

January - 15

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The World's largest Floating solar energy project is to be constructed at Omkareshwar dam on Narmada river in Madhya Pradesh.
 - Three agencies namely International Finance Corporation, World Bank and Power Grid would be providing aid for the project.
- ❖ The Chief Minister of Karnataka, B.S. Yediyurappa launched Krishi Sanjeevani Vans in Bengaluru.
 - It will reach out to the agriculture fields for testing water, soil and will also suggest remedies for pest control to improve yield.
- ❖ A High-Level Committee, headed by the Prime Minister has been constituted to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
 - It will decide on the activities for a one-year long commemoration, beginning 23rd January 2021.
- ❖ Agnes Keleti, the oldest living Olympic champion, turned 100 on January 9, 2021.
 - She won 10 medals for Hungary in gymnastics at the Olympic Games.
- ❖ The storm Filomena has brought the heaviest snowfall in Spain.

TAMIL NADU

Free Data for students

- ❖ Tamilnadu Government will provide free data card of 2GB per day to over 9.69 lakh college students from January 2021 to April 2021.
- ❖ This is being done to enable the students attend online classes at ease.
- ❖ Students enrolled in government and government aided arts and science colleges, polytechnic colleges, engineering colleges as well as scholarship funded private colleges are eligible for the scheme.
- ❖ These data cards will be issued by the Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu Ltd. (Elcot).

NATIONAL

Maximum Speed of Railways

- ❖ The Railway ministry has drastically increased the maximum speed to 130 km per hour for 1,280 km length.
- ❖ The enhancement has been done out of 1,612 km in Golden Quadrilateral - Golden Diagonal route.
- ❖ The mentioned route covers the whole GQ-GD route over South Central Railway except the Duvvada-Vijayawada section.
- ❖ The Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) is a national highway network connecting most of the major industrial, agricultural and cultural centres of India.
- ❖ It forms a quadrilateral connecting the four major metro cities of India, viz., Delhi (north), Kolkata (east), Mumbai (west) and Chennai (south).
- ❖ It is the largest highway project in India and the fifth longest in the world.
- ❖ The South-Central Railway is one of the 18 zones of Indian Railways.
- ❖ It is spread over the states of Telangana, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Its headquarters is at Secunderabad.





Chief Guest at Republic Day 2021

- ❖ Suriname's Indian-origin President Chandrikapersad Santokhi will be the Chief Guest at Republic Day 2021.
- ❖ The Suriname President was earlier the Chief Guest at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention.
- ❖ It comes after UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson cancelled his visit to India.
- ❖ Suriname is a former Dutch colony.
- ❖ The Indian-origin people make up the largest ethnic group.
- ❖ Suriname is a country on the north eastern Atlantic coast of South America.

INTERNATIONAL

H-1B visa norms

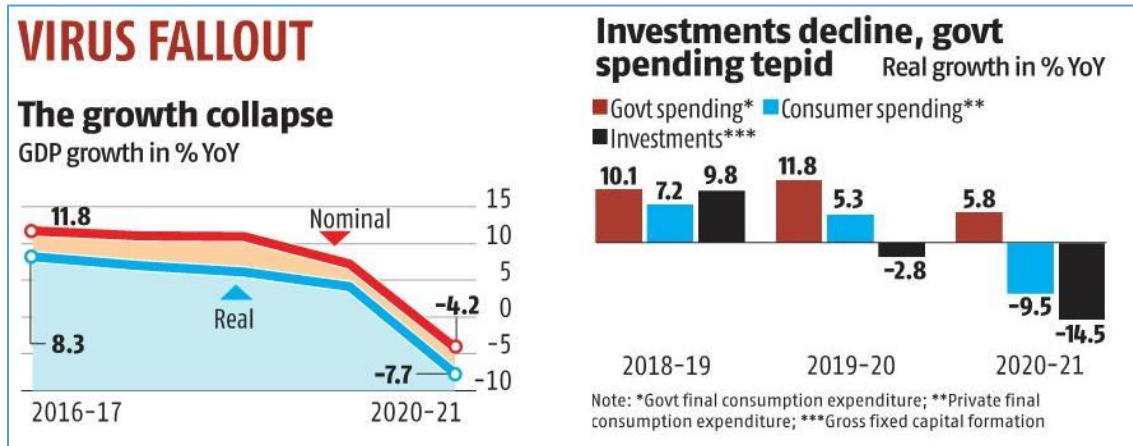
- ❖ The US administration has once again amended the H-1B visa norms.
- ❖ Now the norms will give priority to higher wages and skills for selection of deserving candidates.
- ❖ The old lottery system of work visa selection will not be followed now.
- ❖ The US H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ graduate level workers in specialty occupations.

ECONOMY

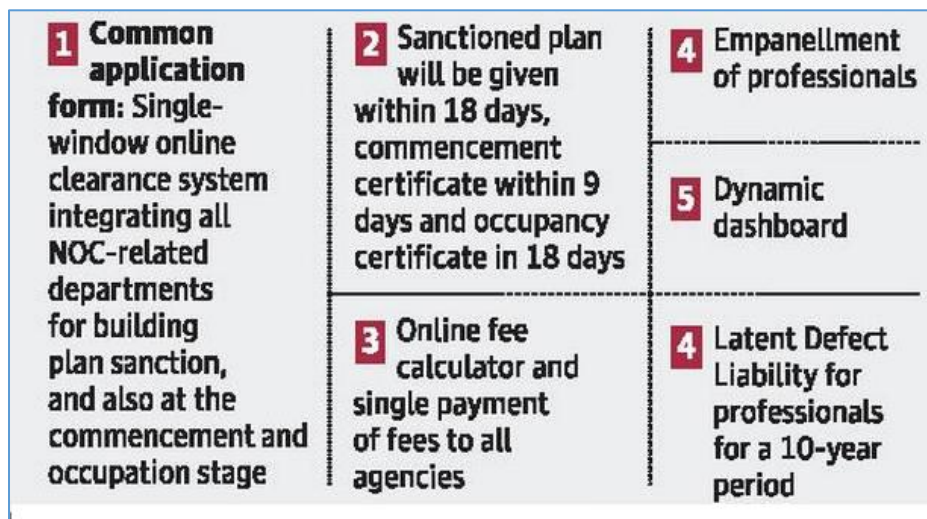
India's GDP 2020-2021

- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released the First Advance Estimates (FAE) for the financial year 2020-2021.
- ❖ The advanced estimates of the national income was released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) under that ministry.
- ❖ Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of all final goods and services produced within the country in one financial year.
- ❖ According to this, India's GDP will contract by 7.7% in 2020-21.
- ❖ The contraction was seen in all the sectors, except agriculture.

- ❖ Indian manufacturing sector is likely to contract by 9.4%, while the agriculture sector is predicted to grow at 3.4% in FY21.
- ❖ The 4.2 percent growth recorded in 2019-20.



Single Window Clearance System



- ❖ The Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched 'Single Window Clearance System' for coal mines.
- ❖ It is an online platform to obtain clearances for the smooth operationalisation of coal mines.
- ❖ In June 2020, PM Narendra Modi had launched the auction of 41 coal mines for commercial mining, as a part of the announcements made under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

- ❖ Despite of the fact that India is the fourth largest producer of coal in the world, the country is the second largest importer of coal in the world.
- ❖ In 1973, the coal sector was nationalised.
- ❖ This meant that domestic coal can only be mined by public sector companies.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Saguna Rice Technique

- ❖ It will help stop the stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana.
- ❖ This zero till technique is a unique Conservation Agriculture (CA) type of cultivation method.
- ❖ This method is used to cultivate rice and related rotation crops without ploughing, puddling and transplanting rice on permanent raised beds.
- ❖ The SRT iron forma tool facilitates planting of crop in predetermined distances enabling precise plant population per unit area.

Khadi Prakritik Paint



The poster features the Khadi India logo at the top center, flanked by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises logo on the left and the Government of India emblem on the right. The main title reads 'LAUNCH OF Khadi Prakritik Paint (India's First Cow Dung Paint)'. Below this, it is attributed to 'Shri Nitin Gadkari, Hon'ble Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises'. A list of 'Guests of Honour' includes Shri Giriraj Singh, Shri Pratap Chandra Sarangi, and Shri Vinal Kumar Saxena. The date is '12th January, 2021'. A key message states: 'AN INNOVATIVE WAY OF INCREASING INCOME OF FARMERS' and 'TRANSFER OF THIS TECHNOLOGY WILL CREATE SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT ACROSS THE COUNTRY'. The poster also lists benefits: 'ANTI-BACTERIAL | ANTI-FUNGAL | ECO-FRIENDLY | NATURAL THERMAL INSULATOR' and 'COST-EFFECTIVE | FREE FROM HEAVY METALS | NON-TOXIC | ODOUR LESS'. Two buckets of 'Prakritik Paint' are shown at the bottom right, with one labeled 'Prakritik P' and the other 'Prakritik Paint'. The footer identifies the 'Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises, Govt. of India'.

- ❖ The Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari launched “Khadi Prakritik Paint”.

- ❖ It is a non-toxic eco-friendly paint with anti-bacterial and anti-fungal properties.
- ❖ It was developed with cow dung as its main ingredient.
- ❖ It is odourless and cost-effective.
- ❖ It is the first-of-its kind product in such category.
- ❖ Khadi and Village Industries Commission has developed Khadi Prakritik Paint.
- ❖ The Khadi Prakritik paint is available in two forms namely plastic emulsion paint and distemper paint.
- ❖ The paint is free from heavy metals such as mercury, lead, arsenic, chromium, cadmium.

