

IUCN Report Calls for a New Conservation Approach

- **The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** released a report titled "**Planet on the Move: Reimagining Conservation at the Intersection of Migration, Environmental Change, and Conflict.**" This report highlights the need for a new conservation strategy in an era marked by migration, environmental change, and conflict.
- **Need for a New Conservation Approach**
 - **Interconnected Issues:** Migration, environmental change, and conflict are interconnected. Environmental changes can force humans and other species to migrate, leading to conflicts over scarce natural resources, which can further degrade the environment and reverse conservation efforts.
 - **Holistic Policies:** Current migration policies often treat human and wildlife migration separately, despite the interconnectedness of the planet. **For example:**
 - **The 1951 Refugee Convention** and the **2012 Kampala Convention** focus on human refugees and displaced persons.
 - The Convention on the **Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals** adopted a Programme of Work on **Climate Change and Migratory Species in 2014.**
- **Recommendations for New Conservation Approaches**
 1. **Integrated Solutions:** Address migration, humanitarian, and development needs without compromising biodiversity and nature.
 2. **Legal Protection:** Develop international legal mechanisms to protect "environmental migrants" and resolve conflicts in transit and destination areas.
 3. **Synergized Laws:** Create greater synergies between various laws to protect intersecting human and wildlife migrations.

Why Does The Latest RBI Jobs Data Show A Bump In Employment?

- Employment growth in India increased by **nearly 6% in fiscal year 2023-24, compared to 3.2% in FY2023**, as per RBI data.
- The workforce increased by **4.67 crore to 64.33 crore in FY2024 from 59.67 crore in FY2023.**
- **Key Highlights Of The Article**
- **Citigroup Report:** Citigroup's report suggested that even with a 7% GDP growth rate, India might struggle to create enough employment opportunities, a claim refuted by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- **RBI's KLEMS Database:** KLEMS stands for **Capital (K), Labour (L), Energy (E), Material (M), and Services (S).**
 - The database measures productivity at the industry level and covers 27 industries across the Indian economy.
 - It provides estimates at broad sectoral levels (agriculture, manufacturing, services) and includes metrics like **Gross Value Added (GVA), Labour Employment (L), Labour Quality (LQ), and Total Factor Productivity (TFP).**
- **Ministry of Labour and Employment's Response:**
 - The Ministry criticized private data sources like Citigroup's report for not aligning with national or international standards.
 - It highlighted that official sources such as the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** and **RBI's KLEMS data** indicated significant employment growth.
 - The Ministry noted that more than 8 crore employment opportunities were created between **2017-18 and 2021-22**, averaging **over 2 crore jobs per year.**
- **PLFS Report:**
 - The PLFS report showed a decrease in the urban unemployment rate from **6.8% in January-March 2023 to 6.7% in January-March 2024.**
 - The female unemployment rate declined from **9.2% to 8.5% in the same period.**
 - **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** in urban areas increased from **48.5% to 50.2%** for persons aged 15 years and above.
 - **Worker Population Ratio (WPR)** for persons aged 15 years and above increased from **45.2% to 46.9%.**
 - **Female Worker Population Ratio** in urban areas rose from **20.6% to 23.4%.**

Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for White Goods (PLIWG)

- The Indian government has invited applications for the **Production Linked Incentive Scheme** for **White Goods**, which covers appliances like **air conditioners (ACs)** and **LED lights**.
- **Definition of White and Brown Goods:**
 - **White Goods:** Large electrical appliances and home appliances, such as refrigerators, washing machines, and air conditioners.
 - **Brown Goods:** Consumer electronics, including televisions, DVD players, stereos, and computers.
- **About the PLIWG Scheme:**
 - **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
 - **Type:** Central Sector Scheme.
 - **Background:** Launched in 2021 as part of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.
 - **Financial Incentives:** Provides an incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales (net of taxes) over the base year of 2019-20.
 - **Tenure:** From fiscal year 2021-22 to fiscal year 2028-29.

Zombie Startups

- The recent shutdown of Koo, India's Twitter-like app, has sparked a discussion on the phenomenon of zombie startups.
- **About Zombie Startups:**
 - Startups that have raised enough funds during a boom cycle to continue operations but are not generating significant revenue.
 - **Characteristics:** These startups consume resources without substantial growth or success, often stuck in a limbo.
 - **Long-term Outlook:** Such startups may eventually disappear.
 - **Causes:**
 - **Lack of Market-Suitable Products:** Their offerings do not meet market demands effectively.
 - **High Customer Acquisition Costs:** Spending too much on attracting customers without corresponding revenue.
 - **Funding Winter:** Difficulty in securing new investments during economic downturns.

Financial Inclusion Index

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released the **Financial Inclusion Index for March 2024**, which stands at 64.2, up from 60.1 in March 2023.
- **About the Financial Inclusion Index:**
 - **Purpose:** Measures the extent of financial inclusion across India.
 - **Coverage:** Includes banking, investments, insurance, postal services, and pensions.
 - **Scale:** A single value ranging from 0 to 100, where 0 means complete exclusion and 100 means full inclusion.
 - **Parameters:** The index is based on three main parameters:
 - **Access (35%):** Availability of financial services.
 - **Usage (45%):** Extent to which financial services are used.
 - **Quality (20%):** Effectiveness and efficiency of financial services.
 - Published annually in July.

Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)

- The **Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA)** has instructed an online travel platform to refund booking amounts to consumers impacted by the COVID-19 lockdown.
- **About CCPA:**
 - **Statutory Body:** Established in 2020 under Section 10 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
 - **Objective:** To promote, protect, and enforce the rights of consumers as a whole.
 - **Composition:** Includes a Chief Commissioner and a prescribed number of other Commissioners.
 - **Powers and Functions:**
 - Conduct investigations into violations of consumer rights.
 - Institute complaints and prosecutions.
 - Order the recall of unsafe goods and services.