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**RESOURCE  
BOOKLET**

**2021**

**ASSESS YOURSELF  
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# DAY - 1

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**Q.1. Discuss the salient features of the Representation of People Act. Has it been able to ensure free and fair elections in India?[Paper II: Governance/Constitution/Polity]**

## **Answer Format:**

- 👍 Introduction to R P Act 195
- 👍 Main features of the Act.
- 👍 Provisions for elections in India.
- 👍 Challenges before free and fair elections.
- 👍 Role of the Act.
- 👍 Conclusion.

**SOURCE ARTICLE****Registration of political parties under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 – Public Notice Period – regarding**

Registration of Political parties is governed by the provisions of Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. A party seeking registration under the said Section with the Commission has to submit an application to the Commission within a period of 30 days following the date of its formation as per guidelines prescribed by the Commission in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 324 of the Constitution of India and Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. As per existing guidelines, the applicant association is, inter-alia, asked to publish proposed Name of the party in two national daily news papers and two local daily newspapers, on two days for submitting objections, if any, with regard to the proposed registration of the party before the Commission within 30 days from such publication. Notice so published is also displayed on the website of the Commission.

2. The Commission has announced the General Elections for the Legislative Assemblies of Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, 2022 on

8th January, 2022. It has been brought to the notice of the Commission that in view of prevailing restrictions on account of Covid -19, there was dislocation and delay in moving applications for registration, which in turn led to delay in registration as a Political Party. During General Election to Legislative Assembly of Bihar, Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal also, the Commission relaxed this notice period in view of ongoing pandemic. Therefore, after considering all aspects of the matter, the Commission has given a relaxation and has reduced the notice period from 30 days to 7 days for the parties who have published their public notice on or before 08.01.2022. For all parties, including of those parties which have already published the Public Notice in less than 7 days prior to 08.01.2022, objection, if any, can be submitted latest by 5.30 PM on 21st January, 2022 or by the end of the originally provided 30 days period, whichever is earlier.

Q.2. It is essential to achieve operational efficiency and leakage free distribution of food grains to ensure food security in India. Discuss.  
[Paper II: Social Justice]

**Answer Format:**

- 👍 Status of distribution of food grains through PDS.
- 👍 Existing challenges.
- 👍 Meaning of operational efficiency.
- 👍 How to make distribution leakage free?
- 👍 Conclusion

**SOURCE ARTICLE**

**"Focus on integrating end-to-end tech solutions right from procurement to delivery to achieve operational efficiency & leakage free, distribution" - Shri Piyush Goyal on the occasion of 58th Foundation Day of FCI.**

**"Establish a grievance redressal mechanism to react rapidly to farmer/Farmer Producer Organisation in distress"- Shri Goyal**

**"Improve storage capacity and infrastructure for the growing needs and have Power backup, CCTV, robust network facilities" Shri Goyal**

**Food Corporation of India celebrates its 58th Foundation Day**

**Union Minister, Shri Piyush Goyal gave 5 Sutras for FCI's progress**

The Food Corporation of India (FCI) celebrated its 58th Foundation Day here today besides, celebrating the same throughout the country. On this occasion Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Textiles and Commerce & Industry with his colleagues, Hon'ble MoS Sh. Ashwini Kumar Choubey and Hon'ble MoS Ms. Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti addressed all the staffs and officers of FCI spread across the country through video conferencing. Hon'ble Minister, Sh. Goyal congratulated the entire FCI family on the occasion and said that FCI was founded on this very auspicious day in 1965 at an auspicious place i.e. the city of Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu.

Underlining the fact that FCI is the main central agency for execution of food policies of the government. Sh. Goyal said that FCI has come a long way in realizing the dream of India being a self-sufficient nation.

Praising, the way FCI has carried out the world's largest food supply chain system especially during the pandemic to ensure seamless supply of foodgrains under the "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anya Yojana", Hon'ble Minister has said that FCI has not only become an important organization but also one of the most valuable organisations having stood in testing times.

"Today, FCI procures nearly 1,300 LMT of wheat & paddy annually against nearly 13 LMT procured during 1965. Similarly, distribution across the country has increased from about 18LMT in 1965 to nearly 600 LMT. Even the storage capacity from 6 LMT in 1965 has increased to over 800 LMT now," Shri Goyal said highlighting the journey of FCI while addressing the video conference.

He said that the statistics reflects how FCI has taken responsibility but also indicates that there's scope of bettering the transparency. He directed to prepare

a layout on how to strengthen better delivery to the people of the nation. “Our Vision and Mission should be Quality,” he said.

Adding on, he gave 5 Sutras to better FCI’s progress:

- “1. Change the public perception of FCI from being inefficient & corrupt to dynamic, inclusive & honest.
2. Focus on integrating end-to-end tech solutions right from procurement to delivery to achieve operational efficiency & leakage free, distribution - reduce PDS response time, beneficiary tracking etc.
3. Establish a grievance redressal mechanism to react rapidly to farmer/Farmer Producer Organisation in distress. Reaching out to farmers through “Jan Jagrukta” programmes at grass-root level to spread awareness.
4. Plan for modern infrastructure & logistics. Upgrade warehouses to international standards. Improve storage capacity for the growing need- Power backup, CCTV, robust network facility.
5. Global best practices to make India a ‘Food hub.’” Shri Goyal said.

He said that it’s important that emphasis should be on improving India’s rating in the Global Hunger index. This could be achieved by adding more nutritional value in people’s diet.

He directed FCI to simplify the processes, free the organization from discretionary power, make a robust testing mechanism

of food grains, review sampling techniques & revise as per international standards.

Shri Goyal said, “We keep talking about the green revolution - I & II. But as Honourable Prime Minister said, the goal should be “Evergreen revolution” - Food security is not enough, focus should be on “Nutritional Security”.”

On this occasion, addressing the gathering Hon’ble MoS, Sh. Ashwini Kumar Choubey said that FCI has done a remarkable job by observing its foundation day by way of plantation drive across the country showing its concern for environmental issues.

Hon’ble MoS Ms. Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti applauded the remarkable job of FCI during the recent pandemic times by ensuring sufficient supply of food grains in every part of the country especially to vulnerable sections of the society under Pradhan Mantri’s visionary schemes of PMGKAY.

On this occasion Sh. Sudhanshu Pandey, Secretary (Food) also addressed the officers and officials of FCI and applauded the transformation efforts being made by FCI, especially the recent initiatives to ensure transparency and enhanced efficiency which includes introduction of HRMS of Employees, Bill Tracking System, Depot Online System, Enhancement of capacity by increasing Stack sizes, Asset Monetization, Age Testing of Rice and Direct Benefit Transfer of MSP to farmers account.

Welcoming Hon’ble Ministers and other dignitaries Sh. Atish Chandra, CMD, FCI said that FCI is blessed to have continuous support of the government under the leadership of Hon’ble Prime Minister to carry out its activities.

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## DAY -2

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**Q.1. It is imperative that every democratic nation should push for reforms of the multilateral bodies up to deal with the challenges of the present and the future. What is India's outlook towards it? [Paper II: Governance/ International Institutions]**

### **Answer Format:**

- 👍 Status of multilateral bodies.
- 👍 Meaning and significance of reforming them.
- 👍 Challenges and prospects.
- 👍 Possible advantages.
- 👍 India's outlook.
- 👍 Conclusion

## SOURCE ARTICLE

## PM delivers 'State of the World' special address at the World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda

"During Corona time, India saved many lives by supplying essential medicines and vaccines while following its vision of 'One Earth, One Health'"

"India is committed to become world's reliable partner in global supply-chains"

"This is the best time to invest in India"

"Not only India is focussing on easing the processes in its quest for self-reliance, it is also incentivizing investment and production"

"India is making policies keeping in mind the goals of next 25 years. In this time period, the country has kept the goals of high growth and saturation of welfare and wellness. This period of growth will be green, clean, sustainable as well as reliable"

"'Throw away' culture and consumerism has deepened the climate challenge. It is imperative to rapidly move from today's 'take-make-use-dispose' economy to a circular economy"

"Turning L.I.F.E. into a mass movement can be a strong foundation for P-3 i.e 'Pro Planet People'"

"It is imperative that every democratic nation should push for reforms of the multilateral bodies so that they can come up to the task dealing with the challenges of the present and the future"

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi delivered 'State of the World' special address at the World Economic Forum's Davos Agenda today via video conferencing.

The Prime Minister said that India is tackling another wave of the pandemic with caution and confidence and moving ahead in the economic sphere with many

hopeful results. He said that India as a strong democracy, has given a bouquet of hope to the mankind which comprises of Indian's unwavering faith in democracy, technology that is empowering 21st century and talent and temperament of Indians. The Prime Minister said that during Corona time, India saved many lives by exporting essential medicines and

vaccines by following its vision of 'One Earth, One Health'. India is world's third largest pharmaceutical producer and is considered 'pharmacy to the world,' he added.

The Prime Minister said that today, India is providing record number of software engineers. More than 50 lakh software developers are working in India. He informed that India has third largest number of unicorns today. More than 10 thousand start-ups have registered during the last six months. He also talked about the India's huge, safe and successful digital payments platform and informed that in the last month itself more than 4.4 billion transactions took place through Unified Payments Interface. The Prime Minister talked about the measures of enhancing Ease of Doing Business and reduction of the government interference. He mentioned simplification of corporate tax rates and making them the most competitive in the world. India has deregulated areas like Drones, Space, Geo-spatial mapping and has brought reforms in the outdated telecom regulation related with the IT and BPO sectors. "We did away with more than 25 thousand compliances in the year gone by", he added.

Indicating India's growing attractiveness as a partner, the Prime Minister said that India is committed to become world's reliable partner in global supply-chains and is making way for free trade agreements with many countries. India's capabilities in innovation, technology adaptation and entrepreneurship spirit makes India an ideal global partner. "This why, this is the best time to invest in India", he said. He mentioned Indian Youth achieving new height of entrepreneurship. He said that as compared to mere 100 start-ups in 2014, India has more than 60 thousand start-

ups today. Out of which 80 are unicorns and more than 40 unicorns emerged in 2021 itself.

Underlining India's confident approach, the Prime Minister highlighted that when the world was focussing on interventions like quantitative easing during the Corona period, India was strengthening the reforms. He listed strides in physical and digital infrastructure like optical fibre in 6 lakh villages, 1.3 trillion dollars investment in connectivity related infrastructure, goal of generation of 80 billion dollars through asset monetization and GatiShakti National Master Plan to bring all the stakeholder on the single platform to infuse new dynamism to the seamless connectivity of goods, people and services. Shri Modi told the forum that not only India is focussing on easing the processes in its quest for self-reliance, it is also incentivizing investment and production. Most clear manifestation of that is 26 billion dollar worth of Production Linked Incentive schemes in 14 sectors, he said. He stressed that India is making policies keeping in mind the goals of next 25 years. In this time period, the country has kept the goals of high growth and saturation of welfare and wellness. This period of growth will be green, clean, sustainable as well as reliable, the Prime Minister emphasized.

The Prime Minister focused on the ecological cost of today's life style and policies. He pointed towards the challenges that our life-style causes for climate. "Throw away' culture and consumerism has deepened the climate challenge. It is imperative to rapidly move from today's 'take-make-use-dispose' economy to a circular economy", he stressed. Referring to the Mission LIFE, that he gave at the CoP26 conference, the Prime Minister said that making LIFE into a mass movement can be a strong

foundation for P-3 i.e 'Pro Planet People'. LIFE i.e. 'Lifestyle for Environment', is a vision of resilient and sustainable lifestyle that will come handy in dealing with the climate crisis and other unpredictable challenges of the future. Shri Modi also told the forum about India's impressive record in achieving the climate target well in advance of the target dates.

The Prime Minister emphasized the need to adopt as per the changing realities of the world order. He said that the global family is facing fresh challenges in the changing world order and called for collective and synchronized action from every country and global agency. He cited supply chain disruptions, inflation

and climate change as key examples. He also gave example of cryptocurrency where related technologies and their challenges do not lend themselves to the decisions of any single country. He called to be on one page on this. He asked whether the multilateral organizations are in a position to tackle the challenges of the world order in a changed scenario, as the world has changed from the time when these organization came into being. "That is why it is imperative that every democratic nation should push for reforms of these bodies so that they can come up to the task dealing with the challenges of the present and the future", he concluded.

**Q.2. What steps have been taken by India for improving its rank in Global Innovation Index? Discuss. [Paper II: Governance]**

**Answer Format:**

- 👍 Meaning of innovation and its significance.
- 👍 India's rank in the latest innovation index.
- 👍 Role of WIPO and NITI Aayog.
- 👍 Possible advantages.
- 👍 Challenges.
- 👍 Conclusion

## SOURCE ARTICLE

## NITI Aayog & World Intellectual Property Organization Hold Workshop on Improving India's Rank in Global Innovation Index

NITI Aayog and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) conducted a workshop virtually on improving India's ranking in the Global Innovation Index (GII) on 17 January 2021 with stakeholder ministries and departments.

NITI Aayog is the nodal department of GoI for improving India's performance in the GI. It has been taking several steps in this regard, from the constitution of an inter-ministerial committee to regularly interacting with top-ranking countries in the index to understand and adopt their best practices.

While delivering the opening remarks in the inaugural session of the workshop, NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar said, 'The nations of the world that seek to become a hotbed of innovation, like India, find the Global Innovation Index an indispensable tool to guide the formulation, implementation and monitoring of policies. In particular, innovation is the key for growth and development in emerging economies.'

NITI Aayog Member (Science and Technology) Dr VK Saraswat spoke on the significance of emerging technologies in the growth of innovation. He said, 'Innovation has been acquiring a significant dimension of creating real value across various sectors, with emerging technologies such as cloud computing, Internet of Things, energy storage, robotics, artificial intelligence, machine learning, etc. These technologies have led to the rise of an innovation economy.'

The interactive session of the workshop

began with a presentation by Dr Sacha Wunsch-Vincent, Co-Editor of GI, on the conceptual framework of the index and its ranking mechanism. 'A core benefit of the GI is that it positions data-based evidence and metrics at the core of evaluating, crafting, and deploying innovation policies. It brings together stakeholders to understand innovation performance and enables leveraging domestic innovation opportunities,' Dr Wunsch-Vincent said.

The session was then opened up to the participating stakeholder Ministries and Departments for interaction with the GI team from the WIPO. The subsequent discussion was focused on the sourcing and reporting of data for the indicators and the relevance and construction of the indicators in the GI. Several queries were addressed and a channel of communication between the stakeholder Ministries/Departments and the WIPO was established.

### India in Global Innovation Index 2021

India has been an 'Innovation Achiever' for 11 years in a row and it produces more innovation outputs relative to its level of innovation investments. During the workshop, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant stressed that 'our policies aim to transform India into a vibrant ecosystem for innovators by encouraging new businesses, attracting global talent and investments and undertaking socially conscious cutting-edge research'. WIPO Assistant Director-General Dr Marco M. Aleman agreed and congratulated

India on consistently improving its performance. He said this showed that the country's policies were indeed proving to be productive in improving innovation.

In the 2021 edition, while India bagged the 46th position overall—two spots higher than 2020—it ranked first among ten economies of Central and Southern Asia and second among 34 lower-middle-income-group economies.

Another important highlight of the index report was that relative to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP), India's performance is above expectation for its level of development.

### **Inter-Ministerial Committee to Boost India's Performance in GII**

To improve India's ranking in the Global Innovation Index, NITI Aayog has constituted an inter-ministerial coordination committee, chaired by its CEO Amitabh Kant. The committee

monitors the progress of updation of data for the indicators of the index. The workshop is an outcome of a decision taken during one of the committee meetings.

Chaired by Dr Rajiv Kumar and Dr Marco M. Aleman, the workshop was attended by key dignitaries from NITI Aayog, WIPO, and all the stakeholder ministries and departments.

The closing remarks were made by NITI Aayog Senior Adviser Neeraj Sinha, who emphasized the importance of the availability of updated data at the point of collection by the WIPO. (For this purpose, the relevant ministries and departments are stipulated to take the necessary action by 31 March 2022.) He also exhorted the ministries and departments to highlight to the WIPO those indicators that were not relevant to India and could be considered for modification.

## QUESTIONS BASED ON ECONOMIC SURVEY 2021-22

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- Q.1. AGILE framework may prove to be an art and science of policy making under conditions of extreme uncertainty. Do you agree? Explain.
- Q.2. It is hoped that the adoption of the UN Commission on International Trade Law will strengthen insolvency and bankruptcy provisions in India. Critically discuss.
- Q.3. The entire policy design of the Government of India is made to ensure sustainability and inclusion. Critically examine its viability.
- Q.4. Identify the major challenges present before the economy of India. Discuss the policy responses to meet them.
- Q.5. Considering the uncertainties in the economy of India, discuss the policy steps taken by the Government to address the issues and concerns in agriculture sector.



## SOURCE ARTICLE

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ECONOMIC SURVEY 2021-22

- 👍 9.2 PERCENT GROWTH EXPECTED IN REAL TERMS IN 2021-22
- 👍 GDP PROJECTED TO GROW 8.0-8.5 PERCENT IN 2022-23
- 👍 PANDEMIC: GOVERNMENT'S SUPPLY SIDE REFORMS PREPARING ECONOMY FOR SUSTAINED LONGTERM EXPANSION
- 👍 CAPEX GROWS BY 13.5 PERCENT (YoY) DURING APRIL-NOVEMBER, 2021
- 👍 FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES TOUCH US\$ 633.6 BILLION ON 31st DECEMBER, 2021
- 👍 MACROECONOMIC STABILITY INDICATORS SUGGEST ECONOMY WELL PLACED TO TAKE ON CHALLENGES OF 2022-23
- 👍 MASSIVE GROWTH IN REVENUE RECEIPTS
- 👍 SOCIAL SECTOR: EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL SERVICES AS PROPORTION OF GDP INCREASES TO 8.6 PERCENT IN 2021-22 (BE) AS COMPARED TO 6.2 PERCENT IN 2014-15
- 👍 WITH REVIVAL OF ECONOMY, EMPLOYMENT INDICATORS BOUNCED BACK TO PRE-PANDEMIC LEVELS DURING LAST QUARTER OF 2020-21
- 👍 MERCHANDISE EXPORTS AND IMPORTS REBOUND STRONGLY AND SURPASS PRECOVID LEVELS
- 👍 BANK CREDIT ACCELERATES TO 9.2 PERCENT AS ON 31st DECEMBER, 2021
- 👍 Rs 89,066 CRORE RAISED VIA 75 IPOs; SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN IN ANY YEAR IN LAST DECADE
- 👍 CPI-CINFLATION MODERATES TO 5.2 PERCENT IN 2021-22 (APRIL-DECEMBER)
- 👍 FOOD INFLATION AVERAGES AT A LOW OF 2.9 PERCENT IN 2021-22 (APRIL-DECEMBER)
- 👍 EFFECTIVE SUPPLY SIDE MANAGEMENT KEEPS PRICES OF MOST ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES UNDER CONTROL
- 👍 AGRICULTURE: GVA REGISTERS BUOYANT GROWTH OF 3.9% IN 2021-22
- 👍 RAILWAYS: CAPITAL EXPENDITURE SEES SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE TO Rs. 155,181 CRORE IN 2020-21; BUDGETED TO FURTHER INCREASE TO Rs. 215,058 CRORE IN 2021-22, A FIVE TIMES INCREASE COMPARED TO 2014 LEVEL
- 👍 PER DAY ROAD CONSTRUCTION INCREASES TO 36.5 KMS IN 2020-21 – RISE OF 30.4 PERCENT COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS YEAR
- 👍 SDGs: OVERALL SCORE ON NITI AAYOG DASHBOARD IMPROVES TO 66 IN 2020-21

The Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Economic Survey 2021-22 in Parliament today. The highlights of the Economic Survey are as follows:

### State of the Economy:

- Indian economy estimated to grow by 9.2 percent in real terms in 2021-22 (as per first advanced estimates) subsequent to a contraction of 7.3 percent in 2020-21.
- GDP projected to grow by 8- 8.5 percent in real terms in 2022-23.
- The year ahead poised for a pickup in private sector investment with the financial system in good position to provide support for economy's revival.
- Projection comparable with World Bank and Asian Development Bank's latest forecasts of real GDP growth of 8.7 percent and 7.5 percent respectively for 2022-23.
- As per IMF's latest World Economic Outlook projections, India's real GDP projected to grow at 9 percent in 2021-22 and 2022-23 and at 7.1 percent in 2023-2024, which would make India the fastest growing major economy in the world for all 3 years.
- Agriculture and allied sectors expected to grow by 3.9 percent; industry by 11.8 percent and services sector by 8.2 percent in 2021-22.
- On demand side, consumption estimated to grow by 7.0 percent, Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) by 15 percent, exports by 16.5 percent and imports by 29.4 percent in 2021-22.
- Macroeconomic stability indicators suggest that the Indian Economy is

well placed to take on the challenges of 2022-23.

- Combination of high foreign exchange reserves, sustained foreign direct investment, and rising export earnings will provide adequate buffer against possible global liquidity tapering in 2022-23.
- Economic impact of "second wave" was much smaller than that during the full lockdown phase in 2020-21, though health impact was more severe.
- Government of India's unique response comprised of safety-nets to cushion the impact on vulnerable sections of society and the business sector, significant increase in capital expenditure to spur growth and supply side reforms for a sustained long-term expansion.
- Government's flexible and multi-layered response is partly based on an "Agile" framework that uses feedback-loops, and the use of eighty High Frequency Indicators (HFIs) in an environment of extreme uncertainty.

### Fiscal Developments:

- The revenue receipts from the Central Government (April to November, 2021) have gone up by 67.2 percent (YoY) as against an expected growth of 9.6 percent in the 2021-22 Budget Estimates (over 2020-21 Provisional Actuals).
- Gross Tax Revenue registers a growth of over 50 percent during April to November, 2021 in YoY terms. This performance is strong compared to pre-pandemic levels of 2019-2020 also.
- During April-November 2021, Capex has grown by 13.5 percent (YoY) with focus on infrastructure-intensive

sectors.

- Sustained revenue collection and a targeted expenditure policy has contained the fiscal deficit for April to November, 2021 at 46.2 percent of BE.
- With the enhanced borrowings on account of COVID-19, the Central Government debt has gone up from 49.1 percent of GDP in 2019-20 to 59.3 percent of GDP in 2020-21, but is expected to follow a declining trajectory with the recovery of the economy.

### External Sectors:

- India's merchandise exports and imports rebounded strongly and surpassed pre-COVID levels during the current financial year.
- There was significant pickup in net services with both receipts and payments crossing the pre-pandemic levels, despite weak tourism revenues.
- Net capital flows were higher at US\$ 65.6 billion in the first half of 2021-22, on account of continued inflow of foreign investment, revival in net external commercial borrowings, higher banking capital and additional special drawing rights (SDR) allocation.
- India's external debt rose to US \$ 593.1 billion at end-September 2021, from US \$ 556.8 billion a year earlier, reflecting additional SDR allocation by IMF, coupled with higher commercial borrowings.
- Foreign Exchange Reserves crossed US\$ 600 billion in the first half of 2021-22 and touched US \$ 633.6 billion as of December 31, 2021.
- As of end-November 2021, India was the fourth largest forex reserves holder in the world after China, Japan and Switzerland.

### Monetary Management and Financial Intermediation:

- The liquidity in the system remained in surplus.
- Repo rate was maintained at 4 per cent in 2021-22.
- RBI undertook various measures such as G-Sec Acquisition Programme and Special Long-Term Repo Operations to provide further liquidity.
- The economic shock of the pandemic has been weathered well by the commercial banking system:
- YoY Bank credit growth accelerated gradually in 2021-22 from 5.3 per cent in April 2021 to 9.2 per cent as on 31st December 2021.
- The Gross Non-Performing Advances ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) declined from 11.2 per cent at the end of 2017-18 to 6.9 per cent at the end of September, 2021.
- Net Non-Performing Advances ratio declined from 6 percent to 2.2 per cent during the same period.
- Capital to risk-weighted asset ratio of SCBs continued to increase from 13 per cent in 2013-14 to 16.54 per cent at the end of September 2021.
- The Return on Assets and Return on Equity for Public Sector Banks continued to be positive for the period ending September 2021.
- Exceptional year for the capital markets:
- Rs. 89,066 crore was raised via 75 Initial Public Offering (IPO) issues in April-November 2021, which is

much higher than in any year in the last decade.

- Sensex and Nifty scaled up to touch peak at 61,766 and 18,477 on October 18, 2021.
- Among major emerging market economies, Indian markets outperformed peers in April-December 2021.

### Prices and Inflation:

- The average headline CPI-Combined inflation moderated to 5.2 per cent in 2021-22 (April-December) from 6.6 per cent in the corresponding period of 2020-21.
- The decline in retail inflation was led by easing of food inflation.
- Food inflation averaged at a low of 2.9 per cent in 2021-22 (April to December) as against 9.1 per cent in the corresponding period last year.
- Effective supply-side management kept prices of most essential commodities under control during the year.
- Proactive measures were taken to contain the price rise in pulses and edible oils.
- Reduction in central excise and subsequent cuts in Value Added Tax by most States helped ease petrol and diesel prices.
- Wholesale inflation based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) rose to 12.5 per cent during 2021-22 (April to December).
- This has been attributed to:
  - Low base in the previous year,
  - Pick-up in economic activity,
  - Sharp increase in international prices of crude oil and other imported inputs,

and

- High freight costs.
- Divergence between CPI-C and WPI Inflation:
  - The divergence peaked to 9.6 percentage points in May 2020.
  - However, this year there was a reversal in divergence with retail inflation falling below wholesale inflation by 8.0 percentage points in December 2021.
- This divergence can be explained by factors such as:
  - Variations due to base effect,
  - Difference in scope and coverage of the two indices,
  - Price collections,
  - Items covered,
  - Difference in commodity weights, and
  - WPI being more sensitive to cost-push inflation led by imported inputs.
- With the gradual waning of base effect in WPI, the divergence in CPI-C and WPI is also expected to narrow down.

### Sustainable Development and Climate Change:

- India's overall score on the NITI Aayog SDG India Index and Dashboard improved to 66 in 2020-21 from 60 in 2019-20 and 57 in 2018-19.
- Number of Front Runners (scoring 65-99) increased to 22 States and UTs in 2020-21 from 10 in 2019-20.
- In North East India, 64 districts were Front Runners and 39 districts were Performers in the NITI Aayog North-Eastern Region District SDG Index 2021-22.
- India has the tenth largest forest area

in the world.

- In 2020, India ranked third globally in increasing its forest area during 2010 to 2020.
- In 2020, the forests covered 24% of India's total geographical, accounting for 2% of the world's total forest area.
- In August 2021, the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, was notified which is aimed at phasing out single use plastic by 2022.
- Draft regulation on Extended Producer Responsibility for plastic packaging was notified.
- The Compliance status of Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) located in the Ganga main stem and its tributaries improved from 39% in 2017 to 81% in 2020.
- The consequent reduction in effluent discharge has been from 349.13 millions of litres per day (MLD) in 2017 to 280.20 MLD in 2020.
- The Prime Minister, as a part of the national statement delivered at the 26th Conference of Parties (COP 26) in Glasgow in November 2021, announced ambitious targets to be achieved by 2030 to enable further reduction in emissions.
- The need to start the one-word movement 'LIFE' (Lifestyle for Environment) urging mindful and deliberate utilization instead of mindless and destructive consumption was underlined.

## **Agriculture and Food Management:**

- The Agriculture sector experienced buoyant growth in past two years, accounting for a sizeable 18.8% (2021-

22) in Gross Value Added (GVA) of the country registering a growth of 3.6% in 2020-21 and 3.9% in 2021-22.

- Minimum Support Price (MSP) policy is being used to promote crop diversification.
- Net receipts from crop production have increased by 22.6% in the latest Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) compared to SAS Report of 2014.
- Allied sectors including animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries are steadily emerging to be high growth sectors and major drivers of overall growth in agriculture sector.
- The Livestock sector has grown at a CAGR of 8.15% over the last five years ending 2019-20. It has been a stable source of income across groups of agricultural households accounting for about 15% of their average monthly income.
- Government facilitates food processing through various measures of infrastructure development, subsidized transportation and support for formalization of micro food enterprises.
- India runs one of the largest food management programmes in the world.
- Government has further extended the coverage of food security network through schemes like PM Gareeb Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY).

## **Industry and Infrastructure:**

- Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew at 17.4 percent (YoY) during April-November 2021 as compared to (-)15.3 percent in April-November 2020.
- Capital expenditure for the Indian

railways has increased to Rs. 155,181 crores in 2020-21 from an average annual of Rs. 45,980 crores during 2009-14 and it has been budgeted to further increase to Rs. 215,058 crores in 2021-22 – a five times increase in comparison to the 2014 level.

- Extent of road construction per day increased substantially in 2020-21 to 36.5 Kms per day from 28 Kms per day in 2019-20 – a rise of 30.4 percent.
- Net profit to sales ratio of large corporates reached an all-time high of 10.6 percent in in July-September quarter of 2021-22 despite the pandemic (RBI Study).
- Introduction of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, major boost provided to infrastructure-both physical as well as digital, along with measures to reduce transaction costs and improve ease of doing business, would support the pace of recovery.

### Services:

- GVA of services crossed pre-pandemic level in July-September quarter of 2021-22; however, GVA of contact intensive sectors like trade, transport, etc. still remain below pre-pandemic level.
- Overall service Sector GVA is expected to grow by 8.2 percent in 2021-22.
- During April-December 2021, rail freight crossed its pre-pandemic level while air freight and port traffic almost reached their pre-pandemic levels, domestic air and rail passenger traffic are increasing gradually – shows impact of second wave was much more muted as compared to during first wave.
- During the first half of 2021-22, service sector received over US\$ 16.7

billion FDI – accounting for almost 54 percent of total FDI inflows into India.

- IT-BPM services revenue reached US\$ 194 billion in 2020-21, adding 1.38 lakh employees during the same period.
- Major government reforms include, removing telecom regulations in IT-BPO sector and opening up of space sector to private players.
- Services exports surpassed pre-pandemic level in January-March quarter of 2020-21 and grew by 21.6 percent in the first half of 2021-22 - strengthened by global demand for software and IT services exports.
- India has become 3rd largest start-up ecosystem in the world after US and China. Number of new recognized start-ups increased to over 14000 in 2021-22 from 733 in 2016-17.
- 44 Indian start-ups have achieved unicorn status in 2021 taking overall tally of unicorns to 83, most of which are in services sector.

### Social Infrastructure and Employment:

- 157.94 crore doses of COVID-19 vaccines administered as on 16th January 2022; 91.39 crore first dose and 66.05 crore second dose.
- With revival of economy, employment indicators bounced back to pre-pandemic levels during last quarter of 2020-21.
- As per the quarterly Periodic Labour Force Survey (PFLS) data up to March 2021, employment in urban sector affected by pandemic has recovered almost to the pre-pandemic level.
- According to Employees Provident

Fund Organisation (EPFO) data, formalization of jobs continued during second COVID wave; adverse impact of COVID on formalization of jobs much lower than during the first COVID wave.

- Expenditure on social services (health, education and others) by Centre and States as a proportion of GDP increased from 6.2 % in 2014-15 to 8.6% in 2021-22 (BE)
- As per the National Family Health Survey-5:
- Total Fertility Rate (TFR) came down to 2 in 2019-21 from 2.2 in 2015-16
- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), under-five mortality rate and institutional births have improved in 2019-21 over year 2015-16
- Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), 83 districts have become 'Har Ghar Jal' districts.
- Increased allotment of funds to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) to provide buffer for unorganized labour in rural areas during the pandemic.