

## 1. RBI Annual Report

### Topic: Economy

**In News:** The Reserve Bank of India in its annual report for 2021-22, has said that undertaking structural reforms to improve India's medium-term growth potential holds the key to securing a sustained, balanced and inclusive growth.

### More on the Topic:

- Other highlights from the report are as follows,
- **Inflation:** India's headline consumer price index (CPI)-based inflation rate accelerated to an eight-year high of 7.79 percent in April, staying above the RBI's upper tolerance ceiling of six percent for the fourth straight month. The RBI is mandated to target inflation at four percent with a tolerance band of two percentage points stretching on either side.
- Cost-push pressures from high industrial raw material prices, transportation costs, and global logistics and supply chain bottlenecks continue to impinge on core inflation.
- The Indian economy is witnessing a recovery despite the multiple headwinds in the previous year.
- **Supply-side bottlenecks:** Supply side bottle necks has to be addressed to have better post covid-19 recovery of the economy.
- Supply bottlenecks refers to the difficulties of supply of a commodity to take place even if there is demand for it.
- Main reason for supply bottleneck is poor production and productivity, primitive technology etc.
- The supply bottlenecks are a major reason for rising prices or inflation in developing countries.
- **Infrastructure and Investment:** Thrust given to infrastructure and investment in the Union Budget 2022-23 will play a major role in shaping the post-COVID-19 recovery.
- The Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti, which brings together infrastructure plans under various ministries under a common digital platform, is expected to improve efficiency in execution and reduce logistic costs.
- **Fourth industrial revolution:** Policy support for the digital economy, financial technology, and climate transition would enable India to participate and benefit from the fourth industrial revolution.
- The Fourth Industrial Revolution is a fusion of technologies like artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, the Internet of Things (IoT), 3D printing, genetic engineering, quantum computing, and other technologies.



- It's the collective force behind many products and services that are fast becoming indispensable to modern life.
- The War Effect: The escalation of geopolitical tensions into war from late February 2022 has delivered a brutal blow to the world economy. It has affected Indian Economy as well.
- Surging food and fuel prices, in particular, and shortages of essential items are impacting the disadvantaged adversely.

**Source:** Indian Express

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## 2. Necessity to Tap Unconventional Water Sources

### Topic: Environment and Ecology

**In News:** The UN and partner water experts said that it is time to increase the tapping of Earth's diverse and abundant unconventional water sources.

#### More on the Topic:

- The millions of cubic kilometers of unconventional source of water is in deep land-based and seabed aquifers, in icebergs and fog, in the ballast holds of thousands of ships, and elsewhere.



#### Six broad categories of unconventional water sources:

- **Harvesting water from the air with cloud seeding and fog collectors:** The atmosphere contains an estimated 13,000 km<sup>3</sup> of water vapor, some of which can be captured through **cloud seeding and the collection of water from fog and mist**.
- Remote communities in Chile, Morocco, and South Africa have used vertical mesh nets to harvest fog for over 100 years.
- **Desalination:** Every day desalination contributes over 100 million cubic meters of water, supporting approximately 5% of the world's population.
- While desalination is energy intensive today, innovative technologies such as nanoparticle enhanced membranes and forward osmosis are reducing energy inputs by 20 to 35%.
- **Reusing water:** Advanced municipal wastewater treatment systems offer a water source while protecting high-quality freshwater surface and groundwater.
- Today around 70% of municipal wastewater in high-income countries is treated, but this falls to only 8% in low-income countries.
- **Agricultural drainage water:** more food can be grown using the same amount of water through better conservation and reuse of irrigated agricultural drainage water.
- The used agriculture drainage water requires extra care and management as drainage water will always be more saline than the irrigation water from which it is generated.

- **Tapping fresh and brackish groundwater offshore and onshore:** The volume of renewable groundwater may be as great as 5 million km<sup>3</sup>, though much of it tends to be brackish (salty). Using technology fresh water can be filtered out.
- **Micro-scale capture of rainwater that would otherwise evaporate:** In dry environments over 90% of rainwater is typically lost to evaporation and surface runoff. Micro-catchment rainwater harvesting provides a unique opportunity to capture water for crop production and local needs.
- **Moving water physically to water-scarce areas in ships' ballast holds, or towing icebergs**

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Source: Indian Express

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### 3.North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

#### Topic: International Affairs

**In News:** Finland and Sweden will formally apply for membership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

#### More on the Topic:

- When Russia launched a military invasion of Ukraine, one of the important reasons stated was the eastward expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) by Ukraine joining NATO.
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) of April, 1949, by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.
- There are currently 30 member states. North Macedonia is the latest member to join the alliance in 2020.



Source: Indian Express

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## 4. The Reskilling Revolution initiative

### Topic: International Affair

**In News:** The Reskilling Revolution initiative marked two years of progress at the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2022.

### More on the Topic:

- The Reskilling Revolution initiative is a **coalition of 50 CEOs, 25 ministers and 350 organisations** committed to realising these gains for their economies, societies and organisations.
- The Reskilling Revolution initiative, **launched at the World Economic Forum's 50th Annual Meeting in January 2020**, is working to provide 1 billion people with better education, skills and economic opportunity by 2030.
- It works together with a growing network of national-level country accelerators launched to date in 12 countries -- Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Georgia, Greece, India, Oman, Pakistan, South Africa, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates, with knowledge support from Denmark, Finland, Singapore and Switzerland.

**Source:** Business Standard



## 5. Sela Macaque

### Topic: Environment and Ecology

**In News:** New species of Arunachal Macaque was named after snow-clad Sela pass.

### More on the Topic:

- Arunachal macaque (*M. munzala*) is an endangered and recently discovered cercopithecine primate from Western Arunachal Pradesh, India.
- In the samples collected from Arunachal Pradesh, the researchers observed 'spatially distributed substantial inter-species genetic divergence'.
- The results of the study suggested that **Arunachal macaque evolved into two phylogenetic species**.
- Phylogenetics relates to the evolutionary development and diversification of a species or group of organisms.



- **Sela macaque was geographically separated from the Arunachal macaque of the Tawang district by Sela Pass.**
- According to the study, the Sela mountain pass in Arunachal Pradesh acted as a barrier by restricting the migration of individuals of these two species for approximately two million years.
- **Sela is situated between Dirang and Tawang towns in western Arunachal Pradesh.**
- Sela macaque has a pale face and brown coat colour.
- Other features of the species include brown collar hair and muzzle, thick brown hair around the neck, and the absence of chin whiskers.

Source: Business Standard

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## 6. International Booker Prize

### Topic: Awards and Honours

**In News:** Indian writer Geetanjali Shree and American translator Daisy Rockwell won the International Booker Prize for “Tomb of Sand,”.

#### More on the Topic:

- The Booker Prize is a leading literary award in the English speaking world, which has brought recognition, reward and readership to outstanding fiction for over 50 years.
- It is awarded annually to the best novel of the year written in English and published in the UK or Ireland.



Source: Hindu

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## 7. Gond Art

### Topic: Art and Culture

**In News:** PM Modi has Gifted Gond Art To Australia's New Prime Minister.

#### More on the Topic:

- Gond painting is one of the most famous artworks of the **Gond tribal community who have their natural habitat in central India.**
- Gond paintings are one of the most admired tribal art forms. **The word 'Gond' comes from the expression 'Kond' which means 'green mountain'.**
- These paintings, created by dots and lines, have been a part of pictorial art on walls and floors of Gonds and it is done with the construction and re-construction of each and every house, with locally available natural colours and materials like charcoal, coloured soil, plant sap, leaves, cow dung, limestone powder, etc.



**Source:** Hindu

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