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Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Annual Report 2022-2023

Context: Recently the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Annual Report 2022-23 was released by the NSSO.

- The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) initiated the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) in April 2017 to provide more frequent labour force data.
- PLFS aims to achieve two main objectives:
 - Estimating key employment and unemployment indicators such as Worker Population Ratio, Labour Force Participation Rate, and Unemployment Rate every three months for urban areas in the 'Current Weekly Status' (CWS).
 - Estimating employment and unemployment indicators in both 'Usual Status' and CWS for both rural and urban areas on an annual basis.
- Five Annual Reports have been released so far, covering both rural and urban areas, presenting estimates for various employment and unemployment parameters. These reports are based on data collected from PLFS during specific periods: July 2017-June 2018, July 2018-June 2019, July 2019-June 2020, July 2020-June 2021, and July 2021-June 2022.
- The sixth Annual Report is currently in the works and will be published by NSSO. It will be based on the Periodic Labour Force Survey conducted from July 2022 to June 2023.
- Notable trends observed in the PLFS data include:
 - A consistent increase in the Labour Force Participation Rate and Worker Population Ratio.
 - A constant decrease in the Unemployment Rate.

Sampling Method

- The sample size for the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted from July 2022 to June 2023 included 12,714 FSUs, consisting of 6,982 villages and 5,732 urban blocks.
- The survey covered 1,01,655 households (55,844 in rural areas and 45,811 in urban areas) and 4,19,512 persons (2,43,971 in rural areas and 1,75,541 in urban areas). (**More in rural and less in urban**)
- Among those surveyed, 3,20,260 individuals were aged 15 years and above (1,81,049 in rural areas and 1,39,211 in urban areas). (**More in rural and less in urban**)
- Key Employment and Unemployment Indicators in PLFS:
 - **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** Percentage of individuals in the population who are in the labour force (working or seeking work).
 - **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** Percentage of employed individuals in the population.
 - **Unemployment Rate (UR):** Percentage of unemployed individuals among those in the labour force.
- **Activity Status:**
 - **Usual Status:** Determined based on activities in the last 365 days before the survey.
 - **Current Weekly Status (CWS):** Determined based on activities in the last 7 days before the survey.

Key Findings

- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) Trends:**
 - In rural areas, LFPR for individuals aged 15 years and above increased from 50.7% in 2017-18 to 60.8% in 2022-23.
 - In urban areas, LFPR for the same demographic increased from 47.6% to 50.4% during the same period.
 - For males in India, LFPR rose from 75.8% in 2017-18 to 78.5% in 2022-23.
 - For females, there was a substantial increase from 23.3% to 37.0% over the same period.
- **Worker Population Ratio (WPR) Trends:**
 - In rural areas, WPR for individuals aged 15 years and above increased from 48.1% in 2017-18 to 59.4% in 2022-23.
 - In urban areas, WPR increased from 43.9% to 47.7% for the same demographic.
 - The WPR for males in India increased from 71.2% in 2017-18 to 76.0% in 2022-23.
 - For females, the WPR increased from 22.0% to 35.9% over the same period.
- **Unemployment Rate (UR) Trends:**
 - In rural areas, UR for individuals aged 15 years and above decreased from 5.3% in 2017-18 to 2.4% in 2022-23.
 - In urban areas, UR decreased from 7.7% to 5.4% for the same demographic.
 - The UR for males in India decreased from 6.1% in 2017-18 to 3.3% in 2022-23.
 - For females, the UR decreased from 5.6% to 2.9% over the same period.

General Elections

Context: The Election Commission has finalized the for conducting the General Election for the Legislative Assemblies of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, and Telangana.

Features of Election in India

- Articles 324 to 329 within Part XV of the Constitution of India encompass provisions related to elections.
- The exclusive authority to oversee elections in India is vested in the Election Commission (EC) under Article 324 of the Indian Constitution.
- India is divided into geographical constituencies, each represented by a single member for both Parliamentary and Assembly elections.

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- Any Indian citizen of voting age can register as a voter, with exceptions made for individuals deemed ineligible due to reasons such as non-residence, unsoundness of mind, criminal activity, or corrupt practices.
- Parliament holds the authority to pass legislation governing the creation of electoral rolls, constituency delimitation, and related procedures.
- The Constitution prohibits the judiciary from interfering in electoral processes, preventing challenges to laws regarding constituency delimitation or seat allocation.
- India employs the First Past the Post system in Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assembly elections, where constituencies are created.

System of Voting

- Universal adult franchise is a cornerstone of democracy, ensuring equal voting rights for all citizens aged 18 and above.
- The Electoral Roll, also known as the Voters' List, is compiled to include all eligible voters, irrespective of factors like caste, religion, gender, education, or socioeconomic status.
- Before elections, citizens can review and correct their details on the voters' list, guaranteeing their right to vote.
- On election day, citizens cast their votes based on this list, ensuring equal participation in choosing representatives.
- The government regularly updates the voter's list, adding eligible voters and removing those who have moved or passed away.
- A comprehensive revision of the voter's list occurs every five years to maintain accuracy and inclusivity.

Election Laws

- Representation of People Act 1950:
 - Determining the eligibility criteria for voters.
 - The process of compiling electoral rolls.
 - Constituency delimitation.
 - Seat allocation in both Parliament and State Legislatures.
- Representation of People Act 1951:
 - The administrative framework for managing elections.
 - Offences related to elections.
 - Resolution of election disputes.
 - Conducting by-elections.
 - The registration of political parties.

Election Machinery

- Elections in India are overseen by the powerful and independent institution known as the Election Commission of India.
- The Election Commission is a constitutional body with autonomy similar to that of Supreme Court judges.
- The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) is appointed by the President but is not answerable to the President or the government after appointment.
- The Election Commission is vested with significant powers to ensure free and fair elections, without influence from the government or ruling parties.
- The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) is nominated by the Election Commission and supervises election-related work for Assembly and Parliament elections within a state or union territory.
- District Election Officers (DEOs) oversee election activities in a district under the overall control of the Chief Electoral Officer.
- Returning Officers (ROs) are responsible for conducting elections in parliamentary or assembly constituencies.
- Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) prepare electoral rolls for constituencies.
- Presiding Officers, aided by polling officers, manage polling stations during elections.
- Observers, appointed by the Election Commission under statutory authority, oversee parliamentary and assembly constituencies and report directly to the Commission.

India-Israel Relations

Context: Shortly after Hamas launched a weekend attack on Israel, PM Narendra Modi unequivocally expressed India's support for Israel, abandoning any appearance of impartiality.

Diplomatic

- India officially recognized Israel in 1950, but full diplomatic ties were established on January 29, 1992.
- As of December 2020, India was one of 164 UN member states with diplomatic ties to Israel.

Economic and Commercial

- Trade between India and Israel increased from USD 5 billion before COVID-19 to about USD 7.5 billion by January 2023.
- Approximately 50% of bilateral trade is in diamonds.
- India is Israel's third-largest trade partner in Asia and seventh-largest globally.
- Israeli companies have invested in various sectors in India and are setting up R&D centres and production units.
- India is in discussions with Israel for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Defence

- India is a significant importer of weapons from Israel, accounting for about 40% of Israel's annual arms exports.
- Indian armed forces use a wide range of Israeli weapon systems, including AWACS, drones, anti-missile defense systems, and anti-aircraft missile systems.

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- A Task Force was formed during the 15th Joint Working Group meeting on Bilateral Defence Cooperation to create a Ten-Year Roadmap for enhanced cooperation.

Agriculture

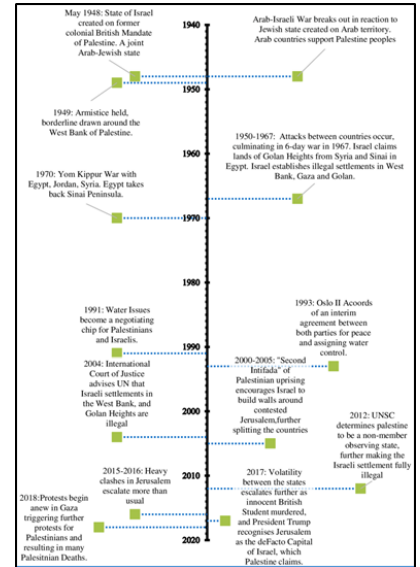
- In May 2021, a three-year work program agreement for agriculture cooperation was signed.
- The program aims to expand Centres of Excellence (CoE), promote self-sufficiency, and encourage private sector involvement.

Science & Technology

- Multiple MoUs have been signed between Israel's Start-Up National Central and Indian entrepreneurship centres.
- The India-Israel Industrial R&D and Innovation Fund (I4F) has been expanded to include sectors like renewable energy and ICT, with increased participation from academia and businesses.
- I4F supports joint industrial R&D projects between Indian and Israeli companies.

Others

- Israel is joining the India-led International Solar Alliance (ISA) to enhance cooperation in renewable energy and clean energy initiatives.



NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Udangudi Panangarupatti



Tamil Nadu's **Udangudi Panangarupatti (Palm Jaggery)** recently earned a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

About:

- The jaggery is made using traditional methods, **avoiding modern techniques** or additives.
- The region's **red sand dune soil**, with low groundwater and **dry climate**, gives the jaggery a distinctive taste due to its high **sucrose** content.
- The dry climate of the area is ideal for **long-term storage** of this palm jaggery.
- No chemical additives like **Triple super phosphate** or **phosphoric acid** are used in its production.

About Geographical Indication (GI) Tags:

- A GI tag signifies that a product's **unique** qualities or **reputation** are linked to a specific **geographical origin**.
- GI tags are used for **agricultural** products, **food** items, **alcoholic** beverages, **handicrafts** and industrial products.
- India's Geographical Indications of **Goods** (Registration and Protection) **Act, 1999**, governs GI registration and protection.

Bhuria Committee



Recently, the Bhuria Committee in **1995** made significant recommendations regarding the governance of **Scheduled Areas**.

About Bhuria Committee:

- The Bhuria Committee was a **government-appointed committee** established to investigate issues faced by **Scheduled Tribes (STs)** in India.
- The committee's tasks included formulating a comprehensive **tribal policy**, outlining a vision for the future of **STs** and designing structures akin to **Panchayati Raj** Institutions for **Tribal Areas** and **Scheduled Areas**.
- **Mr. Dileep Singh Bhuria** headed the Bhuria Committee, which submitted its report in **January 1995**.

About PESA Act, 1996:

- The Bhuria Committee's suggestions led to the enactment of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) **Act, 1996 (PESA Act)**.
- It extended the **provisions of Part IX** of the Constitution related to panchayats to **scheduled areas** with specific modifications.
- The Act intended to provide **self-rule** for the majority of the tribal population.

Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram



Recently, the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK), a **government policy** focused on **adolescent health** in India,

About:

- Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) launched in **January 7, 2014** by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- The program aims to facilitate the comprehensive development of adolescents.
- It defines adolescents as individuals **aged 10-19**, encompassing **urban** and **rural** areas, including both genders, regardless of **marital status**, **socioeconomic** status, and **educational** background.
- It addresses six thematic areas: **nutrition**, sexual **reproductive** health, **substance** misuse, **non-communicable diseases**, **mental health**, and injuries and violence.
- This program offers **iron** and **folic acid supplements** to school-going adolescent boys and girls and out-of-school adolescent girls nationwide.
- It allocates funds to states/union territories (UTs) for the procurement of **sanitary napkins** for adolescent girls aged **10-19** years.

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Garumbatitan Morellensis



Recently, scientists in **Spain** discovered a massive **long-necked dinosaur** named **Garumbatitan morellensis**.

About Garumbatitan Morellensis:

- Garumbatitan morellensis belongs to the **Titanosaur** species, a subgroup of **sauropods**.
- Titanosaurs were the only lineage of sauropods to survive the **asteroid impact** that caused the **mass extinction** event about **66 million years ago**.
- These fossils date back to the Lower Cretaceous period, approximately **145 to 66 million years ago**.

About Titanosaurs:

- Titanosaurs lived from the **Late Jurassic Epoch (about 163.5 to 145 million years ago)** to the end of the **Cretaceous Period (about 145 to 66 million years ago)**.
- Fossils of Titanosaurs have been found on all continents except **Antarctica**, comprising approximately **40 species**.
- Titanosaurs included some of the **largest terrestrial animals** ever known, with some approaching the size of modern whales.
- Titanosaurs were **herbivorous** quadrupeds with **long necks, tails and small heads**.

Place in News

Lake Puraquequara

Recently, Lake **Puraquequara** in **Amazonas**, once abundant with water, has transformed into mud flats, signaling a **dire situation**.

Location: Lake Puraquequara is located in the Amazon river basin..

Cause: The drying of the lake is attributed to severe drought in the Amazon river basin, resulting from **El Niño** and the warming of northern tropical **Atlantic Ocean** waters.

Climate Change Impact: **Global warming** and the **burning of fossil fuels** exacerbate these climate phenomena, further affecting the region.

About the Amazon River Basin:

- The Amazon river basin is the **world's largest drainage basin**.
- It spans approximately **34%** of South America's landmass.
- This basin is home to approximately **60%** of the **world's rainforest** and supports about **10%** of the **planet's** known forms of life.
- **Countries Covered:** The Amazon river basin covers multiple countries, including **Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname** and **Venezuela**.
- It crosses the **equator** and the **Tropic of Capricorn** in **Brazil**.



Personality in News

G. N. Ramachandran

G. N. Ramachandran (1922-2001)

Dr. Gopalamudram Narayana Ramachandran aka GNR born in **Ernakulam, Kerala, India**.

Contributions:

- Using **X-ray diffraction**, he, along with Gopinath Kartha, proposed the **triple helical** structure of collagen in **1954**, garnering global scientific attention.
- He established a research school in **molecular biology** at **Madras University**.

Awards and Honors:

- He received the **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award for Physics** in India in **1961**.
- He became a **Fellow** of the **Royal Society of London**.
- In **1999**, he was honored with the **Ewald Prize** by the International Union of **Crystallography** for his outstanding contributions to crystallography.
- He was nominated for the **Nobel Prize** for his fundamental contributions in **protein structure** and function.

Values:

- GNR's legacy includes fostering **scientific temper, leadership** and significant contributions to **molecular biology** research.



POINTS TO PONDER

- ❖ From which region does Hamas operate? - Gaza Strip
- ❖ Wye River Memorandum is related to? - Israel-Palestine Conflict
- ❖ Who has won the Nobel Prize of Economics, 2023? - Claudia Goldin
- ❖ 16th edition of International Cyber Security and Policing Conference, cOcOn, was hosted by which state? - Kerala
- ❖ Project Kuiper to provide fast, affordable broadband internet service belongs to which company? - Amazon

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