

22 September, 2023

State of Working India Report, 2023

Context: The "State of Working India 2023" report was released by the Centre for Sustainable Employment at Azim Premji University

- Between 2004 and 2018, there has been an upward trend in economic mobility for sons whose fathers were engaged in casual wage employment.
- Notably, this upward mobility trend has been weaker for Scheduled Caste (SC) workers when compared to those from the general caste.
- Having unemployed mothers-in-law in the same household substantially reduces the likelihood of married women being employed.
- In contrast, the presence of employed mothers-in-law has a relatively minor impact on this likelihood compared to households without any mothers-in-law.
- This report relies on data sources such as the National Statistical Office, including Employment-Unemployment Surveys and Periodic Labour Force Surveys, to uncover key trends in India's labour market.

Key Findings

- **Caste-Based Trends in Employment (1983-2021):**
 - Between 1983 and 2021, the proportion of regular wage workers from the Scheduled Caste (SC) category has increased, but it remains significantly lower than that of the general caste ("Others").
 - In 2021, 32% of general caste workers were in regular wage employment compared to 22% of SC workers.
 - General caste workers also exhibit higher rates of self-employment compared to SC workers.
 - The report indicates that general castes are over-represented to a greater extent in larger enterprises.
- **Economic Mobility by Caste (2004-2018):**
 - In 2018, sons of SC/ST casual wage working fathers showed a decrease in staying in casual wage work (75.6%), compared to 2004 (86.5%).
 - A steeper decline is observed for sons of general caste casual wage working fathers, dropping to 53% in 2018 from 83.2% in 2004.
 - This suggests that economic intergenerational mobility has been more significant for general caste casual wage workers compared to SC/STs.
 - Sons of casual wage workers, in general, have shifted away from casual wage work to informal, semi-formal, and formal regular wage employment between 2004 and 2018.
- **Representation of Women and SCs in Industries (1983-2021):**
 - Between 1983 and 2021, there has been an increase in women's representation in industries like tobacco, education, health and social work, and textiles.
 - However, women continue to be over-represented in these sectors compared to men.
 - The degree of SC representation in industries like waste management & sewerage and leather & leather products has declined.
 - SCs still tend to be over-represented in certain industries compared to other castes.
- **Relationship Between Husband's Earnings and Women's Employment:**
 - The "male breadwinner" norm is evident, as an increase in the husband's income tends to reduce the probability of the wife being employed.
 - In rural areas, this decline in probability slows down as the husband's income increases.
 - In urban areas, there is a U-shaped pattern, with a decrease in the probability of the wife being employed up to an earnings threshold of Rs. 40,000, followed by an increase.
 - This pattern is influenced by better-educated wives in higher income brackets who have access to better-paid work.
- **Female Workforce Participation by Education (2021-22):**
 - In rural areas, women have higher workforce participation rates for all levels of education compared to urban areas.
 - Urban women's workforce participation rates follow a U-shaped trend as education levels increase, indicating higher wages and employment opportunities drawing them into the workforce.
 - Demand for such jobs is high, but the supply is struggling to keep up.
- **Shift in Non-Agricultural Employment (1980s-2021):**
 - Since the 1980s, the share of workers in non-agricultural sectors has significantly increased, reaching 19.8% in 2021.
 - The figure briefly peaked at 20.3% in the late 2010s before declining.
 - Workers leaving agriculture have mostly taken up casual wage labour or informal regular wage work in construction or services, as the organized and salaried sectors have shown stagnant growth.
- **Unemployment Among Educated Youth:**
 - Graduates under 25 years old have the highest unemployment rate among all education levels within the same age group.
 - The unemployment rate decreases as education level decreases.
 - As individuals grow older, the probability of employment increases, mainly because unemployment becomes unsustainable.
 - Despite a lower unemployment rate compared to pre-pandemic levels, over 15% of graduates remain unemployed.

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Panel of Vice-Chairpersons

Context: Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Jagdeep Dhankhar, has established a panel consisting entirely of 13 female Vice-Chairpersons in the Upper House.

- Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar has formed a historic all-women panel of Vice-Chairpersons in the Rajya Sabha.
- This panel comprises 13 female members of the Rajya Sabha and has been established in light of the Women's Reservation Bill.
- The formation of this panel is particularly relevant as the Rajya Sabha is currently discussing the Women's Reservation Bill, referred to as the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam 2023.

What is it?

- According to the rules of the Rajya Sabha, the Chairman is responsible for nominating a panel of vice-chairpersons from among the members.
- Any member from this panel can assume the role of presiding over the House if the Chairman or Deputy Chairman is absent.
- When presiding, the Vice-Chairperson possesses the same powers as the Chairman.
- Their tenure lasts until a new panel of vice-chairpersons is nominated.
- If none of the panel members are available, the House designates another individual to act as the Chairman.
- Importantly, a member of the vice-chairpersons' panel cannot preside over the House when both the Chairman and Deputy Chairman positions are vacant.
- During such circumstances, the President appoints a member of the House to fulfil the Chairman's duties.
- Elections are promptly organized to fill any vacant positions.

Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha

- The Vice-President serves as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha by virtue of their office.
- The Chairman of the Rajya Sabha upholds the dignity and status of the House.
- **Constitutional Provisions:**
 - Article 64 designates the Vice-President as the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
 - Article 89 outlines the constitutional framework for the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- **Power and Functions:**
 - The Chairman can adjourn or suspend Rajya Sabha proceedings in case of a lack of quorum.
 - The Chairman decides cases of disqualification due to defection, as per the 10th Schedule of the Constitution.
 - Approval from the Chairman is required to raise matters related to breach of privilege in the House.
 - Parliamentary Committees operate under the Chairman's direction, whether appointed by the Chairman or the House.
 - The Chairman appoints members to various committees and chairs key committees like the Business Advisory Committee and the Rules Committee.
 - The Chairman interprets the Constitution and rules related to the House, with final authority.
- **Removal of Chairperson:**
 - The Chairman can only be removed when removed from the office of Vice-President.
 - During a resolution for removal, the Chairman cannot preside over the Rajya Sabha but can remain a member.
 - He is removed by effective majority in the house.

Immunity from Prosecution to Legislators

Context: The Supreme Court is hearing a case where a legislator is seeking to quash the charge sheet against her for bribery because she's protected under the Article 194(2).

- Sita Soren, a member of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), was accused of accepting a bribe to vote for a specific candidate during the 2012 Rajya Sabha elections.
- A complaint was filed with the Chief Election Commissioner of India, urging a CBI investigation into the matter.
- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) subsequently filed a chargesheet against Soren, implicating her in various offenses under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, including bribery and criminal conspiracy.
- Sita Soren sought to have the chargesheet and criminal proceedings against her quashed, citing immunity under Article 194(2) of the Constitution.
- Her plea to quash the charges was denied by the Jharkhand High Court in 2014.
- Consequently, Soren approached the Supreme Court to appeal against the High Court's decision.

Privileges to Members of Parliament and Members of State Legislatures

- **Privileges Defined:**
 - Privileges encompass special rights, immunities, and exemptions enjoyed by both Houses of Parliament, state legislatures, their committees, and members.
 - These privileges are also extended to individuals entitled to speak and participate in House proceedings, such as the Attorney General of India.
- **Constitutional Provisions:**
 - Article 105 and Article 194 of the Indian Constitution grant privileges and advantages to Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) of states, respectively.

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- The nature and scope of these powers, privileges, and immunities are defined by law from time to time.
 - These privileges are considered as special provisions and hold overriding authority in case of conflicts.
 - Notably, these privileges do not extend to the President (or Governor) who is an integral part of the Parliament (or state legislature).
- **Privileges Outlined in the Constitution:**
- Freedom of speech for MPs is guaranteed under Article 105(1).
 - Article 105(2) ensures that no MP can be held liable in court for statements made or votes cast in Parliament or its committees.
 - Similarly, no person can be held accountable for publishing reports, papers, votes, or proceedings authorized by the Parliament or its authorities.
 - Parallel provisions exist under Article 194 for MLAs of a state.
- **Purpose of Privileges and Immunities:**
- These privileges are granted to enable MPs and MLAs to carry out their duties effectively without hindrance, which is essential for the functioning of democracy.
 - Without these privileges, the Houses cannot maintain their authority, dignity, and honor, nor can they protect their members from obstructions in fulfilling their parliamentary responsibilities.
- **Difference from Article 19:**
- Article 19(1)(a) and Article 105 both address freedom of speech, but with distinctions.
 - Article 105 grants absolute privilege to MPs without reasonable restrictions, but it applies only within the parliamentary premises.
 - Article 19(1)(a) pertains to citizens and is subject to reasonable restrictions, meaning it applies outside the parliament and to a broader set of individuals.

Digital Quality of Life Index 2023

Context: In the Digital Quality of Life Index survey, India secured the 52nd position among 121 countries.

- The Digital Quality of Life Index survey, conducted by a Netherlands-based firm, ranks 121 countries based on five factors: internet quality, internet affordability, e-infrastructure, e-government, and e-security.
- India has climbed to the 52nd position in this survey, marking a significant improvement from its 59th rank in the previous year.
- The jump in India's ranking is primarily attributed to improvements in internet quality, where it now stands at the 16th position globally.
- In terms of e-infrastructure, India is placed 91st among the surveyed countries.
- India ranks 28th in internet affordability, 25th in e-governance, and 66th in e-security.
- Singapore and Saudi Arabia occupy the top positions in average internet speed, with 300 Mbps and 310 Mbps, respectively.
- While India may not have the fastest internet, it is noted for its internet stability. Mobile internet speeds in the country have seen a remarkable 297% increase, largely due to widespread 5G rollout. Fixed broadband speeds have increased by 16%.
- India is recognized as having better internet affordability. To afford a fixed broadband line, Indians need to work for 1 hour and 48 minutes per month, while access to mobile internet costs them 44 minutes and 22 seconds of work.

	2023	2022	2021	2020
DQL rank / index (weighted)	52nd / 0.52	59th / 0.44	59th / 0.52	57th / 0.50
▼ Internet Affordability rank / index	28th / 0.27	21st / 0.13	47th / 0.07	8th / 0.26
▼ Internet Quality rank / index	16th / 0.51	57th / 0.36	67th / 0.47	78th / 0.53
▼ Electronic Infrastructure rank / index	91st / 0.62	90th / 0.57	91st / 0.52	79th / 0.35
▼ Electronic Security rank / index	66th / 0.42	60th / 0.41	36th / 0.81	57th / 0.46
▼ Electronic Government rank / index	35th / 0.77	38th / 0.74	33rd / 0.75	15th / 0.89

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NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

Gurnard Fish



Recently the scientists from the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** have recently discovered a new species of deep-water marine fish (**Gurnard**) in **Digha Mohana**, West Bengal.

Common Name: Gurnard fish, also known as "Gurnard" or "Sea-Robin."

Family: Belongs to the **Triglidae** family.

Distinctive Features: Recognized for its large **pectoral fin**, **armored head** and spines on the **pectoral fin** resembling wings.

Habitat: Typically found in **deep-sea marine** environments.

Diet: Predatory, feeding on small fish, crustaceans and other marine organisms.

Distribution: Globally distributed in various oceans.

Adaptations: Adapted to deep-sea life with features like a **long opercular spine** and **distinctive fin patterns**.

Coloration: Exhibits a range of colors, with some species displaying vibrant shades like **orange** and **red**.

AI Chatbot



Recently, the Union **Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**, Government of India, launched an AI Chatbot for the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** Scheme.

First Integration: This is the first AI Chatbot integrated with a major **flagship scheme** of the Union government.

Objective: The AI Chatbot aims to provide prompt, clear and accurate responses to farmers' queries, enabling them to access scheme information and resolve grievances.

Expanded Services: The Union Minister emphasized the potential to widen the service to include other related issues such as weather information, soil conditions and bank payments.

PM-KISAN Scheme: PM-KISAN is a central sector scheme launched in February 2019, providing annual financial benefits to eligible land-holding farmers' families through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

Metal-Mining



What is the Metal Mining?

Metal mining is the process of extracting metallic minerals and ores from the Earth's crust for various industrial purposes.

Types of Metals: Metals include precious (e.g., gold, silver), base (e.g., copper, zinc), and strategic (e.g., lithium, rare earth elements).

Mining Methods: Techniques include surface (open-pit) and underground mining.

Economic Importance: Mining contributes to employment and government revenue.

Metals in Renewable Energy: Metals like lithium are essential for renewable energy.

Environmental Impact: Mining can harm the environment through habitat disruption, water pollution and soil contamination.

Pollution: Mining produces heavy metal pollutants, acidic drainage and chemical waste.

Metal Mining Areas:

Some examples include the Andes Mountains and Zambia for copper mining, South Africa and Nevada for gold mining and the Pilbara region in Australia for iron ore mining.

Polycystic Ovary Syndrome



What is Polycystic Ovary Syndrome?

Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS), is a **common hormonal disorder** affecting individuals with ovaries, especially **women of reproductive age**.

Ovarian Cysts: PCOS is characterized by the presence of **multiple small cysts** on the **ovaries**, which are follicles that have not matured properly.

Hormonal Imbalance: PCOS is associated with **hormonal imbalances**, including elevated levels of **androgens** (male hormones) and insulin resistance.

Symptoms: Common symptoms of PCOS include irregular menstrual cycles, excessive hair growth (hirsutism), acne and weight gain.

Fertility: PCOS is a leading cause of infertility in women due to **irregular ovulation** or **lack of ovulation**.

Metabolic Implications: PCOS is linked to **metabolic issues** such as **obesity**, insulin resistance and an increased **risk of type 2 diabetes** and **cardiovascular** disease.

New Pamban Bridge



About the New Pamban Bridge:

- The new Pamban railway sea bridge is under construction in **Tamil Nadu**, India.
- It connects **Mandapam town** on the mainland with **Rameswaram** on Pamban Island.
- The construction of this bridge began in **2019**, and it has faced **delays**, missing earlier deadlines set for **March and July**.
- The bridge consists of **99 horizontal spans**, with **73 spans** already laid.
- There is one span of **72.5 meters** that is a "lift-span," **designed to rise and allow ships to pass**.
- The remaining **26 spans** need to be erected.
- The project is being undertaken by **Rail Vikas Nigam Limited** and has a budget of **₹545 crore**.
- The new Pamban railway sea bridge (2.05 km) is intended to **replace the old Pamban bridge**, which has been in use for over a century.

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Global Impact of Hypertension



Recently, the WHO's first-ever report highlights that one in three adults worldwide suffers from hypertension, affecting all age groups and regions.

About Hypertension?

- Hypertension (High Blood Pressure) is known as the **"silent killer."**
- It can lead to severe health complications like strokes, heart attacks, kidney damage and heart failure.
- Hypertension cases doubled from **650 million (1990) to 1.3 billion (2019)**, with almost half undiagnosed.
- **Nearly 80%** are inadequately treated, emphasizing the need for better healthcare access and awareness.
- Hypertension is rising, **especially among youth** and the less **privileged**, due to limited awareness and healthcare access.
- Only about **22.5%** of hypertension cases are under **control (2016-2020)**.
- WHO advocates healthier lifestyles, including diet and physical activity, to reduce hypertension.

Place in News

Ukraine

Ukraine (Capital: Kyiv)

Location: Ukraine is located in Eastern Europe and shares borders with several countries, including **Belarus, Russia, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania** and **Moldova**.

Geographical Features:

Major Rivers: Two major rivers flow through Ukraine, namely the **Danube River** and the **Dnieper River**.

Sea Access: Ukraine has access to two major bodies of water: the **Black Sea** to the south and the **Sea of Azov** to the southeast.

Highest Peak: The highest peak in Ukraine is **Mount Hoverla**, which is part of the **Carpathian Mountains**.

Conflict Zones: Ukraine has experienced political and territorial conflicts, including the annexation of **Crimea** by **Russia** and the ongoing conflict in Eastern Ukraine.

International Relations: Ukraine has sought closer ties with Western institutions, including aspirations for membership in organizations like the **European Union** and **NATO**.



Personality in News

Saroja Vaidyanathan

Saroja Vaidyanathan (19 September 1937-21 September 2023)

Saroja Vaidyanathan was a renowned Indian classical dancer known for **Bharatanatyam**.

Contributions:

- Saroja Vaidyanathan was known for her extensive contributions to **Bharatanatyam** and **Carnatic music**.
- She created **10 full-length ballets**.
- She choreographed **nearly 2,000 dance compositions**.

Awards and Recognition:

- **Padma Shri (2002):** Awarded for her outstanding contributions to the field of dance.
- **Padma Bhushan (2013):** Honored with one of **India's highest civilian awards** in recognition of her significant impact on **dance and culture**.

Legacy: Left behind a significant legacy through **Ganesa Natyalaya**, a classical dance school based in the national capital, New Delhi.



POINTS TO PONDER

- ❖ Who has recently appointed as the Chief Financial Officer of Wipro Ltd. ? - Aparna C. Iye
- ❖ Which articles in India are related to delimitation? - Articles 81, 170, 330 and 332
- ❖ When was SIMBEX first conducted? -1994
- ❖ How many sensors does Supra Thermal & Energetic Particle Spectrometer (STEPS) comprise, and what do they measure? -Six; Ions
- ❖ In which regions is festival Nuakhai Juhar celebrated? - Western Odisha and Simdega in Jharkhand

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