

**GOVERNMENT POLICIES****THE JOBS PUSH :RECRUITMENT OF 10 LAKH PEOPLE IN “MISSION****MODE**

CONTEXT : Recently ,The Centre announced plans to recruit 10 lakh people in ministries and departments over the next one-and-a-half years.The recruitment drive will ostensibly be directed towards the youth.

**Major Issues**

- **India has a jobs problem** that is beyond debate and it is worsened by the underlying **structure of the Indian economy**.
- The **rapidly growing services sector** tends not only to be less employment intensive, but is **also more geared towards absorbing the skilled sections** of the labour force.
- The gig economy, which does employ the unskilled, simply doesn't create **enough jobs for the millions entering the labour force each year**.
- The challenge has been the **inability to facilitate** the creation of a **labour intensive manufacturing sector** that is able to absorb the **low and semi-skilled sections of the labour force**.
- Over the last few years, the central government has been **going slow on recruitments to regular posts**.

**Data Analysis**

- According to the report of the **7th Pay Commission**, the total sanctioned strength of the central government fell from **41.76 lakh in 1994 to 38.9 lakh in 2014**.
- Between 2017-18 and 2021-22, the staff selection commission and the union public service commission recruited **only 1.74 lakh and 24,836 candidates**.
- On February 3, 2022, Minister of State in the DoPT told Rajya Sabha that as on March 1, 2020, as many as 8,72,243 positions were vacant in the central government.

**Governments Efforts**

- **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)**
  - It aims at enhancing the employment aspect of households in rural areas and provides 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to an adult member of the household who volunteers for the unskilled manual labour.
- **Sampoorna Rojgar Yojana**
  - It has the primary objective of providing skilled employment to improve the skill level in the rural and urban areas.
  - The main focus is on providing employment to the unemployed youth looking for jobs and those that have a desire to do manual and skilled labour in and around their village or locality.
  - The person gets fixed payment and incentives based on their performance
- **Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)**
  - The scheme was announced in 2008.
  - The primary objective of the scheme is to generate continuous and sustainable employment opportunities in Rural and Urban areas of the country
- **Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan**
  - It was announced in 2020 with a mission of 125 days covering 116 districts of six states namely; Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand.
  - These states received back the maximum number of migrant workers.
  - It ensures that each migrant worker gets the opportunity to work under the program and will also help them for the development and expansion of their livelihoods for the long-run.

- **Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY)**
  - This is a scheme where the government provides an incentive to the employers in the form of EPS Employee Pension Scheme and EPF Employee Provident Fund for generating new employment.
  - By doing so, there are more employment opportunities and the incentive will motivate the employers to provide the same
- **Atal Beema Vyakti Kalyan Yojana**
  - This scheme was introduced in 2018 for a period of 2 years but was extended considering the pandemic.
  - It provides relief to insured persons at the instance of their unemployment
- **Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojna (RGSKY)**
  - Under this scheme, persons who are insured for a period of 3 or more years are eligible to gain relief when they are unemployed, medical care from ESI hospitals for self as well as family and can also engage in training programmes to upgrade skills
- **Aam Admi Bima Yojana**
  - The name of this scheme translates to “Common Man’s Insurance Scheme”.
  - The scheme provides monetary aid for death or disability.
  - The people who are eligible for this scheme are the ones who are not on payroll like fishermen, auto drivers, etc.
- **National Career Service**
  - This is a site ICT based portal under the Ministry of Labour and Employment that provides a platform to people for career opportunities as well as opportunities to hire people to companies and other institutions
- **Aajeevika – National Rural Livelihoods Programme**
  - Launched by the Ministry of rural development in 2011, this scheme targets rural poor households through self managed Self Help Groups (SHGs) and other institutions to create a livelihood
- **E-shram**
  - It is a portal instituted by the Ministry of Labour to create a National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW).
  - It facilitates the registration of employees aged between 16-59 years in the unorganised sector like street vendors, workers in construction, freelancers, domestic, migrant, agricultural workers and so on.
- **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)**
  - MUDRA stands for Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Ltd.
  - It is a financial institution set up by the Government.
  - Under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), banks provide collateral-free loans up to Rs 10 lakh.
  - These loans are given to non-farm small/micro enterprises for income generating activities.
- **Start-Up India Programme:** A flagship initiative, intended to build a strong eco-system for nurturing innovation and start-ups in the country to drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities.

### **What more needs to be done ?**

- Unemployment and inflation are the two biggest economic issues today, the government appears to be now moving to tackle them with some urgency.
- There is a lack of proper education, training, and skill development in the country.

- The programs must be aimed at providing higher-paying jobs and to perpetually attract the young demographic of the population towards attractive jobs.
- With roughly 12 million individuals entering the working age population each year, around 6 million jobs need to be created each year, assuming a labour force participation rate of 0.5.
  - This requires creating jobs at a scale which only the private sector can do efficiently.
- The employment objective and the output objective can be achieved, if greater investment is directed to small enterprises rather than to large enterprises.
- It is necessary to organise the Rural works Programme.
  - Failure of implementation of the Rural Works Programme underlines the relatively low importance given to the rural sector to provide additional employment to millions of landless labourers and small and marginal farmers.

## PRELIMS

### 1. La Nina

A recent study shows that the ongoing **La Nina** may become the longest on record. This indicates a major shift in natural climatic patterns in a warming world.

#### About

- There are chances that the current La Nina could continue through the southwest monsoon season, winter of 2022 and even early 2023.
- This is especially evidenced by **La Nina's strong continuation** through the summer of 2022 and its involvement in the early, intense and extensive **heatwaves** in northwest and central India.
- **What happens during the La Nina event?**
  - During a La Nina event, **cooler-than-average sea surface temperatures** prevail over the **east and the central Pacific Ocean**.
  - Due to the cooler temperature, the **trade winds above the sea surface** change in character because of a difference in the wind pressures.
  - This change in the character of the trade winds **is then carried all around the world** affecting different regions in different ways.
  - Many **regions become colder and wetter**, while many others become **hotter and drier**.
- The character of La Nina, an ocean-atmosphere event that usually brings down global temperatures, is changing.
- **Cause:**
  - Human-induced climate change amplifies the impacts of naturally occurring events like La Niña and is increasingly influencing our weather patterns.
  - Extreme El Niño and La Niña events may increase in frequency from about one every 20 years to one every 10 years by the end of the 21st century under aggressive greenhouse gas emission scenarios.

### 2. Census 2021

The census exercise, which was originally scheduled to take place in 2021, has recently been further pushed to 2023-24.

#### Census of 2021

- It will be the 15th Indian Census.
- It will be conducted in two phases, house listing and population enumeration.
- It will also provide a facility to the public for self-enumeration.
- For the first time, the Census 2021 will use the Mobile App for data collection.

- Apart from allowing the provision of online self-enumeration, home visit by the enumerators for collecting census data will continue as in the past.

**Cause of the delay:**

- **Covid-19:**
  - Initially, the Covid-19 pandemic extended the deadline of the census.
- **Freezing of administrative boundaries:**
  - Before every Census, states are required to provide information on changes in the number of notified districts, villages, towns and other administrative units such as tehsils, talukas and police stations to the Registrar General of India (RGI).
  - Freezing of boundary limits of administrative units, at least three months prior, is a prerequisite for conducting the census.
  - The **office of the Registrar General of India (RGI)** has recently extended the deadline for freezing administrative boundaries to December 31, 2022, causing further delay in the exercise.

**3. Proposed Reforms to WTO**

Recently, India expressed concern that some suggestions on reforming the WTO will hurt developing nations.

**About World Trade Organisation**

- It is an **international institution** that oversees the global trade rules among nations.
- It was established in **1995**.
- It superseded the **1947 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)**.
  - The **GATT** traces its origins to the **1944 Bretton Woods Conference**, which laid the foundations for the **post-World War II financial system** and established two key institutions, the **International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank**.
- The main function of the organisation is to **help producers of goods and services, exporters, and importers protect and manage their businesses**.

**Reforms suggested at Geneva meet**

- **Pandemic Response:**
  - Even though demand for COVID-19 shots has tapered off, India, South Africa and some 100 other backers are seeking a potential waiver of intellectual property rights for vaccines and treatments.
  - However, WTO members remain divided over a draft deal for vaccines negotiated between the four main parties (India, South Africa, the European Union and the United States) that were forged to break an 18-month deadlock.
- **Fishing:**
  - Separate negotiations are aimed at removing subsidies that contribute to overfishing, a step that environmentalists say is important to help fish stocks recover.
- **Food Security:**
  - It aims for a response to the food crisis driven partly by export disruptions from major wheat exporters Ukraine and Russia.
- **E-Commerce Moratorium:**
  - A ban on import duties or so-called "electronic transmissions" worth hundreds of billions of dollars a year is up for renewal.
  - The moratorium has been in place since 1998 but South Africa and India have launched a separate proposal to lift it. They have opposed an extension in the past, citing lost customs revenues, but have not so far blocked it.

- **Environment:**
  - New Zealand submitted a fossil fuel phase-out proposal but most delegates see this as too ambitious.
  - If a deal on cutting fishing subsidies is agreed, that could give environmental efforts some momentum.

### ANSWER WRITING

**Q. Can the vicious cycle of gender inequality, poverty and malnutrition be broken through microfinancing of women SHGs? Explain with examples. (150 words)**

#### **Introduction**

The Global Gender Gap Report 2021 ranks India at 140 among 156 countries. This gender inequality is the outcome of unequal opportunity, education, health economic participation and empowerment, which results in pushing women into a vicious cycle of poverty and malnutrition.

Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are informal associations of people who choose to come together to find ways to improve their living conditions. Microfinance is a type of banking service provided to unemployed or low-income individuals or groups who otherwise would have no other access to financial services.

#### **Body**

Microfinancing of women SHGs can help uplift even the most vulnerable and marginalised section of women in the following ways:

- By mobilising poor rural women and building community institutions of the poor, SHGs are aimed at reducing poverty. To this, microfinancing acts as a catalyst because it can help channel the savings and funding of the SGH members.
- Credit flow will make women work and interact with the outside world. This will help in reducing gender inequality and promote community involvement.
- Microfinancing of women SHGs improves the decision-making ability of its members. With greater say in the matters of resource utilization, family planning etc., it results in better nutritional values among their families.

#### **Conclusion**

Though microfinancing of women SHGs can help overcome challenges like malnutrition, poverty and gender equality, it is not alone enough to change the grim situation. Additionally, there needs to be a change of patriarchal mindset, spread of awareness about SHGs and penetration of rural banking facilities.

### QUIZ

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS):
  1. The periodic labour force survey is conducted annually by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
  2. The survey estimates key indicators such as worker population ratio, labour force participation rate, and unemployment rate.
 Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
  - (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only**
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2
2. Consider the following statements regarding the black death:
  1. The term refers to the bubonic plague that spread in the polar countries affecting the respiratory system of humans.
  2. It is caused by bacteria and spreads through fleas that are carried by rodent species.

3. There is no scope for human-to-human transmission and the bacteria originated from bats.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are **incorrect**?

- (a) **1 and 3 only**  
(b) 1 only  
(c) 2 and 3 only  
(d) 3 only

3. Consider the following statements:

1. A white dwarf is formed when a low-mass star like the sun exhausts most of its nuclear fuel.
2. The Milky Way galaxy through cosmic cannibalism cannibalized a dwarf galaxy called the Helmi Stream.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only  
(b) 2 only  
(c) **Both 1 and 2**  
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

4. Consider the following statements:

1. The Model Tenancy Act, 2021, requires the landlord and tenant to sign a written agreement that specifies the rent, period of tenancy, and other related terms.
2. The Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act, prohibits the transfer of land to non-tribal people, to ensure community ownership.
3. The Santhal Pargana Tenancy Act prohibits the sale of Adivasi land to non-Adivasis in the Santhal Pargana region along Jharkhand's border with Bengal.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only  
(b) 2 and 3 only  
(c) 1 and 3 only  
(d) **1, 2 and 3**

5. Consider the following pairs:

**Water Bodies**

1. Nares Strait
2. Barents Sea
3. Issyk-Ku
4. Chukchi Sea

**Located in/between**

- Denmark and Canada
- Norway and Russia
- Kyrgyzstan
- China and the Philippines

How many pairs are matched correctly?

- (a) One pair only  
(b) Two pairs only  
(c) **Three pairs only**  
(d) All four pairs