

Anti Dumping Duty

❖ Context

- India has **imposed anti-dumping duty on five Chinese products** for five years.
- The aim was to **protect local manufacturers from cheap imports** from the neighbouring country.

❖ Key Highlights

- The duties have been imposed on certain flat rolled **products of aluminium; sodium hydrosulphite** (used in dye industry); **silicone sealant** (used in manufacturing of solar photovoltaic modules, and thermal power applications); **hydro-fluorocarbon (HFC) component R-32**; and **hydrofluorocarbon blends** (both have uses in refrigeration industry).
- These duties were imposed following recommendations of the **Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)**.

❖ Dumping & Anti Dumping Duty(ADD)

- **Dumping** is said to occur **when the goods are exported by a country to another country at a price lower than the price it normally charges in its own home market.**
- This is an **unfair trade practice** which can have a distortive effect on international trade.
- **ADD is a protectionist tariff** that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value.
- It is **permitted by the WTO for a period of five years** from the date of imposition unless revoked earlier.
- It can be **extended further.**

❖ Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)

- The directorate is an **investigation arm of the Commerce ministry which deals with anti-dumping duty, safeguard duty, and countervailing duty.**
- **Established in 1998** as the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties, it was **renamed in 2018** as the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR).
- It **provides trade defence support to the domestic industry and exporters** in dealing with increasing instances of trade remedy investigations instituted against them by other countries.

Soya Meal

❖ Context

- Recently, the government has notified, under the **Essential Commodities Act 1955**, to declare '**soya meal**' as an **essential commodity** up to 30th June, 2022.

❖ Key Highlights

- The decision would **empower the Union Government and all States/UTs to regulate production, distribution etc.** of Soya Meal and to **smoothen the sale and availability of this item in the market.**
- It will **stop unfair market practices and enhance the availability** for consumers like Poultry farm and Cattle feed manufacturers.

❖ Soya Meal

- It is the **most important protein source** used to feed farm animals and also used for human consumption in some countries.
- It represents nearly **two-thirds of the total world output of protein feedstuffs**, including all other major oil meals and fish meals. It is a **by product of the extraction of soybean oil.**

❖ Essential Commodity Act 1955

- The ECA was **established in 1955 to secure the delivery of certain commodities or products whose supply, if disrupted by hoarding or black marketing**, would have a negative impact on people's daily lives.
- **Drugs, fertilizers, pulses, and edible oils, as well as petroleum and petroleum products**, are among the things covered by the Act.
- The **Centre can add more commodities** as needed and remove them if the situation improves.
- Furthermore, the **government has the authority to set the maximum retail price (MRP)** of any packaged goods that it deems to be an "essential commodity."
- The **EC Act was amended in 2020** to allow the stock limit to be implemented only in exceptional circumstances, such as famine or other disasters.

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European Union

❖ Context

- EU initiates action after Poland violates bloc laws by undermining independence of its national judiciary.

❖ Key Highlights

- At the end of 2019, Poland's Parliament approved a law making it easier to dismiss judges critical of the government.
- In Oct 2021, the Polish Constitutional Court ruled that parts of the Treaty on the EU were incompatible with its constitution.
- European Commission has said that Polish Constitutional court no longer meets the requirement of an independent and impartial tribunal established by law as required by a fundamental EU treaty (**Article 2 of the Treaty of EU**)

❖ About EU

- An economic and political union of 27 member states representing **5.8% of the world's population and 18% of the global nominal GDP**
- The **inner six (Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, West Germany)** founded the European **Coal & Steel Community in 1951** with the **Treaty of Paris** and **European Economic Community in 1957** with the **Treaty of Rome**. The EU traces its origin to these organizations.
- The **union and EU citizenship** was established with the **Maastricht Treaty (Treaty of EU)** which came into force in **1993**.
- In simple terms, member states though remain sovereign and independent have decided to pool some of their sovereignty in some areas
- All EU citizens have the **right and freedom to choose** in which **EU country** they want to **study, work or retire**. Every EU country must treat EU citizens in exactly the same way as its own citizens when it comes to matters of employment, social security and tax.
- Every adult EU citizen has the right to stand as a candidate and to vote in elections to the European Parliament, whether in their country of residence or country of origin.

❖ Institutions established under EU

- **European Council** (Brussels) - consists of Heads of the states to define general direction and priorities of the EU. It is chaired by the President elected for 2.5 years. It does not adopt laws except for possible amendments of treaties
- **European Parliament** (Brussels/ Strasbourg/ Luxembourg) - represents citizens of EU countries directly elected by them. It takes decision on EU laws jointly with the **Council of the EU**.
- **Council of the EU** (Brussels/Luxembourg) - represents government of EU countries
- **European Commission** (Brussels/Luxembourg/EU)- EU's main executive body. It proposed laws and implements them
- **Court of Justice of EU** (Luxembourg) - interprets and ensures EU law is followed by members

❖ Regional Groupings w.r.t EU

- An **Internal Single market** seeks to guarantee free movement of **goods, capitals, services and people** - "**Four freedoms**". It consists of **27 states + Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway** (through Agreement on European Economic Area) + **Switzerland** (bilateral treaty).
- Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway & Switzerland form the **European Free trade Association** which runs parallel with the EU. They are not members of EU
- **EUROZONE** is the monetary union of 19 states (27 states minus **Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech republic, Denmark, Hungary, Poland, Sweden & Romania**) which use Euro as their primary currency. **European Central Bank** (Frankfurt) sets monetary policy of the eurozone
- **Schengen Area** comprises 22 member states (27 states minus **Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Romania** + EFTA members) that have abolished all passports and border controls

K-shaped recovery vs. V-shaped recovery

❖ Context

- While the government is estimating a sharp V-shaped recovery, experts are fretted about a **K-shaped recovery**.

❖ Key Highlights

- India's real GDP (GDP adjusted for inflation) shrank **7.3%** in **2020-21**. It is the worst performance of the Indian economy in any year since independence. The last time the Indian economy contracted was in **1979-80 by 5.2%**.

❖ GDP growth in 2020-21:

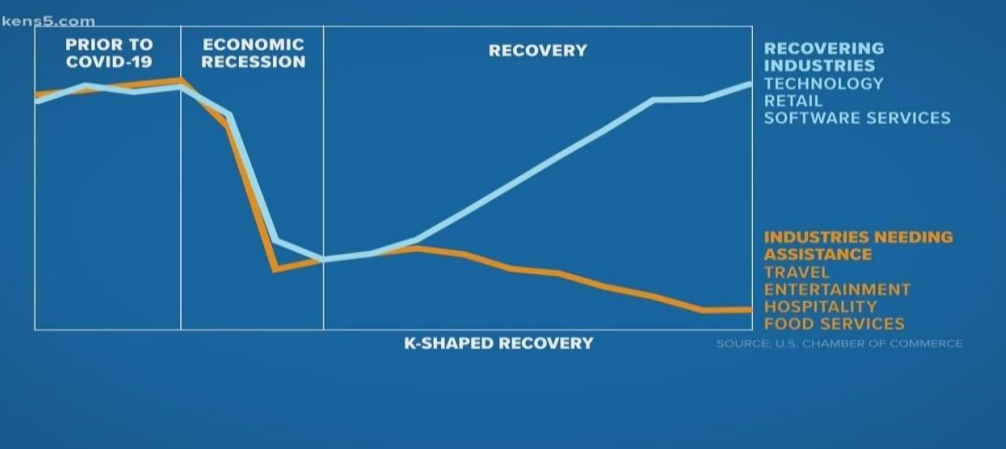
| Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 |
|--------|-------|------|----|
| -24.4% | -7.4% | 0.5% | 3% |

- RBI has estimated real GDP growth in 2021-22 to be **9.5%**
- In India, the **National Statistics Office releases estimates of GDP. Base year** for measuring GDP at **constant prices** is **2011-12**. In 2019, CSO merged with NSSO to form NSO. In revision of National Accounts statistics in 2015, it was decided that sector wise estimates of GVA will now be given at basic prices instead of factor cost.
- In simple terms, for any commodity the basic price is the amount receivable by the producer from the purchaser for a unit of a product minus any tax on the product plus any subsidy on the product.

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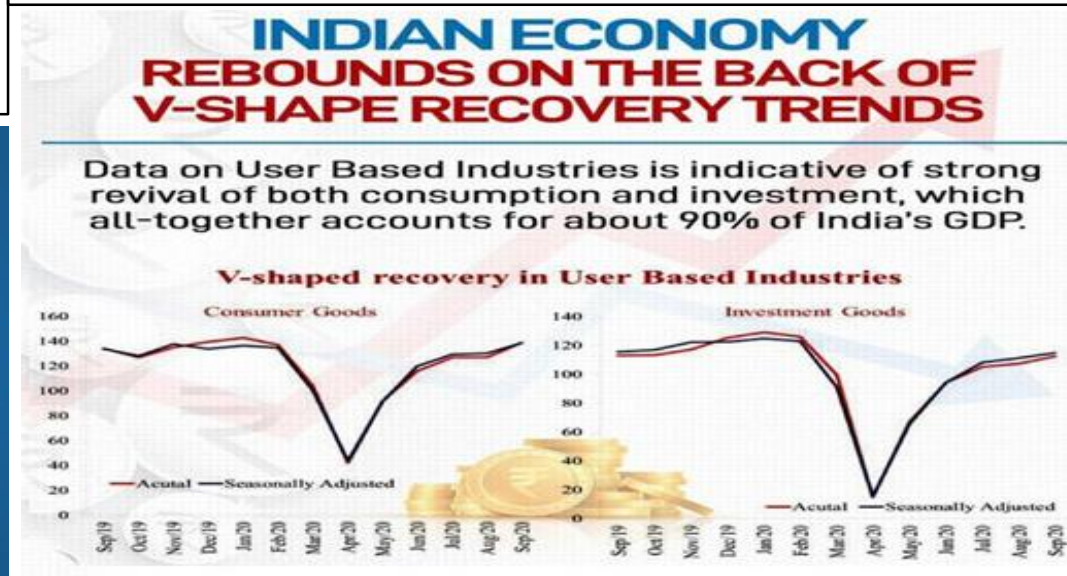
❖ **K-shaped recovery**

- A K-shaped recovery occurs when, following a recession, different parts of the economy recover at different rates, times, or magnitudes. This is in contrast to an even, uniform recovery across sectors, industries, or groups of people.



❖ **V-shaped recovery**

- A V-shaped recovery is characterized by a quick and sustained recovery in measures of economic performance after a sharp economic decline.



| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| GVA | Value of output - Value of intermediate consumption |
| GDP | Sum total of all gross value added at basic prices in all sectors of economy, plus all taxes on products, less all subsidies on products |
| Production taxes and subsidies | Taxes/subsidies independent of volume of production of goods/services such as on property taxes, interest subsidies |
| Product taxes and subsidies | Taxes dependent upon volume of production of goods/services such as GST |
| GVA (at basic prices) | GVA at factor cost (GDP at factor cost) + Production taxes - Production subsidies |
| GDP (at market prices) | GVA at basic prices + Product taxes - Product subsidies |

News in Between the Lines

State Health Index 2019-20



➤ **Context**

- **NITI Aayog** today released the fourth edition developed with technical assistance from the **World Bank**, and in close consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (**MoHFW**).
- The report, titled "**Healthy States, Progressive India**", ranks states and Union Territories on their year-on-year incremental performance in health outcomes as well as their overall status.

❖ **Key Highlights**

- The index is being compiled and published **since 2017**.
- It is a weighted composite index based on **24 indicators** grouped under the domains of 'Health Outcomes', 'Governance and Information', and 'Key Inputs/Processes'.
- To ensure comparison among similar entities, the ranking is categorized as 'Larger States', 'Smaller States' and 'Union Territories'.
- Among the '**Larger States**', in terms of annual incremental performance, **Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Telangana** are the top three ranking states.
- Among '**Smaller States**', **Mizoram and Meghalaya** registered the maximum annual incremental progress.
- Among **UTs**, **Delhi**, followed by **Jammu and Kashmir**, showed the best incremental performance.

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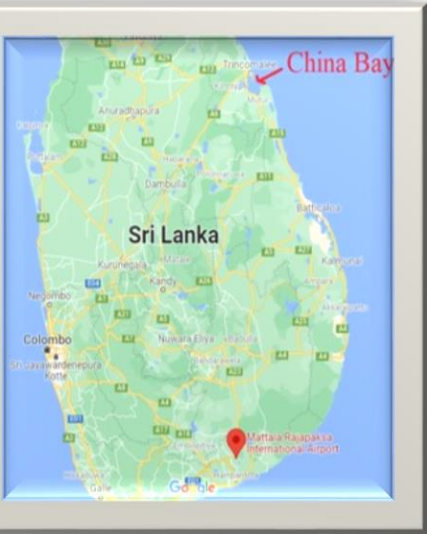
SCORECARD

| Top 5 | | Bottom 4** | |
|-------|------------------|------------|-----------|
| Rank | 2018-19* | Rank | 2018-19* |
| 1 | Kerala | 1 | UP |
| 2 | Andhra Pradesh | 2 | Bihar |
| 3 | Tamil Nadu | 3 | MP |
| 4 | Himachal Pradesh | 4 | Jharkhand |
| 5 | Maharashtra | | Rajasthan |

*According to Reference Year
**In ascending order (Lowest first)
Source: NITI Aayog Fourth Health Index

- Data is collected online through a portal maintained by NITI on agreed indicators. The data is then validated through an independent validation agency selected through a transparent bidding process.
- The importance of this annual tool is reemphasized by **MoHFW's decision to link the index to incentives under the National Health Mission**. This has been instrumental in shifting the focus from budget spending and inputs to outputs and outcomes.

China Bay



❖ Context

- Sri Lanka to sign deal with India soon to develop **Trincomalee oil tank farms**

❖ Key Highlights

- The facility is located in **China Bay** (*China does not have any control/presence there*)
- During the Second World War, the British built the Trincomalee oil tank farms to serve as a refueling station, adjacent to the Trincomalee port. The nearly century-old oil tanks need to be refurbished.
- It has 99 storage tanks with capacity of 12,000 kilolitres each
- The proposal was envisaged 35 years ago in the Indo-Sri Lanka accord
- However, no development occurred until 2003, when **IOCL** set up a subsidiary Sri Lanka IOCL - Lanka IOC which runs 15 tanks in the farm
- China Bay also has a Sri Lankan air force base and domestic airport

James Webb Space Telescope



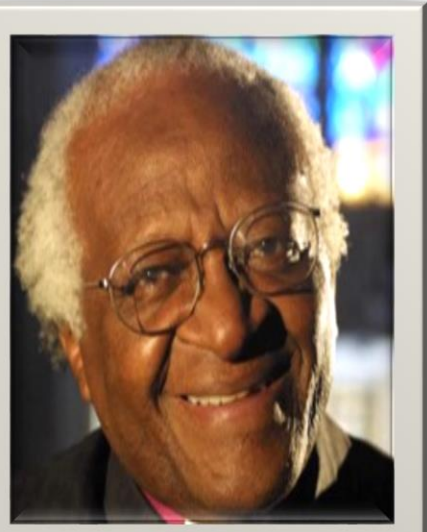
❖ Context

- The world's most powerful space telescope on Saturday blasted off into orbit.

❖ Key Highlights

- It headed to an outpost 1.5 million kilometres (9,30,000 miles) from Earth, after several delays caused by technical hitches.
- It left Earth enclosed in its Ariane 5 rocket from Kourou Space Centre in French Guiana.
- Successor of the **Hubble Telescope**
- The telescope has been developed under an international partnership between **NASA**, the European Space Agency (**ESA**) and the Canadian Space Agency (**CSA**)
- The telescope will study the **atmospheres of a wide diversity of exoplanets**
- It will also **search for atmospheres similar to Earth's**, and for the signatures of key substances such as **methane, water, oxygen, carbon dioxide, and complex organic molecules**, in hopes of finding the building blocks of life.
- It is the **most powerful infrared telescope of NASA**

Desmond Tutu



❖ Context

- Desmond Tutu, the **Nobel Peace Prize laureate** who helped end apartheid in South Africa, has died aged 90.

❖ Key Highlights

- A **contemporary of anti-apartheid icon Nelson Mandela**, he was one of the driving forces behind the **movement to end the policy of racial segregation and discrimination** enforced by the white minority government against the black majority in South Africa from 1948 until 1991.
- He was **awarded the Nobel prize in 1984** for his role in the struggle to abolish the apartheid system.
- Tutu's death comes just weeks after that of **South Africa's last apartheid-era president, FW de Klerk**, who died at the age of 85.



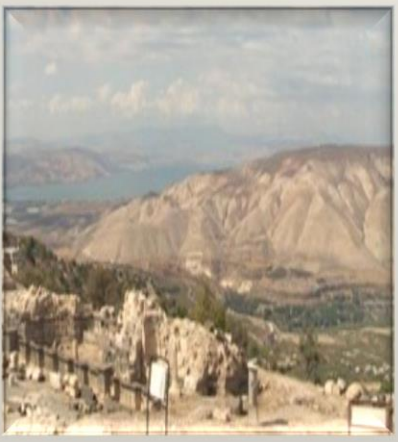
Golan Heights

❖ Context

- Israeli Govt said on December 26 that his country plans to double the number of settlers living in the Golan Heights.

❖ Key Highlights

- Three years ago the **USA recognized Israel's sovereignty over the Golan** which Israel captured from Syria more than five decades ago.
- Under international law, **the region is still considered Syrian territory** occupied by Israel.
- The Golan Heights is a **rocky plateau** with an area of 1,800km² on the border between Israel and Syria in south-western Syria.
- The **Golan Heights give Israel an excellent point for monitoring Syrian movements**. The topography provides a natural buffer against any military adventure from Syria.
- The area is also a **key source of water for an arid region**. Rainwater from the Golan's catchment feeds into the **Jordan River**. The area provides a third of Israel's **water supply**.



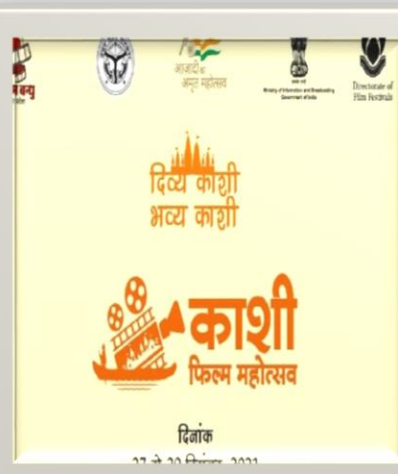
Kashi Film Festival

❖ Context

- **Kashi Film Festival has got off in a colourful manner.**
- The **03-day film festival** is being held for the first time in **Varanasi**. It will give opportunity to the world to have a closer look at the **cultural heritage of Kashi**.

❖ Key Highlights

- The festival will not only show glimpses of **Hindustani classical music** and dance but will also refresh the memories of famous **philosopher poets, writers, musicians** and the **Banaras Gharana**.
- Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, the **UP Minister of State for Tourism, Culture, Charitable Affairs**, this festival people will come to know the culture of this wonderful city more closely.
- After dedicating the rejuvenated **Kashi Vishwanath Dham**, the **Prime Minister** showed his affection towards the **Kashi for its cultural heritage**.



Foreign Donations to NGOs and FCRA

❖ Context

- The Union Home Ministry on Monday said that the FCRA renewal application of Missionaries of Charity (MoC) was refused on December 25 for not meeting certain eligibility conditions.

❖ Key Highlights

- **FCRA or Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010** regulates foreign donations and ensures that such contributions do **not adversely affect internal security**.
- First enacted **in 1976**, it was amended in 2010 when a slew of new measures were adopted to regulate foreign donations.
- The FCRA is applicable to all associations, groups and NGOs which intend to receive foreign donations.
 - It is mandatory for all such **NGOs** to register themselves under the **FCRA**.
 - The registration is initially valid for five years and it can be renewed subsequently if they comply with all norms.
 - Registered associations can receive foreign contribution for **social, educational, religious, economic** and **cultural** purposes.
- Filing of annual returns, on the lines of **Income Tax**, is compulsory.



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