

Date: 6th January 2021

Bird Flu:

News: Several states issued an alert to contain bird flu/ Avian influenza.

Relevance:

- Prelims: about Avian influenza.

Issue:

- 2000 migratory birds were found dead near the Himachal Pradesh.
- Deaths of the poultry animals and birds have been observed in various states such as Rajasthan , Madhya Pradesh, Haryana etc.
- Kerala has been culling thousands of ducks.

About Bird flu, H5N8:

- H5N8 strain impact poultry animals and birds and less likely to impact humans.
- It is highly lethal to birds and poultry animals.
- Its symptoms includes fever, chills, headache, coughing, and weakness.

Indian Economic recovery:

News: finance Minister said Indian Economy is improving as an outcome of high-frequency indicators.

Indian Economy Review:

- Economic Indicators are showing a V-shaped curve.
- In 2021, COVID vaccine will be rolled out, which is a sign of optimism in both health and economic front.
- Easing lockdown restriction will help in economic growth.
- Accelerated tractor sales and increase in Rabi crop by more than 2 percent is another factor in responsible for growth of the economy.
- Rise in minimum support prices, accelerated procurement and wage employment generation.
- Rise in rural incomes and sales of passenger vehicles etc.

V-shaped economic recovery:

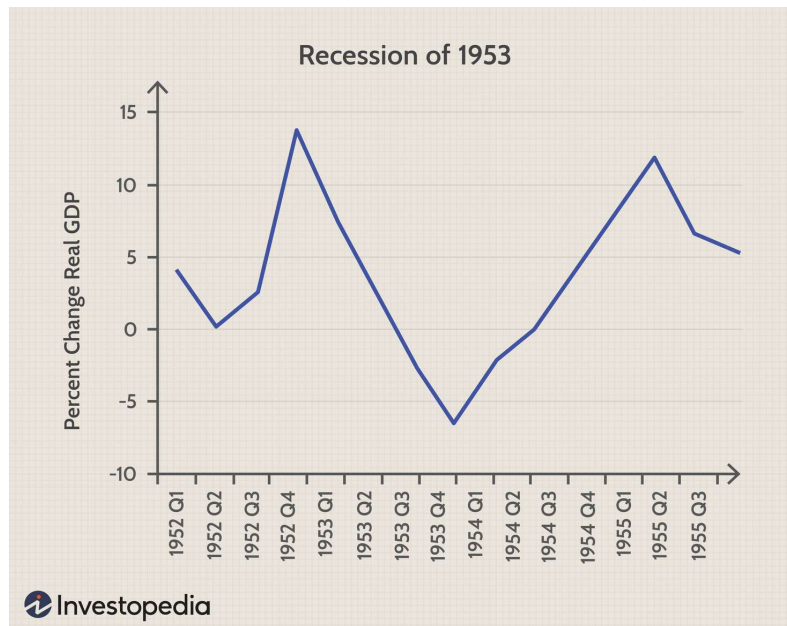


Image: v-shaped economic curve

Source: Investopedia

Definition:

A V-shaped economic recovery curve is characterized by a quick and sustained recovery in measures of economic performance after a sharp economic decline or an economic recession.

World Bank's Global Economic prospects report:

News: Global economic Prospects report was released

Relevance:

- Prelims: factual information about the report.
- Mains: the detail observation can be used in GS paper- 3 of UPSC -CSE mains examination to substantiate the answer.

Observation of the Global Economic Prospects report:

- Global economy:
 - It is expected to grow 4% in the fiscal year of 2021 considering the widespread roll out of COVID vaccine.

- This projection is 5% below the expected pre-pandemic levels.
- Emerging market and developing economies are expected to grow at 4.6%.
- **China's Economy is expected to grow at 7.9%.**
- Inequality in the economic growth:
 - The lowest economic were most impacted by the pandemic and expected to take maximum time to recover.
 - Investment in the economy will be the key element for growth of the economies.
- Indina Economy:
 - **Indian economy is expected to grow 5.4%** in fiscal year of 2021-2022 and 5.2% in fiscal year of 2022-2023.
 - It contracted 9.6% in 2020-2021.
- Reason for contraction of economy in 2020-2021 highlighted in the report:
 - Sharp decline in household spending and private investment.
 - Severe economic loss in informal sector of economy.
- Reason for rebound in the economy:
 - Recovery in manufacturing and services.

India-UK ties

News: UK Prime Minister Mr. Borris Johnson denied to attend the Republic day celebration of 2021 due to Pandemic.

Relevance:

- Mains: GS-paper 2: International Relations

U.K.-India ties:

- India and U.K. have shared their past and they need to chart out their future relations.
- India-U.K. collaboration:
 - UN Security Council: Britain have a permanent seat in security council and India is a non permanent member in this council for this year and the next year.
 - U.K. will host India in the G-7 meet for this year and UN climate change conference.
- Potential of India-U.K. ties:

- **Indian Diaspora:**
 - Britain is home to 1.5 million Indian Diaspora.
 - 15 Indians are the member of British parliament.
 - **Tourism sector:**
 - In Pre Pandemic times, Britain caters to half a million tourists from India and India witnessed about a million of tourist from Britain.
 - **Education:**
 - Around 30000 students from India receive education from Britain despite restrictions.
 - **Investment:**
 - Britain is the among top investor in the Indian economy.
 - India is the second biggest investor and job creator in the Britain.
 - **Trade:**
 - India has a trade surplus of \$16 billion, but the trade is still under developed.
 - A trade agreement was signed in 2020.
 - Issues with the ties between both countries:
 - Prime Minister Modi visited U.K. in 2015 and six major agreements were concluded, however hardly any assessment have been done for the projects.
 - EU-India trade agreement:
 - It is under negotiation since 2007 in which major roadblock was Britain
 - EU wanted some duty reductions on auto, wines and spirit and wanted India to open up its financial sector.
 - And, India wanted free travel of service professionals.
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