

## 1. Annual Periodic Labour Force Survey

Topic: Economy

# Labour Force SURVEY



**In News:** The annual report of the Periodic Labour Force Survey for July 2020 to June 2021 was published by the National Statistical Office (NSO) recently.

### More on the Topic:

- The unemployment rate or the proportion of persons in the labour force who could not find jobs has dipped to 4.2 per cent in July 2020-June 2021 from 4.8 per cent a year ago amid the pandemic that caused economic disruption.
- Worker Population Ratio (WPR) has also improved. The WPR is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population.
- The WPR has increased to 39.8 per cent in 2020-21 from 38.2 in 2019-20, 35.3 per cent in 2018-20 and 34.7 per cent in 2017-18.
- The WPR in females also improved to 24.2 per cent in 2020-21 from 21.8 per cent in 2019-20. The WPR among males also rose to 54.9 per cent from 53.9 per cent in 2019-20.

### About Periodic Labour Force Survey:

- Considering the importance of availability of labour force data at more frequent time intervals, National Statistical Office (NSO) launched Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) in April 2017.
- The objective of PLFS is primarily twofold:
- **to estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators** (viz. Worker Population Ratio, Labour Force Participation Rate, Unemployment Rate) in the short time interval of three months for the urban areas only in the 'Current Weekly Status' (CWS).

- to estimate employment and unemployment indicators in both ‘Usual Status’ (ps+ss) and CWS in both rural and urban areas annually.

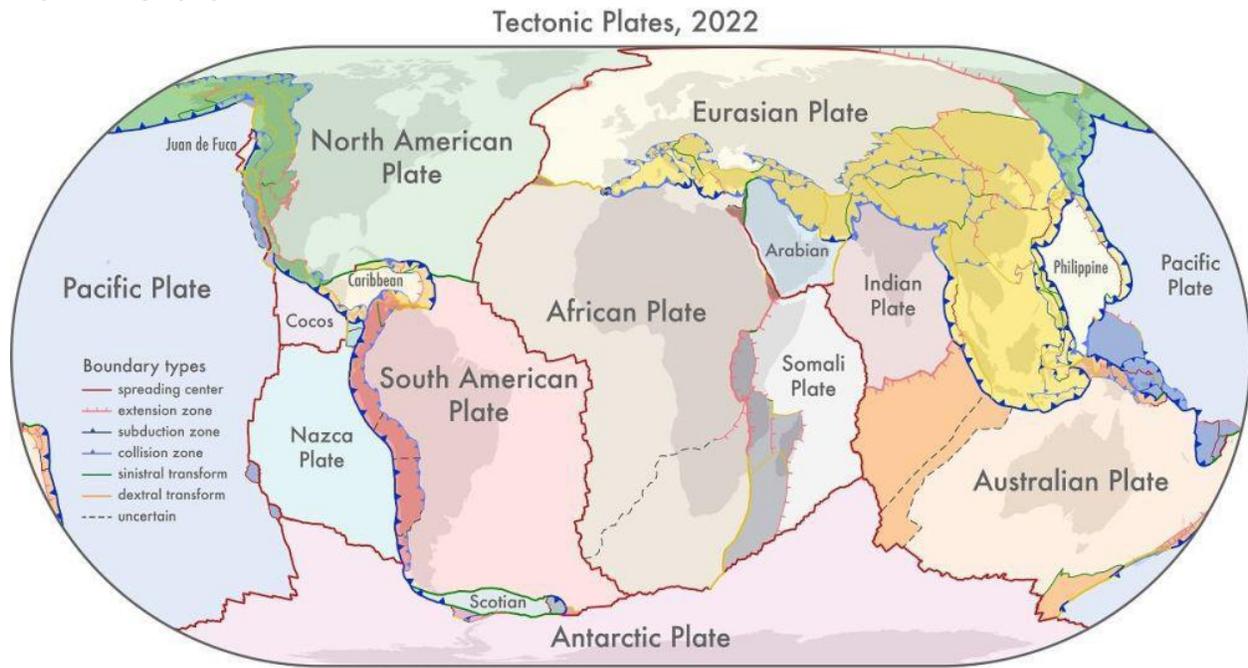
**Key Terminologies:**

- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** LFPR is defined as the percentage of persons in labour force (i.e. working or seeking or available for work) in the population.
- **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** WPR is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population.
- **Unemployment Rate (UR):** UR is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.
- **Activity Status- Usual Status:** The activity status of a person is determined on the basis of the activities pursued by the person during the specified reference period. When the activity status is determined on the basis of the reference period of last 365 days preceding the date of survey, it is known as the usual activity status of the person.
- **Activity Status- Current Weekly Status (CWS):** The activity status determined on the basis of a reference period of last 7 days preceding the date of survey is known as the current weekly status (CWS) of the person.

Source: Indian Express

## 2. New map of Earth’s tectonic plates to help understand quakes, volcanoes better

Topic: Geography



Source: Hasterok et al., (Earth-Sci. Rev., 2022)

**In News:** Researchers from the University of Adelaide, Australia, have carried out a new study that includes an updated map of the earth's tectonic plates.

**More on the Topic:**

- The material will help in forming a better understanding of natural hazards like earthquakes and volcanoes.
- A tectonic plate **“is a massive, irregularly shaped slab of solid rock”**, made up of **lithosphere or the earth's top layer**. Tectonic plate movements often lead to earthquakes and volcanoes.
- The study focussed into the **past construction of continents like the first supercontinent, Vaalbara**.
- Vaalbara fragmented to form other supercontinents over the years, the last being **Pangea, which existed some 335-65 million years ago**. Pangea again gave way to the seven modern continents which make the earth's land surface today.
- The last time the tectonic plate model was updated was back in 2003.

**Significance of the New Study:**

- The new study **added several new microplates to the existing tectonic plate model** like the **Macquarie microplate which sits south of Tasmania and the Capricorn microplate that separates the Indian and Australian plates**.
- The new model now includes all the deformation zones north of India as the plate bulldozes its way into Eurasia.
- The plate model can be used **to evaluate risks from natural hazards; the province model can be used for further exploration of minerals and the orogeny model** for a better understanding of the evolution of the earth.
- **Orogeny, or mountain building, is the result of collision between two landmasses**. This may occur via collision of continental crust (continent-continent collision) or when oceanic and continental crust collide (ocean-continent collision).

**Source: Indian Express**

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### 3. Indian Railway Innovation Policy

**Topic: Polity and Governance**

**In News:** Under the Indian Railway Innovation Policy, the Railways will invest in start-ups so that they are able to procure innovations directly from the start-ups.

**More on the Topic:**

- The funding mechanism will be on **cost-sharing basis in equal proportions, 50:50**, by the Indian Railways and an innovator.





- Grant up to Rs. 1.5 Crore will be provided to innovators.
- The policy is not just limited to the idea.
- Indian Railways will follow it through to the product after proof of concept and scaling it up, doubling the grant support and finally adoption of successfully developed product/technology for regular use and even support for two to three years.
- The annual budget for the policy will be around **Rs 40-50 crore and an additional fund for the divisional railway managers** so that they can find on-field solutions to on-field problems.
- **Developed Intellectual property rights (IPR) will remain with innovators only.**

#### Significance of the Policy:

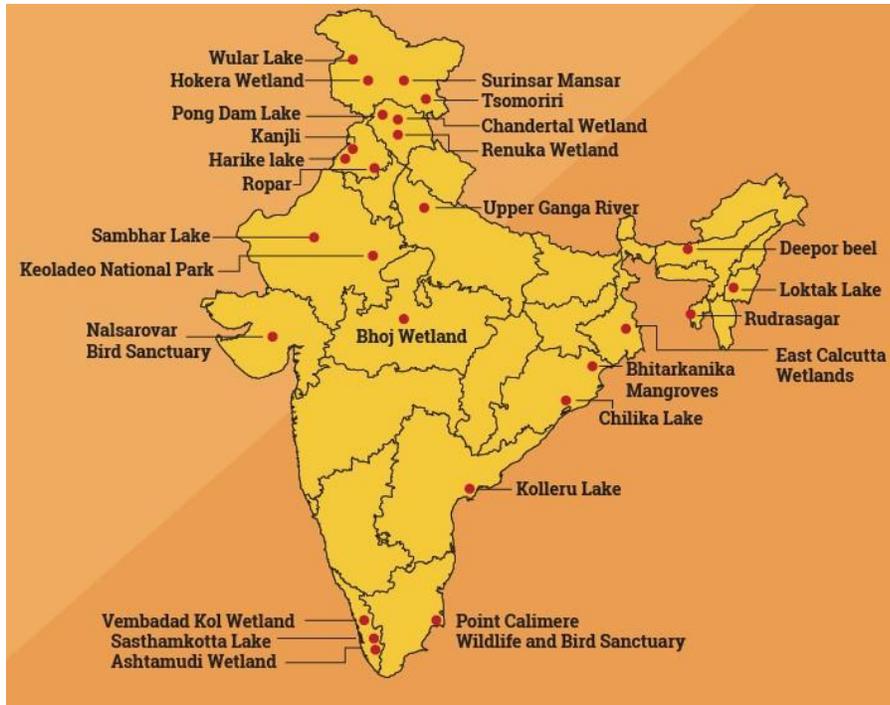
- **Great innovative solutions** may churn and many technological challenges can be resolved if startups collaborate with Indian Railways.
- **De-centralization of complete product development process** at divisional level to avoid delays.
- The selection of start-ups will be through **open, transparent and fair process** which will entail innovators uploading their concepts with necessary proof on a dedicated portal, the Indian Railway Innovation Portal.

Source: Hindu

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## 4. Many virtues of Wetlands

Topic: Environment and Ecology



**In News:** The Climate change estimates for India indicate rising temperatures, sea-level, intensified rainfall and more catastrophic events. Conservation and wise use of wide diversity of inland and coastal wetlands is a powerful climate change response.

**More on the Topic:**

- The wetlands change atlas recently published by the Space Application Center indicates **declining natural coastal wetlands** (reducing from 3.69 million hectare to 3.62 million hectare in last decade).
- Areas surrounded by urbanised wetlands are expected to lead to a coastal squeeze in the face of sea-level rise ultimately leading to wetland loss.
- Several wetlands can also be a net source of GHGs, and emissions are exacerbated by anthropogenic disturbances, particularly pollution and alteration in water regimes.
- Degradation of wetlands diminishes **landscapes capability to absorb and moderate floods, droughts, and storm surges.**
- **Floods in the Kashmir Valley in September 2014 and Chennai in December 2015** illustrate how wetland degradation can threaten lives.

**Significance of Wetlands:**

- **Wetlands assist in stabilisation CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O and Green House Gas (GHG) concentrations** by minimising climate and land-use-mediated GHG releases and by boosting the potential to actively collect CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and sequester carbon.
- **The coastal blue carbon soaked by mangroves, salt marshes and seagrasses via photosynthesis and stored in wet anaerobic soils** is a significant eco system service provided by Wetlands.

- **Peatlands, considered to be one of the world’s largest carbon reserves,** are sparse in India and require immediate attention.

**Government Effort to conserve Wetlands:**

- The Environment Ministry supports implementation of management action plans for over 250 wetlands under schemes such as **National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems, Mangroves and Coral Reefs, and Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats.**
- Towards the commitment under the **Ramsar Convention, India has designated 49 Ramsar sites, and is likely to expand the list to 75 wetlands.**
- But, even so, the government’s efforts fall short of the rapid degradation of wetlands in virtually all parts of the country.
- Only a few States have systematically included wetlands within State Climate Action Plans.

**Way Ahead:**

- Climate change and linked drivers and pressures are highly likely to increase vulnerability of wetlands.
- **Avoidance of impacts to wetlands and associated carbon stocks and processes** are likely to be the most effective management strategy for preventing increases in GHG emissions from wetlands.
- A first step in this direction would be **to include carbon storage and GHG emissions from wetlands within the national carbon stock and flux assessments.**
- A detailed **peatland inventory** is also much needed.
- **Climate risks need to be factored in wetlands management.**
- This can be done by **strengthened wetland monitoring systems geared towards identification of climate risk indicators** and trends thereof.

Source: Indian Express

## 5. Hans Island

**Topic: Places in News**

**In News:** Canada and Denmark has ended decades-long dispute over Hans Island.

**More on the Topic:**

- It is located in the **Kennedy Channel of Nares Strait** between the north-western coast of the semi-autonomous Danish territory of



Greenland and Canada's Ellesmere Island.

- Canada and Denmark agreed in **1973 to create a border through Nares Strait**, halfway between Greenland and Canada.
- But they were unable to agree which country would have sovereignty over Hans Island, which lies about 680 miles (1,100km) south of the north pole.
- In the end they decided to work out the question of ownership later.
- Nares Strait is a cold channel connecting **Baffin Bay in the Atlantic Ocean with Lincoln Sea in the Arctic Ocean.**

Source: Business Standard

## 6. Katchatheevu Island

### Topic: International Relations

**In News:** Tamil Nadu chief minister demanded to restore rights over Katchatheevu island.

#### More on the Topic:

- Katchatheevu is a small uninhabited island in Palk Strait, that connects the Bay of Bengal to the Arabian Sea.
- Katchatheevu island is now a part of Sri Lanka according to India-Sri Lanka Maritime Boundary Agreements between 1974-76.
- Despite the signing of maritime boundary agreements, fishermen communities of both the countries continued their fishing in the Palk Bay area peacefully until the Eelam war broke out in 1983.
- Nonetheless, after the end of War in 2009, the Sri Lankan fishermen have been raising their objection to Indian fishermen fishing in their waters.
- The small islet of Katchatheevu, hitherto used by the fishermen for sorting their catch and drying their nets, fell on the other side of the IMBL





- Fishermen often risk their lives and cross the IMBL rather than return empty-handed, but the Sri Lankan Navy is on alert, and have either arrested or destroyed fishing nets and vessels of those who have crossed the line.

**Source: Hindu**

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