

## **Maiden Service of Bharat Gaurav Train**

**(GS Paper 3, Economy)**

### **Why in news?**

- Recently, the first service of the theme-based Bharat Gaurav Train from Coimbatore North to Sainagar Shirdi was started.
- With this, Southern Railway becomes the first zone in Indian Railways to get the first Registered service provider under the 'Bharat Gaurav' Scheme and commence the operations of the maiden service from Coimbatore North to Sainagar Shirdi.



### **Registered Service Provider:**

- South Star Rail is the registered service provider that operates this Bharat Gaurav Train from Coimbatore to Shirdi and back. This Coimbatore based company is registered company and it is part of the conglomerate group - Future Gaming & Hotel Services Pvt. Limited.

### **Bharat Gaurav Trains:**

- Indian Railways had launched the operation of theme-based Bharat Gaurav train in the month of November 2021.
- The objective of this theme is to showcase India's rich cultural heritage and magnificent historical places to the people of India and the world, through Bharat Gaurav Trains.
- This scheme also aims to leverage the core strengths of the professionals of the tourism sector to run theme-based trains to tap the vast tourist potential of India.

### **Way Forward:**

- At present, IRCTC is already running several tourist circuit trains in Railways.
- This Bharat Gaurav scheme will now help in roping in of more tour operators with professional experience and will give boost to tourism sector in the country.

## **Cabinet approves MoA for establishment of BIMSTEC Technology Transfer Centre**

**(GS Paper 3, Science and Tech)**

### **Why in news?**

- The Union Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Association (MoA) by India for establishment of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Technology Transfer Facility (TTF).
- The MoA was signed by the BIMSTEC member countries at the 5th BIMSTEC Summit held at Colombo, Sri Lanka in March, 2022.



#### Objective:

- The main objectives of the BIMSTEC TTF are to coordinate, facilitate and strengthen cooperation in technology transfer among the BIMSTEC Member States by promoting the transfer of technologies, sharing of experiences and capacity building.

#### About Technology Transfer Facility (TTF):

- The TTF shall facilitate transfer of technologies among the BIMSTEC Member States, amongst other things, in the following priority areas Biotechnology, Nanotechnology, Information and Communication Technology, Space technology applications, Agricultural technology, Food processing technology, Pharmaceutical technology automation, New and renewable energy technology automation, New and Renewable energy technology, Oceanography, Nuclear Technology Applications, E-waste and solid waste management technology, Health Technologies, Technologies pertinent to Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation.
- The TTF shall have a Governing Board and the overall control of activities of the TTF shall be vested in the Governing Board. The Governing Board shall consist of one nominee from each Member State.

#### The expected outcomes of the BIMSTEC TTF are:

- Databank of technologies available in BIMSTEC Countries.
- Repository of information on good practices in the areas of technology transfer management, standards, accreditation, metrology, testing and calibration facilities,
- Capacity building, sharing of experiences and good practices in development, and
- Transfer and use of technologies among BIMSTEC countries.

### **Project Information and Management (PIM) module by Coal Ministry** (GS Paper 3, Economy)

Why in news?

- The Ministry of Coal has launched Project Information & Management Module of Single Window Clearance System (SWCS).
- The PIM module of SWCS will facilitate project proponents as well as ministry and state officials in monitoring and expeditious implementation of coal mines.



#### **Mandate:**

- The Project Information and Management (PIM) module of the Single Window Clearance System, is a platform to seek various clearances to operationalise coal mines.
- The development assumes significance in the wake of the government making efforts to secure domestic fuel supplies amid fear of shortage during monsoon.

#### **Why it has been launched?**

- Various statutory provisions like approval of mining plan and mine closure plan, and environment and forest clearances, are the prerequisites for starting a coal mine.
- These clearances are granted by various central ministries and state government departments. Some of the clearances have their online portals, but most are being given through offline mode.
- The project proponents are required to approach different administrative ministries and government departments separately to apply for the requisite clearances, leading to delay in operationalisation of coal mines.
- As part of the decision to digitise the clearances, the Ministry of Coal has conceptualised a single window clearance system, through which a project proponent can apply for requisite clearances with a single registration interface.

#### **Ease of Doing Business:**

- The portal is proposed to map applications and their respective process flows for grant of all the statutory clearances required for starting of a coal mine.

- To facilitate ease of doing business, a unified platform of SWCS is designed which includes already operational module for approval of mining plan and mine closure plan in a time bound manner and integration with Parivesh Portal, digital acceptance of objection under Section 8 (1) of Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957, Consent Management System of Telangana & West Bengal.

## **India's newest recorded snail named after Western Ghats**

**(GS Paper 3, Environment)**

### **Why in news?**

- Recently, the Western Ghats of Maharashtra have yielded a carnivorous land snail new to the world of science.

### **New species:**

- The *Haploptychius sahyadriensis*, recorded from the northern Western Ghats of Maharashtra, is the third member of the genus *Haploptychius*.
- The other two, *H. andamanicus* and *H. pfeifferi* were recorded in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the 1860s.



### **Characteristic features:**

- The 'Sahyadri snail' is distinguished from other Indian and Southeast Asia's *Haploptychius* in having a sub-oblique helical shell, low spire and presence of a strong parietal lamella.
- The new species also has a unique genital anatomy; it has a long penis with a penial sheath and hooks, atrium and vagina with longitudinal ridges and irregular transverse ridges but without any hooks.
- The species was placed in the genus *Haploptychius* based on the shell morphology and genital characters.

### **Endemic to Vishalgad Conservation Reserve:**

- This species is **endemic to Vishalgad Conservation Reserve** in Shahuwadi tehsil of Maharashtra's Kolhapur.
- It is named after the type locality of the species in the northern part of the Western Ghats, which is Sahyadri in Sanskrit.

**Future prospects:**

- Other unexplored areas in the northern Western Ghats may potentially harbour more undescribed land snail species that could be endemic.

**Unemployment has decreased, says latest labour force survey**  
**(GS Paper 3, Economy)**

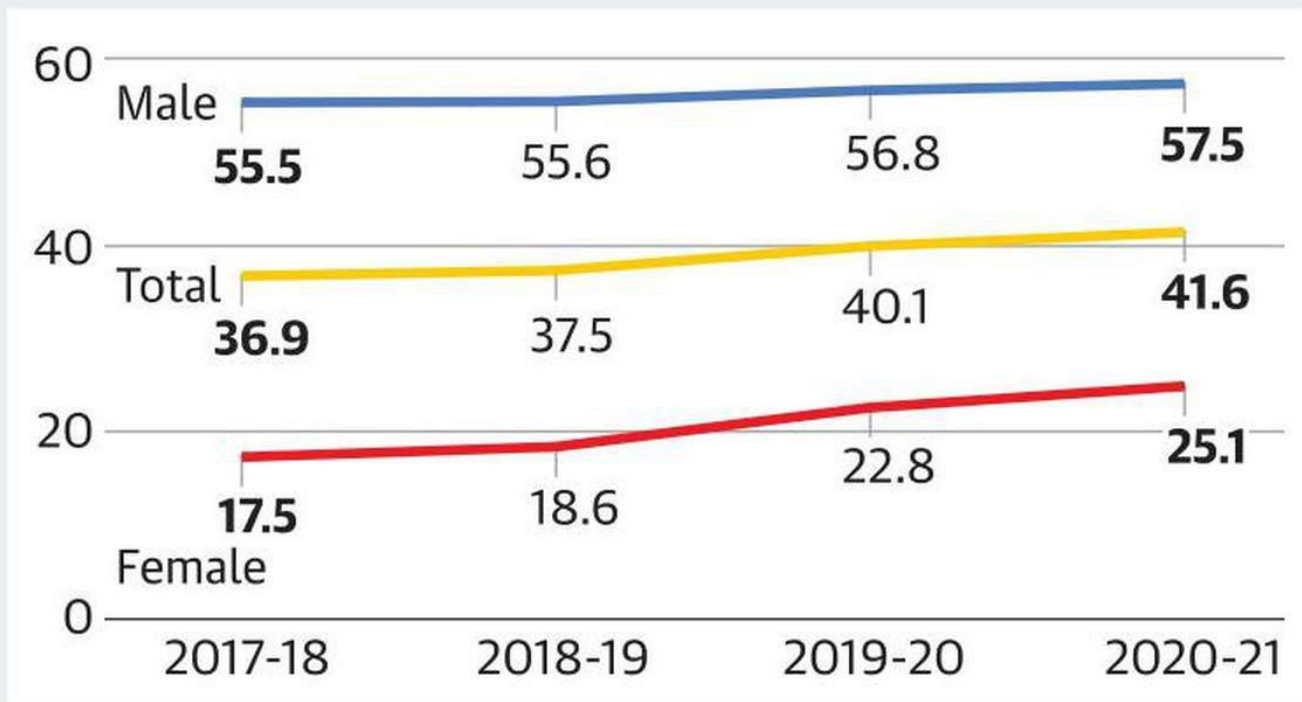
**Why in news?**

- Recently, the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for 2020-21** was released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

**Key Highlights:**

- The unemployment rate saw a decrease of 0.6% and **fell to 4.2% in 2020-21**, compared with 4.8% in 2019-20.
- This means that **only 4.2% of adults who looked for jobs could not get any work in rural and urban areas** of the country in 2020-21.
- Rural areas recorded an unemployment rate of 3.3% and urban areas recorded an unemployment rate of 6.7%.

**Looking for work** | The labour force participation rate (LFPR) has continued to improve further in 2020-21, according to the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey. The graph shows LFPR over years across genders



Rotational panel sampling design by NSO:

- The National Statistical Office (NSO) uses “rotational panel sampling design” in urban areas to assess the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR) and the unemployment rate, and visits selected households in urban areas four times.

**Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):**

- The LFPR, the percentage of persons in the labour force (that is, working or seeking work or available for work) in the population was 41.6% during 2020-21. It was 40.1% in the previous year.

**Worker Population Ratio (WPR):**

- The WPR was 39.8%, an increase from 38.2% of the previous year. WPR is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population.

**Migration rate:**

- Migrants are defined in the survey as a household member whose last usual place of residence, at any time in the past, was different from the present place of enumeration. The migration rate, according to the survey, is 28.9%.
- The migration rate among women was 48% and 47.8% in rural and urban areas, respectively.

**Way Forward:**

- Overall, the report suggests shifting the government’s policy directions as it has become more rural centric.
- Creation of rural jobs other than in the agricultural sector and MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) could be priorities for the government at the Union and State levels.