

1 June 2022

1. Q4 GDP growth decelerates to 4.1% (Page no.- 1)

GS Paper- 3 (Indian Economy)

India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth slowed to a four-quarter low of 4.1% during the January-March period, from 5.4% in the preceding quarter, as manufacturing output shrank, provisional national income estimates released on Tuesday show. As a result, full-year growth came in at 8.7% — a tad lower than the 8.9% pace projected in February.

2. A judicial course that calls for introspection (Page no.- 8)

GS Paper- 2 (Indian Polity & Governance)

The recent decision of the Supreme Court of India in the case of A.G. Perarivalan and the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case has stirred up a hornet's nest for its constitutional righteousness and establishing its supremacy as the final arbiter of enforcing constitutional discipline. The decision has been hailed by some major political parties as a blow for federalism.

3. Shining a light on Germany's stand in the Ukraine war (Page no.- 8)

GS Paper- 2 (IR)

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has sent shockwaves through the world, especially in Europe, being the region most immediately affected. The countries close to the Russian border, namely the Baltic states and Poland, had long warned against such a possibility, which they considered the next step after the annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the month-long Russian military build-up along the border. The Germans, the strongest European economy and the key nation for the European Union, however remained indifferent, regarding such warnings as exaggerated alarmism.

4. Caution first (Page no.- 8)

GS Paper- 2 (Indian Polity & Governance)

In a bizarre reversal on Sunday, the Union government withdrew a notification from a Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) office cautioning people against sharing photocopies of their Aadhaar card, just two days after the advisory was issued, claiming that it would be "misinterpreted". The May 27 notification that was issued by the Bengaluru Regional Office of the UIDAI urged people to use the masked Aadhaar number facility — that can be downloaded from the UIDAI website — and which displays only the last four digits of the Aadhaar number.

5. India's EV ambition rides on three wheels (Page no.- 9)

GS Paper- 3 (Indian Economy)

India's push for electric vehicles (EVs) was renewed when phase-II of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid and) Electric (FAME) Vehicles scheme in India, with an outlay of ₹10,000 crore, was approved in 2019. This was significant since phase-I, launched in 2015, was approved with an outlay of ₹895 crore. India was doubling down on its EV ambitions, focusing on cultivating demand for EVs at home while also developing its own indigenous EV manufacturing industry which could cater to this demand.

6. Questioning the safety of Aadhaar (Page no.- 10)

GS Paper- 2 (Indian Polity & Governance)

The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 states that Aadhaar authentication is necessary for availing subsidies and services that

are financed from the Consolidated Fund of India. However, confidentiality needs to be maintained and the authenticated information cannot be used for anything other than the specified purpose.

The NPCI's Aadhaar Payments Bridge (APB) and the Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS) facilitate direct benefit transfer (DBT) and allow individuals to use Aadhaar for payments. This requires bank accounts to be linked to Aadhaar.

But more than 200 central and State government websites publicly displayed details of some Aadhaar beneficiaries such as their names and addresses. This means that this data could be potentially used to fraudulently link the rightful beneficiary's Aadhaar with a distinct bank account, embezzling the beneficiary by impersonation.

7. Looking at the UN report on the Taliban regime(Page no.- 10)

GS Paper- 2 (IR)

A new report from the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the UNSC says that foreign terrorist organisations continue to enjoy safe haven under the Taliban regime. It adds that the terrorist groups are not likely to launch major attacks outside Afghanistan before 2023.

Two India-focussed terrorist groups, Jaish-i-Mohammed (JiM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), are reported to have training camps in Afghanistan.

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) constitutes the largest component of foreign terrorist fighters in Afghanistan, with their numbers estimated at 3,000-4,000.

8. 'Indus water talks held on 'cordial' terms' (Page no.- 12)

GS Paper- 2 (IR)

Indian and Pakistani negotiators ended another round of talks as part of the Indus Water Treaty on "cordial" terms, said the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), describing the 118th meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission that took place in Delhi on May 30 and 31.

9. India, China to hold next round of talks (Page no.- 13)

GS Paper- 2 (IR)

India and China on Tuesday agreed to hold the next round of talks between senior military commanders to continue the slow-moving disengagement process along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

10. Ministry brings out guidelines to manage monkey pox cases(Page no.- 14)

GS Paper- 2 (Social Justice)

India needs to be prepared to tackle cases of monkey pox in view of the increasing reports of cases in non-endemic countries, the Union Health Ministry said on Tuesday while issuing "Guidelines on management of monkey pox disease".

The Ministry confirmed that there are no reported cases of the infection in India.

11. EU bans majority of Russian oil imports(Page no.- 15)

GS Paper- 2 (IR)

In the most significant effort yet to punish Russia for its war in Ukraine, the European Union agreed to ban the overwhelming majority of Russian oil imports after tense negotiations that tested how far the bloc is willing to go to ostracise Moscow.

From the moment Russia invaded on February 24, the West has sought to make Moscow pay economically for its war. But targeting the lucrative energy sector was seen as a last resort in Europe and has proved hardest since the bloc relies on the country for 25% of its oil and 40% of its natural gas.

12. Fiscal deficit improved to 6.7% in FY22 (Page no.- 16)

GS Paper- 3 (Indian Economy)

Fiscal deficit improved to 6.71% of the FY22 GDP over the revised budget estimate of 6.9% mainly on account of higher tax realisation.

Unveiling the revenue-expenditure data of the Union government, the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) said that the fiscal deficit in absolute terms was ₹15,86,537 crore (provisional). The Finance Ministry had in February estimated the deficit at ₹15,91,089 crore or 6.9% of GDP.

Tax receipts during the fiscal were at ₹18.2 lakh crore as against the revised estimates (RE) of ₹17.65 lakh crore, the data showed.