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DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

**13.10.2021**

**FOR PRELIMS AND MAINS**

Warm Greetings.

- DnD aims to provide every day news analysis in sync with the UPSC pattern.
- It is targeted at UPSC – Prelims & Mains.
- Daily articles are provided in the form of Question and Answers
- To have a bank of mains questions.
- And interesting to read.
- Providing precise information that can be carried straight to the exam, rather than over dumping.

Enjoy reading.

THE HINDU - TH  
INDIAN EXPRESS - IE  
BUSINESS LINE - BL  
ECONOMIC TIMES - ET  
TIMES OF INDIA - TOI



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## ESSAY PAPER

### Editorial

**Q- The Indian tourism and hospitality sector were adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and saw substantial job loss. How do we pull this sector out of the COVID-19 trap?**

**BACKGROUND** = The Government of India recently announced –

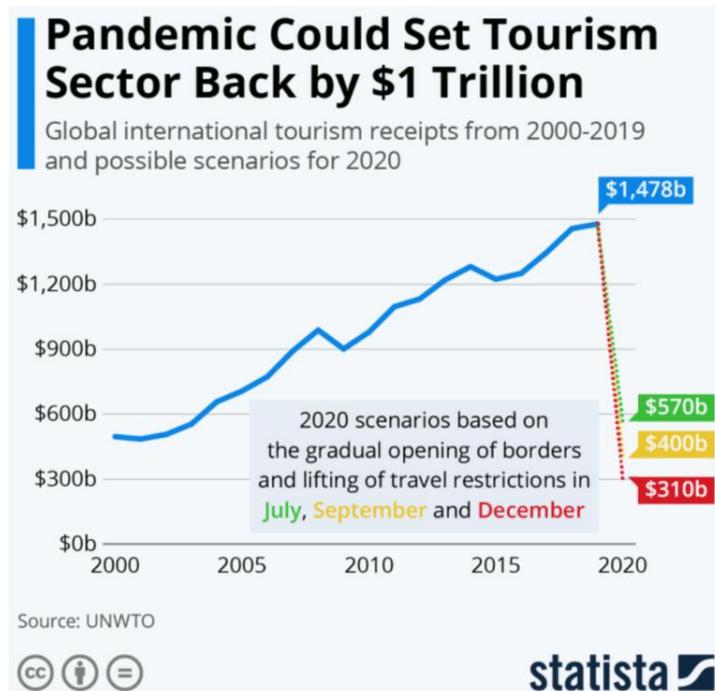
1. Financial support for more than 11,000 registered tourist guides/travel and tourism stakeholders.
2. It also said once international travel resumes, the first five lakh tourists will be issued visas free of charge.
3. In the pre-pandemic period too, many initiatives were adopted to promote the tourism sector, such as providing e-visas under various categories for people from particular countries, Global Media Campaigns, the Heritage Trail and the Paryatan Parv celebration.

These measures are welcome. However, we need **other long-term measures** too, to tap the potential of this sector. What we need is **disruptive innovation strategy which has the potential to create employment opportunities and increase revenue through private sector growth.** Like

1. The Startup India initiative has boosted entrepreneurship. However, the travel and tourism startups need a bigger push.
2. Innovative startups should be encouraged. Support from the government for ideation and access to finance are required.

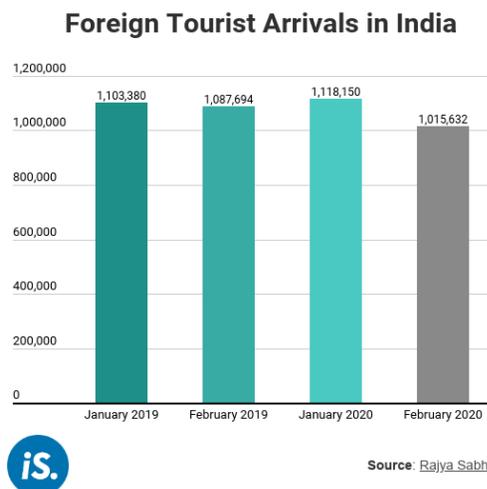
### About Indian Hospitality and Tourism Sector -

As per the estimates of the erstwhile Planning Commission, an investment of ₹1 million generates 78 jobs in the tourism sector. In the manufacturing sector, it results in just 18 jobs and in the agriculture sector, 45. The tourism sector, unlike many other sectors, can grow with smaller capital investments and that too without any industrial gestation period.



#### Changes to be made -

1. There is need to **train the workforce in India**, so that workers can develop the skills to perform jobs in the travel and tourism sector. The growth in this sector has multiplier effects on income generation as it is employment-intensive with less capital investment. The India Skill Report, 2019, estimates the Indian workforce to increase to about 600 million by 2022 from the current 473 million in view of the fourth industrial revolution.
2. India improved its competitiveness in travel and tourism, from occupying the 65th position in 2013 and then the 40th position in 2017 and then the 34th position in 2019, as per the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report of 2019. But **international arrivals have remained comparatively low**, at around 9 to 10 million.



3. Thus, there is a **need to highlight the significance of public-private partnership to improve infrastructure and tackle the problem of end connectivity**, which negatively affect the experiences of international travellers.
4. The **travel and tourism industry in India is also fragmented**, hindering the ability of the sector to achieve its potential. This area needs to be nudged **to embrace the digital revolution**, so as to promote public-private initiatives, medium and small and sized enterprises' growth while ensuring that India follows best practices from across the world.

### Way Forward -

#### **Use of blockchain technology**

Blockchain is a system of recording information in a way that makes it difficult or impossible to change, hack, or cheat the system. A blockchain is essentially a digital ledger of transactions that is duplicated and distributed across the entire network of computer systems on the blockchain.

- There are examples worldwide on blockchain-based money solutions to kick-start local tourism industries, for instance. Blockchain enables the tracking of items through complex supply chains. Indian start-ups could also explore strategies along these lines. Blockchain ledger coupled with IOT devices for healthcare could have a positive impact on medical tourism.

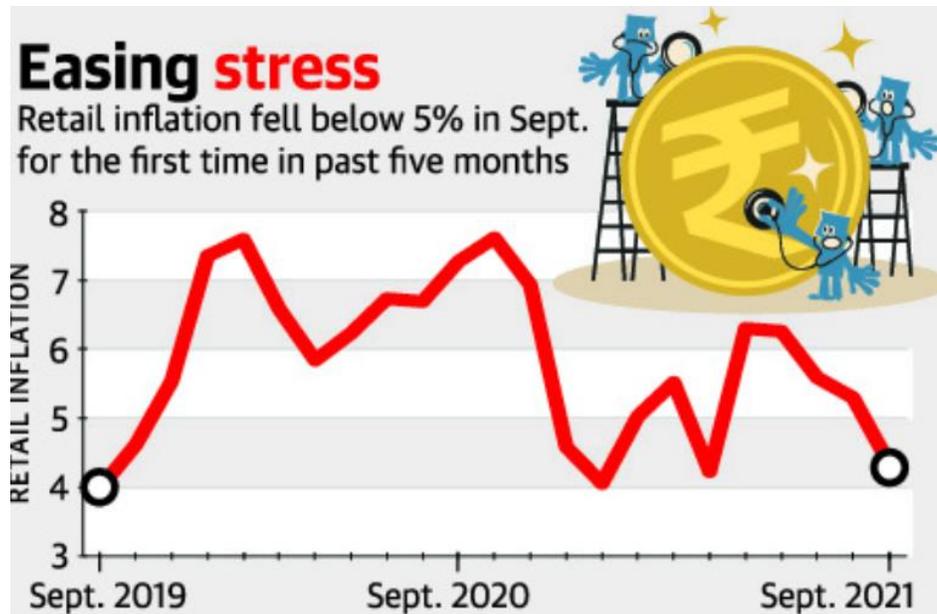
There are challenges too with the advent of disruptive technologies. The government and regulators need to collaborate and design innovative mechanisms to address the challenges of these technologies, for smooth growth of the sector.

### GS 3

#### ❖ **Economic Development**

#### **Q- Don't read too much into the encouraging data of India's retail Inflation figures. Why?**

**BACKGROUND** = India's retail inflation cooled off to a five-month low of 4.35% in September, thanks to a sharp dip in food price inflation, while industrial output growth accelerated to 11.9% in August, driven largely by a statistical effect of a low base — August 2020 had recorded a 7.1% contraction.



Economists cautioned against reading too much into these encouraging official data prints yet, with adverse headwinds lurking on both fronts –

1. Food inflation based on the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) fell to just 0.68% in September after having declined to a seven-month low of 3.1% in August.
2. While vegetables recorded a negative inflation of 22.5%, price rise in oils and fats remained sticky at 34.2% and in the range of 7%-8.75% for key protein sources such as pulses, eggs and meat.
3. However, core inflation, which doesn't include food and fuel price trends, remained elevated at 5.8% for the third month in a row, and economists said the moderation in inflation rate could be transient, with rising energy, metals and logistics costs being risk factors.

A high base is expected to temporarily dampen the consumer price inflation for October and November to below 4%, before an upturn resumes in the remainder of this fiscal, emphasising that barring food and housing, most sectors recorded a flat or higher inflation reading in September.

Food prices' trajectory will continue to remain important as some vegetable prices have reversed direction and sequentially picked up in October. "Commodity prices, particularly of crude oil and their partially offsetting impacts on inflation and consumption demand at a time when the economy's aggregate demand is still below the pre-pandemic level will also be crucial,".

## ❖ Environment

### Q- Discuss Government's new plastic waste recycling targets?

**BACKGROUND** = The Environment Ministry has issued draft rules –

- That mandate producers of plastic packaging material to collect all of their produce by 2024 and ensure that a minimum percentage of it be recycled as well as used in subsequent supply.
- It has also specified a system whereby makers and users of plastic packaging could collect certificates — called Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) certificates — and trade in them. The notification was expected to come into force by December 6 and, as of now, was open to public feedback.
- Only a fraction of plastic that cannot be recycled — such as multi-layered multi-material plastics — would be eligible to be sent for end-of-life disposal such as road construction, waste to energy, waste to oil and cement kilns.
- Only methods prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) would be permitted for their disposal.
- Plastic packaging, as per the rules made public on October 6, fall into three categories.
  - 1) The first is “rigid” plastic;
  - 2) Category 2 is “flexible plastic packaging of single layer or multilayer (more than one layer with different types of plastic), plastic sheets and covers made of plastic sheet, carry bags (including carry bags made of compostable plastics), plastic sachet or pouches;
  - 3) And the third category is called multi-layered plastic packaging, which has at least one layer of plastic and at least one layer of material other than plastic.
- Producers of plastic would be obliged to declare to the government, via a centralised website, how much plastic they produce annually. Companies would have to collect at least 35% of the target in 2021-22, 70% by 2022-23 and 100% by 2024.
- In 2024, a minimum 50% of their rigid plastic (category 1) would have to be recycled as would 30% of their category 2 and 3 plastic. Every year would see progressively higher targets and after 2026-27, 80% of their category 1 and 60% of the other two categories would need to be recycled.
- If entities cannot fulfil their obligations, they would on a “case by case basis” be permitted to buy certificates making up for their shortfall from organisations that have used recycled content in excess of their obligation. The CPCB would develop a “mechanism” for such exchanges on an online portal.
- Non-compliance would not invite a traditional fine. Instead an “environmental compensation” would be levied, though the rules do not specify how much this compensation would be.

## ❖ Economic Development

### Q- Discuss the Master Plan and its key features for multi-modal connectivity in India?

**BACKGROUND** = Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch a national master plan for multimodal connectivity called 'PM GatiShakti'.

#### GATI SHAKTI MASTER PLAN

##### About:

- It is a **100 lakh crore national infrastructure master plan** for developing holistic infrastructure.
- It will build upon the **National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)**.
- Roads, ports and airports will be part of this plan.
- **Development Finance Institution (DFI)** to fund infrastructure sector projects.



Infrastructure development had faced many problems for decades, including a lack of coordination between departments leading to multiple agencies digging up roads for laying cables, pipelines, etc. This not only caused great inconvenience but was also a wasteful expenditure... PM GatiShakti will address the past issues through institutionalising holistic planning for stakeholders for major infrastructure projects.

Infrastructure plans would be designed and executed with a common vision, instead of being made in silos. The master plan would cover projects of many Ministries and State Governments, including Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land ports, UDAN, textile clusters, defence corridors, electronic parks, industrial corridors, fishing clusters and agricultural zones.

Movement of people and goods would be made seamless with the multimodal connectivity envisaged under the master plan.

## ❖ Environment

### Q- What is the 30 by 30 Agenda and why is it in recent news?

**BACKGROUND** = China pledged to inject \$233 million into a new fund to protect biodiversity in developing countries during a key UN conservation summit, despite disagreements among major donors on the initiative.

Beijing — the world’s biggest polluter — has sought to play a more prominent role internationally on biodiversity conservation in recent years.

Its pledge came as delegates from about 195 countries gathered in the southern Chinese city of Kunming for the first of a two-part summit on safeguarding plants, animals and ecosystems.

The summit aims to establish a new accord setting out targets for 2030 and 2050. “China will take the lead in establishing the Kunming biodiversity fund with a capital contribution of 1.5 billion yuan (\$233 million) to support the cause of biodiversity conservation in developing countries,” Chinese President Xi Jinping said during a speech delivered via video link at the COP15 leaders’ summit.

“China calls on... all parties to contribute to the fund.”

### **‘30 by 30’ agenda**

A key proposal being debated at the conference is the “30 by 30” agenda that would afford 30% of the Earth’s land and oceans protected status by 2030.

Global spending to protect and restore nature needs to triple this decade to about \$350 billion annually by 2030 and \$536 billion by 2050 to meet this target, a UN report said in May.

But some rich country donors say a new fund for conservation is unnecessary because the United Nations’ Global Environment Facility already helps developing nations finance green projects.

## **❖ Environment**

### **Q- ‘Seas will continue to rise for centuries to come’ Elaborate?**

- Even if humanity beats the odds and caps global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, seas will rise for centuries to come and swamp cities currently home to half-a-billion people.



- In a world that heats up another half-degree above that benchmark, an additional 200 million of today's urban dwellers would regularly find themselves knee-deep in sea water and more vulnerable to devastating storm surges.
- Worst hit in any scenario will be Asia, which accounts for nine of the 10 mega-cities at highest risk.
- Land home to more than half the populations of Bangladesh and Vietnam fall below the long-term high tide line, in a world with even a 2 degrees Celsius rise. Built-up areas in China, India and Indonesia would also face devastation.
- Most projections for sea level rise run to the end of the century. But oceans will continue to swell for hundreds of years beyond 2100 — fed by melting ice sheets, heat trapped in the ocean and the dynamics of warming water — no matter how aggressively greenhouse gas emissions are drawn down.



**Q- Which of the following European Nations have planned a \$35 billion investment plan for developing innovative technology and industrial activity to making its economy carbon-neutral by 2050?**

- a. Germany
- b. France
- c. Italy
- d. Switzerland



**Q- STATEMENT:** A bio-decomposer capsule, developed by Pusa Institute is to be used in ploughing the field with a rotavator.

**REASONING:** This helps supply ample water so that the stubble can decompose and be converted into healthy compost.

- a. Both the Assertion and the Reason are correct and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.
- b. The Assertion and the Reason are correct but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion.
- c. Our Assertion is true but the Reason is false
- d. The statement of the Assertion is false but the Reason is true

Ans – a

A bio-decomposer capsule, developed by Pusa Institute, is made into a solution through a week-long process, and according to the government, this solution can decompose straw and stubble into manure. The Delhi government started spraying bio-decomposer solution in farmlands to decompose the stubble left after the harvest.

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