

## 1. GST Council

### Topic: Polity and Governance

**In News:** The Supreme Court has recently held that the recommendations of the GST council are not binding on the Union and the State Governments.

#### More on the Topic:

- SC has also clarified that **both the Parliament and the State Legislatures can equally legislate on matters of Goods and Service Tax.**
- GST Council's recommendations have a **"persuasive value"** and were not binding on the Centre and the state governments.
- According to Article 246A, the Parliament and the state legislatures have "equal, simultaneous and unique powers" to make laws on GST.



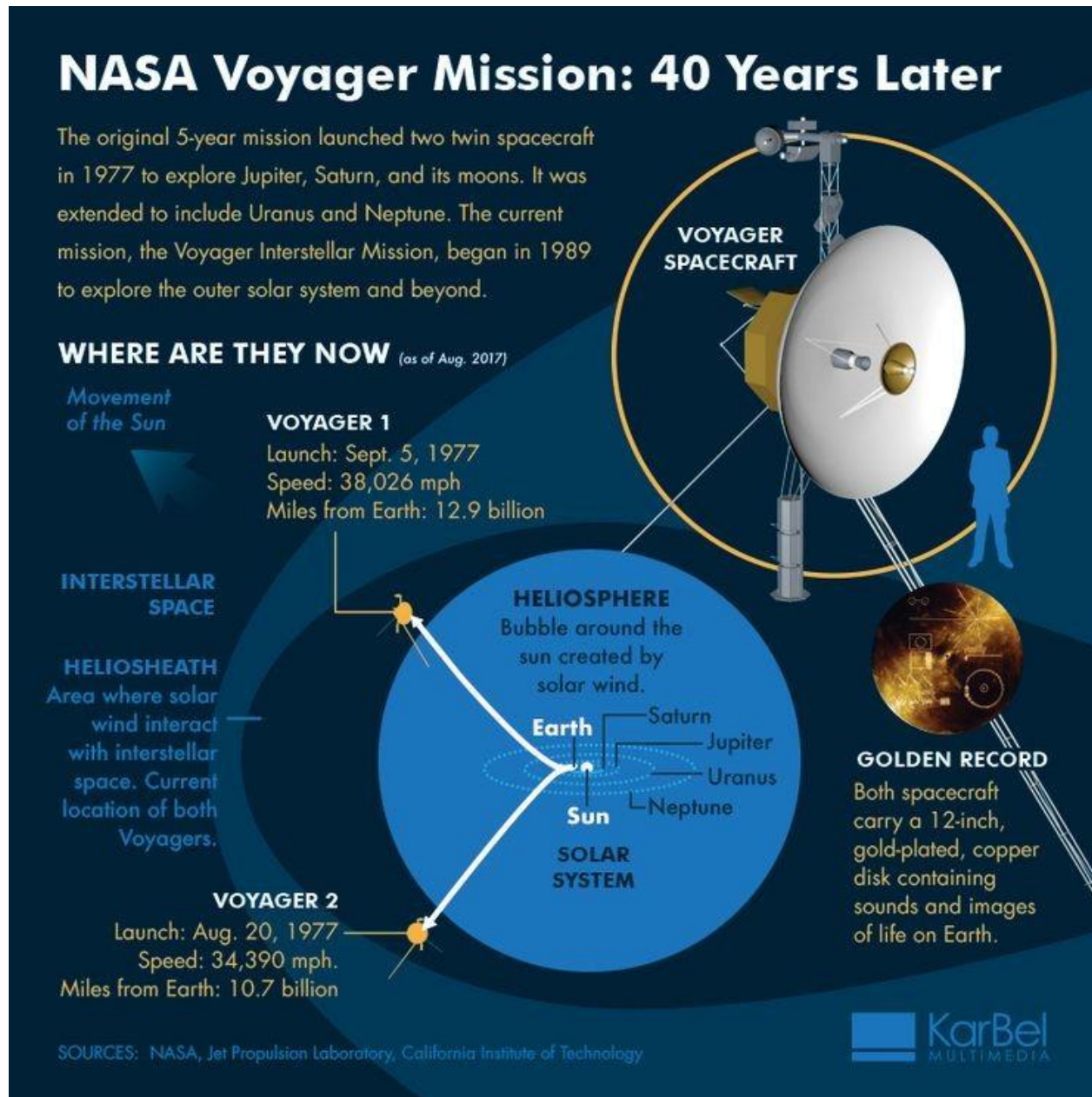
#### About GST Council:

- India rolled out the GST regime in 2017, following **101 constitutional amendment act** by subsuming nearly one-and-a-half-dozen central and state levies.
- GST is **one indirect tax for the whole nation**, which will make India one unified common market.
- It is a single tax on the supply of goods and services, right from the manufacturer to the consumer.
- The amendment provided for the creation of a council with representation from the Centre and states for decision-making.
- It has been formed under Article 279A.
- Article 279A provisions are the following, **GST Council to be formed by The President to administer & govern GST.**
- **It's Chairman is Union Finance Minister of India** with ministers nominated by the state governments as its members.
- The council is devised in such a way that the centre will have 1/3rd voting power and the states will have 2/3rd.
- The decisions will be taken by 3/4th majority.

**Source: Indian Express**

## 2. NASA's Voyager Mission

Topic: Science and Technology



**In News:** The NASA's Voyager 1 and 2 are continuing its journey beyond our Solar System, 45 years after it was launched.

**More on the Topic:**

- The Voyager program is an **American scientific program** that employs **two robotic interstellar probes, Voyager 1 and Voyager 2**.
- Voyager 1 departed Earth on 5 September 1977, a few days after Voyager 2 and left our solar system in 2013.

- The mission objective of the Voyager Interstellar Mission (VIM) is to extend the NASA exploration of the solar system beyond the neighborhood of the outer planets to the outer limits of the Sun's sphere of influence, and possibly beyond.
- The Voyager spacecraft are **the third and fourth human spacecraft to fly beyond all the planets in our solar system.**
- **Pioneers 10 and 11 preceded Voyager in outstripping the gravitational attraction of the Sun but on February 17, 1998, Voyager 1 passed Pioneer 10 to become the most distant human-made object in space.**

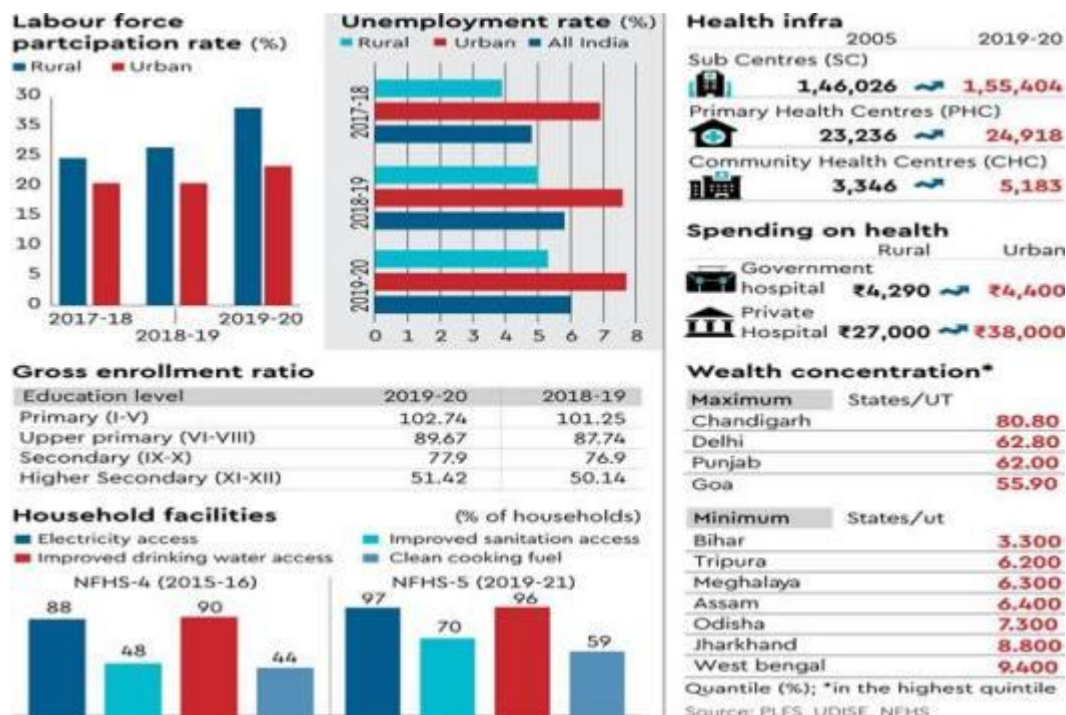
#### Major Discoveries:

- At Uranus, Voyager 2 discovered a substantial magnetic field around the planet and ten more moons.
- **Its flyby of Neptune uncovered three rings and six hitherto unknown moons, a planetary magnetic field and complex, widely distributed auroras.** As of 2021 Voyager 2 is the only spacecraft to have visited the ice giants Uranus and Neptune.

Source: Indian Express

## 3.State of Inequality in India Report

### Topic: Reports and Indices



**In News:** The State of Inequality in India Report was launched recently.

#### More on the Topic:



- The State of Inequality in India Report was released by Dr Bibek Debroy, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).
- **Income Distribution:** With a first-time focus on income distribution to understand the capital flow, the report emphasises that wealth concentration as a measure of inequality does not reveal the changes in the purchasing capacity of households.
- **The share of the top 1% accounts for 6-7% of the total incomes earned**, while the top 10% accounts for one-third of all incomes earned.
- In 2019-20, among different employment categories, the highest percentage was of self-employed workers (45.78%), followed by regular salaried workers (33.5%) and casual workers (20.71%).
- **Health and Infrastructure:** In the area of health infrastructure, there has been a **considerable improvement in increasing the infrastructural capacity** with a targeted focus on rural areas.
- **Nutritional deprivation in terms of overweight, underweight, and prevalence of anaemia** (especially in children, adolescent girls and pregnant women) remains areas of huge concern requiring urgent attention, as the report states.
- Additionally, low health coverage, leading to high out-of-pocket expenditure, directly affects poverty incidences.
- **Education:** Education and household conditions have improved enormously due to targeted efforts through several social protection schemes, especially in the area of water availability and sanitation that have increased the standard of living.
- It is emphasised that education and cognitive development from the foundational years is a long-term corrective measure for inequality.
- **The Gross Enrolment Ratio** has also increased between 2018-19 and 2019-20 at the primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary.
- **Household Conditions** :In terms of improvement in household conditions, **emphasis on providing access to sanitation and safe drinking water** has meant leading a dignified life for most households.
- According to NFHS-5 (2019-21), **97% of households have electricity access, 70% have improved access to sanitation, and 96% have access to safe drinking water.**

Source: PIB



## 4. Foreign Direct Investment

Topic: Economy



**In News:** India has reported the highest foreign direct investment (FDI inflow) to the tune of \$83.57 billion for the financial year 2021-2022.

### More on the Topic:

- The FDI inflow in the manufacturing sectors increased by 76 per cent in the previous financial year as compared to financial year 2020-21.
- Singapore is the highest contributor (27 per cent), followed by US (18 per cent) and Mauritius accounting for 16 per cent.
- The computer software and hardware remained the top sector which received the FDI inflow with around 25 per cent share, followed by services sector and automobile sector getting 12 per cent each.
- Karnataka is the top recipient state with 38% share of the total FDI Equity inflow** reported during the previous financial year followed by Maharashtra (26%) and Delhi (14%).
- Majority of the equity inflow of Karnataka has been reported in the sectors 'Computer Software & Hardware' (35%), Automobile Industry (20%) and 'Education' (12%).

### Foreign Direct Investment:

- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is defined as **an investment in which a company takes controlling ownership of a business entity in another country.**
- Therefore, foreign companies get directly involved with day-to-day operations in other countries.

- It is generally made in open economies that have a skilled workforce and growth prospects.
- FDI is significant as they are bringing money, knowledge, skills and technology along with them.

Source: Business Standard

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## 5. National Skill Development Fund (NSDF)

### Topic: Government Schemes

**In News:** National Skill Development Fund is receiving corporate social responsibility funds.

#### More on the Topic:

- The National Skill Development Fund was set up in 2009 by the Government of India for raising funds both from Government and Non Government sectors for skill development in the country.
- The Fund is contributed by various Government sources, and other donors/ contributors to enhance, stimulate and develop the skills of Indian youth by various sector specific programs.
- The Fund meets its objectives through National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) which is an industry led 'Not For Profit Company' set up for building skill development capacity and forging strong linkages with the market.
- NSDC acts as a catalyst in skill development by providing funding to enterprises, companies and organizations that provide skill training.
- **NSDC was set up by Ministry of Finance as Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.**

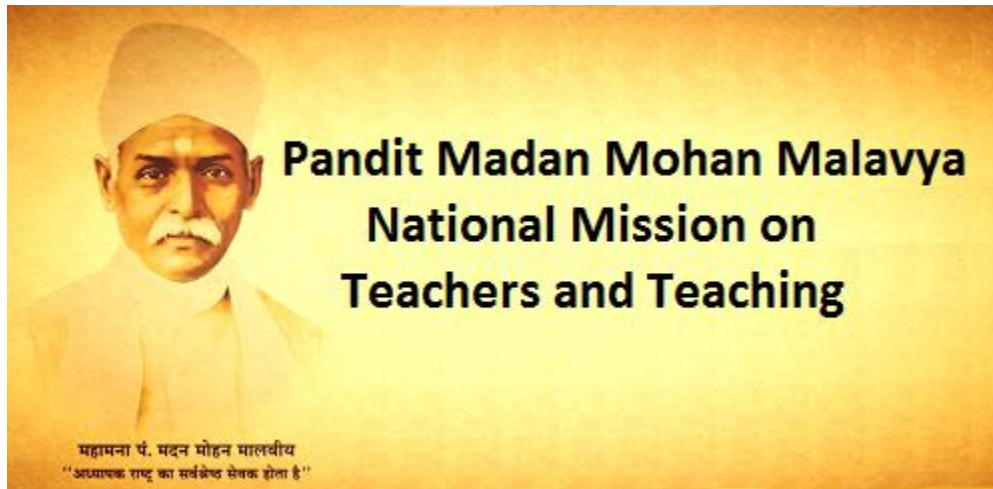


Source: Business Standard

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## 6. “Malaviya Mission”

**Topic: Government Schemes**



- **In News:** “Malaviya Mission” was launched recently. It intends for capacity building of teachers/faculty in higher education institutes. It is in line with National Education Policy.

### More on the Topic:

- The scheme of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching aims to address shortcomings relating to teachers and teaching in schools, higher education institutes and technical education institutes using the best international practices for excellence.
- It aims to create and strengthen the institutional mechanisms for training teachers. Teachers will be given refresher courses and retrained in generic skills, pedagogic skills, discipline specific content upgradation along with ICT and technology enabled training.
- A total of 5,62,138 trainees have undergone professional development training under this mission

**Source: Hindu**