

February - 02

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ After Mumbai, the Amazon India private e-commerce firm has set up its second pick up kiosk in Kolkata's Sealdah Railway Station.
- ❖ The UN has appointed Gita Sabharwal of India as the Resident Coordinator in Thailand.
 - The UN Resident Coordinator is the highest-ranking representative of the UN development system at the country level.
- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organization is preparing 500 low cost satellite launch vehicles in next 5 years.
 - These vehicles are capable of carrying satellites weighing 500 kg.
- ❖ Vidya Bal - The Veteran Feminist, Social Activist and writer passed away on January 30, 2020.
 - In 2016, she approached Mumbai High Court demanding enforcement of law to allow women in all Hindu Religious places.
- ❖ National Emergency was declared in Pakistan to fight against Locusts in the India - Pakistan border.
 - By the end of January 2020, the Indian border of Gujarat and Rajasthan were attacked the agriculture lands by desert locusts from Pakistan and Iran.

NATIONAL

India's Steel Demand Report

- ❖ World Sustainable Development Summit released its report on India's Steel Demand.
- ❖ According to the report, if the steel demand of the country continues to grow, the carbon-dioxide emissions from the steel sector will reach 600 million tonnes by 2050.
- ❖ According to the TERI's report 'Towards a Low Carbon Steel Sector', the current carbon-dioxide emissions from steel sector is 242 Million Tonnes.
- ❖ TERI suggests penalty for emissions starting from 2030.
- ❖ This will force industries to adopt deeper decarbonization technologies.

Sampriti Exercise

- ❖ India and Bangladesh will hold the 9th edition of the joint military training exercise called SAMPRITI at Umroi, Meghalaya.
- ❖ The Exercise Sampriti is an annual exercise held alternately in India and Bangladesh.
- ❖ It was held for the first time in 2011.

Indian Railways – Fruit train & Parcel van

- ❖ Indian Railways has launched an exclusive Banana Container train to boost the exports of the fruit.
- ❖ This is the first “Fruit Train” was flagged off from Tadipatri Railway Station in Andhra Pradesh carrying a load of 980 metric tonnes of locally grown bananas to the Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai.
- ❖ The bananas are being exported under the brand name ‘Happy Bananas’.
- ❖ Indian Railways has recently launched a high capacity parcel van at Delhi Safdarjung Railway Station.
- ❖ The new parcel van was designed and manufactured in Kapurthala Rail Coach Factory.
- ❖ It is the first of its kind in Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches.



FIRST FRUIT TRAIN

INTERNATIONAL

International Health Emergency - Corona Virus

- ❖ World Health Organization declared International Health Emergency over Corona Virus.



- ❖ The organization has declared emergency as the disease has spread to 18 other countries apart from China where it originated.
- ❖ Also, the disease is spreading through human-to-human contact.
- ❖ The spread of the disease now fulfils the criteria of PHEIC and hence emergency has been declared.
- ❖ PHEIC is Public Health Emergencies of International Concern.

India - Africa Defense Ministers Conclave

- ❖ For the first time, in the history of DefExpo, India and Africa are to discuss their defence relations.
- ❖ India's largest Defence Exhibition is to be held in Lucknow between February 5, 2020 and February 8, 2020.
- ❖ As a part of the event, the India-Africa Defence Conclave is to be held.
- ❖ The India-Africa Defence Conclave is to be held on February 6, 2020.
- ❖ Around 24 Defence Ministers are to participate in the conclave.
- ❖ India has helped several African countries to set up their military post-Colonial rule.
- ❖ India had set up defence college in Nigeria, military academy in Ethiopia, air force in Ghana.

ECONOMY

Economic Survey 2020

- ❖ The Economic Survey of the Fiscal Year 2020 has been tabled in both the houses of Parliament by the Union Minister for Finance Nirmala Sitaraman.
- ❖ The survey highlights economic trends in the country, development over the past 12 months and facilitates better mobilization of resources.
- ❖ The theme for the Economic Survey 2020 is "Wealth Creation, Promotion of pro-business policies, strengthening of trust in the economy".
- ❖ The document is prepared by the Economic Division of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) under the guidance of the Chief Economic Adviser (CEA), currently Dr Krishnamurthy Subramanian.



Highlights

- ❖ The Current Fiscal Growth is 5%.
- ❖ The projected GDP growth for the year 2020-21 is 6% to 6.5%.
- ❖ The industrial growth for the Fiscal Year 2020 (2019-20) has been 2.5%
- ❖ The Forex Reserves of the Fiscal Year 2019 (2018-19) was 461.2 billion USD.
- ❖ The GST collection for the FY20 has grown by 4.1%.
- ❖ The Survey stated that as per World Bank's Data on Entrepreneurship, it is seen that India ranks third in number of new firms created.
- ❖ New firm creation in services is significantly higher than that in manufacturing, infrastructure or agriculture.
- ❖ The Survey notes that the entrepreneurial activity in the Manufacturing sector is highest in the regions of Gujarat, Meghalaya, Puducherry, Punjab and Rajasthan.
- ❖ The Survey says that in order to achieve 5 trillion USD by 2024-25, India has to spend 1.4 trillion USD on Infrastructure.
- ❖ The Out of Pocket Expenditure on Health has declined from 64.2% in 2013-14 to 58.7% in 2016-17.
- ❖ The Service sector accounts to 55% of the Indian Economy according to the Survey.

- ❖ The Inflation declined from 3.2% in April 2019 to 2.6% in December 2019. This reflects weakening of demand in the economy.
- ❖ Women employment between 2011-12 and 2017-18 has increased by 8%.

ECONOMIC SURVEY **Highlights**

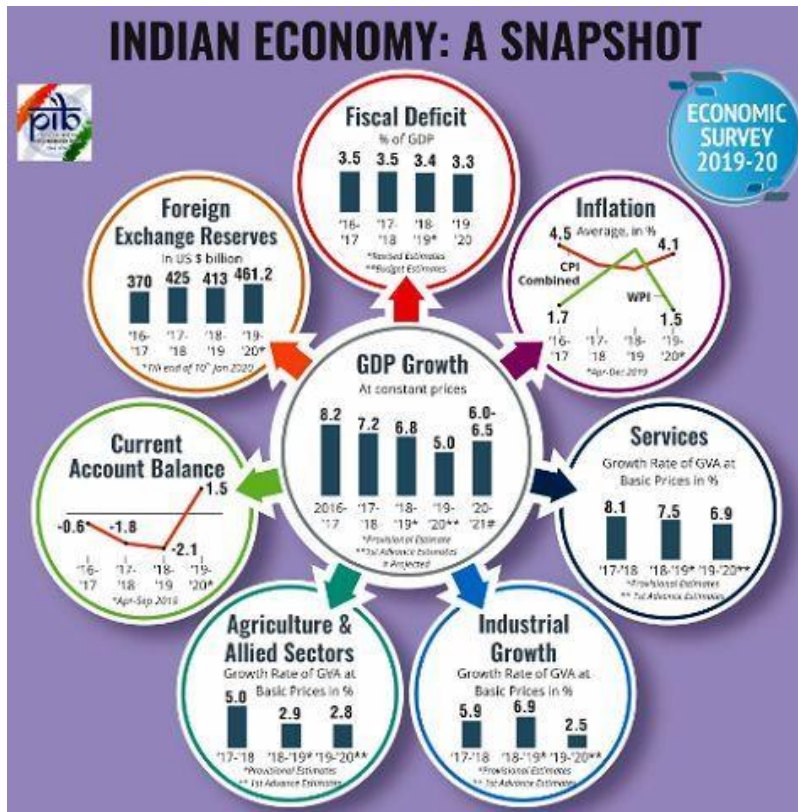
2019-20

- GDP growth pegged at 6-6.5% in FY 2020-21 as against 5.0% estimated for 2019-20
- Survey suggests relaxing Fiscal Deficit target to revive growth in economy
- To achieve GDP of USD 5 trillion by 2025, India needs to spend about USD 1.4 trillion on infrastructure
- Uptick in GDP growth expected in second half of 2019-20
- Theme of Survey is to enable markets, promote pro-business policies and strengthening trust in the economy
- Ethical wealth creation key to India becoming USD 5 trillion economy by 2025
- Gross GST monthly collections crossed the ₹ 1 lakh crore mark five times till Dec 2019
- India ranks third in number of new firms created; 1.24 lakh firms created in 2018 compared to 70,000 in 2014
- India's large economy needs an efficient banking sector to support growth; state of the banking system needs urgent attention
- Survey suggests rationalisation of government intervention in boosting economic freedom and wealth creation
- Access to health services through Ayushman Bharat and Mission Indradhanush across the country has improved
- 'Thalinomics': Affordability of vegetarian Thali improved 29% and that of non-vegetarian Thali by 18% from 2006-07 to 2019-20



- ❖ Livestock
 - According to the survey, Livestock has become a major secondary source of income for rural families.
 - The growth of Livestock has been 7.9% in the last five years.
- ❖ Green India
 - The Survey also says that the forest and tree cover has reached 80.73 million hectares.
 - This is 24.56% of total geographical area of the country.
- ❖ Ayushman Bharat
 - The scheme proposed to set up one and a half lakhs Health and Wellness Centres (HWC) by 2022.
 - So far 28,005 HWCs have been set up as on 14th January, 2020.
- ❖ Job Creation
 - The job creation of salaried employees or regular wage employees increased by 5% in 2017-18 as compared to 2011-12.

- Around 2.62 crore new jobs were created.
- ❖ Green Bond Market
 - India has become the second largest emerging Green Bond Market after China.
 - India in 2019 joined the International Platform of Sustainable Finance to increase the environmentally sustainable investments.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

World Games Athlete of the Year – 2019

- ❖ The Indian Women Hockey Team player Rani Rampal has won the “World Game Athlete of the Year, 2019” title.
- ❖ She is the first hockey player in the world to receive the title.
- ❖ In 2020, Rani Rampal was awarded with Padmashri.



MISCELLANEOUS

Tangi Application

- ❖ Google announced I million USD grant to promote news literacy among Indians.
- ❖ It has launched a new application called “Tangi”.
- ❖ The Tangi Application of Google focuses on Do It Yourself videos.
- ❖ The name of the application has been inspired from TeAch aNd Give.

