of resources and skills among parents.

### **Covid related issues:**

- Increasing digital divide
- Increasing dropout rate: ASER- % Of children not enrolled in school doubled during pandemic
- Prioritising older child education due to lack of resources. Thus early childhood education is neglected
- More importance to male child education – male female divide.
- School closures has further aggravated the situation. According to UNESCO, worldwide 1.6 billion learners were out of school.

### **Solutions:**

- Early childhood education: community engagement to bring shift in mindset
- E Pathshala model : use materials available at home for education activities
- Focus on blended learning- online +offline
- Creation of bio bubbles in school: each class is divided into groups, interactions allowed only within group with staggered class intervals.

- Instead of using grade level curriculum, it is important to 'teach at the right level' to overcome loss of learning due to school closures. Using technology in an accessible way: eg: Madhya Pradesh using whatsapp groups for teaching under 'Hamara Ghar Hamara Vidyalaya' (taking education to home).
- Providing psycho-social support to children : Manodarpan initiative
- Increasing investment from current 2.6% of GDP.

### Conclusion:

- Need to focus on a multi- disciplinary system across all levels of education with special focus on covid related impact.

## 3.20. Ranking of States on Faster Green Nods

- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change has decided to rank states, specifically the *state Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs)*, based on the speed with which they grant Environmental Clearances (EC) to development projects.
- It was decided to incentivize states through a star-rating system based on EC grant efficiency and timeliness.
- The SEIAA will be ranked highest because it clears projects in the shortest amount of time, has a high clearance rate, and seeks fewer "essential details."

### Benefits:

- Enable "ease of doing business," particularly in the context of "time taken for clearances".
- Foster healthy competition among states as it will act as mode of recognition and encouragement for states.
- Will prompt states to make improvements where necessary while taking decisions.

### Issues:

- Reduce the SEIAA to the status of a "Rubber Stamp Authority": as speed is given more importance than quality, it will facilitate environmental degradation.
- The move will severely constrain the mandate of the SEIAAs under the Environment Protection Act, 1986 :
- Rating system may lead to a further dilution in the quality of environmental impact assessments, and it only demonizes the regulatory process, whereas it is the state of the economy as a whole that has stifled the business growth.
- The rating system also violates environmental law, violates article 21 of the Constitution (Protection of Life and Personal Liberty) by jeopardising community livelihood.
- It is an arbitrary exercise of power that benefits only businesses at the cost of the environment and people.
- The criteria for assessing the performance of SEIAAs should be based on this environmental protection mandate, which is derived from Section 3(3) of the Environment Protection Act-Central Government can establish authorities (under section 3(3)) to prevent all forms of environmental pollution and addressing specific environmental problems peculiar to different parts of the country. This provision is being violated through the notification.

### What are the parameters for the rating system?

SEIAAs will be graded from 0 to 1 on five parameters and from 0 to 2 on one. The parameters are as follows:

- The average number of days it takes an SEIAA to accept proposals for either EC or Terms of Reference (ToR) for projects.
- The total number of complaints handled by the Authority.
- The percentage of cases in which site visits are conducted by SEIAAs or State Expert Appraisal Committees (SEACs).
- The percentage of times the Authority requests additional information from project proponents.
- The percentage of proposals seeking new or amended ToRs that are more than 30 days old that are disposed of.
- The percentage of proposals seeking a new or amended EC that have been discarded if they are older than 120 days.

### Other environmental laws dilution over time:

- The average time to grant the environmental clearances has reduced significantly across all sectors, from more than 150 days in 2019 to less than 90 days in 2021.
- However there is no evidence that reducing time has improved the level of scrutiny on projects.
- The provisions for public hearing has been weakened through amendment in EIA Act.
- The deadline for compliance with emission norms for most thermal power plants have been extended from 2022 to 2025.
- Reduction in ecological protection accorded to A&N islands through changes in Island coastal regulation zone.
- Amendments in Forest Conservation Act to allow use of forests for infrastructural projects in areas of "strategic importance".



## Way forward:

- Though the philosophy of Environmental Impact Assessment is most important for protecting the environment and maintaining a balance between ecology and the economy, development, and pollution, it is necessary to revamp the time taking stages as they have become a major impediment in starting a business in India.

### 3.21. Climate & Quad

- In the first-ever in-person leaders' summit of the Quad (held in the US in 2021), the nations pledged to fight the climate crisis and partner on emerging technologies.
- Improving critical climate information-sharing and disaster-resilient infrastructure to improve Indo-Pacific region's resilience to climate change.
- Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure to provide technical assistance in small island developing states.
- Setting up a Climate and Information Services Task Force

#### Areas of Cooperation

- Quad can drive inclusive energy transition in technology, manufacturing, and finance.
- They can provide much-needed technology expertise required to achieve the energy transition goals set under frameworks such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and OSOWOG (One Sun One World One Grid).
- India is well-placed to provide manufacturing infrastructure to build these technologies. To take over from China as the "world's factory", it will have to mirror its advantages of large-scale production at low costs.

#### What are China's views on the Quad?

There is a general understanding that the Quad would not take on a military dimension against any country. The strategic community in China, nevertheless, had branded it an emerging "Asian NATO".

#### New areas of collaboration decided in QUAD summit:

- **Clean Hydrogen Partnership:** To strengthen and reduce costs across all elements of the clean-hydrogen value chain, leveraging existing bilateral and multilateral hydrogen initiatives.
- A joint initiative of QUAD nations to map and identify vulnerabilities and bolster supply-chain security for semiconductors and their vital components. This aims to secure critical technologies essential for digital economies globally.
- QUAD senior cyber group for adoption and implementation of secured cyber standards; development of secure software and trustworthy digital infrastructure.
- QUAD nations share Satellite Data to Protect the Earth and its Waters. In order to mitigate climate-change risks and the sustainable use of oceans and marine resources and to build capacity in other Indo-pacific states in coordination with QUAD Climate Working Group.

#### Issues:

- The divergence in geographic areas of maritime priority among the four nations is considered as a weakness of the Quad.
- The differences between the four Quad countries in terms of military capability, strategic culture, and the capacity to bear the costs of potential Chinese retaliation are generally wide.
- Formation of AUKUS is seen as a challenge to functioning of QUAD.
- The ASEAN countries also have a well-knit relationship with China. The Regional Cooperation Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a recent example of China's increasing influence over ASEAN nations.
- Considering the economic might of China and the dependence of Quad nations like Japan and Australia on China, the Quad nations cannot afford to have strained relations with it.

- The quadrilateral security dialogue includes Japan, India, United States and Australia.
- Met for the first time in 2007 on the sidelines of ASEAN.
- Members share a vision of an open and free Indo-Pacific. Each is involved in development and economic projects as well as in promoting maritime domain awareness and maritime security.

### 3.22. Engage with Myanmar

- India shares a 1640 km long border with north-eastern states.
- India has “historical ties and traditional bonds of friendship and cooperation” with Myanmar and Five Bs are the base of India-Myanmar relations – Buddhism, Business, Bollywood, Bharatnatyam and Burma teak.



#### Areas of cooperation:

##### Economic Relations:

- Bilateral trade between the two countries has, for long, remained at around \$2 billion.
- Pulses form the single largest item in Myanmar’s limited export basket.
- Indian businesses invest in the power, steel, automobiles and even textile sectors in Myanmar.

##### Defence relations:

- Myanmar has acquired rocket launchers, night vision systems, radar and engineering equipment, including \$37.9 million worth of torpedoes, from India. The joint exercise, named 'Ataturk XI-2021', is aimed at focussing on counter-terrorist operations.

##### Cultural Relations:

- 11th-century Ananda Temple in Myanmar is being renovated with India’s assistance.
- Free movement regime (FMR) permits the tribes residing along the border to travel 16-km across the boundary without visa restrictions.
- The FMR helps tribes across the border to maintain their age-old ties.

##### India’s assistance in Capacity Building:

- Advanced Centre for Agriculture Research and Education set up in collaboration with India’s ICAR is a fine example of pooling research efforts on pulses and oilseeds.
- India’s timely help of medicines and equipment to fight the corona pandemic.

##### Infrastructural projects:

- No other country has committed as much in grant-in-aid to Myanmar as India. These include:
- Kaladan multi-modal corridor
- Repair of 69 bridges on the Tamu-Kalewa road
- Construction of the 120-km Kalewa-Yargyi corridor d. Rhi-Tiddim road in the Chin state bordering Mizoram.
- As part of India’s SAGAR Vision, India developed the Sittwe port in Myanmar’s Rakhine state.

##### Institutional mechanisms:

- ASEAN: As the only ASEAN country which shares a land border with India, Myanmar is a bridge between India and ASEAN.
- BIMSTEC: Myanmar’s major exports to India are agricultural products like beans, pulses and maize and forest products such as teak and hardwoods. Its imports from India include chemical products, pharmaceuticals, electrical appliances and transport equipment.
- SAARC: Myanmar was given the status of observer in SAARC in August 2008.
- MEKONG GANGA COOPERATION: MGC is an initiative by six countries – India and five ASEAN countries namely, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam – for cooperation in the fields of tourism, education, culture, transport and communication.

#### Challenges:

- Influence of China: Momentum of the Belt and Road Initiative may end India’s East Act Policy.
- Beijing is investing in projects to improve the Sittwe–Kunming route.

##### Significance of Myanmar for India:

Myanmar is geopolitically significant to India as it stands at the centre of the India-Southeast Asia geography.

Myanmar is the only Southeast Asian country that shares a land border with north-eastern India.

Myanmar is the only country that sits at the intersection of India’s “Neighbourhood First” policy and its “Act East” policy.



- Porous Indo-Myanmar Border: it facilitates cross-border movement of militants, illegal arms and drugs. Myanmar is part of 'GOLDEN TRAINAGLE' which is against India's national security.
- Rohingya Issue: Around 40,000 Rohingyas are said to be staying illegally in India.
- Negotiations on the deportation of Rohingya to Myanmar are a point of contention.
- Lack of basic infrastructure and low trading volume at the Indian border.
- Conflict in Rakhine state is central to several connectivity projects currently underway between India and Myanmar like the Kaladan Multi-modal highway. Conflict within the region has slowed the progress of such projects. This does not augur well for bilateral trade.

### Way Ahead:

- Even as India continues to call for a restoration of the democratic process, it shall engage with the army in Myanmar to address Indian concerns as well. Marginalising the army will only push it into China's arms.
- India's "Buddhist Circuit" initiative, which seeks to double foreign tourist arrivals by connecting ancient Buddhist heritage sites across different states in India, should resonate with Buddhist-majority Myanmar. This could also build up India's diplomatic reservoir of goodwill and trust.
- The quicker the Rohingya issue is resolved, the easier it will be for India to manage its relations with Myanmar and Bangladesh, focusing instead more on bilateral and sub-regional economic cooperation.

### 3.23. Spread in the Community (Community transmission)

- India has acknowledged that the Covid-19 pandemic is now in the community transmission stage.
- It is a stage where it becomes difficult to establish the chain of infections, or determine who infected whom.

### Stages of spread according to WHO:

- No active cases: If no new cases are detected in 28 days, a country or region is said to have no new active cases.
- Sporadic cases: The cases are so few (single or in a cluster) and separated so widely in time and place that there exists little or no connection within them. They also do not show a recognizable common source of infection.
- Cluster of cases: stage where cases detected in the previous two weeks are "predominantly limited to well-defined clusters that are not directly linked to imported cases, but which are all linked by time, geographic location and common exposures". It is assumed that there are a large number of unidentified cases, but this is still considered a low-risk situation.
- Community transmission is the final stage of classification of the epidemic on this basis.

### Implications:

- Testing and tracking contacts could not prevent the further spread of the Omicron variant at this stage, even though it was still important to test.
- Those who are unvaccinated, or only partially vaccinated, are in the high-risk category. And so are people with chronic underlying diseases like cancer, heart transplantation or lung disease.
- Genomic sequencing will be necessary as Omicron may not be the last variant.

### 3.24. India Sri Lanka Relations

India and Sri Lanka have a legacy of intellectual, cultural, religious, and linguistic interaction, and the relationship between the two countries is more than 2500 years old.

### Areas of cooperation:

#### Economic Relations:

- India is Sri Lanka's largest trade partner globally.
- Trade between the two countries grew particularly rapidly after the India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement which came into force in March 2000.
- India is Sri Lanka's third largest export destination, after the US and UK.

#### Development co-operation:

- **LINE OF CREDIT:** About one-sixth of the total development credit granted by India is made available to Sri Lanka.
- FDI from India amounted to around \$ 1.7 billion over the years from 2005 to 2019.



- India has supplied medical equipment to hospitals at Hambantota and Point Pedro.
- Projects for providing fishing equipment to the fishermen in the East of Sri Lanka and solar energy aided computer education are under consideration.

#### Defence and strategic cooperation:

- Joint Military exercises called 'Mitra Shakti' and joint naval exercise called 'SLINEX'.
- India, Sri Lanka, and Maldives have signed trilateral maritime security cooperation in the Indian Ocean region. The cooperation aims at improving surveillance, anti-piracy operations and reducing maritime pollution.



#### Cultural relations:

- Cultural Cooperation Agreement signed between the two governments forms the basis for periodic Cultural Exchange Programmes.
- Buddhism is one of the strongest pillars connecting the two nations: India in 2020, announced USD 15 million grant assistance for protection and promotion of Buddhist ties between India and Sri Lanka.
- According to Government census figures (2011), the population of IOTs (Indian origin Tamils) is about 1.6 million.

#### Strategic importance of Sri Lanka:

India is the only neighbour of Sri Lanka, separated by the Palk Strait; both nations occupy a strategic position in South Asia and have sought to build a common security umbrella in the Indian Ocean.

This island nation lies astride the major sea lanes of communication from Europe to East Asia and the oil tanker routes from the oil producing countries of the Gulf to China, Japan and other Pacific countries.

In the military sense it is important to the United States as these same sea routes are used for transference of naval power from the Pacific Ocean to the Indian Ocean and the Gulf.

For the Indian Navy, it is important as the switching of naval fleets from the Bay of Bengal to the Arabian Sea and vice versa the fleets have to take a round of Sri Lanka.

#### International associations:

- Sri Lanka is a member of regional groupings like BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) and SAARC in which India plays a leading role.
- India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy towards Sri Lanka had resonated with Sri Lanka's 'India First' foreign and security policy in 2020.

#### Issues:

- Fishing disputes: India and Sri Lanka are only separated by 12 nautical miles. Indian fishermen having used mechanized trawlers, which deprived the Sri Lankan fishermen (including Tamils) of their catch and damaged their fishing boats. The Sri Lankan government wants India to ban use of mechanized trawlers in the Palk Strait region.
- Kachchativu island: It is an uninhabited island that India ceded to Sri Lanka in 1974 based on a conditional agreement called "Kachchativu island pact".
- But Tamil Nadu claimed that Katchatheevu falls under the Indian Territory and Tamil fishermen have traditionally believed that it belongs to them and therefore want to preserve the right to fish there.
- China factor: China is Sri Lanka's largest bilateral creditor. China's loans to the Sri Lankan public sector amounted to 15% of the central government's external debt.
- China's exports to Sri Lanka surpassed those of India in 2020 and stood at \$3.8 billion. India's exports were \$3.2 billion.
- Owing to Sri Lanka's strategic location at the intersection of major shipping routes, China's investment stands at \$12 billion between 2006 and 2019.
- The ties began to worsen between the two since February, 2021 when Sri Lanka backed out from a tripartite partnership with India and Japan for its East Container Terminal Project at the Colombo Port, citing domestic issues.

#### Way forward:

- Both countries should try to work out a permanent solution to the issue of fishermen through bilateral engagements.



- Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) must be signed to improve the economic cooperation between both countries.
- India needs to focus more on its traditional and cultural ties to improve relations with Sri Lanka.

### 3.25. Taxing Drama (Retrospective Taxation)

It allows a country to pass a rule on taxing certain products, items or services and deals and charge companies from a time behind the date on which the law is passed.

- Countries use this route to correct any anomalies in their taxation policies that have, in the past, allowed companies to take advantage of such loopholes.
- Apart from India, many countries including the USA, the UK, the Netherlands, Canada, Belgium, Australia and Italy have retrospectively taxed companies.

#### Issues:

- It is against the principle of tax certainty and damage India's reputation as an attractive destination.
- India has recently suffered various humiliations in international arbitration while challenging tax demands made under the retrospective clause. Eg: Cairn was awarded damages of more than \$1.2 billion in December by the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague in the retro tax case.

#### Taxation laws (amendment) bill:

The bill aims to drop tax claims against companies on deals before May 2012 that involve indirect transfer of Indian assets.

The bill is quite significant as it deals with the issue of retrospective taxation.

The scrapping of the retrospective levy provides clarity to investors by removing a major source of ambiguity on taxation laws.

### 3.26. Towards low emissions growth

- Many developing countries made net-zero pledges at COP26 in Glasgow, they face enormous developmental challenges in their attempts to grow in a climate-constrained world.
- India will have to move to an investment-led and manufacturing-intensive growth model to help lift millions out of poverty, create job opportunities for another 300 million expected, and create entirely new cities and infrastructure to accommodate and connect an increasingly urban population. All of this requires a lot of energy.

#### Problems:

- While India has provided high level of policy support to deploy renewable energy, its industrial policy efforts to increase the domestic manufacturing of renewable energy technology components have been affected by policy incoherence, high costs and complex laws.
- China has created more jobs in manufacturing solar and wind components for exports than domestic deployment. India could have retained some of those jobs if it were strategic in promoting new technologies.
- India's R&D investments in emerging green technologies are non-existent.
- India's techno-industrial policy strategy is not strategically aligned to RD&D, manufacturing of new technologies.
- The cost of renewable electricity from hydrogen specifically, is the major problem.

#### Way forward:

- Policies to develop local innovation capabilities should be linked with global production networks to create the most job opportunities.
- Developing new technologies like lithium battery, green hydrogen, carbon capture and storage technologies to decarbonise India's hard-to-abate transport and industry sectors. Eg: Hydrogen Energy Mission, Vehicle Scrappage Policy etc.
- The production-linked incentives (PLIs) under 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' are a step in the right direction for localising clean energy manufacturing activities.
- India also needs to nurture private entrepreneurship and experimentation in clean energy technologies rather than be indifferent to it. Eg: For the first time there is private financing of ₹18,000 crore for 20,000 buses and innovative financing with Public Private Partnerships which would revolutionise the way public transport systems and buses function in India.





- India has a very liberal foreign investment policy for renewables allowing 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) through the automatic route in the sector.
- Rules are being framed for a 'green tariff' policy that will help electricity Distribution Companies (Discoms) supply electricity generated from clean energy projects at a cheaper rate, Viability gap funding for off shore wind farms etc.

### **Conclusion:**

- India needs an overarching green industrialisation strategy that combines laws, policy instruments, and new or reformed implementing institutions to steer its decentralised economic activities to become climate-friendly and resilient.

### **3.27. Fed move and Indian markets**

The US Federal Reserve has signalled a possible hike in interest rates soon, leading to a nervous reaction in Indian markets.

#### **Impacts on India:**

- When interest rates rise in US, the gap between those and rates in countries such as India reduces, giving less incentive for foreign investors to pump money into overseas market.
- This can lead to foreign capital outflows not only from equity but also from debt. In January itself, foreign investors have pulled out from 22000 crore from equity markets anticipating a hike in US fed rates.
- It will lead to higher cost of funds, and fund mobilization in overseas market will become costly.
- The increase in cost of funds will also lead to increase in cost of capital expenditure for India and will increase the cost of developing infrastructure.
- It can also strain the profit margins of companies.
- Outflow of dollar will effect Indian rupee too.

#### **Other factors impacting market:**

- Growing geopolitical tensions between Russia and Ukraine
- Spike in crude oil prices

#### **Way forward for investors:**

- Investments in mid and small cap companies can be reduced as they will be more volatile and vulnerable to rise in interest rates.
- Redeploy some funds in hybrid schemes.
- Invest in long term view and opt for business cycle based funds as India's business cycle remains robust.

### **3.28. India's economy and the challenge of informality**

- A defining characteristic of economic development is the movement of low-productivity informal (traditional) sector workers to the formal or modern (or organised) sector — known as structural transformation.
- Eg: East Asia witnessed rapid structural change in the second half of the 20th century as poor agrarian economies rapidly industrialised, drawing labour from traditional agriculture.
- Despite witnessing rapid economic growth over the last two decades, 90% of workers in India have remained informally employed, producing about half of GDP.
- Official PLFS data shows that 75% of informal workers are self-employed and casual wage workers with average earnings lower than regular salaried workers.

#### **RESEARCH BY SBI:**

SBI recently reported the economy formalised rapidly during the pandemic year of 2020-21, with the informal sector's GDP share shrinking to less than 20%, from about 50% a few years ago.

These findings do not represent a sustained structural transformation

They are a temporary (and unfortunate) outcome of the pandemic and severe lockdowns imposed in 2020 and 2021.

#### **It has many layers:**

- Industries thriving without paying taxes.
- Low productivity informal establishments working as household and self-employment units which represent "petty production".
- Informalisation of the formal sector, eg: daily wage workers in real estates.



### **Reason for informal sector:**

- “Fiscal perspective” of formalization: foregrounds the persistence of the informal sector to excessive state regulation of enterprises and labour which drives genuine economic activity outside the regulatory ambit.
- Political and economic reasons operating at the regional/local level in a competitive electoral democracy are responsible for this phenomenon.
- A well-regarded study, ‘Informality and Development’ argues that the persistence of informality is, in fact, a sign of underdevelopment. Across countries, the paper finds a negative association between informality (as measured by the share of self-employed in total workers) and per capita income.

### **The Government has made several efforts to formalise the economy:**

- Introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST)
- Digitalisation of financial transactions and enrolment of informal sector workers on numerous government Internet portals.
- Widening the tax net and reducing tax evasion are necessary.
- Alleviating legal and regulatory hurdles to promote EODB.
- The economy will get formalised when informal enterprises become more productive through greater capital investment and increased education and skills are imparted to its workers.

### **3.29. How boiling oil prices Impact Budget**

- India is the world's third largest oil importer. It imports 86% of its crude oil requirements to make the petrol and diesel.
- Iraq is the top oil supplier. Saudi Arabia, UAE, Nigeria and the US are other key sellers. Therefore, any geopolitical tension affecting the supply of crude oil does not bode well for Indian consumers as well as government finances.

#### **Reasons:**

- Rising tensions between Russia and Ukraine are leading to a surge in oil prices, with Brent breaching the \$90-a-barrel.
- Crude oil prices have risen sharply since the beginning of the year as a surge in Covid-19 cases around the world owing to the Omicron variant .
- Key oil-producing countries have also kept increasing crude oil supplies despite rising demand.
- OPEC+ had agreed to sharp cuts in supply in 2020 owing to Covid-induced travel restrictions, but the organisation has been slow to boost production since then.

#### **Impact:**

- Rising prices feed into inflation.
- Increases the amount of LPG and kerosene subsidy the government is required to pay.
- On the positive side, government revenues on taxes of oil and related products have also been rising over the last two years- High inflation will force the government to cut taxes on oil and related products.
- The Oil import bill is already up by more than 70 per cent from last year and it affects the balance of payments adversely.

### **3.30. To the poll booth, with no donor knowledge**

In late 2021, Union government authorised State Bank of India to issue and encash a new tranche of electoral bonds, 19th since its launch in 2018.

#### **Criticisms of electoral bond:**

- Not transparent: denying citizens the right of access to information, especially material on political funding.
- Political parties have no obligation to provide details to the public on each donation received by them through electoral bonds.
- Amendments have been made removing a previous prohibition that disallowed a company from donating

Electoral Bond is a financial instrument for making donations to political parties.

The bonds are issued in multiples of Rs. 1,000, Rs. 10,000, Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore without any maximum limit.

State Bank of India is authorised to issue and encash these bonds, which are valid for fifteen days from the date of issuance.

These bonds are redeemable in the designated account of a registered political party.

anything more than 7.5% of its net profits over the course of the preceding three years. This can act as a channel for black money.

- Because the bonds are purchased through the State Bank of India (SBI), the government is always in a position to know who the donor is.

### Government's argument:

- Government of India (GoI) said that voters have no fundamental right to know how political parties are funded.
- Only parties registered under the Representation of the People Act 1951 could receive donations through electoral bonds, and they also should not have secured less than 1% of the votes polled in the previous elections.
- Only white money is involved in the Bonds as the amounts are paid only through cheque or demand draft.
- ECI claimed that the scheme is one step forward compared to the old system of cash funding, which was unaccountable.

### Role of judiciary:

- Supreme Court has consistently held that voters have a right to freely express themselves during an election.
- Voters are entitled to all pieces of information that give purpose and vigour to this right.
- Bombay High Court predicted that any decision to allow companies to fund political parties might "ultimately overwhelm and even throttle democracy in this country".
- Calcutta High Court was of the view that the individual citizens, although in name equal, will be gravely handicapped in their voice because the length of their contribution cannot ever hope to equal the length of the contribution of the big companies.

## 3.31. India Oman Relations

**Background:** The two countries across the Arabian Sea are linked by geography, history and culture and enjoy warm and cordial relations, which are attributed to historical maritime trade linkages.

Strategic partnership was established in 2008 and Oman has been a key pillar of India's West Asia Policy.

### Areas of cooperation:

#### Political Relations:

- The Sultanate of Oman is a strategic partner of India in the Gulf and an important interlocutor at the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Arab League and Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) fora.
- Al Zaabi the top defence official of Oman, is on a visit to India.

#### Defence:

- Oman is the only gulf country with which India conducts exercises in all 3 services:
- Army exercise: Al Najah
- Air Force exercise: Eastern Bridge
- Naval Exercise: Naseem Al Bahr
- Oman has been extending its support to Indian Navy's anti-piracy missions.

#### Economic:

- For Oman, India was the 3rd largest (after UAE and China) source for its imports and 3rd largest market (after UAE and Saudi Arabia) for its non-oil exports in 2018.
- Major items of India's exports to Oman include mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances etc.
- Main items of India's imports from Oman include fertilizers; mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substances etc.
- Oman has allowed India, including its navy, access to its Duqm port, about 550 km south of the capital Muscat. The Port of Duqm SEZ is earmarked to be the Indian Ocean's largest deep-sea port.
- An agreement to develop Little India, an integrated tourism complex project in Duqm, has been signed between the two countries.





### Cultural:

- The large, diverse and highly regarded expatriate Indian community in Oman is spread over the entire spectrum of professions.
- The vibrant Indian expatriate community in Oman regularly hosts cultural performances.

### Way forward:

- The rapidly growing energy demand has contributed to the need for long term energy partnerships with countries like Oman.
- India needs to engage with Oman and take initiatives to utilise opportunities arising out of the Duqm Port industrial city.

## 3.32. Russia-Ukraine-India

India has broken its silence on the crisis arising out of Russia's military build-up on Ukraine's border.

### What is the history of conflict between Ukraine and Russia?

1. Annexation of Crimea - Ukraine was one of the republics within the USSR during the cold war days, and has remained a strong ally of Russia till 2013.

- While it was planning to sign an association agreement with the European Union in 2013, Russia sternly objected to it leading to tensions.
- Russia subsequently annexed "Crimea".

2. After Crimea's annexation in 2014, Russia gained control over both sides of the Kerch strait.

- In 2018, Russian opened a 12-mile-long bridge over the Kerch Strait, which became the physical gateway to the Sea of Azov.
- The Ukrainian vessels' attempt to travel from the Black Sea to the Sea of Azov was denied by the Russian coast guard which led to naval skirmishes.

3. Russia has been criticised for its involvement in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions in eastern Ukraine. There, Russian-backed separatists have been fighting with Ukrainian troops.

Minsk I: Ukraine and the Russian-backed separatists agreed a 12-point ceasefire deal in the capital of Belarus in September 2014.

Its provisions included prisoner exchanges, deliveries of humanitarian aid and the withdrawal of heavy weapons.

The agreement quickly broke down, with violations by both sides.

Minsk II: In 2015, an open conflict was averted after the 'Minsk II' peace agreement was signed, under the mediation of France and Germany.

### Current issues:

- Russia had certain demands which were not accepted by the US and the west:
- Russia wanted a guarantee from the west to stop further eastward expansion of NATO and removal of NATO troops from Poland and Baltic states- Russia sees this as a threat.
- A withdrawal of nuclear weapons of US from Europe.
- Ukraine should not be allowed to join NATO- although not a member now, Ukraine was assured in 2008 that it would be allowed to join NATO eventually.
- Ukraine has come politically closer to the west. It has conducted joint military exercises with NATO and has been delivered US weapons.
- Russia feels that NATO may use Ukraine as a launchpad for missiles targeted at Russia.

### Historical connections between Russia and Ukraine:

- Kyiv was the capital of ancient RUS since 9th century.
- From 1654, they were united by an agreement under the tsar.
- After collapse of tsar regime, Ukrainians declared independence from 1918 to 1920, after which they were controlled by Bolsheviks.



- The Bolsheviks were forced to recognise Ukraine as a separate nation due to revolts and grant it a pro forma independence.
- The Ukrainian referendum in 1991, in which 90% people voted to opt out of USSR led to the end of cold war.
  - Russia could not bear the burden of its union without Ukraine, its 2nd largest economy.

### **India's stand:**

- India has called for a peaceful resolution of the situation through sustained diplomatic efforts for long term peace and stability.
- Russia will need allies in case of war. Presently, China is considered its big ally, specially after sanctions.
  - China is also supporting that Ukraine should not become a member of NATO.
  - In such a situation, if there is a ban on Russia from the western countries and US, then China can compensate for it.
  - This will further increase the closeness of China and Russia, which can have a bad effect on the friendship of India and Russia.
- About 60% of India's military supplies come from Russia, and this is a very important aspect.
- India and Russia have signed several important defence agreements, including the S400 missile system and AK-203 assault rifle.
- India and China are already face to face in eastern Ladakh. In this situation, India cannot take any risk to spoil relations with Russia.
- Russia is also key to India's engagement in Afghanistan after capture by Taliban.
- US and Europe are both important partners of India and US has often provided support to counter China.
- There is an Indian community in Ukraine too who are now being called back.

In such a situation, India can neither bargain with Russia nor with America. Therefore, this situation is no less critical for India.



## 4. Conventional Edge

### 4.1 The Procedure of Amendment U/A 368

A Constitutional Amendment Bill can be:

- Initiated only by the introduction of a bill for the purpose in either House of Parliament (not in State Legislatures)
- Introduced either by a minister or by a private member.
- Does not require prior permission of the president.
- Must be passed in each House by a Special Majority (A majority of the total membership of the House and a majority of  $\frac{2}{3}$ rd of the members of the House present and voting)
- Each House must pass the bill separately. No provision for holding a joint sitting of the two Houses in case of a deadlock over such a bill.
- If the bill seeks to amend the federal provisions of the Constitution, it must also be ratified by the legislatures of half of the states by a Simple Majority (a majority of the members of the House present and voting)
- After duly passed by both the Houses of Parliament and ratified by the state legislatures (where necessary) the bill is presented to the president for assent.
- The president must give his assent to the bill. He can neither withhold his assent to the bill nor return the bill for reconsideration of the Parliament. (24th CAA, 1971)
- After the president's assent, the bill becomes an Act and the Constitution stands amended in accordance with the terms of the Act.

Amendment by simple majority of the Parliament	Amendment by special majority of the Parliament (Article 368)	Amendment by special majority of the Parliament and the ratification of half of the state legislatures (Article 368)
<p><b>These provisions include:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Admission or establishment of new states.</li> <li>2. Formation of new states and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing states.</li> <li>3. Abolition or creation of legislative councils in states.</li> <li>4. Second Schedule— emoluments, allowances, privileges and so on of the president, the governors, the Speakers, judges, etc.</li> <li>5. Quorum in Parliament.</li> <li>6. Salaries and allowances of the members of Parliament.</li> <li>7. Rules of procedure in Parliament.</li> <li>8. Privileges of the Parliament, its members and its committees.</li> <li>9. Use of English language in Parliament.</li> <li>10. Number of puisne judges in the Supreme Court.</li> <li>11. Conferment of more jurisdiction on the Supreme Court.</li> <li>12. Use of official language.</li> <li>13. Citizenship—acquisition and termination.</li> <li>14. Elections to Parliament and state legislatures.</li> <li>15. Delimitation of constituencies.</li> <li>16. Union territories.</li> <li>17. Fifth Schedule—administration of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes.</li> <li>18. Sixth Schedule—administration of tribal areas.</li> </ol> <p>Notably, these amendments are not deemed to be amendments of the Constitution for the purposes of Article 368.</p>	<p><b>These provisions include:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fundamental Rights</li> <li>2. Directive Principles of State Policy.</li> <li>3. All other provisions which are not covered by the first and third categories. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The expression 'total membership' means the total number of members comprising the House irrespective of fact whether there are vacancies or absentees.</li> <li>• Special majority has been provided for in the rules of the Houses in respect of all the effective stages of the bill.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p><b>These provisions include:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Election of the President and its manner.</li> <li>2. Extent of the executive power of the Union and the states.</li> <li>3. Supreme Court and high courts.</li> <li>4. Distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the states.</li> <li>5. Goods and Services Tax Council.</li> <li>6. Any of the lists in the Seventh Schedule.</li> <li>7. Representation of states in Parliament.</li> <li>8. Power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedure (Article 368 itself). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If one or some or all the remaining states take no action on the bill, it does not matter. The moment half of the states give their consent, the formality is completed.</li> <li>• There is no time limit within which the states should give their consent to the bill.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>



## 5. Prelims Booster

### 01.12.21

**Line of Actual control:** is the demarcation that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory. It is only a concept – it is not agreed upon by the two countries, neither delineated on a map or demarcated on the ground. Length of the LAC: India considers the LAC to be 3,488 km long, while the Chinese consider it to be only around 2,000 km.

**International Investment Position:** is a statistical statement that shows, at a point in time, the value and the composition of (a) financial assets of residents of an economy that are claims on non-residents and gold bullion held as reserve assets; and (b) liabilities of residents of an economy to non-residents. The difference between an economy's external financial assets and liabilities is its net IIP, which may be positive or negative.

**Special Drawings Right:** is neither a currency nor a claim on the IMF. Rather, it is a potential claim on the freely usable currencies of IMF members. SDRs can be exchanged for these currencies. The SDR serves as the unit of account of the IMF and some other international organizations. The currency value of the SDR is determined by summing the values in US dollars, based on market exchange rates, of a SDR basket of currencies. The SDR basket of currencies includes the US dollar, Euro, Japanese yen, pound sterling and the Chinese renminbi (included in 2016).

**Tibetan Govt in Exile:** The Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile (TPiE) has its headquarters in Dharamsala, in the Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh. According to the Green Book of the Tibetan government-in-exile, over 1 lakh Tibetans are settled across India. The remaining are settled in United States, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, France, Mexico, Mongolia, Germany, United Kingdom, Switzerland and various other countries.

**Current Account Deficit:** refers to a situation when the value of goods and services imported by a country exceeds the value of goods and services exported by it. In other words, it simply means that a country imports more than what it exports. This current account deficit is paid through surplus in the capital account i.e through surplus foreign investments or foreign loans or through the forex reserves. When foreign exchange reserves fall below the critical level, the country faces the balance of payment crisis.

### 03.1.22

**Project Himank & Umling La:** Project Himank, is a project of the BRO being implemented in the Ladakh region of Jammu & Kashmir. Under this project, BRO is responsible for the construction and maintenance of roads and related infrastructure including the world's highest motorable roads. Recently, the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed and completed black topping the world's highest motorable road at Umling La pass in Eastern Ladakh, located at an altitude of 19,300 ft. The strategic road built under 'Project Himank' passes through the Umling La Top and connects Chisumle and Demchok villages.

**PM Matru Vandana Yojana:** is a maternity benefit programme being implemented in all districts of the country. It is a centrally sponsored scheme being executed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Cash benefits are provided to pregnant women in their bank account directly to meet enhanced nutritional needs and partially compensate for wage loss. All Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM), excluding those who are in regular employment with the Central Government or the State Governments or PSUs or those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law for the time being in force.

**AUKUS:** The UK, US and Australia have announced a historic security pact in the Asia-Pacific, in what's seen as an effort to counter China. It is called the AUKUS pact and AUKUS alliance. Under the AUKUS alliance, the three nations have agreed to enhance the development of joint capabilities and technology sharing, foster deeper integration of security and defence-related science, technology, industrial bases and supply chains. Under the first major initiative of AUKUS, Australia would build a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines with the help of the US and the UK, a capability aimed at promoting stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

**ODF & ODF+ & ODF++:** The original ODF protocol, issued in March 2016, said, "A city/ward is notified as ODF city/ward if, at any point of the day, not a single person is found defecating in the open."

- A city, ward or work circle could be declared ODF+ if, "at any point of the day, not a single person is found defecating and/or urinating in the open, and all community and public toilets are functional and well-maintained."
- The ODF++ protocol adds the condition that "faecal sludge/septage and sewage is safely managed and treated, with no discharging and/or dumping of untreated faecal sludge/septage and sewage in drains, water bodies or open areas."

**Malabar Exercise:** is a multilateral war-gaming naval exercise that was started in 1992. It began as a bilateral exercise between the navies of India and the United States. Japan and Australia first participated in 2007, and since 2014, India, the US and Japan have participated in the exercise every year. It is aimed to support free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific and remain committed to a rules based international order.



#### **04.1.22**

**Double Deflation:** A better way to estimate GDP accurately is to deflate input and output prices through separate indices, popularly known as double deflation. When output prices move relatively faster than the input prices, the single deflation method overestimates GDP/GVA and vice versa. In order to ensure accuracy, it is high time to discard the single deflation method to estimate GDP/GVA by using WPI as a deflator.

**Democracy Index:** is prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit, provides a snapshot of the state of democracy worldwide in 165 independent states and two territories. Based on five categories: Civil liberties, Electoral process and pluralism; Functioning of government; Political participation; and Political culture. The countries are scored on a scale of 0 to 10 on 60 indicators within the above categories. Based on their scores, each country is classified as one of four types of regimes: Full democracy (scores greater than 8); Flawed democracy (greater than 6 and up to 8); Hybrid regime (greater than 4 and up to 6); and Authoritarian regime (less than or equal to 4).

**World Press Freedom Index:** It has been published every year since 2002 by Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) or Reporters Without Borders. The Index ranks countries and regions according to the level of freedom available to journalists. However it is not an indicator on the quality of journalism. The parameters include pluralism, media independence, media environment and self-censorship, legislative framework, transparency, and the quality of the infrastructure that supports the production of news and information. India has ranked 142<sup>nd</sup> yet again out of 180 nations in the recently unveiled World Press Freedom Index.

**CSR:** The term "Corporate Social Responsibility" in general can be referred to as a corporate initiative to assess and take responsibility for the company's effects on the environment and impact on social welfare. In India, the concept of CSR is governed by clause 135 of the Companies Act, 2013. India is the first country in the world to mandate CSR spending along with a framework to identify potential CSR activities. The CSR provisions within the Act is applicable to companies with an annual turnover of 1,000 crore and more, or a net worth of Rs. 500 crore and more, or a net profit of Rs. 5 crore and more.

**Manufacturing PMI:** is an economic indicator derived from the monthly survey of the private sector companies. PMI aims in providing information regarding the current and future conditions of a business to the decision-makers, analysts and investors of the company. Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) is released and compiled by Institute for Supply Management every month. The PMI value is based on the survey that is conducted monthly and is sent to the senior executives of over 400 companies under 19 primary industries that are weighted by their contribution to U.S. GDP.

#### **05.1.22**

**Kisan Credit card:** scheme was introduced in 1998 for providing adequate and timely credit support from the banking system under a single window with flexible and simplified procedure to the farmers for their cultivation and other needs like purchase of agriculture inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc. and draw cash for their production needs. KCC covers post-harvest expenses, produce marketing loan, consumption requirements of farmer household, working capital for maintenance of farm assets and activities allied to agriculture, investment credit requirement for agriculture and allied activities. The Kisan Credit Card Scheme is implemented by Commercial Banks, RRBs, Small Finance Banks and Cooperatives.

**PM Garib Kalyan Yojana:** was launched by the Government of India in 2016. Income taxpayers are given an opportunity to forgo prosecution by declaring their illegal money. The Scheme provides an opportunity for persons having undisclosed income in the form of cash or deposit in an account maintained with a specified entity (which includes banks, post office, etc.) to declare such income and pay tax, surcharge, and penalty totalling in all to 49.9 percent. of such declared income. Besides, the Scheme provides that a mandatory deposit of not less than 25% of such income shall be made in the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Deposit Scheme, 2016 (hereinafter 'the PMGKY Deposit Scheme') which has separately been notified by the Department of Economic Affairs.

**OmiSure:** The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has approved a testing kit for detecting the Omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2. The kit is manufactured by Tata Medical and Diagnostics and is named OmiSure. The kit will be used to confirm Omicron in patients with its S-Gene Target Failure (SGTF) strategy. The kit currently in use to detect Omicron in India has been developed by the U.S.-based scientific instrumentation company Thermo Fisher. It, too, uses the SGTF strategy to detect the variant.

**Western disturbances:** develop in the mid latitude region (north of the Tropic of Cancer), not in the tropical region, therefore they are called as mid latitude storms or extra-tropical storms. Extra-Tropical Cyclones are also called as winter storms and blizzards. Western Disturbances are low pressure systems, embedded in western winds (westerlies) that flow from west to the east.

**Genome Sequencing:** is figuring out the order of DNA nucleotides, or bases, in a genome—the order of Adenine, Cytosine, Guanine, and Thymine that make up an organism's DNA. Sequencing the genome is an important step towards understanding it. The genome sequence will represent a valuable shortcut, helping scientists find genes much more easily and quickly. A genome sequence does contain some clues about where genes are, even though scientists are just learning to interpret these clues.



### 06.1.22

**UNCTAD:** The United Nations General Assembly is the parent organisation of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Moreover, UNCTAD is a permanent body of the United Nations. It deals with trade issues, investments and other matters concerning development. United Nations Conference Trade and Development goals are: The development opportunities, investments and trade of developing countries are to be maximized. The efforts of developing countries to integrate into the world economy on an equitable basis would be assisted by UNCTAD.

**Rule of law:** means is that all laws apply equally to all citizens of the country and no one can be above the law. Any crime or violation of law has a specific punishment as well as a process through which the guilt of the person has to be established. It also says that no person shall be subject to harsh, uncivilized or discriminatory treatment even for the sake of maintaining law and order.

**Demographic Dividend:** According to United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), demographic dividend means, "the economic growth potential that can result from shifts in a population's age structure, mainly when the share of the working-age population (15 to 64) is larger than the non-working-age share of the population (14 and younger, and 65 and older)". India has one of the youngest populations in an aging world. By 2020, the median age in India will be just 28, compared to 37 in China and the US, 45 in Western Europe, and 49 in Japan.

**Mongolian gull:** also known as the Vega gull, East Siberian gull, or East Siberian herring gull (*Larus vegae*) is a large gull of the herring gull/lesser black-backed gull complex which breeds in Northeast Asia. Its classification is still controversial and uncertain. Chilika Lake, the largest brackish water lake and wintering ground of birds in the Indian subcontinent, saw a million birds, including the uncommon Mongolian gull, visiting the waterbody this year.

**POSH Act:** The Protection of Women Against Sexual Harassment at Workplace Act, 2013, defines sexual harassment at the workplace and creates a mechanism for redressal of complaints. It also provides safeguards against false or malicious charges. Every employer is required to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee at each office or branch with 10 or more employees. The Complaints Committees have the powers of civil courts for gathering evidence.

### 07.0122

**SPG:** Special Protection Group was raised in 1985 to provide security cover to the Prime Minister, former Prime Ministers and their immediate family members. The SPG comprises of the personnel from the CRPF, Border Security Force and other Central and State forces.

**Reciprocal Access Agreement:** is a bilateral defence and security pact between the governments of Australia and of Japan that provides for shared military training and military operations. The defence treaty between Australia and Japan, apart from its strategic significance for Asia and the Indo-Pacific, fortifies trends that are part of the changing security architecture in the region.

**Hypersonic missile:** Hypersonic speeds are 5 or more times the Mach or speed of sound. Hypersonic cruise missiles are the ones that use rocket or jet propellant through their flight and are regarded as being just faster versions of existing cruise missiles.

**1st open rock museum:** Union Minister of Science & Technology inaugurated India's first unique "Rock" Museum and later addressed the Hyderabad Scientists at the CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI). The Open Rock Museum, set up with the aim to educate and enlighten the masses about several lesser-known facts, displays around 35 different types of rocks from different parts of India with ages ranging from 3.3 Billion years to around 55 Million years of the Earth's history. These rocks also represent the deepest part of the earth up to 175 kms of distance from the surface of the earth.

**Child mortality rate:** the death rate of children under five year of age is called Child Mortality Rate.

### 08.1.22

**Cost inflation index:** is used to estimate the increase in the prices of goods and assets year-by-year due to inflation. It is calculated to match the prices to the inflation rate. In simple words, an increase in the inflation rate over time will lead to a rise in the prices. The Cost Inflation Index (CII) for the financial year 2021-22 is 317.

**Uniform Civil Code:** means that all sections of the society irrespective of their religion shall be treated equally according to a national civil code, which shall be applicable to all uniformly. They cover areas like- Marriage, divorce, maintenance, inheritance, adoption and succession of the property.

**PM Gati Shakti Scheme:** or National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity plan to ensure integrated planning and implementation of infrastructure projects in the next four years, with focus on expediting works on the ground, saving costs and creating jobs. The Gati Shakti scheme will subsume the Rs 110 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline that was launched in 2019.



**RPA Act 1951:** The Representation of People Act, 1951 was passed by the Parliament in accordance with Article 327 of the Constitution of India. This Act makes provisions for the conduct of elections in India. It also talks about corruption and other illegal activities related to elections. The Act makes provisions for dispute redressal in matters connected to elections. It also talks about the qualification as well as grounds for the disqualification of MPs and MLAs.

**Inflation:** measures the average price change in a basket of commodities and services over time. Inflation is indicative of the decrease in the purchasing power of a unit of a country's currency. This could ultimately lead to a deceleration in economic growth.

### 10.1.22

**B.N.Srikrishna Committee:** The Committee was constituted by the union government in July 2017, to deliberate on a data protection framework. The ten-member committee was tasked with studying and identifying key data protection issues and recommend methods for addressing them. The committee recommends that processing (collection, recording, analysis, disclosure, etc) of personal data should be done only for "clear, specific and lawful" purposes. Only that data which is necessary for such processing is to be collected from anyone. The committee recommends giving "data principals" (persons whose personal data is being processed) the 'right to be forgotten'.

**Gross Value Addition:** is defined as the value of output minus the value of intermediate consumption and is a measure of the contribution to growth made by an individual producer, industry or sector. It provides the rupee value for the number of goods and services produced in an economy after deducting the cost of inputs and raw materials that have gone into the production of those goods and services.

**Veer Baal Diwas:** December 26 would be celebrated as "Veer Baal Diwas". The day will be celebrated to pay tribute to Sahibzades, that is, the four sons of Gurm Gobind Singh. It was on the same day Sahibzada Fatch Singh and Sahibzada Zorawar Singh attained martyrdom. They were sealed alive in wall. They preferred death rather than following a non – dharmic path. The four Sahibzades never bowed to injustice. They wanted to create a harmonious world.

**Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank:** is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia. It is headquartered in Beijing and began its operations in January 2016. The members to Bank have now grown to 97 approved members worldwide. There are 27 prospective members including Armenia, Lebanon, Brazil, South Africa, Greece, etc. Fourteen of the G-20 nations are AIIB members including France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom. Forber RBI governor Urjit Patel has been appointed as vice president.

**Jallikattu:** is a competitive sport as well as an event to honour bull owners who rear them for mating. It is a violent sport in which contestants try to tame a bull for a prize; if they fail, the bull owner wins the prize. It is popular in Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Theni, Pudukkottai and Dindigul districts of Tamil Nadu known as the Jallikattu belt. It is celebrated in the second week of January, during the Tamil harvest festival, Pongal.

### 11.1.22

**Bilateral Investment Treaty:** is an agreement between two countries that sets up "rules of the road" for foreign investment in each other's countries. BITs typically serve to protect investments made by investors on a reciprocal basis, specifying conditions on regulatory oversight of the host state and limiting interference with the rights of foreign investors.

**Eurasian Economic Union:** is an international organization for regional economic integration that came into existence on 1st January 2015. The EAEU provides for free movement of goods, services, capital, and labor within its borders. It pursues, coordinates, & harmonizes the policies in the sectors determined by the Treaty and international agreements within the Union. The member states of the Eurasian Economic Union are, The Republic of Armenia, The Republic of Belarus, The Republic of Kazakhstan, The Kyrgyz Republic, and The Russian Federation.

**Antibodies:** is also known as an immunoglobulin(Ig). These are large, Y-shaped blood proteins produced by plasma cells. They bind to foreign particles and invade them. They are not found at a place as such, but whenever our immune system encounters antigen or a pathogen, B cells get activated immediately releasing antibodies into the bloodstream. These immunoglobulins undergo mitosis resulting in cell division and continuously produce antibodies as a result of producing more cells. These antibodies remain in the blood for some time but B cells remember these antigens and repeat the same course of action whenever they reappear in our body.

**T- Cell:** T cells are so called because they are predominantly produced in the thymus. They recognise foreign particles (antigen) by a surface expressed, highly variable, T cell receptor (TCR). There are two major types of T cells: the helper T cell and the cytotoxic T cell. As the names suggest, helper T cells 'help' other cells of the immune system, whilst cytotoxic T cells kill virally infected cells and tumours. The severity of disease can depend on the strength of these T cell responses.



**BBV152:** Covaxin (codenamed as BBV152) is an inactivated virus-based COVID-19 vaccine developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research - National Institute of Virology. As an inactivated vaccine, Covaxin uses a more traditional technology that is similar to the inactivated polio vaccine.

### 12.1.22

**Lohri Festival:** primarily celebrated by Sikhs and Hindus. It marks the end of the winter season and is traditionally believed to welcome the sun to the northern hemisphere. It is observed a night before Makar Sankranti, this occasion involves a Puja Parikrama around the bonfire with prasad. It is essentially termed as the festival of the farmers and harvest, whereby, the farmers thank the Supreme Being.

**PHDI- Planetary Pressure Adjusted HDI:** is an experimental metric that adjusts the Human Development Index (HDI) for planetary pressures. This index is similar to the Inequality-adjusted HDI adjustment, previously introduced by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). It is the level of human development adjusted by carbon dioxide emissions per person and material footprint per capita. The material foot print is the amount of fossil fuels, metals and other resources consumed by a country to produce the required Goods and Services. In an ideal scenario where there are no pressures on the planet, the PHDI equals the HDI. However, all countries of the world have substantial pressure from their part. If this new metric is taken into account, Ireland tops the list while India moves 8 positions up from the HDI rank of 131.

**Henley Passport Index:** lists the most travel-friendly passports of the world. This year India has been ranked at 83<sup>rd</sup>. Henley Passport Index ranks the passports of countries on the basis of number of destinations their holders can visit without getting visa in advance. Rankings are decided by analysing the data provided by 'International Air Transport Association (IATA)'.

**Adjusted Gross Revenue:** is the usage and licensing fee that telecom operators are charged by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). It is divided into spectrum usage charges and licensing fees, pegged between 3-5 percent and 8 percent respectively. As per DoT, the charges are calculated based on all revenues earned by a telco – including non-telecom related sources such as deposit interests and asset sales.

**Debt to GDP ratio:** is the metric comparing a country's public debt to its gross domestic product (GDP). By comparing what a country owes with what it produces, the debt-to-GDP ratio reliably indicates that particular country's ability to pay back its debts.

### 13.1.22

**Unemployment Rate:** The unemployment rate is the most frequent measure of unemployment. The unemployment rate is the number of people unemployed divided by the working population or people working under labour force.

$$\text{Unemployment rate} = (\text{Unemployed Workers} / \text{Total labour force}) \times 100.$$

**Labour Force Participation Rate:** It is defined as the percentage of persons in the labour force (i.e. working or seeking or available for work) in the population.

**Gender Budgeting:** GB is concerned with gender sensitive formulation of legislation, programmes and schemes; allocation of resources; implementation and execution; audit and impact assessment of programmes and schemes; and follow-up corrective action to address gender disparities. A powerful tool for achieving gender mainstreaming so as to ensure that benefits of development reach women as much as men. Does not seek to create a separate budget but seeks affirmative action to address specific needs of women.

**Start-up India:** is an important government scheme that was launched on 16th January 2016 with an aim to promote and support the start-ups in India by providing bank finances. The Startup India scheme is based majorly on three pillars which are mentioned below: Providing funding support and incentives to the various start-ups of the country, To provide Industry-Academia Partnership and Incubation, Simplification and Handholding.

**Stand-up India:** aims at providing people belonging to the scheduled caste or scheduled tribe or women of the country a loan between Rs.10 lakhs to Rs.1 crore, based on their requirement. The aim is to promote entrepreneurship among them. Under the scheme, 1.25 lakh bank branches would each be expected to lend money every year to at least one Dalit or tribal entrepreneur and one woman entrepreneur in their service area.

### 14.1.22

**Currency Swap Agreement:** An arrangement between two friendly countries to involve in trading in their own local currencies. As per the arrangements, both countries pay for import and export trade at the pre-determined rates of exchange, without bringing



in third country currency like the US Dollar. In such arrangements no third country currency is involved, thereby eliminating the need to worry about exchange variations.

**Asian Clearing Union:** is a payment settlement forum whereby the participants settle payments for transactions that take place within the regions and this facilitated through the participating central banks on a wider basis. The members of the Asian Clearing Union are as follows: Bangladesh Bank, Royal Monetary Authority of Bhutan, Reserve Bank of India, Central bank of Islamic Republic of Iran, Maldives Monetary Authority, Central Bank of Myanmar, Nepal Rastra Bank, State Bank of Pakistan, Central Bank of Sri Lanka.

**FTA:** It is a pact between two or more nations to reduce barriers to imports and exports among them. Under a free trade policy, goods and services can be bought and sold across international borders with little or no government tariffs, quotas, subsidies, or prohibitions to inhibit their exchange. The concept of free trade is the opposite of trade protectionism or economic isolationism.

**Retail Inflation:** The change in the price index over a period of time is referred to as CPI-based inflation, or retail inflation. If there is inflation (when goods and services cost more) the CPI will rise over a period of time. If the CPI drops, that means there is deflation, or a steady reduction in the prices of goods and services.

**Indian Ocean Symposium:** The IONS is a voluntary and inclusive initiative that brings together navies of Indian Ocean Region littoral states to increase maritime co-operation and enhance regional security. It also serves to develop an effective response mechanism and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) against natural disasters. The chairmanship of IONS has been held by India (2008-10), UAE (2010-12), South Africa (2012-14), Australia (2014-16), Bangladesh (2016-18) and Islamic Republic of Iran (2018-21). France assumed the Chairmanship in June 2021 for a two-year tenure.

### 15.1.22

**Indian Ocean Rim Association:** It is a regional tripartite forum that gathers government representatives, academia and business leaders for encouraging cooperation and greater interaction between them. The organisation is founded upon the values of open regionalism for boosting economic cooperation especially on the realms of trade facilitation, investment, the region's social development and promotion. Currently, it has 23 member states. The idea for the IORA was formed by India and South Africa.

**RBI Integrated Ombudsman Scheme:** It amalgamates three ombudsman schemes of RBI - banking ombudsman scheme of 2006, ombudsman scheme for NBFCs of 2018 and ombudsman scheme of digital transactions of 2019. The unified ombudsman scheme will provide redress of customer complaints involving deficiency in services rendered by RBI regulated entities viz. banks, NBFCs (Non Banking Financial Companies) and pre-paid instrument players if the grievance is not resolved to the satisfaction of the customers or not replied within a period of 30 days by the regulated entity. It also includes non-scheduled primary co-operative banks with a deposit size of Rs 50 crore and above. The integrated scheme makes it a "One Nation One Ombudsman" approach and jurisdiction neutral.

**BARC Rating:** Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) It is a company created in 2010 and jointly owned by advertisers, ad agencies, and broadcasting companies, represented by the Indian Society of Advertisers, the Indian Broadcasting Foundation and the Advertising Agencies Association of India. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting notified the Policy Guidelines for Television Rating Agencies in India on January 10, 2014, and registered BARC in July 2015 under these guidelines, to carry out television ratings in India.

**Demographic Transition theory:** studies the relationship between economic development and population growth. It discusses about changes in birth rate and death rate and consequently growth rate of population in assonance with the process of growth and development. It is also used to describe and predict the future population of any area. The theory tells us that population of any region changes from high births and high deaths to low births and low deaths as society progresses from rural agrarian and illiterate to urban industrial and literate society.

**Gross Fixed Capital Formation:** refers to the net increase in physical assets (investment minus disposals). It does not account for the consumption (depreciation) of fixed capital. It is a component of expenditure approach to calculating Gross Domestic Product (GDP). GFCF is not a measure of total investment, because only the value of net additions to fixed assets is measured, and all kinds of financial assets, as well as stocks of inventories and other operating costs are excluded.

### 17.1.22

**Predatory Pricing:** is a short-term strategy, adopted by some of the market giants with deep pockets to sustain short-term losses and reduce the prices of their products below the average variable costs. This may lead to wiping out competition from the market and could be detrimental to the consumers in the long run.

**SAARC currency swap agreement:** The SAARC currency swap facility came into operation on 15th November, 2012. Under the revised framework, The RBI will continue to offer a swap arrangement within the overall corpus of USD 2 billion. The swap draws



can be made in US dollar, euro or Indian rupee. The framework provides certain concessions for swap draws in Indian rupee. The facility will be available to all SAARC member countries, subject to their signing the bilateral swap agreements. The framework is valid from 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 to 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2022.

**Oxfam Report:** Oxfam International is a group of independent non-governmental organisations formed in 1995. The income of 84 per cent of households in the country declined in 2021, but at the same time the number of Indian billionaires grew from 102 to 142. The Oxfam report, "Inequality Kills", also found that as Covid continued to ravage India, the country's healthcare budget saw a 10% decline from RE (revised estimates) of 2020-21. There was a 6% cut in allocation for education, the Oxfam report says, while the budgetary allocation for social security schemes declined from 1.5% of the total Union budget to 0.6%.

**Chipko Movement:** The name of the Chipko movement originated from the word 'embrace' as the villagers used to hug the trees and protect them. It is a social-ecological movement that practiced the Gandhian methods of Satyagraha and nonviolent resistance, through the act of hugging trees to protect them from falling. This movement headed by Shri Sunderlal Bahuguna in the Himalayas not only successfully resisted deforestation in several areas but also showed that community afforestation with indigenous species can be enormously successful. The modern Chipko movement started in the early 1970s in the Garhwal Himalayas of Uttarakhand, with growing awareness towards rapid deforestation.

**Global Gender Gap Report 2021:** The World Economic Forum (WEF) has released the Global Gender Gap Report 2021. India has ranked 140 among 156 countries in Global Gender Gap Index 2021, which is 28 spots lower than its 2020 ranking. There are four dimensions based on which the Global Gender Index evaluates the performance of the countries: Economic Participation & Opportunity, Education Attainment, Health and Survival, Political Empowerment.

### 18.1.22

**Unicorn Company:** A unicorn is a term used in the venture capital industry to describe a startup company with a value of over \$1 billion. India currently stands third in the global list of the number of companies that have attained unicorn status (well behind the US and China, but ahead of the UK and Germany.).

**Arogya Setu:** India launched Arogya Setu mobile App to augment the efforts of limiting the spread of Covid-19. It has an objective of enabling bluetooth based contact tracing and mapping of likely hotspots and dissemination of relevant information about Covid-19. Significance: Expanding collaboration amongst the talented youth and citizens through open source would help in building a robust and secure technology solution which will further support the work of frontline health workers in fighting this pandemic together.

**Rabi crop:** Those that are sown around the Retreating Monsoon and Northeast monsoon season, which begins by October are called rabi or winter crops. The harvest for these crops happens typically during April and May, during the summer season. Major Rabi crops are wheat, gram, peas, barley etc.

**One China Policy:** is a key cornerstone of Sino-US relations. It is the diplomatic acknowledgement of China's position that there is only one Chinese government. Under the policy, the US recognises and has formal ties with China rather than the island of Taiwan, which China sees as a breakaway province. China insists Taiwan is an inalienable part of one China. So, any country that wants diplomatic relations with mainland China must break official ties with Taipei. Since, the US established formal diplomatic ties with Beijing in 1979, it had to sever ties with Taiwan and closed its Taipei embassy. This has resulted in Taiwan's diplomatic isolation from the international community.

**CAATSA:** Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act is a United States federal law that imposed sanctions on Iran, North Korea, and Russia. It includes sanctions against countries that engage in significant transactions with Russia's defense and intelligence sectors.

### 19.1.22

**Nusantara:** Indonesia passed a bill replacing its capital Jakarta with East Kalimantan, situated to the east of Borneo island. The new capital city of the country will be called Nusantara. East Kalimantan, where the new capital will be, as per the bill is said to have a world-city vision. It will be designed and managed with the objective of becoming a sustainable city in the world. The bill states that the aim would be to make Nusantara a city, which is "a driver of Indonesia's economy in the future, as well as a city which is a symbol of national identity and represents the diversity of the Indonesian nation".

**Confederation of Indian Industry:** is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization. It works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering industry, Government and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes.



**Headline Inflation:** is the raw inflation figure reported through the Consumer Price Index (CPI) that is released monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The headline figure is not adjusted for seasonality or for the often-volatile elements of food and energy prices, which are removed in the core Consumer Price Index (CPI). Headline inflation is usually quoted on an annualized basis, meaning that a monthly headline figure of 4% inflation equates to a monthly rate that, if repeated for 12 months, would create 4% inflation for the year. Comparisons of headline inflation are typically made on a year-over-year basis, also known as top-line inflation.

**Gadgil Committee:** defined the boundaries of the Western Ghats for the purposes of ecological management. It proposed that this entire area be designated as ecologically sensitive area (ESA). Within this area, smaller regions were to be identified as ecologically sensitive zones (ESZ) I, II or III based on their existing condition and nature of threat. It proposed to divide the area into about 2,200 grids, of which 75 per cent would fall under ESZ I or II or under already existing protected areas such as wildlife sanctuaries or natural parks. The committee proposed a Western Ghats Ecology Authority to regulate these activities in the area.

**National Skill Development Corporation:** is Public Private Partnership (PPP) under Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE). It was founded in 2009 as not-for-profit company by Ministry of Finance to address need for providing skilled manpower across various industry sectors. Government of India (GoI) through MSDE holds 49% of share capital of NSDC, while private sector has balance 51% of the share capital. NSDC aims to promote skill development by catalysing creation of large, quality and for-profit vocational institutions. Its objective is to create training capacity in the country; fund vocational training initiatives and create market ecosystem for skill development.

## 20.1.22

**Swamp Deer:** There are three subspecies of swamp deer found in the Indian Subcontinent. The western swamp deer found in Nepal, Southern swamp deer/Hard Ground Barasingha found in central and north India and Eastern swamp deer in the Kaziranga (Assam) and Dudhwa National Parks (Uttar Pradesh). Protection Status of Swamp Deer: IUCN Red List: Vulnerable; CITES: Appendix I; Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I.

**E-shram portal:** launched by Ministry of Labour and Employment to register 38 crore unorganised workers such as construction labourers, migrant workforce, street vendors, and domestic workers, among others. The workers will be issued an e-Shram card containing a 12-digit unique number. If a worker is registered on the eSHRAM portal and meets with an accident, he will be eligible for Rs 2.0 Lakh on death or permanent disability and Rs 1.0 lakh on partial disability.

**Octroi:** Octroi duty is the tax levied by local or state governments on certain categories of goods as they enter the area. It is a charge for allowing transit of good through the jurisdiction. As of 1 July 2017, with the introduction of GST country-wide, the octroi has been abolished.

**Bal Swaraj Portal:** Created by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). Objective: Online tracking and Real-time monitoring of Children who have lost both parents/either of the parents during COVID-19 and are in need of care and protection Working: It will track children affected by COVID-19 right from the production of children before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) to the restoration of the children to their parent/guardian/relative and its subsequent follow-up. The data will be filled in the portal by the District officers and State officers for each child.

**Deltacron:** a strain of Covid-19 combining delta and omicron was found in Cyprus. The discovery has been named "deltacron" because of identification of omicron-like genetic signatures within delta genomes. Its statistical analysis highlights that, relative frequency of combined infection is higher among patients hospitalized due to Covid-19 as compared to non-hospitalized patients.

## 21.1.22

**ECLGS:** the emergency credit line guarantee scheme was launched as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package announced in May 2020 to mitigate the distress caused by coronavirus-induced lockdown, by providing credit to different sectors, especially Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). 100% guarantee coverage is being provided by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company, whereas Banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) provide loans. The credit will be provided in the form of a Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL) facility. No Guarantee Fee shall be charged by NCGTC from the Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) under the Scheme. Interest rates under the Scheme shall be capped at 9.25% for banks and FIs, and at 14% for NBFCs.

**AT4:** The AT4 is a Swedish 84 mm (3.31 in) unguided, man-portable, single-shot, disposable, recoilless smoothbore anti-tank weapon built by Saab Bofors Dynamics (previously Bofors Anti-Armour Systems) Saab has had considerable sales success with the AT4, making it one of the most common light anti-tank weapons in the world. The Indian armed forces have ordered Saab's AT4.



**River Terrapin:** is a 60 cm long turtle, recognized by 4 claws in front feet where as other turtles have 5. Habitat: The terrapin is found in tidal areas of large rivers, sandbars and riverbanks. Status: Presumed to be extinct in several Southeast Asian countries. Described as the world's second most endangered turtle (Yangtze giant soft shell turtle being the most endangered freshwater turtle). In the Critically Endangered (CR) list of IUCN. Protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, India. Included in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), making international trade in this species illegal.

**Turtle Survival Alliance:** It was formed in 2001 as an IUCN partnership for sustainable captive management of freshwater turtles and tortoises. It was formed in response to the Asian Turtle Crisis. Since then it has become a recognised force in turtle and tortoise conservation globally.

**Havana Syndrome:** his syndrome is a series of unexplained medical symptoms that were first experienced by U.S. State Department personnel who were based in Cuba in 2016. State department also reported such cases in 2018 in China. Symptoms associated with the syndrome includes headache, dizziness, fatigue, anxiety, nausea, cognitive difficulties and memory loss of varying severity. Initially, it was believed that the syndrome is the result of an attack by a sonic or acoustic weapon. But later a comprehensive analysis by a U.S. scientific panel pointed that exposure to a type of directed energy is the main culprit. A different medical assessment conducted in 2018 noted that exposure to microwaves is the main cause.

### 22.1.22

**Root Bridge:** Living root bridges (also known as Jing Kieng Jri) are the aerial bridges that are built by weaving and manipulating the roots of the Indian rubber tree. A root bridge uses traditional tribal knowledge to train the roots of the Indian rubber tree (found in abundance in the area) to grow laterally across a stream bed resulting in a living bridge of roots. It spans between 15 and 250 feet and is built over centuries. They have been serving as connectors for generations in the Indian state of Meghalaya.

**National War Memorial:** The memorial is located at the India Gate complex in New Delhi. The layout of the structure comprises four concentric circles, named: the "Amar Chakra" or Circle of Immortality, the "Veerta Chakra" or Circle of Bravery, the "Tyag Chakra" or Circle of Sacrifice and the "Rakshak Chakra" or Circle of Protection. The busts of 21 awardees of the Param Veer Chakra are also installed at the Param Yoddha Sthal. The National War Memorial also commemorates the soldiers who participated and made supreme sacrifices in United Nations peace-keeping missions, Humanitarian Assistance Disaster Relief (HADR) operations, counterinsurgency operations and Low-Intensity Conflict Operations (LICO).

**Amar Jawan Jyoti:** is an Indian memorial, which was constructed after the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 in the honour of the martyred and unknown soldiers of Indian Armed Forces who died during this war. The flame consists of a marble pedestal on which a cenotaph is situated. "Amar Jawan" has been inscribed in gold on all four sides of the cenotaph as well as on top. A L1A1 Self-Loading Rifle also stands on its barrel with a helmet of an Unknown Soldier on top. The pedestal is bound by four urns. One of the urns holds a continuously burning flame. The Amar Jawan Jyoti was located at two places: First one was constructed in December 1971. It was inaugurated by Indira Gandhi in 1972 under India Gate at Rajpath. Second one was installed under the National War Memorial, in the honour of all known martyrs (post-independence) of Indian Armed Forces. Amar Jawan Jyoti has now been merged with War Memorial flame.

**OSOWOG:** One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG) initiative was proposed by India to set up a framework for facilitating global cooperation which aims at building a global ecosystem of interconnected renewable energy resources that can be easily shared. Parent Body: The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). Objective: To build global consensus about sharing solar resources among more than 140 countries of West Asia and South-East Asia. The vision is "The Sun Never Sets" and is a constant at some geographical location, globally, at any given point of time. This grid shall be interconnected with the African power pools also at the later stage. It has been taken up under the technical assistance program of the World Bank.

**International Solar Alliance:** The ISA is an intergovernmental treaty-based organisation with a global mandate to catalyse solar growth by helping to reduce the cost of financing and technology. ISA is the nodal agency for implementing One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG), which seeks to transfer solar power generated in one region to feed the electricity demands of others. It is an Indian initiative that was launched by the Prime Minister of India and the President of France on 30th November 2015 in Paris, France on the side-lines of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP-21), with 121 solar resource rich countries lying fully or partially between the tropic of Cancer and tropic of Capricorn as prospective members.

### 24.1.22

**Parakram Diwas:** The Union Culture Ministry has announced that January 23, birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose, would be celebrated as "Parakram Divas", day of courage, every year. 2021 will be 125th birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose.



**National girl child day:** The National Girl Child Day is celebrated in India every year on January 24th. It was initiated in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the government of India, in order to spread public awareness about inequities that girls face in Indian society.

**Tax buoyancy:** is one of the key indicators to assess the efficiency of a government's tax system. Generally, as the economy achieves faster growth, the tax revenue of the government also goes up. Tax buoyancy explains this relationship between the changes in government's tax revenue growth and the changes in GDP. In other words, it measures the responsiveness of tax mobilisation to economic growth.

**GDP deflator:** It is the ratio of the value of goods and services an economy produces in a particular year at current prices to that of prices that prevailed during the base year. This ratio helps show the extent to which the increase in gross domestic product has happened on account of higher prices rather than increase in output. The deflator is more comprehensive measure of inflation because it covers the entire range of goods and services produced in the economy. The formula to find the GDP price deflator:  $\text{GDP price deflator} = (\text{nominal GDP} \div \text{real GDP}) \times 100$ .

**Category A project in EIA:** Category A (national level appraisal); projects are appraised by Impact Assessment Agency (IAA) and the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC). require mandatory environmental clearance and thus they do not have to undergo the screening process.

### 25.1.22

**Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar:** The awards are announced on the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on 23rd January every year. In addition to a certificate, these awards carry a cash award of Rs. 51 lakhs for an Institution and Rs. 5 lakhs for an Individual. The Institution has to utilize the cash prize for Disaster Management related activities only. Only Indian nationals and Indian institutions can apply for the award. The nominated individual or institution should have worked in any area of disaster management like Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness, Rescue, Response, Relief, Rehabilitation, Research, Innovation or early warning in India.

**Epidemic & Pandemic:** Endemic diseases are often confused with epidemics. However, an epidemic refers to an outbreak of a disease. An epidemic occurs when a disease is spreading through one or more populations. In contrast, the endemic disease is one that is constantly present in a group or geographic area. Pandemics are worldwide epidemics. A pandemic affects more people and takes more lives than an epidemic. Under certain circumstances, an epidemic can lead to a disease becoming endemic.

**R-Value:** The reproduction number or R, an indicator of how quickly a disease is spreading in the population. An R-value of 1, which signifies that every infected person is passing on the infection to at least one person on an average, is a key threshold after which cases begin to rise rapidly.

**PM Rashtriya Bal Puraskar:** 29 Children have been conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar this Year, selected from all regions of the country for their exceptional achievements in Innovation (7), Social Service (4), Scholastic (1), Sports (8), Art & Culture (6) and Bravery (3) categories. The award is given by Ministry of Women and Child Development every year to recognize exceptional achievements of our children in various fields i.e., innovation, scholastic achievements, social service, arts & culture, sports and bravery.

**China +1 strategy:** Companies contemplating diversifying their dependence on China is a strategy known as "China-Plus-One". Now many MNCs are adding new operations in other developing Asian countries like India, Vietnam, Thailand, Bangladesh and Malaysia, and are welcoming new manufacturing opportunities. The trend of diversifying the supply chain started in 2017 with China following stringent environment norms leading to production cuts during winters followed by changing geo-politics, trade war, and willingness of large companies/MNC to de-risk their supply chain. COVID-19 escalated the adoption of this strategy. Now, this trend looks structural and persistent. This trend is now named as China plus one strategy.

### 27.1.22

**Spot billed pelicans:** The Grey Pelican also called the Spot Billed Pelican is listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act and in the Red Data Book. It is in "Near Threatened" list in IUCN. The first-ever Pelican Bird Festival was held at the Atapaka Bird Sanctuary on Kolleru lake in Andhra Pradesh on February, 2018.

**Chamka/Hajong:** They are ethnic people who lived in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, most of which are located in Bangladesh. Chakmas are predominantly Buddhists, while Hajongs are Hindus. They are found in northeast India, West Bengal, Bangladesh and Myanmar. They fled erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) in 1964-65 and came to India and settled in Arunachal Pradesh. Reasons: Chakmas lost their land to the development of the Kaptai Dam on the Karnaphuli River, Bangladesh. Hajongs faced religious persecution as they were non-Muslims and did not speak Bengali.



**Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle:** is the third generation launch vehicle of India. It is a four-staged launch vehicle with first and third stages using solid rocket motors and second and fourth stages using liquid rocket engines. It is the first Indian launch vehicle to be equipped with liquid stages. Capacity: Initially, PSLV had a carrying capacity of 850 kg but has been enhanced to 1.9 tonnes. Between 1994 and 2019, the PSLV launched 50 Indian satellites and 222 foreign satellites for over 70 international customers from 20 countries. It has a history of successful launches of payloads that include Chandrayaan-1, Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) and the space recovery mission, etc. The PSLV has failed only twice in its history — the maiden flight of the PSLV D1 in 1993 and the PSLV C-39 in 2017.

**Retrospective tax:** It allows a country to pass a rule on taxing certain products, items or services and deals and charge companies from a time behind the date on which the law is passed. Retrospective taxation hurts companies that had knowingly or unknowingly interpreted the tax rules differently. Apart from India, many countries including the USA, the UK, the Netherlands, Canada, Belgium, Australia and Italy have retrospectively taxed companies.

**New IAS Cadre Rules:**

THE HINDU

### For and Against

DoPT had sent a revised proposal to all States on January 12 seeking their opinion on the proposal to amend Rule 6 (deputation of cadre officers) of the IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954

**WHAT IS THE PROPOSAL?**  
The Union Government plans to acquire powers to depute IAS/IPS and IFS officers to the Central Government and Ministries without necessarily taking the State governments' nod

**7 States that have said 'yes' to the DoPT:**  
Haryana, Manipur, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Arunachal Pradesh

**5 States that have said 'no' the DoPT:**  
Odisha, Meghalaya, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, West Bengal

**3 States that conveyed their opposition directly to the PM:**  
Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana

## 28.1.22

**Central Asian Countries:**



**Lokayukta:** is an anti-corruption authority or ombudsman – an official appointed by the government to represent the interests of the public. Most importantly, it investigates allegations of corruption and mal-administration against public servants and is tasked with speedy redressal of public grievances.



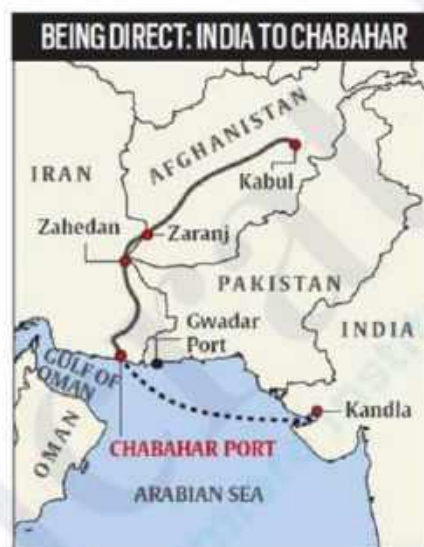
**Cold Wave:** rapid fall in temperature within 24 hours to a level requiring substantially increased protection to agriculture, industry, commerce, and social activities. For the plains, a cold wave is declared when the minimum temperature is 10 degrees Celsius or below and is 4.5 degrees Celsius (C) less than normal for two consecutive days. For coastal stations, the threshold value of minimum temperature of 10 degree Celsius is rarely reached.

**Bioremediation:** can be defined as the methodology to remove or neutralizes waste and toxic substances in the environment with the help of microorganism and plants. In other words, it is the process to detoxify the pollution from the environment with the help of microorganisms, plants, or microbial or plant enzymes.

**Serology:** Serology tests are blood-based tests that can be used to identify whether people have been exposed to a particular pathogen by looking at their immune response. It measures the amount of antibodies or proteins present in the blood when the body is responding to a specific infection. These tests can also give greater detail into the prevalence of a disease in a population by identifying individuals who have developed antibodies to the virus.

### 29.1.22

**Chabahar Port:** It is located on the Gulf of Oman and is only 72 km away from the Gwadar port in Pakistan which has been developed by China. The port serves as the only oceanic port of Iran and consists of two separate ports named Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Kalantari.



**Bad Bank:** The bad bank is an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) or an Asset Management Company (AMC) that takes over the bad loans of commercial banks, manages them and finally recovers the money over a period of time. The bad bank is not involved in lending and taking deposits, but helps commercial banks clean up their balance sheets and resolve bad loans. The takeover of bad loans is normally below the book value of the loan and the bad bank tries to recover as much as possible subsequently.

**BBV154:** Bharat Biotech's BBV154 is the first publicized attempt at getting an intranasal Covid-19 vaccine. Vaccines are most commonly administered as injectable shots into the muscles (intramuscular) or the tissue just between the skin and the muscles (subcutaneous). However, with intranasal vaccines, the solution is squirted or sprayed into the nostrils and inhaled instead of injecting it.

**Rock Agama:** The peninsular rock agama or South Indian rock agama (*Psammophilus dorsalis*) is a common species of agama found on rocky hills in south India. An allied species, *Psammophilus blanfordanus*, is found in the Eastern Ghats, but north of the range of this species. The attractive colours of the males—sometimes a deep red or a striking orange or even a pale patchy yellow—can change within seconds.

**Electoral Bonds:** Electoral Bond is a financial instrument for making donations to political parties. The bonds are issued in multiples of Rs. 1,000, Rs. 10,000, Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore without any maximum limit. State Bank of India is authorised to issue and encash these bonds, which are valid for fifteen days from the date of issuance. These bonds are redeemable in the designated account of a registered political party. The bonds are available for purchase by any person (who is a citizen of India or incorporated or established in India) for a period of ten days each in the months of January, April, July and October as may be specified by the Central Government.



### **31.1.22**

**The red-crested pochard:** is a large diving duck. Its breeding habitat is lowland marshes and lakes in southern Europe and it extends from the steppe and semi-desert areas on the Black Sea to Central Asia and Mongolia, wintering in the Indian Subcontinent and Africa. IUCN status is Least Concern.

**Northern Pintail:** is a duck species with wide geographic distribution that breeds in the northern areas of Europe and across the Palearctic and North America. It is migratory and winters south of its breeding range to the equator. Unusually for a bird with such a large range, it has no geographical subspecies if the possibly conspecific duck Eaton's pintail is considered to be a separate species. IUCN status is Least Concern.

**Global Minimum Tax:** the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has announced that a global deal to ensure big companies pay a Global Minimum Tax (GMT) rate of 15% has been agreed by 136 countries (including India). The countries behind the accord together accounted for over 90% of the global economy. GMT is tailored to address the low effective rates of tax shelled out by some of the world's biggest corporations, including Big Tech majors such as Apple, Alphabet and Facebook.

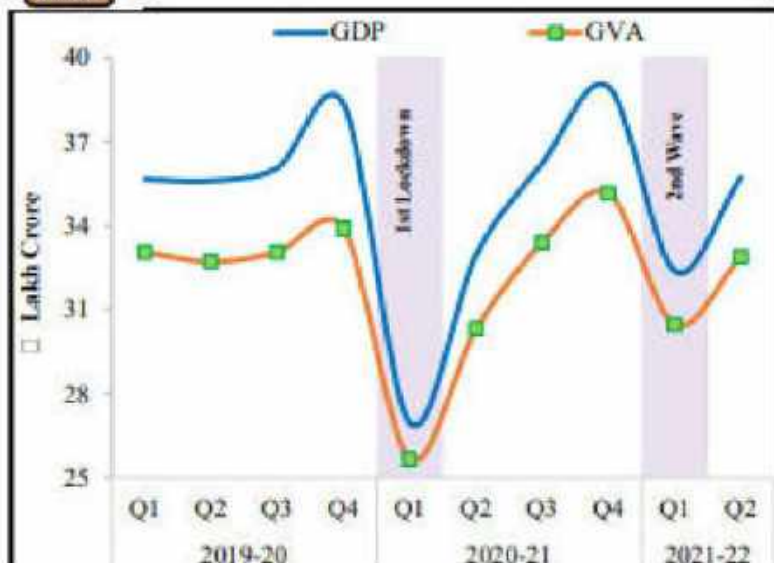
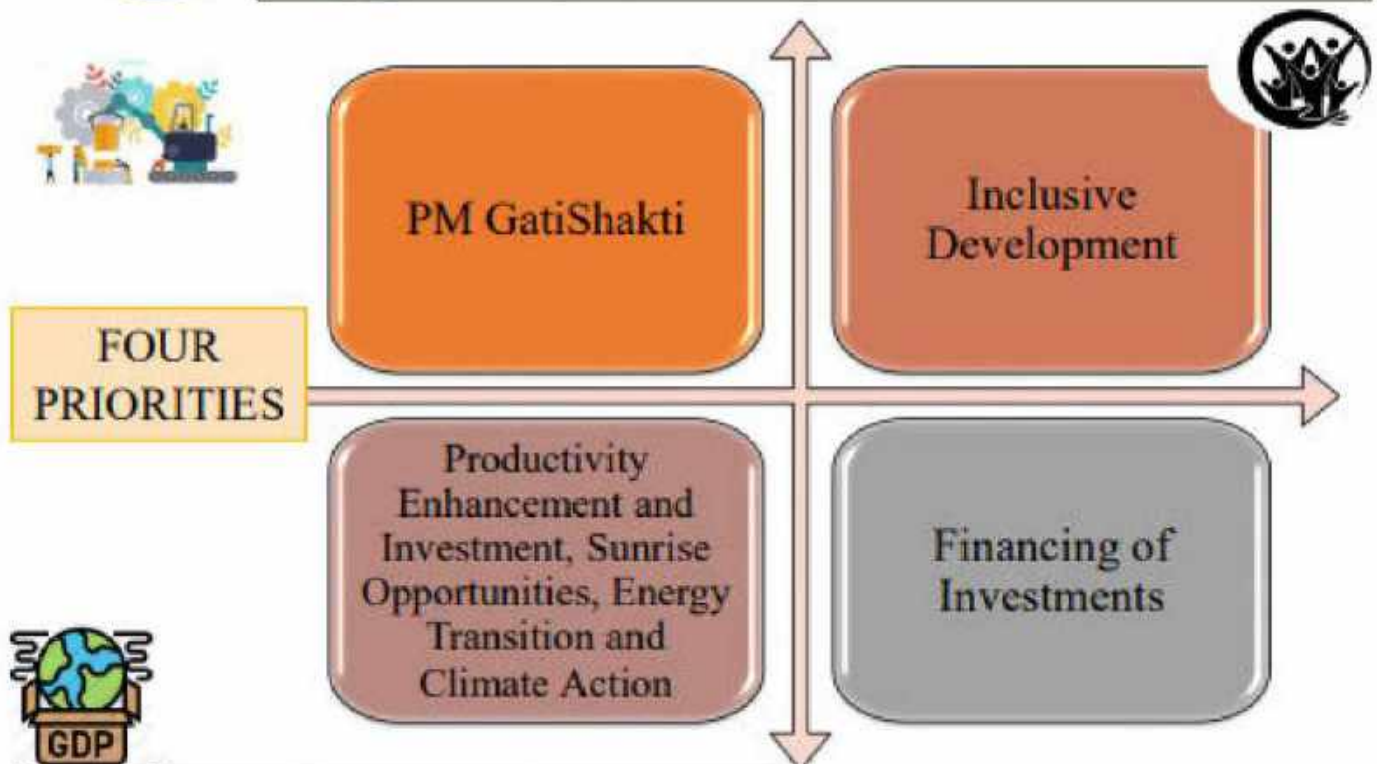
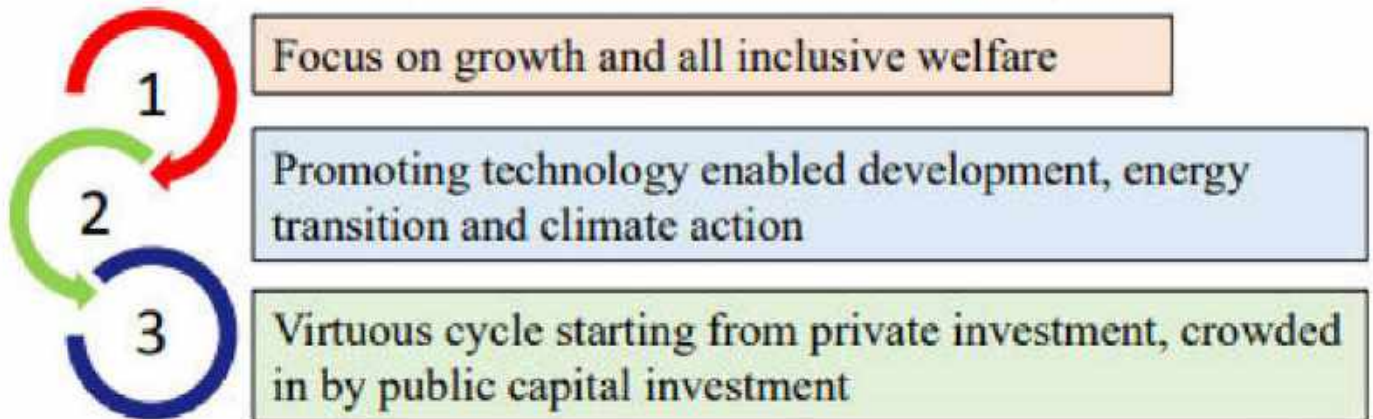
**Pegasus:** Pegasus spyware is malicious software that is designed to enter a device, gather your data, and then forward it to a third party without the consent of the user. Pegasus was developed in 2010 by the Israeli firm, the NSO Group. Pegasus spyware was first discovered in an iOS version in 2016 and then a slightly different version was found on Android. Pegasus spyware is able to read the victim's SMS messages and emails, listen to calls, take screenshots, record keystrokes, and access contacts and browser history. Hackers can hijack the phone's microphone and camera, turning it into a real-time surveillance device.

**Sputnik Light:** is the first dose component of the Sputnik V vaccine. The Gamaleya National Research Centre of Epidemiology and Microbiology in collaboration with the Russian Ministry of Health and the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) have developed Sputnik Light vaccine. The vaccine was approved in Russia on June 2, 2021. The RDIF statement stated that the Sputnik Light vaccine showed 78.6 to 83.7 per cent efficacy in the elderly population.



## 6. Key Features of Union Budget 2022-23

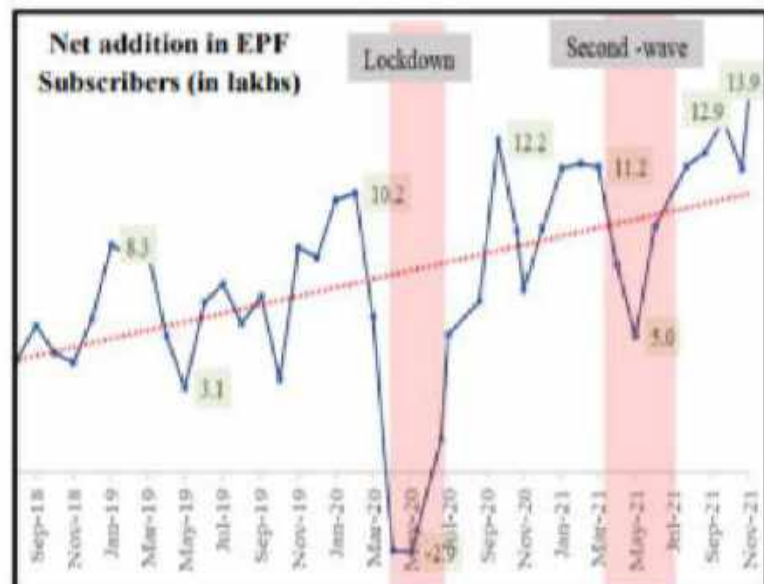
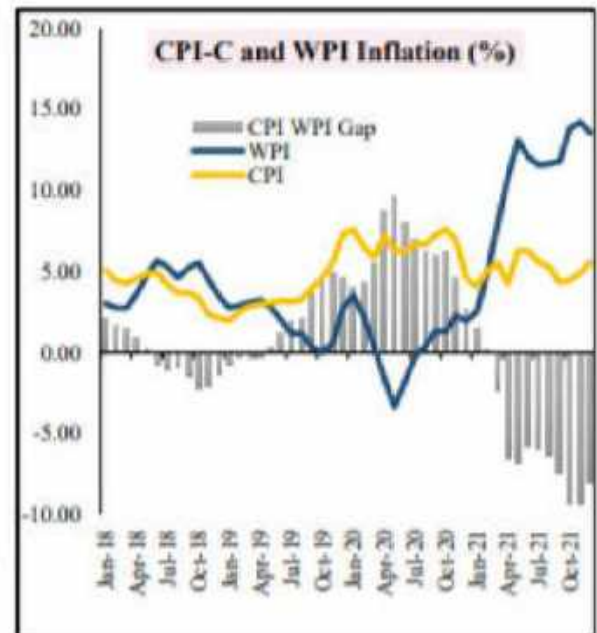
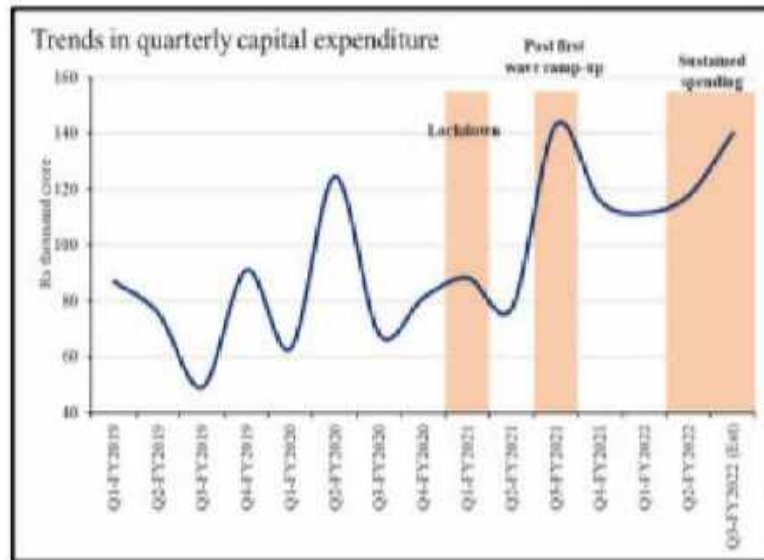
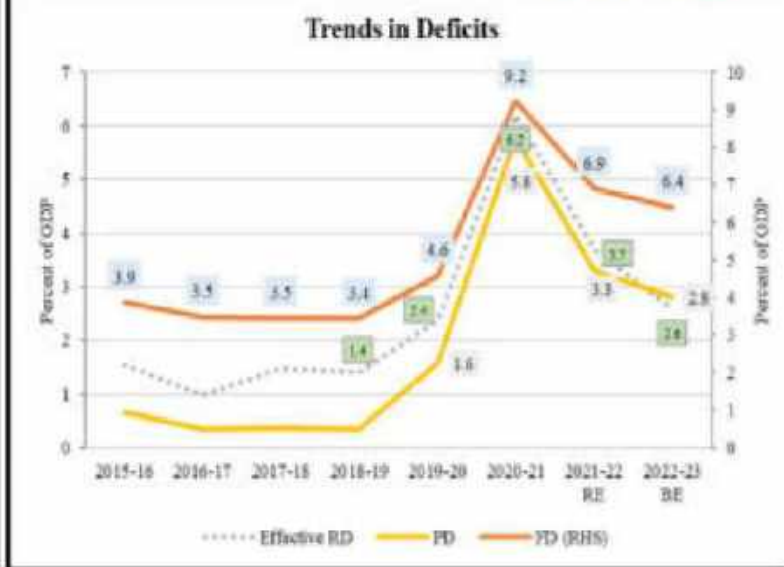
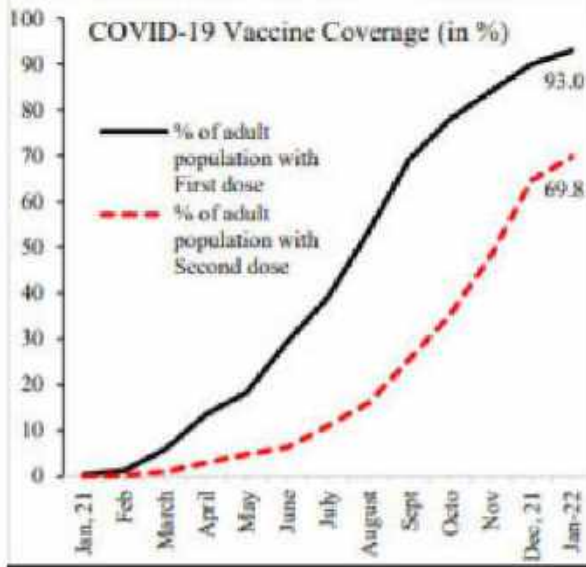
### GOALS OF AMRIT KAAL



Recovery of the economy reflective of country's resilience



# INDIAN ECONOMY STAGING A SUSTAINED RECOVERY





# PM GATISHAKTI



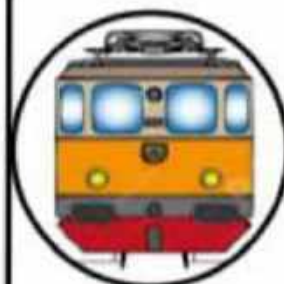
- Driven by seven engines: Roads, Railways, Airports, Ports, Mass Transport, Waterways, and Logistics Infrastructure.
- National Master Plan aimed at world class modern infrastructure and logistics synergy



Formulation of Master Plan for expressways.  
Completing 25000 km national highways in  
2022-23



- Unified Logistics Interface Platform allowing data exchange among all mode operators
- Open Source Mobility Stack for seamless travel of passengers
- 4 Multimodal Logistics parks through PPP to be awarded in 2022-23



- Integration of Postal and Railways Network facilitating parcel movement.
- One Station One Product
- Extending coverage under Kavach
- 400 new generation Vande Bharat Trains



- Multimodal connectivity between mass urban transport and railway stations
  - National Ropeways Development Plan as sustainable alternative to conventional roads.
- Capacity building for infrastructure Projects

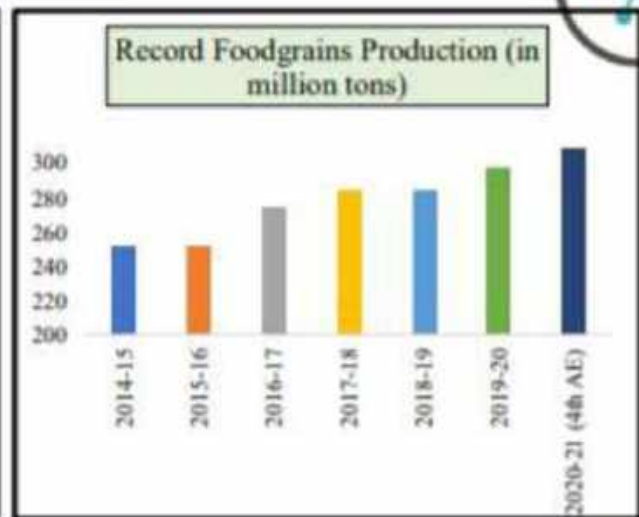
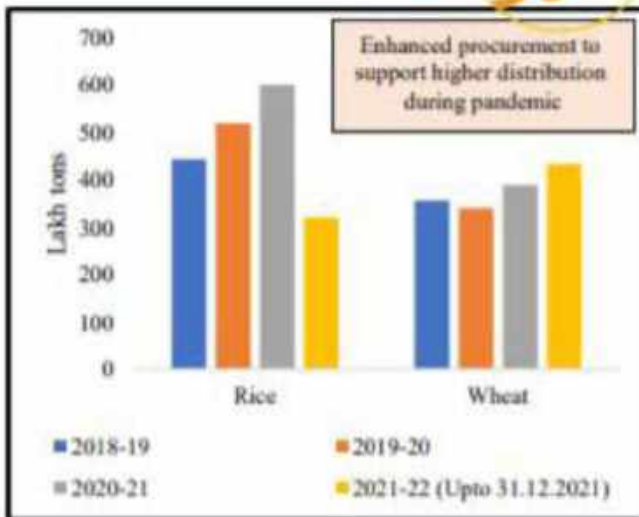


# AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING

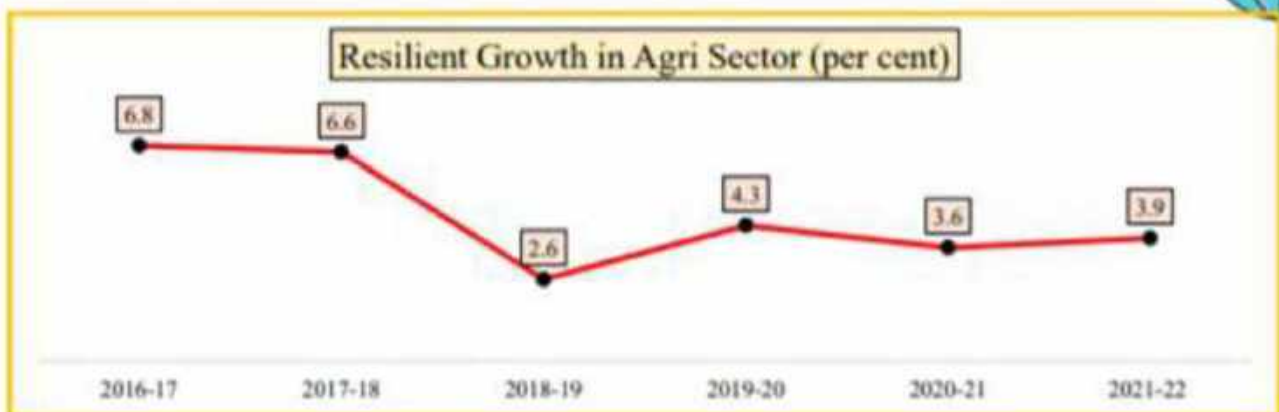
- Promoting chemical free natural farming starting with farmers' lands close to river Ganga
- Promoting post harvest value addition, consumption and branding of millet products



- Delivery of Digital and Hi-Tech services to farmers in PPP mode.
- Use of Kisan Drones to aid farmers.
- Launching fund with blended capital to finance agriculture start ups



- Implementation of Ken Betwa Link Project benefitting 9.1 lakh hectare farm land, providing drinking water to 62 lakh people and generating 130MW power.
- 5 more such projects under process of implementation.





# EDUCATION

## Universalisation of Quality Education

One class One TV channel programme to be expanded to 200 TV channels

Virtual labs and skilling e-labs to promote critical thinking skills and stimulated learning environment

A Digital University will be established with world class quality universal education

High quality e-content will be delivered through Digital Teachers

## Skill Development

Digital Ecosystem for Skilling and Livelihood (DESH-Stack e-portal) will be launched to promote online training

Startups will be promoted to facilitate Drone Shakti for Drone-As-A-Service



# HEALTH



National Digital Health Ecosystem will be rolled out



National Tele Mental Health Programme will be launched for quality counselling



Integrated architecture: Mission Shakti, Mission Vatsalya, Saksham Anganwadi, and Poshan 2.0 to be launched



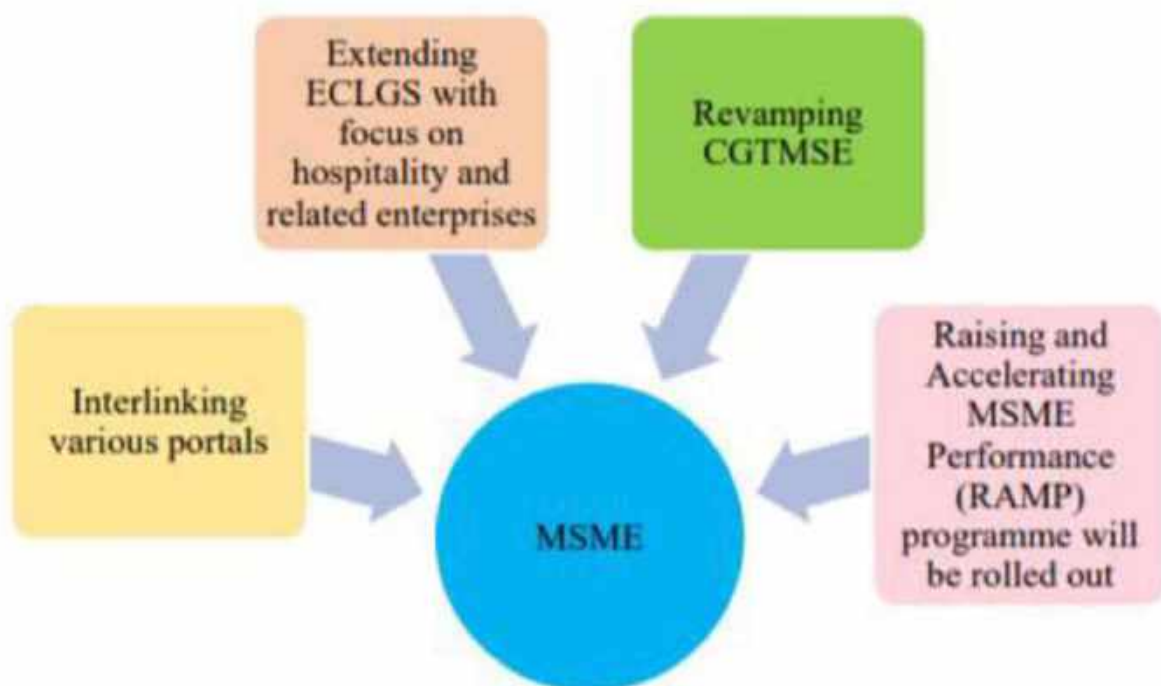
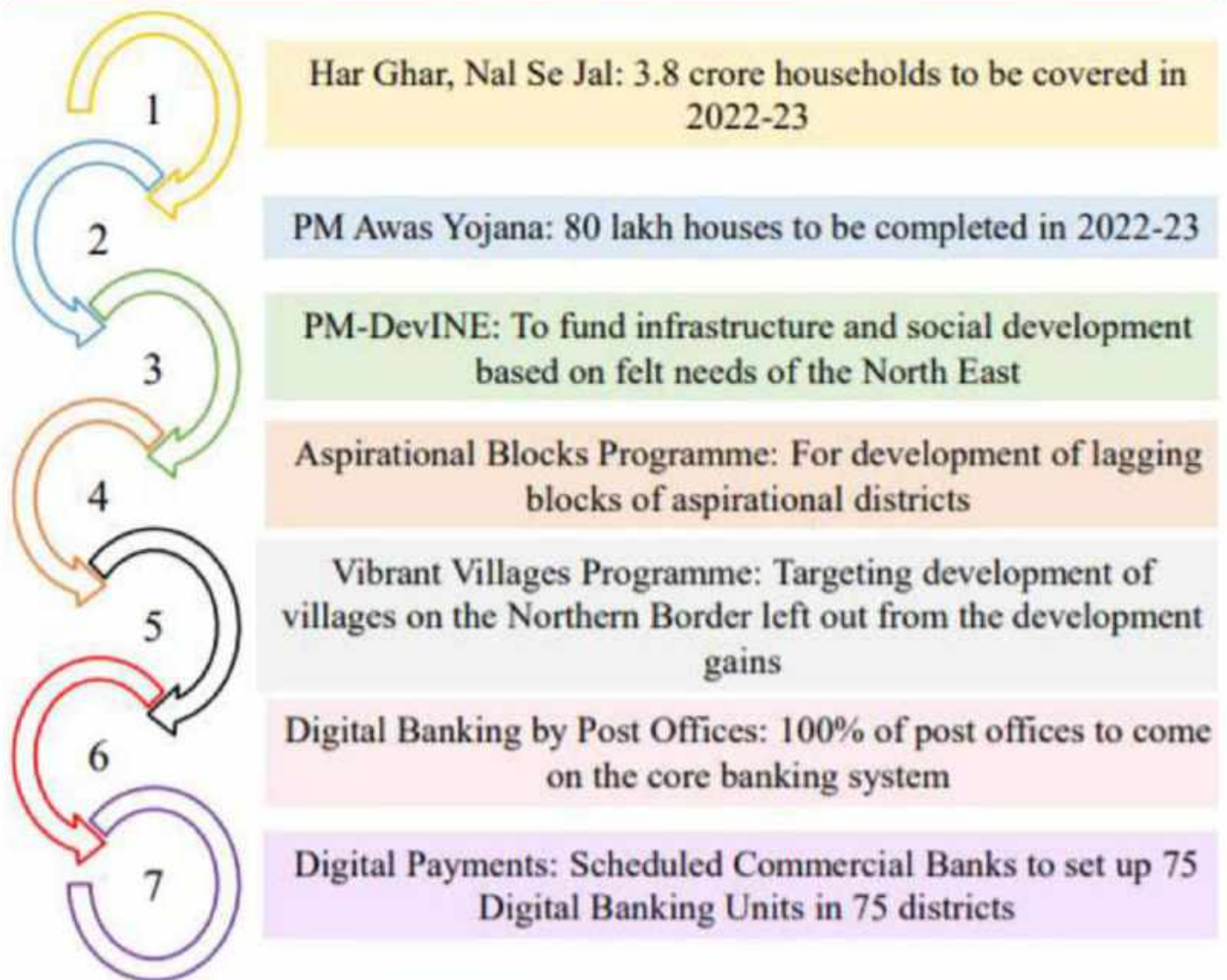
Two lakh Anganwadis to be upgraded to Saksham Anganwadis

Outlay in 2022-23 BE (in crore)





# ALL INCLUSIVE WELFARE FOCUS



# PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT AND INVESTMENT



## Ease of Doing Business 2.0

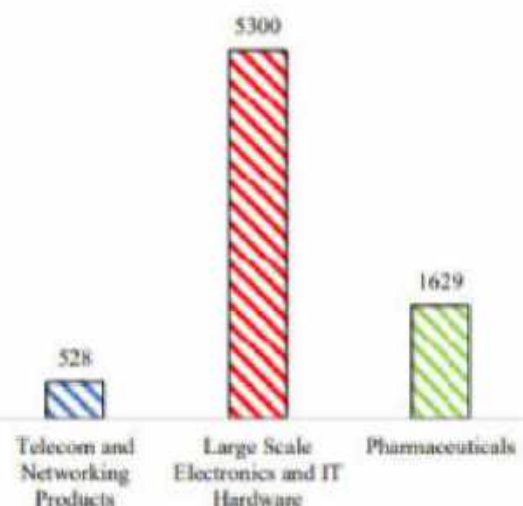
- Trust based governance
- Integration of central and state level systems through IT bridges
- Expanding scope of PARIVESH Portal
- Unique Land Parcel Identification Number for IT based management of land records.
- Establishing C-PACE to facilitate voluntary winding up of companies
- End to end online e-Bill System and utilising surety bonds in government procurement.
- AVCG promotion task force
- Support to 5G under PLI scheme
- Opening up defence R&D for industry, startups and academia



## Ease of Living

- Issuance of chip embedded e-Passports
- Modernisation of building byelaws, implementing Town Planning Schemes and Transit Oriented Development
- Establishing Centres of Excellence in urban planning
- Providing a battery swapping policy as an alternative to setting up charging stations in urban areas

Allocation under PLI Schemes, 2022-23 BE (in crore)

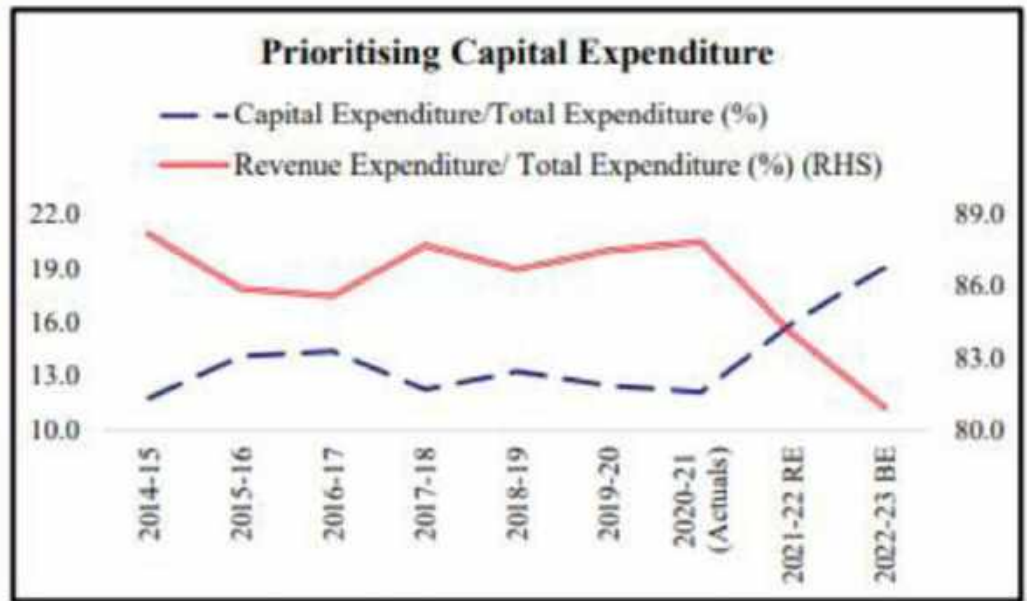




# FINANCING OF INVESTMENT

Public investment to continue to pump prime private investment and demand in 2022-23

Introduction of Digital Rupee by RBI starting 2022-23



Infrastructure status for Data Centres and Energy Storage Systems

Measures to aid investment by Venture Capital and Private Equity Investment



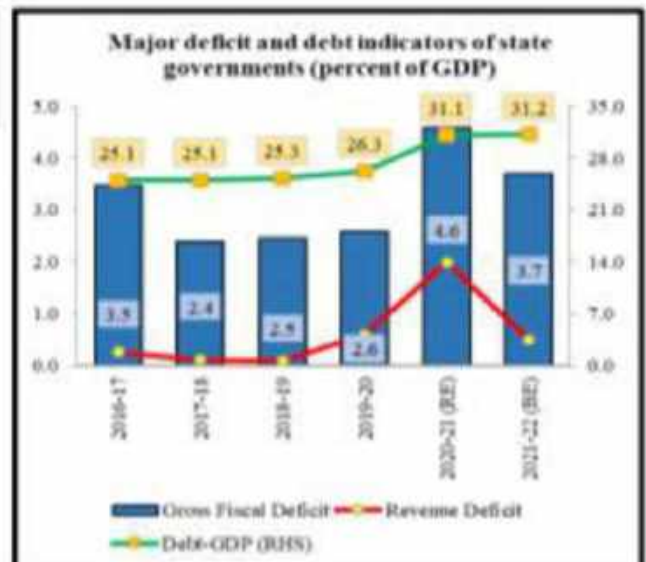
Green Bonds to mobilise resources for green infrastructure

Blended Finance for sunrise sectors



Providing greater fiscal space to States

- Enhanced outlay to Scheme for Financial Assistance to States for Capital Investment
- For 2022-23 States will be allowed a fiscal deficit of 4% of GSDP of which 0.5% will be tied to power sector reforms



# TAX PROPOSALS ₹

Allowing taxpayers to file Updated Return within 2 years for correcting errors

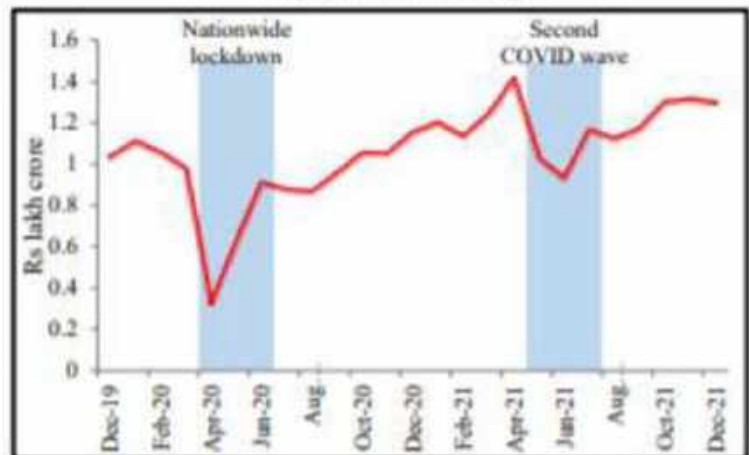
- Tax relief to persons with disability
- Reducing Alternate Minimum Tax Rate and Surcharge for Cooperatives.

Increasing tax deduction limit on employer's contribution to NPS account of state government employees

Extending period of incorporation of eligible startups for providing tax incentives

- Income from transfer of virtual assets to be taxed at 30%
- Better litigation management to avoid repetitive appeals

**Buoyant GST collections during 2021-22 (Rs lakh crore)**



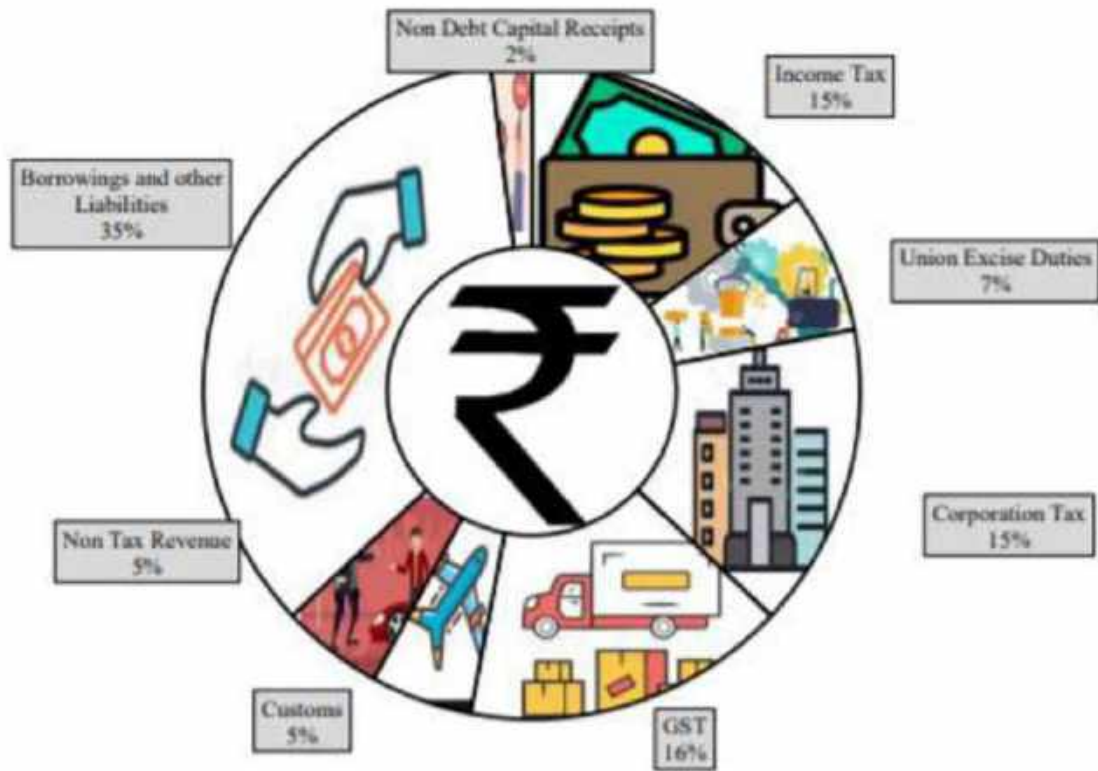
Any Surcharge or Cess on Income and Profits not allowable as business expenditure

- Customs administration to be fully IT driven in SEZs
- Phasing out concessional rates in capital goods and project imports gradually and apply a moderate tariff of 7.5%
- Review of customs exemptions and tariff simplification
- Customs duty rates are being calibrated to provide a graded rate structure to facilitate domestic electronics manufacturing
- Rationalisation of exemptions on implements and tools for agri sector manufactured in India
- Extension of customs duty exemption to steel scrap
- Reduction of duty on certain inputs required for shrimp aquaculture
- Unblended fuel shall attract additional differential excise duty

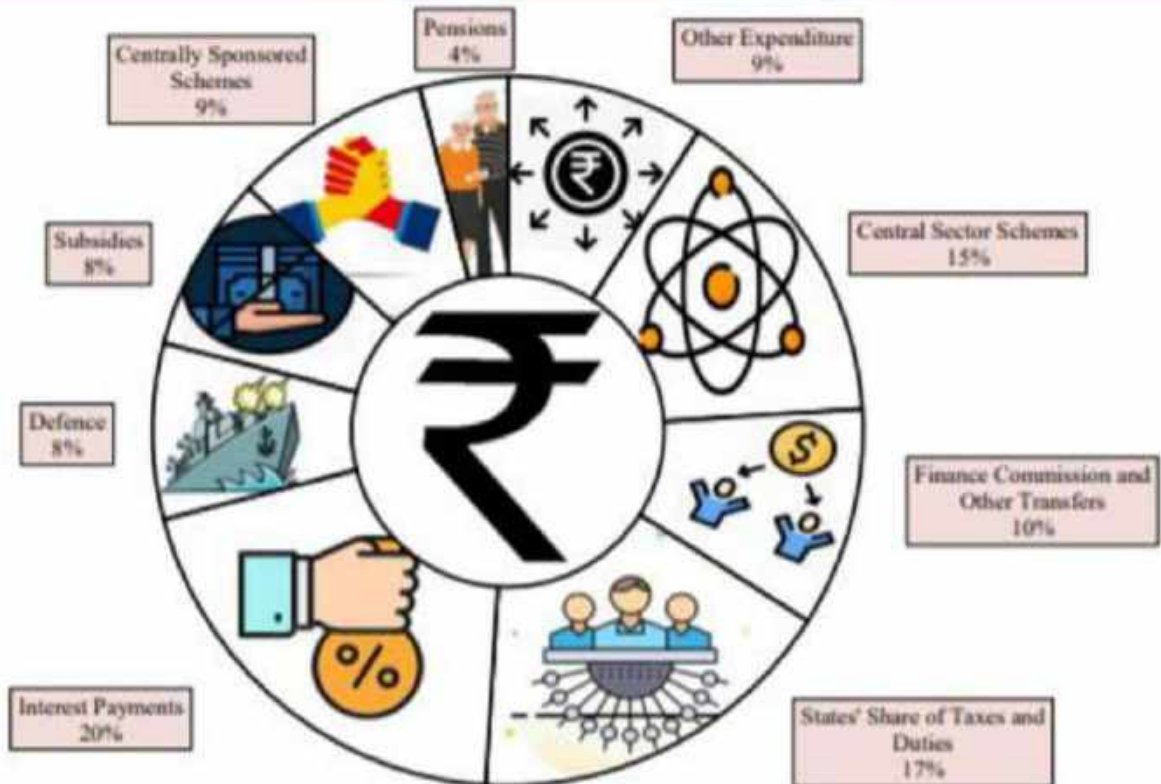




# RUPEE COMES FROM

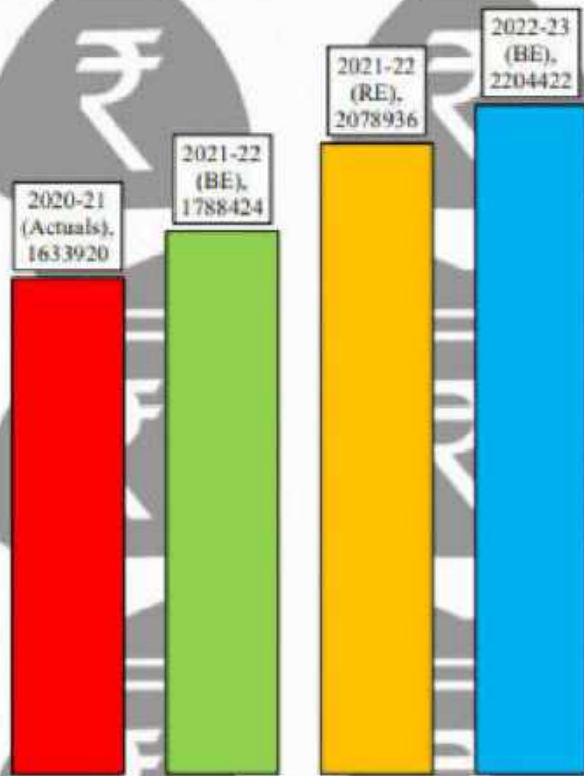


# RUPEE GOES TO



# BUDGET AT A GLANCE

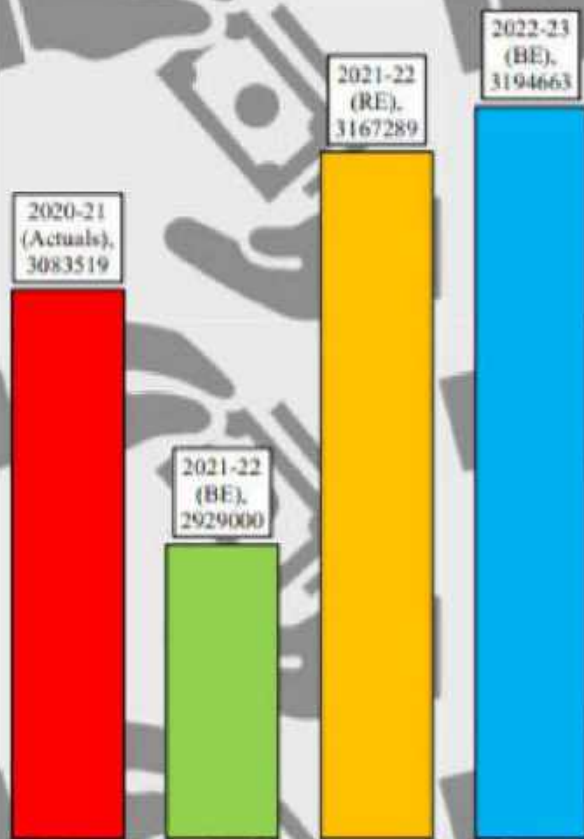
Revenue Receipts (Rs Crore)



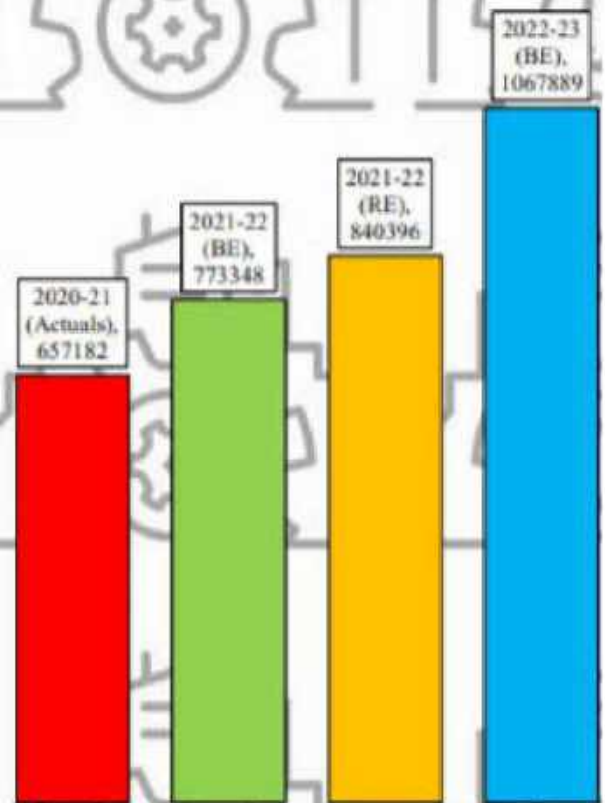
Capital Receipts (Rs Crore)



Revenue Expenditure (Rs Crore)



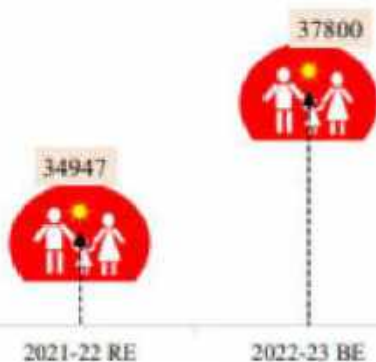
Effective Capital Expenditure (Rs Crore)





# ALLOCATION TO MAJOR SCHEMES

## National Health Mission (in crore)



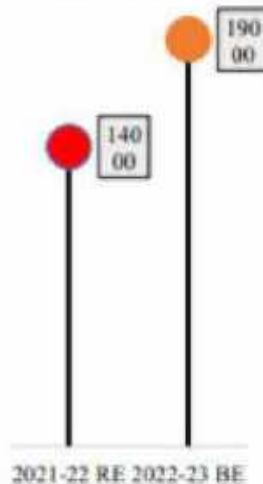
## Jal Jeevan Mission (in crore)



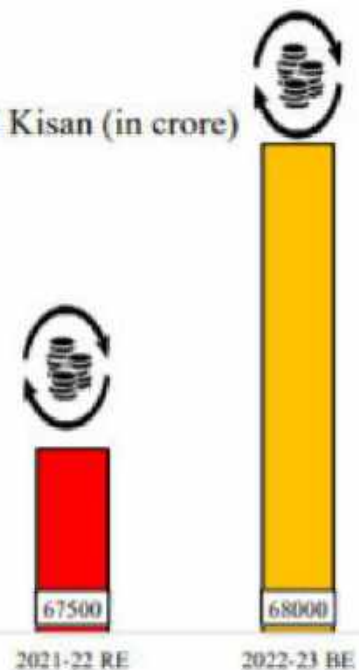
## National Education Mission (in crore)



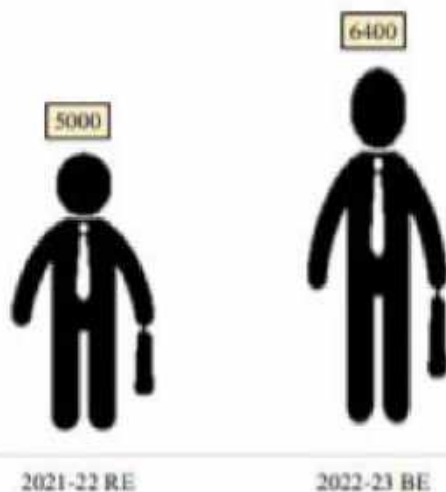
## Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (in crore)



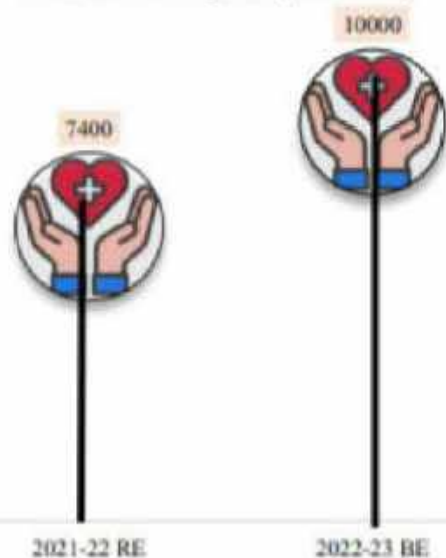
## PM Kisan (in crore)



## Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (in crore)



## Pardhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (in crore)



# MINISTRY WISE ALLOCATIONS

