

1. World Economic Outlook

Topic: Reports and Indices



In News: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) sharply lowered India's economic growth forecast to 6.8% in its latest World Economic Outlook, compared to 7.4% it had estimated earlier in July.

More on the Topic:

- It highlighted that **the global economy continues to face challenges including inflation, tightened financial conditions, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the lingering COVID-19 pandemic.**
- The report pointed out that **more energy and food price shocks might cause inflation to persist for longer** while global tightening in financing conditions could trigger widespread emerging market debt distress.
- Despite the growth forecast downgrade, **India will remain one of the fastest growing key economies in the world in 2022 and 2023.** China's growth is estimated to slow to 3.2% in 2022 and by 4.4% in 2023.

Global Scenario:

- Global growth is forecast **to slow from 6% in 2021 to 3.2% in 2022 and 2.7% in 2023.** This is the weakest growth profile since 2001, except for the global financial crisis and the acute phase of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The global growth is expected to **slow further in 2023.** The worst is yet to come and, for many people 2023 will feel like a recession.
- A slowdown in the Euro area is expected to deepen in 2023, and growth in China is projected to hit its lowest rate in decades apart from during the initial coronavirus outbreak.
- Global inflation is forecast to rise from 4.7% in 2021 to 8.8% in 2022 but to decline to 6.5% in 2023 and to 4.1% by 2024.

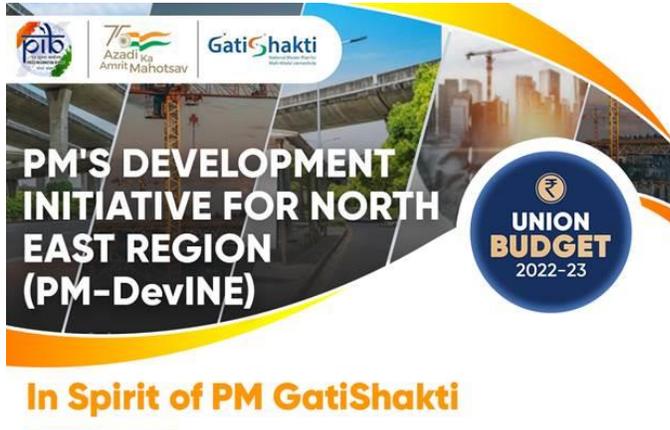
World Economic Outlook:

- It is a survey by the IMF that is usually published twice a year in the months of April and October.
- It analyzes and predicts global economic developments during the near and medium term.

Source: Indian Express

2. PM-DevINE scheme

Topic: Government Schemes



- Funding Infrastructure & Social Development Projects
- Initial Allocation: Rs 1,500 Cr

Objective:

- Enable Livelihood Activities for Youth & Women
- Filling Gaps in Various Sectors

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In News: The Union Cabinet has approved a Rs 6600-crore scheme in a bid to fund infrastructure projects in the northeastern states.

More on the Topic:

- It will be applicable for the next four years of the 15th Finance Commission from 2022-23 to 2025-26, as per government data.
- The new scheme will get **100 per cent central funding and will be implemented by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).**
- The infrastructure projects will be funded in line with the priorities laid down under the **PM Gati Shakti program.**
- It is to be noted that PM-DevINE was announced in the Union Budget 2022-23 to address development gaps in the North Eastern Region (NER).

- The scheme will lead to the creation of infrastructure, support industries, social development projects, and create livelihood activities for youth and women, thus leading to employment generation.
- PM-DevINE will provide support to infrastructure and social development projects which may be larger in size and will also provide an end-to-end development solution instead of isolated projects.

Source: DTE

3. Report Card on the Performance of Information Commissions in India

Topic: Government Schemes



In News: Satark Nagrik Sangathan has released a report titled "Report Card on the Performance of Information Commissions in India, 2021-22."

More on the Topic:

- **Backlogs:** Nearly 3.15 lakh complaints or appeals pending with 26 information commissions across India.
- The backlog of appeals or complaints is steadily increasing in commissions every year.
- The highest number of pending cases were in Maharashtra at 99,722 followed by Uttar Pradesh at 44,482, Karnataka at 30,358, the Central Information Commission at 26,724 and Bihar at 21,346.
- **Defunct Commissions:** Two out of 29 information commissions across the country are completely defunct, four of them headless at the moment and only 5% of the positions being occupied by women.
- **Penalties Imposed:** An analysis of penalties imposed shows that the commissions did not impose penalties in 95% of the cases where penalties were potentially imposable.

- **Vacancies:** According to a separate report by the Transparency International, one-fourth information commissioner posts are vacant and there are only 5% (only 8) women information commissioners in the country.
- **Digitalisation:** The entire system was also in need of digitisation. Only 11 information commissions out of 29 provide e-filing facility for RTI applications or appeals, but only five are functional.

About Right to Information Act:

- Right to Information Act 2005 mandates **timely response to citizen requests for government information by various Public Authorities under the government of India as well as the State Governments.**
- The law imposes a penalty for wilful default by government officials. Citizens can ask for anything that the government can disclose to Parliament.
- BUT, Information that can prejudicially impact internal security, relations with foreign countries, intellectual property rights, breach of parliamentary privilege and impedes investigations cannot be shared with the public.
- Cabinet papers are exempt until a decision has been implemented. However, discussions within the Cabinet can never be disclosed.

Source: Hindu

4. Mahakal Lok corridor Project

Topic: Culture



In News: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the United Nations World Geospatial Congress (UNWGC) 2022 in Hyderabad.

More on the Topic:

- The Phase-I of the 'Mahakal Lok' project **will help in enriching the experience of pilgrims visiting the temple by providing them with world-class modern amenities.**
- Project aims to decongest the entire area and also put special emphasis on conservation and restoration of heritage structures.

- Under the project, the temple precinct will be expanded nearly seven times. The total cost of the entire project is around ₹850 crore.
- The existing footfall of the temple, which is currently around 1.5 crore per annum, is expected to be doubled. Development of the project has been planned under two phases.

Mahakal Temple:

- The Mahakal Path contains 108 stambhs (pillars) which depict Anand Tandav Swaroop (Dance form) of Lord Shiva.
- Many religious sculptures depicting the life of Lord Shiva are installed along the Mahakal Path.
- The mural wall along the Path is based on Shiva Purana stories such as the Act of creation, the Birth of Ganesha, Story of Sati and Daksha among others.
- The Plaza area, which is spread over 2.5 hectares, is surrounded by a lotus pond and contains the statue of Shiva along with fountains.
- The entire premise will be monitored 24x7 by Integrated Command and Control Centre with the help of artificial intelligence and surveillance cameras.

About Mahakal Temple:

- Mahakal temple is **one of the 12 jyotirlinga sites in India**. Jyotirlinga sites are considered to be the manifestation of Shiva.
- Mahakal temple is the only jyotirlinga that faces south. Other sites face east. South is held by religious belief as the direction of death.
- **Mahakaleshwar is worshipped by people to prevent untimely death**. This temple is mentioned in several ancient poetic texts that originated in India.
- It was described in the early part of **Meghadutam (Purva Megha)**, which was composed by Kalidasa in the 4th century.

Source: Hindu

5. Tana Bhagat sect tribals

Topic: Culture



In News: Tana Bhagat sect is demanding complete self-rule with no role of courts or governments.

More on the Topic:

- Tana Bhagat is an important sect of Oraon tribes of Jharkhand. They are ardent followers of Gandhian philosophy and are known for the Tana bhagat Movement (1914-1919).
- It was a civil disobedience movement under the leadership of **Jatra Oraon of Ranchi in the Chotanagpur region** against the exploitative practices by Britishers and the feudal lords (diku).

Source: Hindu

6. SALT project - Andhra Pradesh

Topic: Government Schemes



In News: The World Bank has extended unconditional loan of \$250 million for SALT project in Andhra Pradesh.

More on the Topic:

- The project was undertaken by Government of Andhra Pradesh aimed to transform the state's school education system by strengthening the quality of foundational learning through various pathways
- Train teachers, facilitate State-level assessment and establish an effective education management & information system.

Source: IE

7. Kadavur Slender Loris Sanctuary

Topic: Environment and Ecology





In News: Tamil Nadu is gearing up to set up Kaduvur Slender Loris Sanctuary in an area shared by Karur and Dindigul districts.

More on the Topic:

- The Tamil Nadu government has notified the sanctuary under **Wildlife Protection Act of 1972**.
- Recently, the Tamil Nadu government has also notified India's first Dugong Conservation Reserve in Palk Bay, an elephant reserve at Agasthyamalai (Tirunelveli), Nanjarayan Tank Birds Sanctuary in Tiruppur and Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary in Villipuram.
- Also, a total of 13 wetland areas were declared recently as Ramsar Sites in Tamil Nadu.

About Slender Loris:

- The slender lorises are a genus of loris native to India and Sri Lanka.
- The genus comprises two species, the red slender loris found in Sri Lanka and the gray slender loris from Sri Lanka and India.
- Slender lorises spend most of their life in trees, traveling along the tops of branches with slow and precise movements.

Protection Status:

- IUCN: Endangered,
- Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972: Schedule I
- CITES: Appendix II

Source: Hindu
