

2 June 2022

1. GST collections jumped 44% to almost ₹1.41 lakh crore in May (Page no.- 1)

GS Paper- 3 (Indian Economy)

Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues in May rose 44% from a year earlier to ₹1,40,885 crore, with receipts from domestic transactions and services imports rising at a matching pace, while goods imports yielded 43% higher taxes.

“This is only the fourth time the monthly GST collection crossed ₹1.4 lakh crore mark since the inception of GST and the third month at a stretch since March 2022,” the Finance Ministry said.

Explaining the month-on-month dip in GST revenues from April’s record ₹1.67 lakh crore, the Ministry said the receipts in May were for transactions undertaken in April, and had ‘always been lesser’ than April’s GST revenues. GST collections in April reflected the returns filed in March, pertaining to the financial year closing, the Ministry noted.

2. Caste-based census to be held in Bihar (Page no.- 1)

GS Paper- 2 (Social Justice)

A multi-party meeting held in Bihar on Wednesday unanimously decided to start the caste-based census very soon.

3. A case for community-oriented health services (Page no.- 6)

GS Paper- 2 (Social Justice)

India’s one million Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) volunteers have received arguably the biggest international recognition in form of the World Health Organization’s Global Health Leaders Awards 2022. The ASHAs were among the six awardees announced at the 75th World Health Assembly in Geneva. This World Health Organization (WHO) award is in recognition of the work done by ASHA volunteers during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as for serving as a link between communities and health systems.

4. The challenge of reforming death penalty sentencing (Page no.- 6)

GS Paper- 2 (Indian Polity)

There has been an intense and persistent crisis in the fairness of administering the death penalty in India for many decades now that has been acknowledged in judgments of the Supreme Court of India, by former judges, lawyers, researchers, etc. At the heart of that crisis has been the concern that there is a pervasive arbitrariness in sentencing procedures that impose the death penalty, and a significant concern has been that barely any relevant information about the accused enters the courtroom during the sentencing phase. The Court’s recent judgment in Manoj and Ors. vs State of MP seeks to address this long ignored yet critical aspect of death penalty sentencing. This specific attempt in Manoj must be seen with the Court’s apparent discomfort over the last year with procedural unfairness in sentencing being carried out by the lower courts.

5. Choppy waters May (Page no.- 6)

GS Paper- 3 (Indian Economy)

India’s gross domestic product (GDP) is reckoned to have grown 8.7% while the Gross Value Added (GVA) rose 8.1% in 2021-22, as per national income estimates released on Tuesday. Coming on the back of the sharp decline in economic activity due to the COVID-19

lockdowns in 2020-21, when GDP crashed 6.6% and GVA by 4.8%, the latest numbers show India is emerging out of the tunnel of pandemic-induced woes.

6. The European Union's ban on Russian oil (Page no.- 8)

GS Paper- 2 (IR)

The EU on May 30 reached an agreement to ban 90% of Russian crude oil imports by the end of the year. The partial embargo exempts pipeline oil in order to bypass Hungary's objections to the ban.

The exemption for pipeline imports was made on the logic that landlocked countries (Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia) that are heavily dependent on Russian pipeline oil do not have a ready option to switch to alternative sources in the absence of ports.

The announcement of the EU ban caused an immediate surge in oil prices. In this context, with Russia reportedly offering discounts of \$30-35 per barrel, India has found it convenient to make the most of the cheap Russian crude.

7. How the Indus Treaty was signed (Page no.- 9)

GS Paper- 2 (IR)

During partition, the line dividing the two Punjabs cut right across the Indus canal systems. Pakistan found that all the five tributaries of the Indus originated in India and flowed through Indian territory in the upper reaches. This led to hysterical cries in Pakistan for taking up arms to defend their rights over the waters. Fortunately, an arbiter came forward in the garb of the World Bank.

The Indus Waters Treaty was based on the principle that after a transitional period of 10 years, extendable to 13 at the request of Pakistan, the three eastern rivers, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej, would be exclusively allocated to India, while the western rivers, Indus, Jhelum and Chenab, would be allocated exclusively to Pakistan except for certain limited uses by India in the upstream areas.

However, other related bilateral discussions and grandiose schemes came to practically nothing because of Pakistan's insistence that India should make substantial concessions with regard to Kashmir.

8. Centre to hold sessions on gig workers' rights (Page no.- 10)

GS Paper- 2 (social Justice)

Concerned at the lack of job and social security among gig and platform workers, the Centre has decided to train officials of the Union and State governments on technological change, new forms of employment, working conditions and mechanisms to protect labour and social security rights of these workers.

9. May manufacturing PMI hints at sustained rebound in sector (Page no.- 6)

GS Paper- 3 (Indian Economy)

Indian manufacturers won new orders in May at almost the same pace as in April despite raising prices at the fastest rate in more than eight-and-a-half years amid a sharp jump in input costs, as per the S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index survey. The PMI index stood at 54.6, easing marginally from 54.7 in April. A reading of over 50 indicates an expansion in activity. May marks the 11th month in a row that India's manufacturing PMI reflected an expansion.

