

PERIODIC LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (PLFS)

The recent Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) has reported that the unemployment rate in the country has shown a decrease between April and June 2023.



Key Findings:

- The **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** for persons of age 15 years and above and the **Worker-Population Ratio (WPR)** **improved during the period.**
- The LFPR in **urban areas increased** from 47.5% in April-June 2022 to 48.8% in April-June 2023 for persons of age 15 years and above.
- The **WPR in urban areas increased** from 43.9% in April-June 2022 to 45.5% in similar months in this year for persons of age 15 years and above.
- **For male, it increased** from 68.3% to 69.2% and for female, it increased from 18.9% to 21.1% during this period.

About Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS):

- Considering the importance of availability of labour force data at more frequent time intervals, **National Statistical Office (NSO) launched Periodic Labour Force Survey in April 2017.**
- **Objective:**
 - 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.
- **The indicators of this survey are defined as follows**
 - **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.
- **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.
- This survey is conducted by the **National Sample Survey (NSO)**, working under **Ministry of statistics and programme implementation (MoSPI)**.

EXERCISE CHAKRAVAT

The **2023 edition of the Annual Joint HADR Exercise, CHAKRAVAT**, is being hosted by the **Indian Navy at Goa from 09 to 11 Oct 23**.



About Exercise CHAKRAVAT:

- It is an **Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief HADR Exercise (AJHE)**
- Since its first edition in 2015, the Annual Joint HADR Exercise, CHAKRAVAT has transformed itself into a multi-agency endeavour.
- It involves participation of **all three Services, Paramilitary Forces**, as well as several disaster response organisations, NGOs, academic institutions and international organisations.
- The 2023 edition would further synergise efforts at the national level among all stakeholders, as well as witness participation **from eight countries of the Indian Ocean Region**.
- The exercise has been conducted by the Indian Army, Indian Navy (IN) and Indian Air Force (IAF) in rotation since 2016.
- The 2023 edition of the **exercise is being hosted by the Indian Navy at Goa**.
- The exercise will witness participation from various national agencies namely, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), National Institute

for Disaster Management (NIDM), Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, Coast Guard, Indian Metrological Department (IMD) and other organizations.

- **Logo of the event:** The Logo for this year's exercise depicts crests and logos of all participating agencies and flags of all nations subsumed into one single entity to signify that HADR will hinge on joint and integrated action by the all the agencies.

WHAT IS SATELLITE SPECTRUM?

The Elon Musk vs Mukesh Ambani battle on whether to auction or allocate satellite spectrum has attracted intervention from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).



About Satellite Spectrum:

- The Satellite or orbit spectrum is a **segment of radio spectrum made available when satellites are placed into orbit.**
- This spectrum is **part of the broader radio frequency spectrum**, which encompasses all electromagnetic frequencies **used for various wireless communications** and broadcasting purposes.
- This spectrum is a **limited resource for every country, utilised by firms** to implement **satellite broadcasting, communication satellites**, and weather satellite services.
- This spectrum is **divided into many different frequency bands**. The **choice of bands depends on many factors**, including the specific applications.
- The **frequency is an integral part of the satellite's construction and doesn't change after launch.**

How does frequency impact the data transfer?

- In simple terms, **the frequency of a signal refers to the number of times the underlying wave oscillates per second.**
- The **higher the frequency, the faster the waves appear to move, and the more data can be transmitted per second.**

- The **International Telecommunication Union, or ITU**, is the United Nations institution that **coordinates the allocation of frequencies globally**.

Key Facts about International Telecommunication Union (ITU):

- It is the **United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies**.
- It is an **intergovernmental organization that coordinates between governments and private sector bodies with respect to global telecommunication and information communication technology (ICT) services**.
- It was **established in 1865 as International Telegraph Union**.
- In 1947 the ITU became a specialized agency of the United Nations.
- **Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland**.
- **Membership:** It has a membership of **193 countries** and nearly **800 private sector entities** and academic institutions.
- **India and ITU:** India has been an active **member of the ITU since 1869** and has been a **regular member of the ITU Council since 1952**.

INTERNATIONAL BIG CAT ALLIANCE (IBCA)

Tanzanian President recently conveyed approval to join flagship Indian programmes like the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) and the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA).



About International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA):

- It was **launched by India on April 9, 2023**, for the **conservation of seven big cats**, namely **Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma** harbouring our planet.
- **Membership:** It is **open to 97 'range' countries**, which contain the **natural habitat of these big cats**, as well as other interested nations, international organizations, etc.
- It will provide a **platform for the member nations to share knowledge and expertise and extend support to recovery efforts in potential habitats**.

- Its major activities will include **advocacy**, partnership, **knowledge e-portal**, capacity **building**, **eco-tourism**, partnerships between expert groups, and finance tapping.
- IBCA will also assist **existing species-specific inter-governmental platforms** to boost conservation efforts.

Funding: After the first five years, which will be supported by India's 'total grant assistance' of \$100 million, the IBCA is expected to sustain itself through membership fees and contributions from bilateral and multilateral institutions and the private sector.

- **Governance Structure:**
 - A **General Assembly** consisting of all member countries.
 - A **Council of at least seven but not more than 15** member countries elected by the **General Assembly** for a **term of 5 years**, and a **Secretariat**.
 - Upon the recommendation of the Council, the **General Assembly will appoint the IBCA Secretary General** for a specific term.

WHAT IS A CURATIVE PETITION?

The Supreme Court recently agreed to hear curative petitions filed by Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel citing arithmetical errors in calculation of adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues by the department of telecommunications (DoT), in an open court.



About Curative Petition:

- It is the **last resort to the highest court** that can be petitioned for redressal of grievances in court, and **its ruling is final**.
- It is a way to ask the court to review and revise their own decision, and it is **filed after a review petition is dismissed** or used.
- It is the **final and last option** for the people to **acquire justice**, as mentioned and **promised by the Constitution** of India.
- **Objective:** It is meant to **ensure there is no miscarriage of justice** and to **prevent abuse of process**.

Evolution:

- The concept of curative petition originated from the case of **Rupa Ashok Hurra Vs. Ashok Hurra and another case** (2002) where the following question arose before the court of law: 'whether an aggrieved person is entitled to any relief against the final judgment/order of the Supreme Court, after the dismissal of a review petition?'.
 - The court used the Latin maxim “**actus curiae neminem gravabit**”, which means that **an act of the court shall prejudice no one.**
 - The maxim becomes **applicable when the court is under an obligation to undo a wrong done** to a party by the act of the court itself.
 - This **led to the creation of the concept of a curative petition** by the Supreme Court to prevent the miscarriage of justice and to prevent the abuse of process.
 - In this case, a five-judge constitution bench of the Supreme Court unanimously **held that in order to rectify gross miscarriage of justice, the court will allow the curative petition** filed by the victim.
- **Criteria for admission:**
 - The court ruled that a curative petition can be entertained if the petitioner establishes there was a **violation of the principles of natural justice** and that he was **not heard by the court before passing an order.**
 - It will also be admitted where a **judge fails to disclose facts** that raise the apprehension of bias.
 - The SC has held that **curative petitions must be rare rather than regular** and be entertained with circumspection.
 - A curative petition must be **accompanied by certification by a senior advocate**, pointing out substantial grounds for entertaining it.

Who hears Curative petitions?

- A curative petition must first be **circulated to a bench of the three senior-most judges** and the **judges who passed the concerned judgment, if available.**

- Only when a **majority of the judges conclude that the matter needs hearing** should it be listed, as far as possible, before the same bench.
 - A curative petition is **usually decided by judges in chamber**, unless a specific request for an open-court hearing is allowed.
 - It shall be **open to the Bench at any stage** of consideration of the curative petition to **ask a senior counsel to assist it as amicus curiae**.
 - In the event of the **bench holding at any stage that the petition is without any merit and vexatious, it may impose exemplary costs** on the petitioner.
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2023 ECONOMICS NOBEL PRIZE

US labour economist **Claudia Goldin** was recently awarded the **2023 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences** for her contributions to understanding women's labor market outcomes.



About 2023 Economics Nobel Prize:

- It has been awarded to **economist Claudia Goldin** for advancing the **understanding of women's labour market outcomes**.
- The Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences is **also known as the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences**.
- Goldin is **only the third woman to win the prize** since it was **first introduced in 1969**.

Her Research:

- She provided the **first comprehensive account of women's earnings and labour market participation** through the centuries.
 - Her research **reveals the causes of change** as well as the **main sources of the remaining gender gap**.
 - She showed that **female participation** in the labour market **did not have an upward trend over a 200-year period, but instead forms a U-shaped curve**.
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- The **participation of married women decreased with the transition from an agrarian to an industrial society in the early nineteenth century, but then started to increase with the growth of the service sector in the early twentieth century.**
- Goldin explained this pattern as the **result of structural change and evolving social norms regarding women's responsibilities for home and family.**
- **Historically, much of the gender gap in earnings could be explained by differences in education and occupational choices.**
- However, **Goldin has shown that the bulk of this earnings difference is now between men and women in the same occupation, and that it largely arises with the birth of the first child.**
- She **highlighted the role played by marriage, parenthood, and contraceptive pills in women's education, career, and salary trajectories.**

FOOD INFLATION IN INDIA

Why in News?

- The consumer food prices were 9.9% higher in August, 2023 in comparison to the same month of the previous year.
- The overall retail inflation with 6.8% is well above its target of 4% and upper tolerance limit of 6%.

What is Inflation?

- Inflation is basically the **general rise in the price of goods and services and the decline in purchasing power of people.**
- This means that when inflation rises (without an equivalent rise in your income), you are able to buy lesser things than you could buy previously, or you have to pay more money for the same stuff now.
- A “rising” inflation rate implies that the rate (at which the prices rise) itself is increasing.
- In other words, imagine a scenario where the inflation rate was 1% in March, 2% in April and then 4% in May and 7% in June.
- **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** which measures average prices from the consumer's perspective.

- **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** ideally measures average prices in the wholesale market; that is, where goods are sold in bulk.
- These price indices are used to measure the average change over time in selling prices received by producers (producer price index inflation), or prices paid by consumers (CPI inflation), or the average price change in the wholesale market (WPI inflation).

How is WPI calculated?

- The index is based on the wholesale prices of number of relevant commodities
- The commodities are chosen based on their significance in the region.
- **Number of commodities:** 697 items
- **Base year:** 2011-12

Major Components of WPI:

- **‘Primary articles’** (22.62%) is a major component of WPI, further subdivided into Food Articles and Non-Food Articles:
 - **Food Articles:** Cereals, Paddy, Wheat, Pulses, Vegetables, Fruits, Milk, Eggs, Meat & Fish, etc.
 - **Non-Food Articles:** Oil Seeds, Minerals and Crude Petroleum.
- The next major basket in WPI is **Fuel & Power** (13.15%), which tracks price movements in Petrol, Diesel and LPG.
- The biggest basket is **Manufactured Goods** (64.23%). It spans across a variety of manufactured products such as Textiles, Apparels, Paper, Chemicals, Plastic, Cement, Metals, and more.
- Manufactured Goods basket also includes manufactured food products such as Sugar, Tobacco Products, Vegetable and Animal Oils, and Fats.