

Daily Current Affairs 27/07/2021

1. Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) – Annual Report (July, 2019 – June, 2020)



सत्यमेव जयते

Why in News

- **The National Statistical Office (NSO)** released the 3rd annual report on **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** conducted during **July 2019-June 2020**.

Key Points

- **Unemployment Rate (UR):** UR fell to 4.8 % in 2019-20. In 2018-19, it stood at 5.8 % and 6.1 % in 2017-18.
- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** LFPR increased to 40.1% in 2019-20 (37.5%:2018-19 and 36.9%:2017-18).
- **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** WPR improved to 38.2% in 2019-20 (35.3%:2018-19 and 34.7%:2017-18).

About Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS):

- **The National Statistical Office (NSO)** launched the PLFS in April 2017.
- The first annual report (July 2017-June 2018) was released in May 2019 and the second (July 2018-June 2019) in June 2020.

Objective:

- To estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators such as WPR, LFPR, UR in the short time interval of 3 months for the urban areas only in the 'Current Weekly Status'
- To estimate employment and unemployment indicators in both 'Usual Status' and 'Current Weekly Status' in both urban and rural areas annually

Government Initiatives to Tackle Unemployment:

- Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)
- In 2020, an additional fund of Rs 40,000 crore for MGNREGA
- Credit guarantees for MSMEs
- Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana
- New Code on Wages, 2019

Key Terms:

- **Labour Force Participation Rate:** It is defined as the percentage of persons in the labour force (i.e. working or seeking or available for work) in the population.



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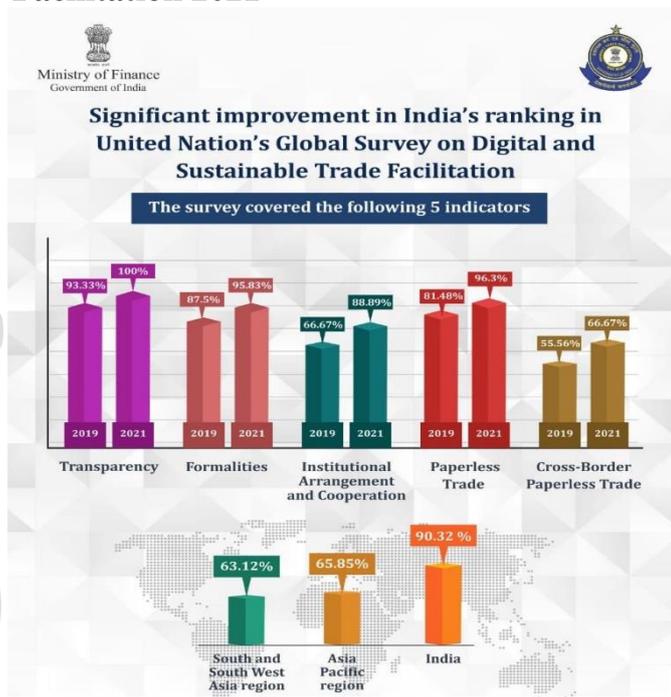
- **Worker Population Ratio:** It is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population.
- **Unemployment Rate:** It is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.

About National Statistical Office (NSO):

- NSO is the central statistical agency of the Government mandated under the Statistical Services Act 1980 under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

Source: PIB

2. United Nation’s Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation 2021



Why in News

India has scored 90.32% in United Nation’s Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific’s (UNESCAP) latest Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation.

- The Survey hailed this as a remarkable jump from 78.49% in 2019.
- India has achieved a 100% score for the Transparency index and 66% in the “Women in trade” component.

Key Points

Findings of the Survey:

- After evaluation of 143 economies, the Survey has highlighted India's significant improvement in the scores on all 5 key indicators, as follows:
- **Transparency:** 100% in 2021 (from 93.33% in 2019)
- **Formalities:** 95.83% in 2021 (from 87.5% in 2019)
- **Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation:** 88.89% in 2021 (from 66.67% in 2019)
- **Cross-Border Paperless Trade:** 66.67% in 2021 (from 55.56% in 2019)
- **Paperless Trade:** 96.3% in 2021 (from 81.48% in 2019)
- India is the best performing country when compared to South and South West Asia region (63.12%) and Asia Pacific region (65.85%).

Causes of Improvement:

- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), has been at forefront of path breaking reforms under the umbrella of 'Turant' Customs to usher in a Faceless, Paperless and Contactless Customs by way of a series of reforms.

- Further, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Customs formations have made all efforts to expedite COVID-19 related imports such as Oxygen related equipments, life-saving medicines, vaccines etc.

About the Survey:

- The Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation is conducted every two years by **UNESCAP**.
- The 2021 Survey includes an assessment of 58 trade facilitation measures covered by the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement.

About United Nation's Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific's (UNESCAP):

- It is a regional commission under the jurisdiction of the **United Nations Economic and Social Council**.
- It was established in order to increase economic activity in Asia and the Far East, as well as to foster economic relations between the region and other areas of the world.
- It is composed of 53 Member States and 9 Associate members, mostly from the Asia and Pacific regions.
- **Formation:** 1947
- **Headquarters:** Bangkok, Thailand

Source: PIB

3. I-STEM Phase-II

I-STEM®
Linking Researchers and Resources
Launched by the Honourable Prime Minister of India

Indian Science, Technology and Engineering facilities Map (I-STEM)
I-STEM: Strengthen the Indigenous Development of Scientific Instruments

After establishing a National web portal through which R&D equipment in institutions across the country can be located and accessed in a transparent way, I-STEM is entering a New Phase with the following objectives -

- ▶ Working towards a more comprehensive listing of R&D facilities. Availability, and their active use
- ▶ Providing partial assistance to Tier 2 and Tier 3 institutions for the maintenance of facilities shared through I-STEM through Comprehensive AMC program
- ▶ Partial assistance to Users from Tier 2 and Tier 3 institutions who use facilities through I-STEM
- ▶ Promoting the indigenous development - especially by startups - of scientific equipment and value-added technical supplies, including software, used for R&D; enabling such development via the (national) Digital Catalogue of indigenously developed technologies and products maintained by the I-STEM portal
- ▶ Establishing regional centres for providing technical training and skill development, in part by restoring/stripping R&D equipment written off by I-STEM institutions; thus developing a stream of talent and gainful employment through maintaining and upgrading R&D facilities
- ▶ Providing access through the web to R&D software platforms to Academic Users to promote R&D and more effective instruction/learning, especially in smaller institutions.

Diagram illustrating the objectives of I-STEM Phase-II:

- Software Services through I-STEM
- Indigenous Equipment Development
- Skill Development Program
- User friendly R&D facilities access across the country
- Partial funding to Institution, Researchers and Start-ups

Why in News

- **The Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map (I-STEM)** project has been accorded extension for five years, until 2026 and enters its **second phase** with added features.

Key Points

About I-STEM:

- I-STEM, the national web portal for sharing Research and Development (R&D) facilities was formally launched in January 2020.

- It is an initiative of **Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser** to the Government of India (GoI) under the aegis of **Prime Minister Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC)** mission.

Objective:

- The objective of I-STEM is to strengthen the R&D ecosystem of the country by connecting researchers with resources, in part by promoting technologies and scientific equipment development indigenously.

Phase-I:

- In the first phase, the portal is listed with more than 20,000 pieces of equipment from 1050 institutions across the country and has more than 20,000 Indian researchers.
- I-STEM portal facilitates researchers to access slots for the use of equipment, as well as to share the details of the outcomes, such as, patents, publications and technologies.

Phase-II:

- Under Phase II, the portal will host indigenous technology products listed through a digital catalogue.
- The portal will also provide a platform for the various City Knowledge and Innovation Clusters supported by the Office of PSA to enhance effective use of R&D infrastructure through leveraging collaboration and partnership built on a shared STI ecosystem.
- It will be designed as a dynamic digital platform that will provide a boost to research and innovation especially for 2 tier and 3 tier cities and also for the emerging start-up ecosystem.

Source: PIB

4. **Kajal Chakraborty wins Norman Borlaug National Award 2020**



Why in News

- **Kajal Chakraborty, Principal Scientist at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)** has won the **Norman Borlaug National Award** for Excellence in Agricultural Research instituted by the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**.
- The award was presented during the **93rd**

Foundation Day of ICAR.

Key Points

- The award is in recognition of Chakraborty's outstanding achievement in developing and commercialising nutraceutical products from selected seaweeds to combat rheumatoid arthritic pains, type-2 diabetes, dyslipidemia, hypertension and hypothyroidism.

About Norman Borlaug National Award:

- The award, which is announced every five years, carries a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh.



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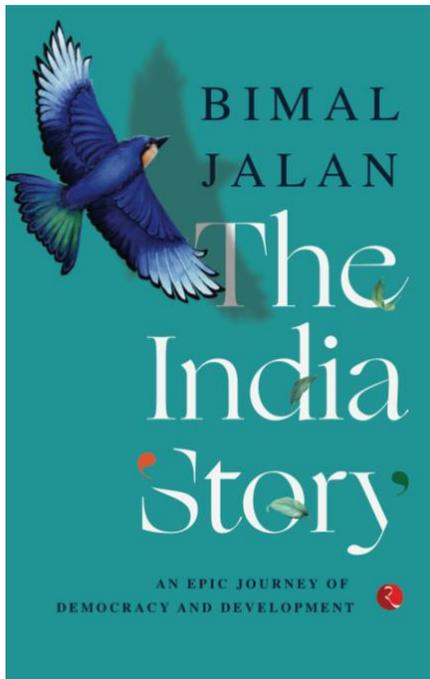
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- Besides, the scientist will be given a research grant of Rs 1.5 crore for carrying out a challenging research project for five years.

Source: The Hindu

5. Former RBI Governor Bimal Jalan's book titled "The India Story"



- Former RBI Governor Bimal Jalan's book "The India Story: An Epic Journey of Democracy and Development" focuses on India's economic history and aims to provide lessons for the future of India's political economy.

- The book is published by Rupa Publications India.

About Bimal Jalan:

- Bimal Jalan is a former Governor of RBI and was a nominated member of the Upper House of India's Parliament, the Rajya Sabha during 2003–2009.

- He has held several government positions throughout his career, such as finance secretary and chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister.

Source: ThePrint

6. Brisbane to host 2032 Olympics



Why in News

- President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Thomas Bach announced **Brisbane, Australia as the 2032 Summer Olympics host city** during the 138th IOC Session in Tokyo, Japan.



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Key Points

- Brisbane becomes the 3rd Australian city to get the Olympics Games after Melbourne in 1956 and Sydney in 2000.

Note: Tokyo: 2020 Olympics (23 July 2021 - 8 August 2021), Paris: 2024, Los Angeles: 2028

Source: The Hindu

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