

TARGET4IAS: TOGETHER WE CAN



Target4IAS
Together We Can

Weekly Current Affairs

Sources: The Hindu+IndianExpress+PIB

30th May 2021 to 05th June 2021

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SAGE (Seniorcare Ageing Growth Engine) initiative

- Launched by the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment for elderly persons.
- The SAGE portal will be a “one-stop access” of elderly care products and services by credible start-ups.
- The start-ups will be selected on the basis of innovative products and services, Rs 1 crore will be given to Startups for elderly care.
- As per surveys, the share of elders, as a percentage of the total population in the country, is expected to increase from around 7.5% in 2001 to almost 12.5% by 2026, and surpass 19.5% by 2050.

Source-> [PIB](#)

AmbiTAG

- AmbiTAG is India’s first indigenous temperature data logger for cold chain management.
- It is an Internet-of-Things (IoT) device that records real-time ambient temperature during the transportation of perishable products, vaccines and even body organs and blood.
- Developed by Technology Innovation Hub of IIT Ropar – AWaDH (Agriculture and Water Technology Development Hub) and its Startup ScratchNest.
- The device is also particularly critical for vaccines including the Covid-19 vaccine, organs, and blood transportation.

Source-> [PIB](#)

YUVA (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors) Scheme

- Launched by: **Ministry Of Education** has YUVA to mentor Young Authors.
- The scheme seeks to **mentor authors under the age of 30** and train them to promote reading, writing and book culture in the country, and project India and Indian writings globally.
- A consolidated scholarship of Rs 50,000 per month for a period of 6 months per author will be paid.
- YUVA is a **part of India@75 Project (Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav)**.
- **Implementing Agency:** National Book Trust under the Ministry of Education.

Source-> [PIB](#)

PM-CARES for Children scheme

In news

The PM has announced a special PM-CARES for Children scheme-> includes a comprehensive financial aid package for children orphaned during the pandemic.

Key takeaways:

- Corpus of Rs 10 lakh for each child when s/he reaches 18 years of age.
- Monthly financial support from 18 years of age for the next five years.
- On reaching the age of 23 years a lump sum to be distributed for personal and professional use.
- The child will be given admission to the nearest Kendriya Vidyalaya or in a private school as a day scholar.
- If the child is admitted to a private school, the fees as per the RTE norms will be given from the PM CARES.
- All children will be enrolled as a beneficiary under Ayushman Bharat Scheme (PM-JAY) with a health insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakhs.
- The premium amount for these children till the age of 18 years will be paid by PM CARES.
- The child will be assisted in obtaining an **education loan for Higher Education**. The interest on this loan will be paid by the PM CARES.

Timely support

The Centre has announced a comprehensive financial aid package for children orphaned during the pandemic

- Students can be enrolled in **Kendriya Vidyalayas** or private school with govt. taking care of expenses
- Students of 11-18 years can be enrolled in Sainik Schools or Navodaya Vidyalayas
- **Health insurance** cover of ₹5 lakh
- Corpus of ₹10 lakh per child to be created
- **Monthly stipend** will be offered from corpus after 18 years of age
- Lump sum to be disbursed once the age of 23 is attained



Source: [The Hindu](#)

Rule 6(I) of the IAS (cadre) Rules, 1954

In news

The DoPT invoked Rule 6(I) of the Indian Administrative Service (cadre) Rules, 1954 to place the services of West Bengal Chief Secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay with the Government of India.

About Rule 6(I) of the IAS (cadre) Rules, 1954

- IAS cadre rules were framed in 1954.
- The said rule pertains to “deputation of cadre officer”.
- It says that a cadre officer may, with the concurrence of the State govts concerned and the Central government, be deputed for service under the Central government or another State govt.
- Provided that in case of any disagreement, the matter shall be decided by the Central Government and the State Government shall give effect to the decision of the Central Government.

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- The said rule on deputation giving more discretionary powers to the Centre was added in May 1969.
- Before any officer of All India Services (AIS) is called for deputation to the Centre, his or her concurrence is required.
- AIS officer are recruited by the Centre and they are lent to States.

Source-> [The Hindu](#)

Litoriamira

- They are **new frog species** discovered recently in the rainforests of **New Guinea**. They are **chocolate coloured**.
- It is a tree frog belonging to the genus Litoria.
- The frog was first discovered in 2016 in the rainforest swamps of New Guinea.
- It has a unique combination of moderately large size, webbing on hand, relatively short and robust limbs, and small violet patch of skin on the edge of its eyes.



Source-> [Indian express](#)

AmphotericinB (AmB)

In news

IIT Hyderabad has developed nano-fibre based oral tablets of Amphotericin B, called as AmB.

Key takeaways:

- Amphotericin-B is an **antifungal medication** used in serious fungal infections and leishmaniasis-> currently AmB is an injectable drug and its use in the treatment of black fungus costs lakhs of rupees.
- AmB tablets would be significantly less expensive than injections.
- It is patient friendly as its slow and sustained release in the body reduces **nephrotoxicity** (adverse impact of medicines and chemicals on the kidney).
- The technology developed is made free from Intellectual Property rights so that it can be mass-produced and is affordable and available to the public at large.
- Oral nano fibrous AmB being effective against Kala Azar.

Source-> [IndiaToday](#)

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

In news

The NCPCR has informed the Supreme Court that nearly 10,000 children need immediate care and protection due to the impact of Covid-19.

About NCPCR:

Statutory body established in 2007 under the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act (CPCR), 2005.

- It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development.
- **Aim:** To ensure all laws, policies, programmes, and administrative mechanisms are in accordance with the child rights perspective. As put forward in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- This commission has a **chairperson and six members** of which at least two should be women.
- All of them are **appointed by Central Government for three years**.
- The maximum age to serve in commission is 65 years for Chairman and 60 years for members.

About BalSwaraj Portal:

- Launched by NCPCR.
- **Purpose** :-> online tracking and digital real-time monitoring mechanism of children who are in need of care and protection.
- **BalSwaraj Covid-Care:** The Commission has extended the use of this portal **for tracking children who have lost both their parents or either of the parents** during COVID-19.

Source-> [The Hindu](#)

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

In news

Former SC judge Arun Kumar Mishra will be new chairperson of NHRC.

About NHRC

- **Statutory body**, established in 1993 as per the provisions of the Protection of Human Rights Act of 1993.
- The appointment was made by the **selection panel** consisting of Prime Minister, Home Minister, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha Speaker and the Leader of Opposition.
- **Composition:** Chairperson, four full-time Members and four deemed Members. A Chairperson, should be retired Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court.

Source->The Hindu

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

In news

- India has decided to vote in support of Maldives' Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid in the election of the President of the UNGA.

About UNGA:

- It is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN.
- All 193 Member States of the UN are represented in the General Assembly, making it the only UN body with universal representation.
- The President of the General Assembly is elected each year by assembly to serve a one-year term of office.
- The presidency rotates annually between **the five geographic groups**: African, Asia-Pacific, Eastern European, Latin American and Caribbean, and Western European and other States.
- Decisions on important questions require a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly.
- The Assembly has no binding votes or veto powers like the UN Security Council.

Source-> [The Hindu](#)

Tulsa Race Massacre

In news

U.S. President Joe Biden recently became the first sitting American head of state to officially recognise the incident.

About Tulsa Race Massacre

- It is one of the worst incidents of violent racial hate in the US' modern history.
- It involved widespread killings in Tulsa, Oklahoma, targeting relatively well-to-do African Americans, and the extensive damage to their property by white mobs.
- Tulsa was especially known for being an unofficial sanctuary city for African Americans suffering the consequences of harsh segregation or Jim Crow laws in pre-civil rights America. It was also called as the "Black Wall Street" of the U.S.

Bell of Faith Scheme

- It was launched by the Kerala Police in 2018.
- It aims to provide security to senior citizens staying alone as part of Kerala's Community Policing Scheme.
- Under the Scheme, police have installed a bell in the senior citizens' houses->The neighbour will get an alert with an alarm when the senior citizen rings the bell.

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- It sets an example for community participation to ensure the well-being and safety of the elderly.

Source-> [The Hindu](#)

Operation Sagar Aaraksha II

- Indian Coast Guard (ICG), in coordination with Sri Lankan authorities, has been tirelessly engaged in fighting a major fire onboard the Chemical laden container vessel **MV X-Press Pearl anchored off Colombo**
- The Vessel containing chemical cargo classified as International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG). Among other chemicals, the IMDG cargo consisted of highly inflammable Nitric Acid, Methanol, Methyl Acetate, Sodium Hydroxide and Polystyrene beads

Source-> [PIB](#)

China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Trilateral Dialogue

In news

- The Fourth China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Trilateral Dialogue will be held virtually this year.
- The China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Trilateral Dialogue mechanism was set up in 2017 at the initiative of China.
- **Purpose:** Reinforcing trilateral cooperation between three countries in politics, economics and security.
- The Fourth Trilateral dialogue will discuss topics related to the current peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan, security cooperation and counterterrorism measures

Source-> [The Hindu](#)

Sedition Law

In news

The SC has said that **Section 124A (sedition)** of the IPC requires interpretation, particularly in the context of media freedom.

Key takeaways:

- The court observed that there was a **need to define the scope of offences under Section 124A, Section 153A (promotion of communal hatred)**

https://t.me/Target4_IAS

Contentious history

Section 124 A of the IPC penalises sedition as punishable with either imprisonment ranging from 3 yrs to a lifetime, a fine, or both
https://t.me/Target4_IAS

- Sedition law was introduced by the British in 1870, and almost dropped from the Constitution in 1948
- The word "sedition" disappeared from the Constitution on November 26, 1949 and Article 19 (1)(a) gave absolute freedom of speech and expression. However, Section 124A continued to stay in IPC.
- In 1951, Jawaharlal Nehru brought in the first amendment of the Constitution to limit the freedom under Article 19(1)(a) and enacted Article 19(2) to empower the State to put curbs in the form of "reasonable restrictions" on right to free speech.
- In its judgment in the Kedar Nath case in 1962, a Constitution bench upheld the validity of the sedition law. The bench held that Section 124A only penalised words that reveal an intent or tendency to disturb law and order or that seem to incite violence. This definition has been taken as precedent for all matters pertaining to section 124A ever since.
- According to the NCRB data, uploaded on its website, cases of sedition and under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act showed a rise in 2019, but only 3% of the sedition cases resulted in convictions.



<https://target4ias.in/xh75>

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and Section 505 (statements conducing to public mischief) of the IPC.

- This was especially needed in the context of media freedom and particularly on the issue of the rights of the press and free speech.

About Sedition Law (Section 124A of IPC)

- Defined as **any action that brings or attempts to bring contempt or hatred towards the government of India.**
- Introduced by the British in 1870.
- The word “sedition” disappeared from the Constitution on November 26, 1949 and Article 19 (1) (a) gave absolute freedom of speech and expression-> amended in 1951 to introduce “reasonable restrictions” on right to free speech.
- However, Section 124A continued to stay in IPC.
- It penalises sedition as punishable with either imprisonment ranging from 3 yrs to a lifetime, a fine, or both.
- It is classified as “cognizable” and a “non-bailable” and “non-compoundable” offence.

Important Judgement

- KedarNath Singh v State of Bihar, 1962
- Balwant Singh v State of Punjab, 1995:

Source-> BusinessLine

World Environment Day (WED)

- Celebrated annually on **June 5.**
- The **theme of WED 2021: 'Ecosystem Restoration'**.
- Pakistan will be the global host for the day.
- This WED will kick off the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), a global mission to revive billions of hectares, from forests to farmlands, from the top of mountains to the depth of the sea.

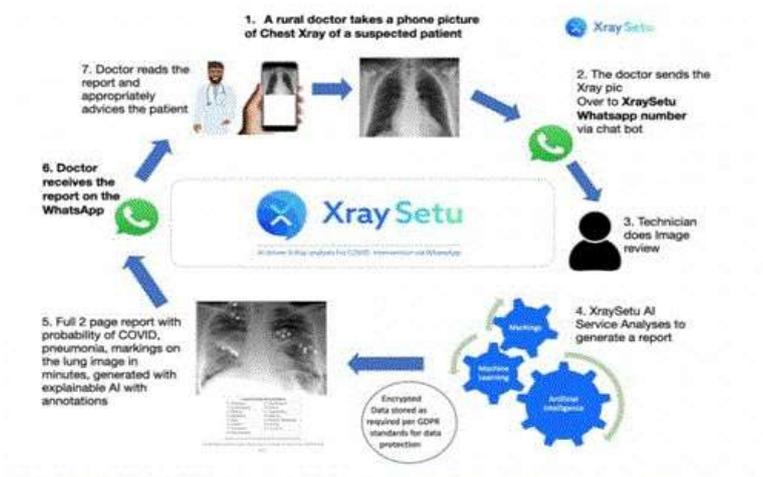
Xray Setu service

In news

The government has launched Xray Setu service for rapid screening of COVID 19.

About XraySetu Service:

- It is an AI driven Xray interpretation platform.
- It identifies COVID-19 positive



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patients even from low-resolution Chest X-Ray images sent over WhatsApp.

- **Developed by:** ARTPARK (AI & Robotics Technology Park) in collaboration with Bangalore-based HealthTech startup Niramai and Indian Institute of Science (IISc).

Source: [PIB](#)

MGNREGA

In news

The Central Government has issued an advisory to all states to divide the wage payments under MGNREGA into separate categories for the SC, ST and others from the Financial Year 2021-22.

Concerns: It will complicate the payment system under MGNREGA. The experts fear that this move is meant to reduce funding under the Scheme.

About MGNREGA

- Introduced in 2005 .It guarantees 100 days of work a year to every rural household with an aim to enhance the livelihood security of people.
- Ministry of Rural Development and state governments monitors the implementation of the scheme.
- It is a demand-driven scheme.
- Gram Panchayat is mandated to provide employment within 15 days of work application, failing which the worker is entitled to unemployment allowance-> equal to 0.05% per day of wages earned.
- Minimum one-third of the workers should be women.
- Both the Center and the States share the funding of the scheme and Gram Sabhas conduct Social audits.

Source->[The Hindu](#)

Horticulture Cluster Development Programme

- **Aims** at growing and developing identified horticulture clusters to make them globally competitive.
- **Nodel Agency**-> National Horticulture Board (NHB)
- 53 horticulture clusters have been Identified
- These clusters will be implemented through Cluster Development Agencies (CDAs). CDAs are appointed on the recommendations of the respective State/UT Government.
- The programme is designed to leverage geographical specialisation and promote integrated and market-led development of horticulture clusters.
- It is expected to improve the exports of the targeted horticultural crops by approximately 20%.

Source-> [PIB](#)

Declining forest bird species in western Himalaya

In news

According to research published in Global Ecology and Conservation, there has been a decline in forest bird species in the Western Himalayas Region.

Key takeaways:

- Uttarakhand is home to the Western Himalayan temperate forests which harbour a large number of endemic bird species.
- There was a moderate to drastic forest bird species loss in all modified land-use types in comparison to natural oak forest.
- A strong decline was noticed in some habitats guilds especially in the areas of visible land-use change.
- **Habitat guilds** are groups of bird species that have common habitat preferences.
- **Forest specialists** include species which forage and breed only in dense protected oak forests at 1700-2400 metres altitude.
- **Forest generalists** can adapt to modified habitats such as orchards and degraded forests.

Reason of declining forest bird species in western Himalaya

- Rapid invasion by nonnative species
- Tourism
- Land-use changes

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Strategic Partnership model

In news

DAC headed by the Defence Minister has approved a Request For Proposal (RFP) for the construction of six conventional submarines under Project-75I.

Key takeaways:

- The six submarines under Project-75I will be built under the **strategic partnership model**.
- The submarines are part of the 30-year submarine-building

INDIGENOUS BOOST

What Is Strategic Partnership?

The model was envisaged in 2015 and approved in 2017

It is a road map to give major military contracts to private sector

Besides submarines, contracts for naval utility helicopters, future main battle tanks and fighter jets were identified for the SP Model

To break the monopoly of the public sector, four major systems were identified where the private sector would be invited to bid

Plan to make these systems in India under the lead partnership of a local company that would tie up with a foreign technology provider

Only submarines and the helicopter plan have seen movement till now

What Lies Ahead:

The Navy will now issue a Request for Proposals likely this month to identified companies L&T and MDL

Both L&T and MDL will get into discussions with foreign technology providers from Germany, South Korea, France, Spain and Russia

Once a techno-commercial proposal is ready, it will be submitted to the defence ministry for vetting and selection

This process will take two years at the least to get completed

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programme approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security in 1999.

- The submarines will be equipped with air-independent propulsion (AIP) systems.
- The first submarine built under the project is likely to be delivered by 2030.
- Companies shortlisted as strategic partners are Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and L&T.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

World Bank report: “Glaciers of the Himalayas, Climate Change, Black Carbon and Regional Resilience”

Key takeaways:

- Glaciers are melting faster than the global average ice mass.
- The rate of retreat of Himalaya, Karakoram and Hindu Kush glaciers is estimated to be 0.3 metres per year in the west to 1.0 metre per year in the east.
- Black carbon adds to the impact of climate change.

Black carbon (BC)

- It is a short lived pollutant i.e the 2nd largest contributor to warming the planet behind CO₂.
- It is quickly washed out and can be eliminated from the atmosphere if emissions stop.
- Unlike historical carbon emissions, it is also a localised source with greater local impact.
- Deposits of BC hastening the pace of glacier melt by:
 - Decreasing surface reflectance
 - Raising air temperature

Ongoing policy measures to cut Black Carbon emission

- Enhancing fuel efficiency standard
- Promoting Electrical vehicles
- Use of LPG for cooking
- Upgrading brick kiln technology

Source-> [TheHindu](#)

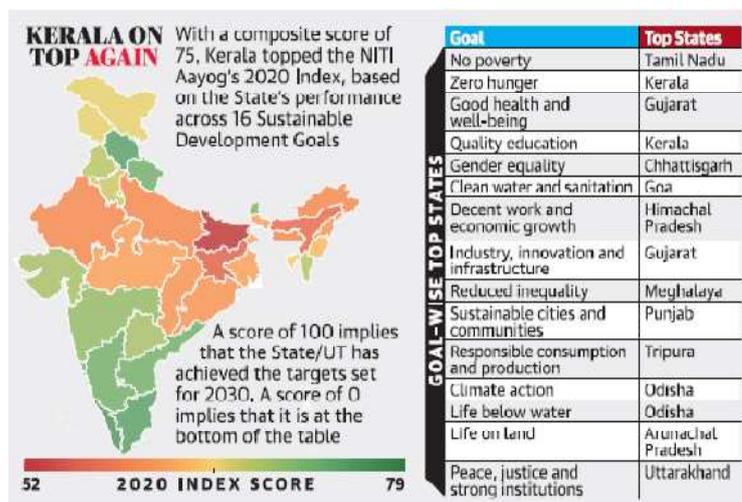
Nano Liquid Urea

- IFFCO) has launched the world’s first Nano Urea Liquid.
- It is a nutrient to provide nitrogen to plants as an alternative to conventional urea.
- **Developed by:** IFFCO’s Nano Biotechnology Research Centre (NBRC) in Gujarat.
- It can curtail the requirement of urea by at least 50%-> reduce urea imports and excess use of Urea application in the soil.
- Conventional urea is 30-40% effective in delivering nitrogen to plants while the effectiveness of the Nano Urea Liquid is over 80%.
- Positive impact on the-> Quality of underground water + Sustainable development.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

NITI Aayog's 2020 SDG Index

- Launched in 2018.
- To monitor the country's progress on the goals through data driven assessment.
- To foster a competitive spirit among the States and UT's in achieving them.
- Developed by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), United Nations in India, and Global Green Growth Institute.
- The index helps in identifying crucial gaps related to tracking the SDGs and the need for India to develop its statistical systems.
- Although the index shows improvement on the inequality. Major decline in the areas of industry, innovation and infrastructure as well as decent work and economic growth



Source-> The Hindu

DELTA variant

In news

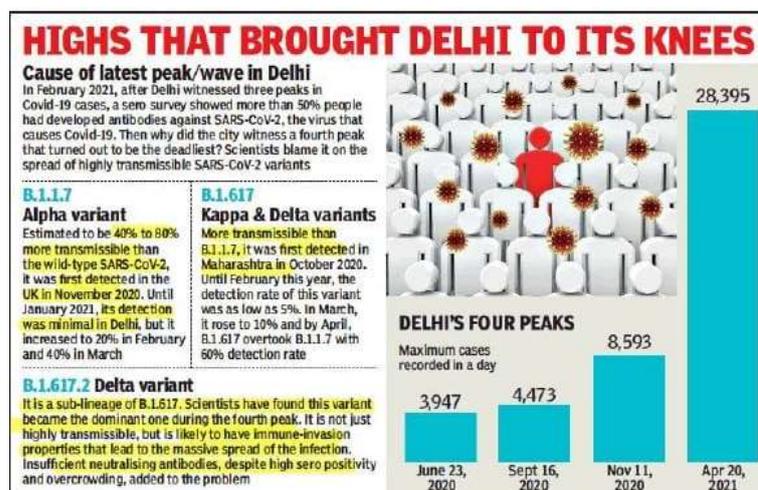
As per a study carried out by INSACOG, Delta variant of Covid-19 is the primary cause of the second Covid-19 wave gripping the country presently.

What is Delta Variant

- The WHO has named B.1.617.1 variant as 'Kappa' and B.1.617.2 variant as 'Delta'
- These variants are sub-lineages of B.1.617 which was detected in India in 2021.
- WHO has also categorized the Delta variant as a Variant of Concern (VOC).

Delta Variant is more dangerous because

- This variant has multiple mutations.



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- The mutations may make the strain more transmissible.
- One study indicated that the Delta variant may be up to 50% more transmissible than the B.1.1.7 (U.K./Alpha) variant.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Model tenancy Act (MTA)

In news

The Union Cabinet has approved the MTA.

Key takeaways:

- New Model law will complement the vision of 'Housing for All' by 2022 by making the 1.1 crore vacant houses available for rent.
- Proposal to set up **Rent Authority, Rent Court and Rent Tribunal** to fast-track the resolution of disputes.
- It limits security deposit equal to a maximum 2 month's rent in case of residential premises and maximum of 6 month's rent for non-residential premises.
- It prescribes the setting up of a **digital platform in the local vernacular language** or the language of the State/UT for submitting tenancy agreement and other documents.
- The law also speaks about roles and responsibilities of landlord and tenants.
- **No landlord or property manager can withhold any essential supply** to the premises occupied by the tenant
- **Compensation in case of non-vacancy:** On the expiry of extended period of six months of agreed tenancy period

Important Terms in News

D-voter or doubtful voter: It is a category of voters in Assam disenfranchised by the government allegedly for lacking proper citizenship credentials.

Serology Surveys: Take blood samples from participants and measure antibodies to check past exposure to the virus. From about 10 days after infection, antibodies grow to sizeable numbers in most patients.

Assays: It is a specific blood analysis tests that can be used to check if antibodies produced by the body are targeting the spike region of the coronavirus or an inner envelope containing its genetic material called the nucleocapsid.

Stagflation: Extreme economic situation, a peculiar combination of stagnant growth and rising inflation leading to high unemployment.

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Labour participation rate (LPR) is the ratio of the working age population greater than 15 years of age to labor force either working or looking for work.

GDP: The total value of all final goods and services produced within the country in one financial year.

GDP per capita: which is total GDP divided by the total population, to better understand how well-placed an average person is in an economy.

Sustainable Development Goal 8.7->ending child labour in all its forms by 2025.

Replacement level fertility: the level of fertility at which a population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next.

Fiscal deficit: Difference between the total income of the government (total taxes and non-debt capital receipts) and its total expenditure. It occurs when the government's expenditure exceeds its income.

Team Europe: The EU with its member states and financial institutions collectively called as Team Europe. It aims to donate at least 100 million more doses to low and middle income countries before the end of 2021.

Operation Twist: Simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities under OMOs. It involves buying long-end debt while selling short-tenor bonds to keep borrowing costs down.