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SUMMARY***

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INDIA'S JOBS CRISIS

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Syllabus: Unemployment

Context: India is facing a jobs crisis, marked by **low labour demand for regular wage work**.

Status of High **unemployment** rate in India:

- The **unemployment rate** in the country has consistently **increased over the last two decades** - from **2% in 2010 to 5% in 2015 and 6.1% in 2018**.
- According to the **Center for Monitoring Indian Economy**, it was **over 7% for most of 2021 and 2022**
- Over 42% of India's graduates under 25 were unemployed in 2021-22** as per the State of Working India 2023.
- Despite a rise in GDP growth during the 2000s, the **employment growth rate remained unresponsive**, indicating a phenomenon of **jobless growth**

Types of Employment in India:

Types	Description
Wage Employment	Regular Wage Jobs: Formal, structured positions with fixed salaries, found in government organizations, private companies, and multinational corporations.
	Casual or Daily Wage Labor: Involves daily wage labour, prevalent in sectors like construction, agriculture, and unorganized labour markets.
Self-Employment	Entrepreneurship: Individuals engaged in entrepreneurial activities, running small businesses or enterprises such as shops, local services, or manufacturing units.
	Farmers: Agriculture serves as a significant source of self-employment , with individuals owning and operating farms independently or as part of a family-run enterprise.
	Freelancing and Informal Work: Reflects the gig economy trend, with individuals working as freelancers, consultants, or in part-time roles.

Causes for high unemployment rate:

- Structural shortfalls:**
 - In the past 40 years, economic growth in India has aided a **structural shift away from agricultural jobs**.
 - However, this has **mainly moved to construction and not to high-value sectors** such as manufacturing or services.

- In the **non-farm sector**, the link between GDP growth and the pace of job creation has weakened over time, leading to rising unemployment.
- **Shortfalls with social infrastructure:**
 - While India has made **huge progress in improving its physical infrastructure**, it has **fallen behind on human infrastructure like education and skills**.
- **Urban-rural disparity:**
 - **Physical infrastructure** investments are focused **more on urban areas**, which benefited in the 1990s.
 - However, from 2000 onwards, with the pace of **de-urbanisation of manufacturing** gathering momentum, the **manufacturing sector is migrating away from urban to rural areas to remain cost-competitive**.
 - However, **poor physical and human infrastructure in rural areas** has **constrained the growth drivers** and limited the size of the manufacturing sector in India.
- **Education-skills mismatch:**
 - **Jobs catering to the qualifications of graduates** who have studied subjects like agriculture, history, English, philosophy and communication are **difficult, and increasingly impossible**, to come by.
 - On the one hand, the young find themselves **overqualified for manual labour jobs**. On the other, they **lack the technical skills** required for high-paying jobs in IT and professional services.
 - In the **absence of suitable employment in the private sector** for this section, many turn to government jobs.
 - However, a **rapid increase in the supply of educated youth**, coupled with a **gradual reduction of public-sector vacancies** has resulted in stiff competition for even the most junior positions in government offices.

Jobless Growth in India:

- **Two types of jobless growth in India:**
 - **Weak Responsiveness:** Automation and tech introduction lead to jobless growth, but increasing GDP can still boost employment.
 - **High Responsiveness:** In India, **labour productivity growth is strongly** linked to output growth. So even though GDP increases, output will increase only if labour productivity increases.

Social Impact of Unemployment in India:

Social Impact	Details
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Marginalisation of People	Prolonged unemployment leads to the erosion of skills, reducing employability even when jobs become available. Perpetuates a cycle of joblessness as skills diminish over time.
Social Unrest	High unemployment can result in dissatisfaction, social unrest , and various forms of manifestation such as protests, crime rates, and civil unrest.
Migration	High unemployment often drives rural-to-urban migration in search of better opportunities. This migration can strain urban infrastructure , leading to the development of slums and inadequate living conditions.
Impact on Education	Financial struggles due to high unemployment may deter families from investing in education . Immediate earning potential may take precedence over education, perpetuating a cycle of limited opportunities for future generations .
Disproportionate Impact on Social Groups	Disadvantaged groups like youth, women, rural labourers, minorities, and scheduled castes are disproportionately affected by unemployment. - Exacerbates existing inequalities in society.
Increased Crime	Lack of lawful income sources due to unemployment can drive individuals toward illegal activities . Unemployment is linked to higher crime rates in affected areas .

Various Approaches to growth and employment:

Aspect	Details
Keynesian Theory	Emphasizes aggregate demand as the key factor influencing employment. Fiscal policy is seen as a tool to boost labour demand by stimulating output.
Mahalanobis Strategy	Identifies availability of capital goods as the primary constraint on output and employment. Advocates for policies promoting heavy industrialization .
Structuralist Theories	Based on experiences of developing countries, highlights agrarian and balance of payment constraints on output. This led to significant policy debates in India during the 1970s and early 1990s.

Common assumption	Pre-	Across these frameworks, increasing the output growth rate in the non-agricultural sector was believed to be sufficient for boosting employment growth in the formal sector.
Contemporary Challenge		Recognition that addressing the employment challenge requires a separate policy focus on employment, not just relying on more rapid GDP growth.

(c) the marginal productivity of labour is zero
(d) productivity of workers is low

Ans: C

Facts for Prelims (FFP)

KONSACHEM

Context: The article discusses the association of **Apostle Bartholomew** with agriculture in Goa, particularly during the harvest festival called **Konsachem**.

What is Konsachem?

It is an important **harvest festival celebrated in Goa**, primarily in **August**. Both **Hindus and Catholics** participate in their unique ways. The festival involves blessing the **first sheaves of rice** when harvested.

For Goan Catholics, the peak of the celebration occurs on **August 24, the Feast Day of Saint Bartholomew** (his name meaning 'son of the furrows'), one of the **12 Apostles of Jesus Christ, who visited India in 55 AD**.

Before him, **Saint Thomas** arrived in India in **52 AD**

NORTH AFRICAN METAL ART

Context: **Metal engraving**, a traditional craft practised **across North Africa and West Asia** for centuries, has gained **international recognition by being added to UNESCO's intangible heritage list**.

North African metal art refers to the **traditional craft of manually cutting words or symbols into metal, particularly jewellery and household objects**.

This longstanding artistic tradition has been **practised across North Africa and West Asia** for centuries. The art form involves intricate **engraving techniques applied to various metals, such as copper, silver, and gold**.



Measures to address unemployment:

- India needs **good infrastructure, both physical and human**, to create more jobs.
- There has to be a **convergence in the paths of urbanisation and industrialisation** to streamline job creation.
- **Tier II cities should be focused** as these new cities have the potential to **generate 70% of the country's new jobs and GDP** over the next 20 years.
- **National Employment Policy (NEP):** Implement a focused policy considering both the demand and supply sides. Enhance **workforce quality, bridge skills gaps**, and create public jobs.
- **Urban MGNREGA:** Introduce an urban version to provide income security for informal jobs and create public assets in urban areas.
- **Industrialization and Agricultural Investment:** Rapid industrialization and increased investment in agriculture create more jobs and boost productivity.
- **Diversify Agriculture and Promote Agro-Processing:** Shift to labour-intensive crops, promote agro-processing for export, reduce wastage, and increase value addition.
- **Expand Education and Healthcare:** Enhance human capital through education and healthcare expansion, providing employment in the social sector.
- **Reform Education, Provide Vocational Training:** Improve skills and employability through education system reforms and vocational/technical training.

Conclusion

More than 50% of India's population is below the age of 25 and more than 65% is below the age of 35. India's young demographic is an asset in an ageing world. This clearly presents the case for India to **address the jobless growth scenario**.

Mains Links:

Q. Most of the unemployment in India is structural in nature. Examine the methodology adopted to compute unemployment in the country and suggest improvements. (UPSC 2023)

Prelims Links:

Q. Disguised unemployment generally means (UPSC 2013)
(a) a large number of people remain unemployed
(b) alternative employment is not available

COLOMBO SECURITY CONCLAVE

Colombo Security Conclave



Context: The Colombo Security Conclave (CSC), involving democracies like India, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Bangladesh, and Seychelles, aims to address Indian Ocean challenges

About	Details
What is Colombo Security Conclave?	The CSC is a trilateral maritime security grouping formed in 2011 , consisting of India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives. Mauritius is the fourth member, and Bangladesh and Seychelles are observers in the group. The CSC's revival in 2020 is linked to China's growing influence in the Indian Ocean
Envisaged Goal	The CSC focuses on enhancing and strengthening regional security in five pillars : 1. Maritime Safety and Security 2. Countering Terrorism and Radicalization 3. Combating Trafficking and Transnational Organized Crime 4. Cyber Security and Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Technology 5. Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief
Significance	It serves as India's outreach to the Indian Ocean (in alignment with India's vision of "SAGAR" vision), emphasizing regional cooperation and shared security objectives. It also aims to counter China's influence in the region and reduce the Chinese footprint in member countries.
Challenges	CSC faces vulnerability due to domestic politics in member-states , as seen with the Maldives' absence in the recent meeting of CSC members (NSA Meet)
Conclusion	India sees the CSC as crucial for consolidating its regional leadership amid evolving geopolitical dynamics. The success of the CSC hinges on a unified strategic vision and resilience against increasing Chinese influence. To foster collaboration and avoid conflicts, India must acknowledge the IOR's evolution into a global common

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RODTEP

Context: The Indian government is **exploring options to reinstate tax remission benefits** for **sugar exports**, which were **excluded from the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products (RoDTEP) scheme in June 2022**.

- Sugar was moved to the **'restricted' category as a precautionary measure** to enhance domestic availability and prevent a surge in prices.
- The **sugar industry has appealed to reclassify sugar into the 'free' category with certain conditions**, such as obtaining permissions from the Directorate of Sugar for exports.

About RoDTEP:

The **Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme** has been introduced with the aim of **neutralizing the taxes and duties incurred on exported goods** that are not credited, remitted, or refunded in any manner, and thus, remain embedded in the export goods.

The scheme **provides a rebate for all hidden central, state, and local duties, taxes, and levies on exported goods** that **have not been refunded under any other existing scheme**.

The scheme is designed to be **compliant with World Trade Organization (WTO) principles**.

RARE EARTH PROCESSING TECHNOLOGIES

Context: **China**, the leading **global processor of rare earths**, has **imposed a ban on the export of technology** essential for **extracting and separating these strategic metals**.

- This action is part of a **revision to the list of technologies considered vital for national security**.
- The ban covers **not only technology related to extraction and separation** but also extends to the **export of production technology for rare earth metals, alloy materials, and specific rare earth magnets**.
- This move by China coincides with **efforts by Europe and the United States to reduce dependence on Chinese rare earths**, which currently **account for 90% of the world's refined output**.

Rare earths, a group of 17 metals crucial for **manufacturing magnets used in electric vehicles**, wind turbines, and various electronic devices, have become a focal point for geopolitical considerations.

SELF-POLLINATION

Context: In a groundbreaking discovery, scientists have observed rapid evolution in a flowering plant, **Viola arvensis (field pansy)**, in Paris, France. The plant is producing **less nectar and smaller flowers to attract fewer pollinators**, displaying signs of **self-pollination**.

What are the reason for the evolution?
Changes in the environment especially due to anthropogenic activities have limited the population of **pollinators** (such as Bees). In such a situation, plants evolve to self-pollinate itself.

What is Self-pollination?

It is a **reproductive process in plants** where pollen from a flower's male reproductive organs (**anther**) fertilizes the female reproductive organs (**stigma**) of the same flower or another flower on the same plant.

- The mechanism ensures the plant's **ability to reproduce** without relying on **external pollinators** like insects or wind.

Mechanism of the Self-Pollination:

- Anther and Stigma Proximity:** In self-pollinating plants, the anther (producing pollen) is close to the stigma (receiving pollen) within the same flower.
- Pollen Transfer:** Pollen grains are transferred from the anther to the stigma, either by physical contact or through the plant's internal mechanisms.
- Fertilization:** The pollen tube **grows down the style to the ovary**, where fertilization takes place, resulting in the formation of seeds.

4. **Genetic Similarity:** Since both the pollen and the ovule come from the same plant, the offspring are **genetically identical to the parent**, leading to limited genetic diversity.

Self-pollination ensures reproductive success, especially in **environments with limited pollinators**, but it can also **reduce genetic variability** in plant populations and risk to the plant-pollinator interaction system.



INS IMPHAL

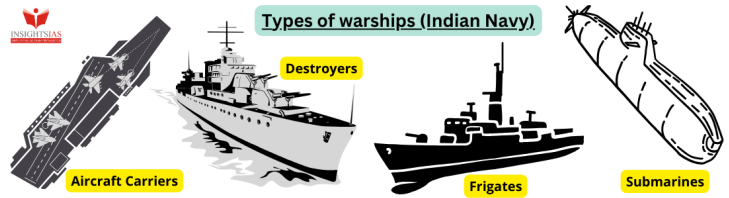
Context: [INS Imphal](#), the **third warship of Project 15B** forming the **Visakhapatnam class stealth-guided missile destroyers**, is set to be commissioned into the **Indian Navy**.

- The commissioning of INS Imphal holds special significance, being the **largest and most advanced destroyer named after a city from the northeast**.

Features:

- The **Visakhapatnam class** is recognized as **one of the most advanced ship classes in the Indian Navy**, capable of independent offensive operations.
- The **arsenal of the Visakhapatnam class includes BrahMos surface-to-surface cruise missiles**, vertically launched Barak-8 surface-to-air missiles, a 127 mm main gun, AK-630 30mm guns for close-point engagement, indigenously developed 533 mm torpedo launchers, and RBU-6000 anti-submarine rocket launchers.
- Strategically, **destroyers play a vital role in naval operations**, protecting fleets and carrier battle groups from short-range attackers.
- It can **operate independently and is well-equipped for network-centric warfare**, utilizing information technology and computer networking tools.

This pays **tribute to Manipur's historical contributions to India's freedom struggle**, emphasizing the region's importance in national security, sovereignty, and prosperity.



Type of Warship	Description	Examples
Aircraft Carriers	Large ships capable of carrying and launching aircraft.	INS Vikramaditya, INS Vikrant (under construction)
Destroyers	Versatile warships with anti-air, anti-ship, and anti-submarine capabilities.	INS Kolkata, INS Visakhapatnam, INS Imphal
Frigates	Smaller than destroyers, with multi-role capabilities.	INS Shivalik, INS Nilgiri
Corvettes	Compact warships designed for coastal defense and patrol duties.	INS Kamorta, INS Kiltan
Submarines	Submersible vessels used for stealthy underwater operations.	INS Kalvari, INS Arihant
Patrol Vessels	Smaller craft used for patrolling, search and rescue, and other coastal missions.	INS Saryu, INS Sunayna
Mine Countermeasures Vessels	Designed for mine-clearing operations.	INS Nireekshak, INS Karwar
Landing Platform Docks	Amphibious assault ships for launching troops and equipment ashore.	INS Jalashwa, INS Shardul
Offshore Patrol Vessels	Used for patrolling and surveillance in offshore waters.	INS Vikram, INS Vajra
Research Vessels	Ships dedicated to scientific research and oceanographic studies.	INS Sagardhwani, INS Sindhughosh (research variant)
Training Ships	Used for training purposes and instruction of naval cadets.	INS Tarangini, INS Sudarshini

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