



Current Affairs of the Day

Jobs up 29% since 2013, says survey

1. The All-India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey, in a report released, said that the overall employment numbers had increased by 29% from the base year of 2013-14. However, in the first quarter of this fiscal (April-June 2021), 27% of the establishments surveyed reported pandemic-related retrenchment.

- The report covered 10,593 firms that employed more than 10 workers and were spread over nine sectors that account for 85% of the total employment in such establishments.
- Overall, employment stood at 3.08 crore in the first quarter, up from 2.37 crore as reported in the Sixth Economic Census (2013-2014). All but two sectors — trade and accommodation & restaurants — saw an increase in employment over the period.
- The report said the IT/BPO sector had the most impressive growth (152%), followed by health (77%), transport (68%), financial services (48%), construction (42%), education (39%) and manufacturing (22%). Manufacturing was found to account for 41% of the establishments, followed by education (22%) and health (8%).
- There was a decline in employment in trade (25%) and accommodation and restaurants (13%), which could be attributed to the second wave of the pandemic that was at its peak during the survey.
- The number of female workers showed a decline too, from 31% in the Sixth Economic Survey to 29% as of the first quarter of the quarterly employment survey.

Jobs up 29% since 2013, says survey

27% of 10, 593 firms reported pandemic-related retrenchment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

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ployed more than 10 workers and were spread over nine sectors that account for 85% of the total employment in such establishments. Overall, employment stood at 3.08 crore in the first quarter, up from 2.37 crore as reported in the Sixth Economic Census (2013-2014). All but two sectors — trade and accommodation & restaurants — saw an increase in employment over the period.

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Useful for policy-makers

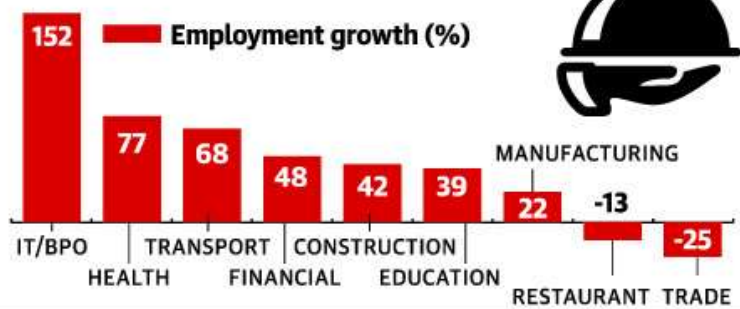
1. Evidence-based policy making and statistics-based execution is the major focus. This survey and others covering unorganised sectors being conducted by the Labour Survey would help in policy-making.

2. When the government was coming up with COVID-19-related welfare schemes, like the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, the only data available was from the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation and the Employees State Insurance Corporation, or "administrative data".

3. Soon, field surveys will start for the unorganised sector as well. The Labour Bureau, with the expert group for all-India surveys under Prof. S.P. Mukherjee, is also carrying out surveys on migrant workers and domestic workers.

4. These surveys would be significant in policy-making in general and in framing a "national employment policy" soon.

Sector-wise jobs | In comparison to key employment-generating sectors, the trade and accommodation & restaurants sectors recorded sharp dips in jobs between April and June 2021



Right to govt. aid not fundamental right: SC

1. The right of an institution, whether run by a majority or minority community, to receive government aid is not a fundamental right. Both have to follow the rules of the aid, the Supreme Court held in a ruling.

2. Whether it is an institution run by the majority or the minority, all conditions that have relevance to the proper utilisation of the grant-in-aid by an educational institution can be imposed.

Right to govt. aid not fundamental right: SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The right of an institution, whether run by a majority or minority community, to receive government aid is not a fundamental right. Both have to follow the rules of the aid, the Supreme Court

held in a ruling on Monday. The Bench said if the government made a policy call to withdraw aid, an institution cannot question the decision as a "matter of right". An institution is free to choose to accept the grant with the conditions or go its

own way, it said. The judgment came in an appeal against a decision of the Allahabad High Court to declare unconstitutional a provision of the Intermediate Education Act.

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3. All that Article 30(2) states is that on the ground that an institution is under the management of a minority, whether based on religion or language, grant of aid to that educational institution cannot be discriminated against if other educational institutions are entitled to receive aid," a Bench of Justices S.K. Kaul and M.M. Sundresh said, referring to the court's T.M.A Pai decision.
4. The Bench said if the government made a policy call to withdraw aid, an institution cannot question the decision as a "matter of right". An institution is free to choose to accept the grant with the conditions or go its own way, it said.
5. The judgment came in an appeal against a decision of the Allahabad High Court to declare unconstitutional a provision of the Intermediate Education Act.

PM launches health ID for every citizen

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission. It has the potential of bringing a revolutionary change in India's health facilities.
2. Under the mission, every citizen would get a digital health ID and their health records would be digitally protected, a release issued by the Centre said.

PM launches health ID for every citizen

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission will bring revolutionary change in health facilities, says Modi



Technology in Health:

1. Referring to the use of technology in health, Mr Modi pointed out that there had been an unprecedented expansion of telemedicine during the pandemic period.
2. So far, about 125 crore remote consultations had been completed through e-Sanjeevani. This facility is connecting thousands of countrymen living in far-flung parts of the country every day with doctors of big hospitals of cities while sitting at home.
3. The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission would now connect the digital health solutions of hospitals across the country with each other.



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4. A release issued by the Union government stressed that the mission would not only make the processes of hospitals simplified but also increase ease of living. Under this, every citizen would now get a digital health ID and their health records would be digitally protected.

THE NDHM ECOSYSTEM



To create a national digital health ecosystem that supports universal health coverage in an efficient, accessible, inclusive, affordable, timely and safe manner, that provides a wide-range of data, information and infrastructure services, duly leveraging open, interoperable, standards-based digital systems, and ensures the security, confidentiality and privacy of health-related personal information.



Efficient



Accessible



Inclusive



Affordable



Timely



Safe

Holistic health model

1. The Prime Minister highlighted that India was working on a health model that was holistic and inclusive. It also stressed preventive healthcare and, in case of disease, easy, affordable and accessible treatment.
2. Unprecedented reforms in health education were on. A much larger number of doctors and paramedical manpower was being created now.
3. A comprehensive network of All India Institutes of Medical Science [AIIMS] and other modern health institutions is being established in the country



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and work on establishing one medical college in every three Lok Sabha constituencies is going on.

- Mr Modi emphasised strengthening the health facilities in villages. He pointed to the strengthening of primary health centre networks and wellness centres. More than 80,000 such centres had already been operationalised, he added.

Caste data 98% error-free, RGI told the panel

- The Union government told the Supreme Court that the caste data enumerated in the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) of 2011 was "unusable", but in 2016, the Registrar-General and Census Commissioner of India had informed the Standing Committee on Rural Development of Parliament that 98.87% of the data on individual caste and religion was "error-free".

Caste data 98% error-free, RGI told panel

However, the Union government has informed the Supreme Court that the 2011 data is unusable



- The Office of the Registrar-General of India said that errors had been noticed in the data of about 1.34 crore individuals out of the total surveyed population of 118 crores.

Govt. stance

- Taking a diametrically different position, the government, in its affidavit in the Supreme Court filed last week, cited many reasons why the data is "unusable".
- The government had said that the total number of castes surveyed in 1931 was 4,147, while the SECC figures show that there are more than 46 lakh different castes. "Assuming that some castes may bifurcate into sub-castes, the total number cannot be exponentially high to this extent," the affidavit said.
- It added that the entire exercise was corrupted because the enumerators had used different spellings for the same castes. In many cases the respondents, the government said, had refused to divulge their castes.



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'Cyberattacks caused up to ₹7-cr. loss for SMBs'

1. Cyberattacks led to the loss of up to ₹7 crores for small and medium businesses (SMBs) in the last 12 months, according to a study by Cisco.
2. Some 62% of SMBs said they incurred business losses of more than ₹3.5 crores while about 13% of respondents lost more than ₹7 crores because of cyber-intrusions in the last year, the study showed.
3. About 74% of domestic SMBs witnessed a cyber incident in the past year, resulting in 85% of them losing customer information to malicious actors, in addition to a tangible impact on business.
4. In India, malware attacks, which affected 92% of SMBs, topped the charts, followed by phishing (76%). Some 38% of those that suffered incidents said the number one cause for the loss was not having cybersecurity solutions.
5. About 36% ranked cybersecurity solutions not being adequate to detect or prevent the attack as the number one reason, as per the study conducted among 1014 SMBs in the country.

'Cyberattacks caused up to ₹7-cr. loss for SMBs'

Preparedness poor: study respondents

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

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What is EternalBlue?

EternalBlue is both the given name to a series of Microsoft software vulnerabilities and the exploit created by the NSA as a cyberattack tool. Although the EternalBlue exploit — officially named MS17-010 by Microsoft — affects only Windows operating systems, anything that uses the SMBv1 (Server Message Block version 1) file-sharing protocol is technically at risk of being targeted for ransomware and other cyberattacks.



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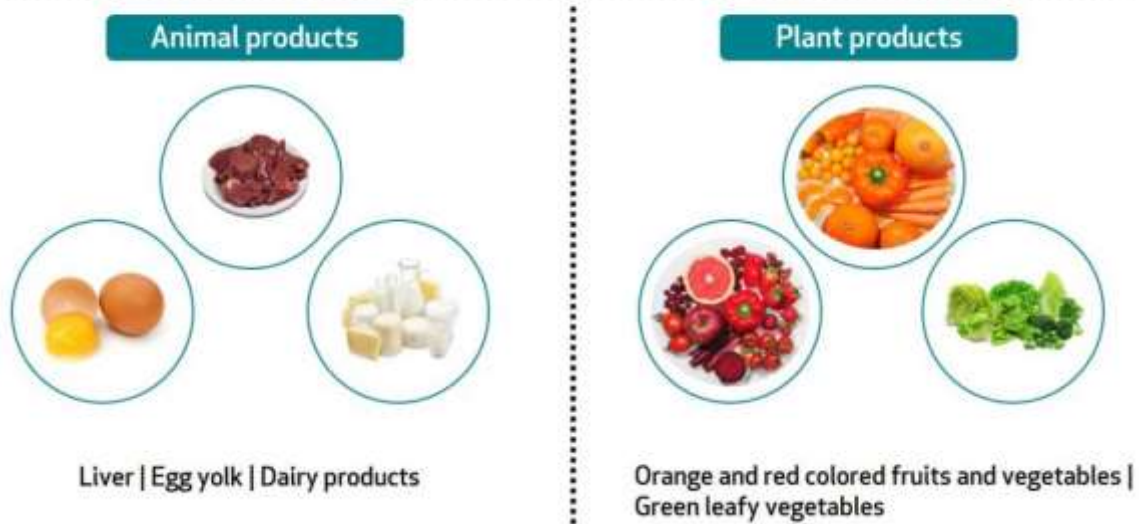
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Plan to discontinue the vitamin A supplement programme is hasty

In a study published in June in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, researchers from leading nutrition institutes in the country argued that the government's National Vitamin A Supplement (VAS) programme should be discontinued in all except seven states — Bihar, Jharkhand, Mizoram, Telangana, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Such a move will be ill-advised. It would deprive children between six months and five years of the supplement and it may adversely impact optimum immune responses against diseases, lead to re-emergence of eye damage and blindness caused by nutritional deficiencies as well as adversely impact the ongoing anaemia control measures.



Primary natural sources of vitamin A



National Vitamin A Supplement (VAS) programme

1. The VAS programme, introduced in 1970 and modified in 1991, is based on the rationale that the daily diet of children in the country is deficient in this essential nutrient.
2. The human diet has two forms of this vitamin: A precursor of vitamin A, or B-carotene, present in yellow and green vegetables and fruits and an active form of vitamin A found in food items sourced from animals such as milk, butter, eggs and meat products.

3. Surveys undertaken over the years by the National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) have confirmed that over 70 per cent children consumed less than 70 per cent of the recommended level of this vitamin.
4. The findings of the Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS), 2016-19, re-confirmed the low dietary intake of vitamin A-rich foods.

Nutritional Deficiencies Disorders		
Vitamins	Deficiency Disease	Symptoms
Vitamin - A	Loss of Vision	Poor vision, loss of vision in darkness
Vitamin - B ₁	Beriberi	Weak muscles and very little energy to work
Vitamin - C	Scurvy	Bleeding gums
Vitamin - D	Rickets	Bones are bent
Calcium	Weak bone & tooth decay	Weak bone and tooth decay
Iodine	Goitre	Gland in neck
Iron	Anaemia	Weakness

Vitamin A supplementation (VAS) programme in India

- The National Prophylaxis Programme against Nutritional Blindness due to Vitamin A Deficiency (NPPNB) was initiated in 1970 with the specific aim of preventing nutritional blindness due to keratomalacia.
- The Programme was started as a 100 per cent centrally sponsored programme.
- It was launched as an urgent remedial measure to combat the unacceptably high magnitude of xerophthalmic blindness in the country reported in the 1950s and 1960s.