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DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

**03.11.2021**

**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

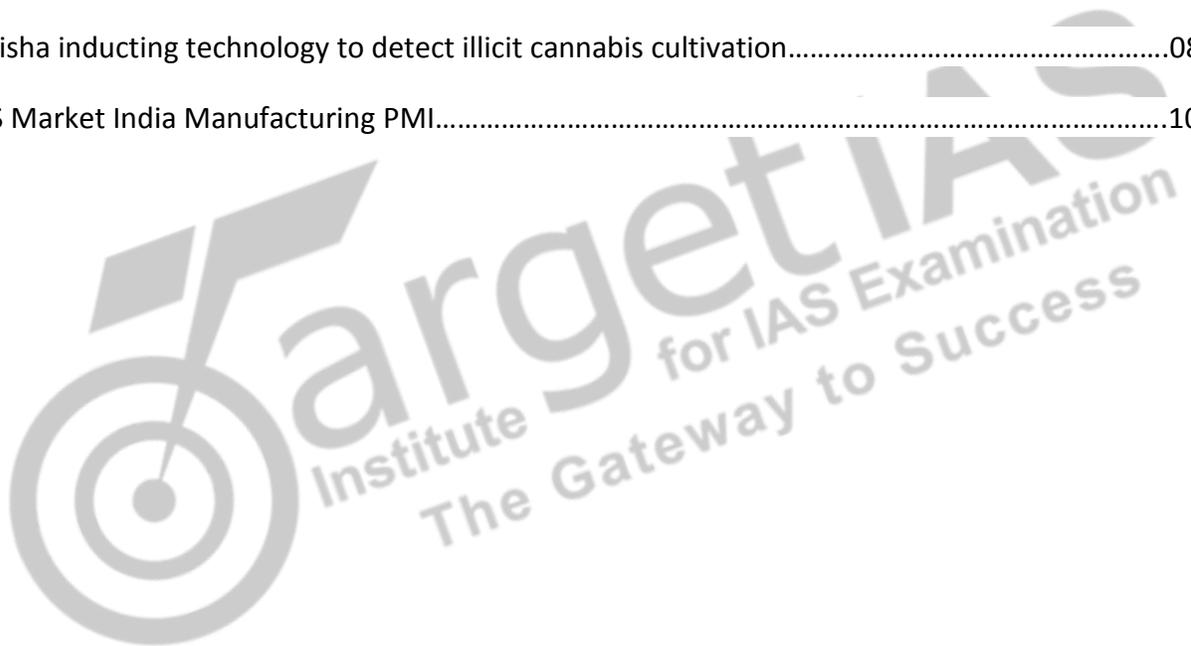
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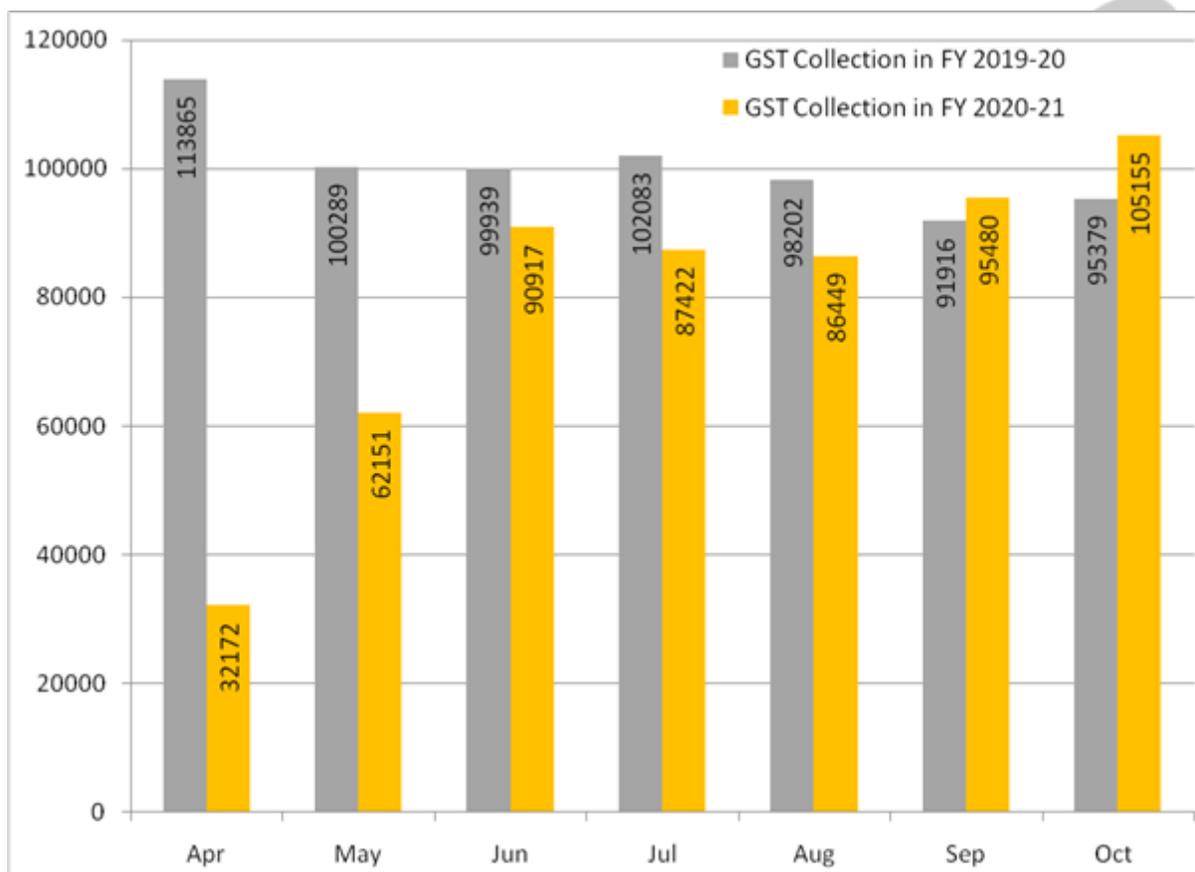


## ESSAY PAPER

### Editorial

**Q - The welcome pick-up in GST revenues may not yet signal a sustainable economic recovery. Comment?**

INTRO = Seen against the depths to which economic activity had plummeted in the initial phase of the national lockdown, the sequential improvement in economic indicators over the past few months suggests that the process of normalisation of economic activities is well underway. As indicated by leading indicators, both aggregate demand and supply have witnessed an improvement with the easing of lockdown restrictions.



### **Guarded Optimism**

However, one must be cautious while interpreting these numbers. For instance, large parts of the high-contact services sector such as airlines, hospitality and tourism continue to lag the industrial sector, and their revival in part depends on the success in containing the virus. Also –

- **On the production side**, signalling a continuing pickup in the supply side, the Nikkei's manufacturing purchasing managers index, released on Monday, rose to 58.9 in October — indicating the fastest expansion in factory output in over a decade. Similarly, the index of eight core industries in September was almost at the same level as last year, with coal, electricity, and steel swinging into positive territory.
- **On the consumption side**, indicating a pickup in demand, the goods and services tax collections for the month of October rose to an eight-month high of Rs 1.05 lakh crore — 10 per cent higher than collections over the same period last year. While part of this rise could be attributed to the September 30 deadline for claiming input tax credit and the reconciliation for businesses for 2019-20, the continued rise in e-way bill generation also points towards improvement in activity.
- Recent reports also suggest that demand for both **four-wheelers and two-wheelers** appears to be firming up. Sales for Maruti Suzuki, for instance, stood at 1,63,656 units in the domestic market, up 18 per cent over the same period last month. Similarly, Hero MotoCorp reported a spike in demand from urban and semi-urban areas.
- **Railway freight revenue** was up in the first half of October as were diesel sales, which reportedly witnessed the first year-on-year growth since February.

This sequential improvement in economic activity is also reflected in preliminary results of corporates for the second quarter of the current financial year, which indicate a turnaround in performance after the collapse in the first quarter.

#### Way Forward –

Yet, this optimism needs to be tempered –

- 1) For one, part of the recovery in economic activities can be traced to the ongoing festive season. Whether this momentum sustains, or the extent to which it sustains, beyond the months of October and November remains to be seen.
- 2) Then, there is the possibility of a surge in COVID-19 infections during the festive season, which could heighten risk aversion
- 3) This coupled with continuing income uncertainty could adversely impact the growth trajectory going forward, though its impact will be visible with a lag.

## GS 2

### ❖ Polity

**Q – Explain the state of acceptance of criminalisation of politics and the measures to be taken to avoid our legislators to be a blow to our democracy in India?**

**BACKGROUND** = In Bihar, 89% Assembly constituencies have three or more candidates who have declared criminal cases against themselves in their affidavits for the ongoing elections, an analysis by the Association for Democratic Reforms found.

- The ADR analysis of election affidavits of 3,722 of the 3,733 candidates found that 32% of them had declared criminal cases. The affidavits of the remaining 11 were not available at the time of compiling the report.
- The number of “red alert constituencies”, which have three or more contestants with criminal cases pending, is usually around 50%, but it had increased to 89% in the Bihar polls.
- The Bihar elections were the first general elections to be held after the Supreme Court directions to parties on February 13 to publish the reasons for choosing a candidate with a criminal background. But parties had largely not followed the court’s directions.

### Way Forward

- 1) Persons charged with cognisable offences shall be de-barred from contesting in the elections, at the stage when the charges are framed by the competent court if offence is punishable by imprisonment of at least 5 years and case is filed at least 6 months prior to the election in question.
- 2) Increasing number of fast-track courts as politicians are able to delay the judicial process and serve for decades before prosecution.
- 3) Educating people about NOTA so that political parties can be made more accountable to the people.
- 4) Criminalization and election funding: Criminalization and use of illegal funding is inextricably linked thus it is important to make bribery in elections a cognizable offence. The change in law have become necessary as there have been increasing incidents of bribery being detected in all elections, from local body polls to Lok Sabha elections. This is because, currently, bribery is a bailable offence attracting only minimal punishment.
- 5) To ensure financial propriety and transparency in electoral funding, reforms such as compulsory maintenance of accounts by political parties, transparency in accounting and auditing reports of Political Parties, prohibition on anonymous donations, maintenance

of separate bank accounts by each contesting candidate for poll expenses, cap on expenditure by political party on a candidate for election campaign, ceiling of campaign expenditure by political parties.

## **Snippets**

### **➤ Social Justice**

**Q – Write a note on the implementation of the 10% quota for poor in general category of Kerala State Public Service Commission?**

- The Kerala Public Service Commission (PSC) has decided that 10% reservation in government jobs for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in the general category will be applicable for all job notifications which were active on October 23, the date on which the Cabinet gave the nod for the quota.
- The last date for applications to be submitted on November 4 has now been extended till midnight of November 14 for eligible aspirants to make applications. The date extension is not applicable to departmental posts in which the EWS quota is not applicable.
- The Kerala State and Subordinate Service Rules was amended as per a notification issued on October 26 for implementation of the 10% reservation in government jobs for the EWS in the general category without affecting the existing reservation, following the Cabinet decision three days earlier.
- The Centre had earlier decided to provide the 10% reservation based on the 103rd amendment of the Constitution, without affecting the 50% reservation being provided to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.

## **GS 3**

### **❖ Science and Technology**

**Q – How is the state of Odisha inducting technology to help law enforcement agencies detect illicit cannabis cultivation?**

**BACKGROUND** = With illicit cannabis cultivation continuing to flourish in remote areas of the State, the **Odisha Space Application Centre (OSAC)** has proposed to help law enforcement agencies detect the activity using remote sensing and artificial intelligence technologies

- The proposal submitted to the State Excise Department says high resolution satellite imagery can be used for detecting cultivation of hemp, a variety of cannabis.
- Odisha is one of the leading cannabis producing States in India. Though law enforcement agencies have intensified their raids, it is difficult to trace the cultivation on a real-time basis.
- Apart from developing mobile-based applications for field level officials, OSAC has proposed to create a mechanism for citizen reporting by which people can take images and video of any illegal hemp cultivation and report through application.
- The system will be able to produce reliable geographic information for law enforcement agencies and public policy planning authorities to monitor the illegal plantation of cannabis.

#### **Cannabis Cultivation in the state –**



- Officially more than 4 crore hemp plants, whose market value is estimated at approximately ₹4,000 crore, have been destroyed in the past five years. Every year, the authorities destroy nearly about 3,400 acres of cannabis. The Odisha police claimed to have tracked movement of cannabis consignments weighing over 1,000 quintal this year alone.
- Cannabis is widely grown in forested regions of Malkangiri, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Kandhamal, Boudh, Rayagada, Gajapati, Angul and Nayagarh districts. As many as 1,822 persons have been arrested and close to 50,000 kg of ganja seized in the past five years.

## ❖ Economic Development

**Q – Discuss the headline rise in IHS Market India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) and its functioning?**

**BACKGROUND =** India’s manufacturing sector activity improved from 56.8 in September to 58.9 in October, and pointed to the strongest improvement in the health of the sector in more than a decade. In PMI parlance, a print above 50 means expansion, while a score below that denotes contraction.

- Manufacturing grows fastest since 2007.
- In April, the index had slipped into contraction mode, after remaining in growth territory for 32 consecutive months.
- PMI survey indicates removal of curbs, robust sales helped sector expand for a third month in Oct.
- Inflationary pressures remained subdued as seen by a modest increase in input costs and only marginal rise in selling prices.
- On the employment front, the compliance with government guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic caused a further reduction in employment. The fall was the seventh in consecutive months. “There was disappointing news on the employment front though, with October seeing another reduction in payroll numbers. Survey participants that noted job shedding mentioned having observed containment measures to halt the spread of the [novel] coronavirus disease.
- Meanwhile, hopes of an end to COVID-19 cases and the reopening of other sectors in the economy underpinned positive sentiment towards the year-ahead outlook for production.



**Q – Special Courts in India are established through which of the following actions?**

- a. Statutory
- b. Executive
- c. Judicial
- d. Legislative



**Q- The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is a permanent organ of?**

- a. SCO
- b. BRICS
- c. IBSA
- d. ASEAN

**Answer: A**

The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is a permanent organ of the SCO which serves to promote cooperation of member states against the three evils of terrorism, separatism and extremism. It is headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

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