



WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

APRIL, 2022

Week-3

15-21 April, 2022

★★ Useful for ★★

**CSE, ESE, PSUs, State Services Exams,
SSC and Banking Exams**

15th APRIL 2022

GDP Forecast

- **Context:** For the fiscal year 2022-23, India's GDP forecast has been slashed by the World Bank from 8.7 percent to 8 percent.

Key highlights

- According to the World Bank, India's household consumption will be constrained due to the labour market's incomplete recovery from inflationary and COVID-19-related pressures.
- The reason given for the change in forecast is due to rising inflation and worsening global supply caused due to the Russia-Ukraine war.
- High food and oil prices due to the war in Ukraine will also have a negative impact on the real incomes of the people.
- The Asian Development Bank Outlook 2022 had earlier said that India will be maintaining its position as the fastest-growing major economy. In 2022-23, it will have a growth rate of 7.5 percent on the basis of strong investment prospects. In January to December 2022, the growth prospect of China has been stated to be 5 percent.
- In the next fiscal of 2023-24, India's growth will be accelerating further to 8 percent while in 2023 China will be witnessing a decline in growth to 4.8 percent.

Neptune Cruise Missile

- **Context:** Recently, the Russian cruiser Moskva was hit by two Neptune missiles during the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Key facts

- Neptune is a Ukrainian anti-ship cruise missile that was developed by the Luch Design Bureau. The design of this missile is based on the Soviet Kh-35 anti-ship missile. Compared to the Kh-35 it has improved electronics and range.
- This missile system has been developed to destroy transport vessels and surface warships.

- This missile system consists of a USPU-360 truck-based mobile launcher, a TZM-360 transport vehicle, four missiles, RCP-360 control, and command vehicle, as well as a special cargo vehicle. The length of the missile including the rocket motor is 5.05 metres.
- The missiles have been designed so that they can be housed in transport and launch containers having a dimension of 5.30 by 0.60 by 0.60 metres.
- The maximum range of this missile system is around 300 kilometres. The weight of a single missile is 870 kilograms out of which the warhead weighs 150 kilograms.

NOTE:

In 2020, an MoU was signed by Ukraine with Indonesia to supply a number of Neptune missiles, thus Indonesia became the first foreign buyer of this missile.

PLI Scheme for Textiles

- **Context:** Under the Rs 10,683-crore production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the garment and textile sector, the Union Government has given its approval for the financial support of 61 companies.

Key facts

- To receive benefits under this scheme, 67 companies had applied.
- The total investment expected from the 61 approved applicants is Rs 19,077 crore, with a projected turnover of Rs 184,917 crore over a five-year period.
- This PLI scheme is for textile-related products such as Man-made Fibre (MMF) apparel, MMF fabrics, and other technical textiles products.
- This PLI scheme will help in boosting the domestic manufacturing of MMFs, technical textiles, and garments. Financial support will be provided by the government under this scheme for a period of five years for manufacturing these products in India. This PLI will help in enhancing the country's exports and manufacturing capabilities.

- Under Part 1 of the scheme, Rs 300 crore is the minimum investment, and Rs 600 crore is the required minimum turnover that is to be achieved.
- Under Part 2, Rs 100 crore is the minimum investment, and Rs 200 crore is the required minimum turnover that is to be achieved.

16th APRIL 2022

Oxfam New Report

- **Context:** According to a new report by Oxfam, more than a quarter of a billion people in 2022 will be pushed into poverty.

Key highlights

- The report also said that the financial crisis across the world will be driven by the rise in prices due to the Russia-Ukraine crisis and also due to the COVID-19-related economic crisis.
- Since the beginning of the pandemic, around 3.3 billion people across the world are living below the poverty line, while every 26 hours a new person becomes a billionaire.
- The estimates of the Oxfam report are based on the projections of the World Bank along with earlier research done by the World Bank and the Center for Global Development.
- In 2022, COVID-19, a rise in food prices, and inequality could push 263 million more people into extreme poverty. This will result in a total of 860 million people across the world living below the USD 1.90-a-day mark.
- The oil companies around the world are making huge profits as energy prices are rising.
- According to the report, the 10 richest people in the world doubled their income during the pandemic. Also, during the same period, 2,744 small billionaires witnessed an unprecedented rise in their fortunes in comparison to the last 14 years.
- This increase in poverty is spread unevenly across the world. In sub-Saharan African nations, 40 percent of consumer spending is on food costs while in the advanced economies, the figure is half.

e-Sanjeevani

- **Context:** Recently, 1 lakh Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) teleconsultation facility began in India.

Key facts

- This facility has been launched with the aim of helping the people living in remote villages in the country receive medical advice from various health experts.
- e-Sanjeevani has been providing accessible and affordable healthcare services to the people of the country.
- The benefits of e-Sanjeevani have been recognized and this led to an increase in this form of seeking health services.
- In the country, around 1,17,440 AB-HWCs had been operationalized.

About e-Sanjeevani

- e-Sanjeevani is a scheme of the government that offers the citizens of the country with online OPD doctor consultations.
- This scheme was launched in 2019 and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is the nodal agency to implement it.
- It is also known as the National Teleconsultation Service and it was launched with the aim of providing healthcare services to the patients in their respective homes.
- Under this platform, 56,994 doctors have been registered so that they can provide teleconsultation services.

17th APRIL 2022

Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme

- **Context:** Various procedures under the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme have been relaxed by the Ministry of Commerce.

Key highlights

- The procedures have been relaxed to facilitate the ease of doing business and reduce compliance requirements.
- Under the scheme, the authorization holder or the exporter has to export the finished goods that are worth six times the actual duty that is saved in value terms over a period of six years.
- The EPCG scheme's objective is to facilitate the import of capital goods so as to produce quality goods and services and enhance the manufacturing competitiveness of the country.
- The changes made to the scheme include those that are related to the annual reporting of export obligations which is the exporters can file it by 30th June annually instead of by 30th April each year, but any delay will attract a Rs 5,000 late fee.
- Any requests for the extension of export obligation have to be made within six months of expiry instead of 90 days as was the case earlier. However, applications that will be made after six months and up to six years will attract a late fee of Rs 10,000 per authorization.

Maharashtra Migration Tracking System (MTS)

- **Context:** The Government of Maharashtra has developed a website-based migration tracking system (MTS) to track the movement of the vulnerable seasonal migrant workers through individual unique identification numbers that will be assigned to them.

Key facts

- The women and child development (WCD) department of Maharashtra government had launched it as a pilot project in November 2021 in six districts having high tribal populations including Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Jalna, Amravati, Nandurbar, and Palghar.
- The MTS project has been envisaged to maintain the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) continuity like immunization, nutrition supply, health

check-up, etc. to the migrant beneficiaries that include lactating mothers, children aged up to 18 years, and pregnant women registered with Anganwadi centres.

- This system has been implemented as in Maharashtra there are high numbers of distress-driven seasonal migration of workers.
- Also, due to the COVID-19-related lockdowns, huge numbers of children and women had been displaced and missed their vaccination, nutrition, and other ICDS scheme-related services.
- With this data, the state government will be able to improve the health schemes, educational programmes, etc, of the migrant workers and will also be able to ensure better implementation of MGNREGA.

18th APRIL 2022

e-DAR Portal

- **Context:** The 'e-Detailed Accident Report (e-DAR) portal has been developed by the Ministry of Roads, Transport and Highways (MoRTH) in consultation with the various insurance companies.

Key highlights

- The portal will help in providing instant information related to road accidents and will help in accelerating accident compensation claims.
- On this portal, Digitalised Detailed Accident Reports (DAR) will be uploaded for easy access. This web portal will be connected to the Integrated Road Accident Database (IRAD).
- Minimal information is required to be entered for the e-Dar forms by various stakeholders like the road authorities, police, hospitals, etc.
- This portal will also be connected to other government portals like Vaahan and will also be able to access information on the registration of vehicles and driving licence details.
- The portal, for the benefit of the investigating officers, would also be providing geotagging of the accident

spot along with the map of the site. Other details like videos and photos of the accident spot, injured victims, damaged vehicles, eye-witnesses, etc., will also be uploaded to the portal.

Mynvax

- **Context:** In India, a prospective vaccine against COVID-19 or SarsCov2 is being developed that doesn't require refrigeration or stored in cold-chain storage.

Key highlights

- This vaccine is being developed by Mynvax laboratories, a Bengaluru-based company that was incubated at the Indian Institute of Science Bangalore.
- It is a unique vaccine that can be stored at 37 degrees Celsius for a period of four weeks and for up to 90 minutes at 100 degrees Celsius.
- Most of the other vaccines that are present in the market require to be refrigerated and can be kept at room temperature for only a few hours.
- This vaccine contains a part of the coronavirus's spike protein known as the receptor-binding domain (RBD) that helps the virus to stick to the host's cell.
- The low-income and lower-middle-income countries are very poorly equipped with cold storage facilities and the Mynvax vaccine can be efficiently deployed in these countries.

19th APRIL 2022

Shinku La Pass

- **Context:** The world's highest tunnel will be constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at Shinku La Pass at 16,580 feet.

Key facts

- The construction of this tunnel by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) will begin by July 2022. This tunnel will be connecting Ladakh's Zaskar Valley to Himachal Pradesh.

- Project Yojak has been set up by the Government of India to execute this ambitious project. By the year 2025, the construction of this tunnel will be completed.
- The tunnel's north and south portal will be at Lakhang and Shinku La.
- This tunnel will help in boosting the economy of the Zaskar Valley as the travel time between Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh will be reduced after this tunnel is opened.

About Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

- The BRO falls under the control of the Ministry of Defence since the year 2015. It is responsible for maintaining the border area road networks of the country.
- This organization plays an important role in the development of infrastructure in the border areas of the nation. Initially, this organization functioned under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- The headquarters of BRO is in New Delhi and the current Director General is Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chaudhary.

Lt. General Manoj Pande

- **Context:** Lieutenant General Manoj Pande will be replacing General Manoj Mukund Naravane as the 29th Chief of the Army Staff.

Key facts

- Lieutenant General Manoj Pande has become the first engineer to become the Chief of Army Staff (COAS). He will be taking charge of this post from 1st May 2022.
- On 1st February 2022, he replaced Lieutenant General CP Mohanty as the Vice army chief.
- He is an alumnus of the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun and the National Defence Academy (NDA), Khadakwasla.
- In 1982, he was commissioned into the Bombay Sappers after passing out from the IMA.

- Lt General Pande held prestigious command and staff assignments in counter-insurgency and conventional operations in all types of terrain during his 39-year military career.
- In the Western theatre, he has commanded an engineer brigade. He has also commanded an infantry brigade along the Line of Control (LoC), in the Ladakh sector and a corps in the North-east region of the country. Before taking over as the army's vice-chief, he has also served as the Eastern Army Commander.
- From June 2020 to May 2021, he served as the Andaman and Nicobar Command's commander-in-chief.

20th APRIL 2022

National Apprenticeship Mela 2022

- **Context:** Recently, in more than 700 locations the National Apprenticeship Mela 2022 was organized. The event was organized by Skill India in association with the Directorate General of Training.

Key facts

- The aim of this initiative is to support the hiring of over one lakh apprentices and assist the employers in tapping the right talent from across the country and develop it further with proper training and providing various practical skillsets.
- From more than 30 sectors, over 4000 organizations were participated in the National Apprenticeship Mela. The sectors include retail, power, IT/ITeS, telecom, automotive, electronics, etc. Also, the candidates were able to select and engage from more than 500 trades that include electrician, welder, beautician, housekeeper, mechanic, etc.
- Students who have completed at least Class 5 and have also completed Class 12 are eligible to apply at this apprenticeship mela.
- Also, ITI students along with the students who are having skill training certificates, graduates, and diploma holders were able to take part in this event.

- The participants will also be receiving certificates that are recognized by the National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET).

NCX India

- **Context:** The National Cyber Security Incident Response Exercise (NCX India) is being organized by the National Security Council Secretariat for government officials and critical sector organizations with the aim of strengthening the cyber posture of the country.

Key highlights

- On 18th April 2022, the National Cyber Security Incident Response Exercise was inaugurated by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.
- The NCX India exercise will be held till 29th April 2022.
- Over 140 officials will be provided training through training sessions and strategic exercises.
- The participants will also be trained in various cyber security areas such as Malware Information Sharing Platform (MISP), Intrusion Detection Techniques, data Flows & Network Protocols, Penetration Testing & Vulnerability Handling, Digital Forensics, etc.
- This exercise is being conducted due to the recent incidents of power grid hackings in Ladakh and Twitter handles of various ministries being hacked.
- Recently, the Twitter handle of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) was briefly hacked and a picture of Elon Musk was displayed.

World Bank's Global Growth Forecast

- **Context:** The World Bank has reduced the global growth forecast for 2022 from 4.1 percent to 3.2 percent.

Key highlights

- The growth forecast has been reduced due to the impacts of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

- The World Bank has proposed a new 15-month crisis financing target of USD 170 billion, out of which USD 50 billion will be committed over the next three months.
- The proposed financing target will be covering from April 2022 to June 2023.
- The World Bank stated that there will be a 4.1 percent contraction in Central Asia and the European region that comprises Russia, Ukraine, Russia, and other surrounding countries.
- Also, the forecasts are being cut for many advanced as well as developing economies due to the rise in prices of energy and food caused due to the war-related supply disruptions.
- The financing will be supporting the countries that have taken in refugees who have fled from Ukraine and will also be helping the countries that have been affected due to shortages in food.
- On the Civil Services Day, Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration award is conferred to the districts/implementing units for innovation categories and priority programme implementation.

Sarmat

- **Context:** Recently, Russia has tested its new Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) Sarmat.

Key facts

- The target was set in the Kamchatka peninsula which is around 6,000 km away.
- Before being inducted into the Russian army, the missile will be undergoing five more test launches in 2022.
- Russia has been developing a new ICBM to replace the older ones and an announcement regarding this was made by President Vladimir Putin in 2018. By the end of 2022, a regiment will be fully armed with Sarmat ICBM will be operational.

21st APRIL 2022

National Civil Services Day

- **Context:** On the 21st of April every year, National Civil Services Day is observed to acknowledge the work of all the officers across the country who are engaged in various public service departments.

Key facts

- This date was chosen to commemorate the day when Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Independent India's first Home Minister, in 1947 addressed the probationers of Administrative Services Officers at Delhi's Metcalf House in Delhi. Civil servants were referred to as the 'steel frame of India' by him as they act as the supporting pillars of the country's administrative system.
- On 21 April 2006, the first such function was held in New Delhi's Vigyan Bhawan and since then this day has been celebrated as National Civil Service Day.
- Father of Indian Civil Service title has been given to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

About Sarmat Missile

- It is able to carry a minimum of ten decoys and warheads. This ICBM is a liquid-fuelled missile.
- It has the capability of firing over either pole of the earth and has a range of 11,000 to 18,000 km.
- This missile will also be posing a challenge to the western powers' ground-and-satellite-based radar tracking systems.
- The Sarmat will be Russia's first ICBM that can carry smaller hypersonic boost-glide vehicles. These are hard to intercept as they are manoeuvrable.
- This ICBM is much more lethal than the R-36M Voyevoda ICBMs (NATO name Satan) as it has upgraded guidance systems, electronic countermeasures, and alternative warhead carrying capacity.