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Daily News

Analysis

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Table of Contents

1. Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).....	2
2. Jordan.....	3
3. Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill.....	4
4. Ramappa Temple.....	6

1. Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)

- **Prelims** - Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Economy (Unemployment)

Why in the news?

- The unemployment rate has declined to 4.7% in November, marking its lowest level since April, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).

Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)

- **What is it?:** It is a nationwide survey that provides estimates of the key labour market indicators like Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR) and Unemployment Rate (UR).
- **Nodal Agency:** The survey is conducted by the **National Sample Survey Office (NSO)**, working under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**.
- **Features:**
 - Generates **monthly estimates** of key employment and unemployment indicators for both rural and urban areas at the all-India level under the **Current Weekly Status (CWS)**.
 - Provides **annual estimates** of key employment and unemployment indicators under Usual Status and Current Weekly Status (CWS) for both rural and urban areas.
- **Key Labour Market Indicators:**
 - **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** Percentage of persons in the labour force (employed or seeking/available for work) in the total population.
 - **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** Percentage of employed persons in the total population.
 - **Unemployment Rate (UR):** Percentage of unemployed persons among the total labour force.
- **Activity Status:**
 - **Usual Status:** Determined with reference to the **last 365 days** preceding the survey date.
 - **Current Weekly Status (CWS):** Considers the labour force status of individuals based on the **week preceding the survey date**.

2. Jordan

- **Prelims - Location of Jordan**
- **Mains - GS 2 - International Relations (Bilateral Relations)**

Jordan



Why in the news?

- Prime Minister visited Jordan for bilateral discussions.

Jordan

- **Capital** - Amman
- **Borders** - Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Israel and the West Bank.
- **River** - Jordan River
- **Bordering Waterbodies** - Jordan has on the Gulf of Aqaba (Red Sea) in the , where Al-‘Aqabah, it's only port. It also has border with Dead Sea.
- **Geographical Features** - Jordan Valley (the northwest portion of the great East African Rift System) and Wadi Rum Desert.



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3. Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishtan Bill

- **Prelims** - Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishtan Bill
- **Mains** - GS 2 - Governance (Government Policies) & GS 2 - Social Justice (Education)

Why in the news?

- The Union Education Minister tabled the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishtan Bill, 2025 in the Lok Sabha.

Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishtan Bill

- **What is it?:** The Bill represents a **major structural reform** aimed at improving academic quality, governance, and regulatory efficiency in the **Higher education system**.
- **Core Objectives:**
 - Enable universities and HEIs to achieve excellence in Teaching as well as in Research.
 - Achieve Better coordination among regulators and establish clear and uniform academic standards
 - Reflects NEP 2020's principle of "**light but tight**" regulation through Reduced bureaucratic control and Strong accountability mechanisms.
- **Key Features and Proposals:**
 - Establishment of the **Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishtan (VBSA)** as a **12-member apex commission** to oversee three specialised councils-
 - ★ **Viksit Bharat Vinyaman Parishad (Regulatory Council):** Maintains regulatory standards and coordinates governance norms for universities and colleges
 - ★ **Viksit Bharat Gunvatta Parishad (Accreditation Council):** Oversees accreditation processes
 - ★ **Viksit Bharat Manak Parishad (Standards Council):** Sets academic standards and ensures harmonisation of quality benchmarks.
 - It includes **all the higher education institutions except** Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Law, Pharmacy, Veterinary Sciences.

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- It subsumes University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) and creates a single integrated regulatory framework.
- Funding to be managed through mechanisms of the Ministry of Education to align with NEP 2020's recommendation to delink regulation from financing.
- VBSA empowered with **strong punitive measures** such as monetary fines and suspension of degree/diploma granting powers.

4. Ramappa Temple

- **Prelims** - Ramappa Temple
- **Mains** - GS 1 - Art and Culture (UNESCO World Heritage Sites)

Why in the news?

- Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO visited the Ramappa Temple.

Ramappa Temple

- **Location:** Palampet village in **Telangana**
- **History:** Constructed in **1213 CE** during the **Kakatiya Empire**.
- **Features:**
 - Also known as the **Rudreswara Temple**.
 - Inscribed in **2021** as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
 - Presiding deity: **Ramalingeswara Swamy**.
 - **Unique distinction:** One of the very few temples in India **named after its architect/sculptor**.
 - **Architectural Features:**
 - ★ Built on a **6-foot-high star-shaped platform**.
 - ★ Walls, pillars, and ceilings feature **highly intricate carvings**, reflecting Kakatiya architectural excellence.
 - ★ **Lightweight floating bricks** used in the gopuram- reduces collapse risk during **earthquakes**.
 - ★ Temple foundation constructed using the **sandbox technique**- A mixture of Sand, Lime, Jaggery and Black myrobalan fruit.