



CURRENT AFFAIRS



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INDIA TB REPORT 2024

THIS ARTICLE COVERS 'DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS' AND THE TOPIC DETAILS OF "INDIA TB REPORT 2024". THIS TOPIC IS RELEVANT IN THE "SOCIAL ISSUES" SECTION OF THE UPSC CSE EXAM.

WHY IN THE NEWS?

As per the India TB Report 2024 published by the Union Health Ministry, the disparity between the projected and confirmed cases of tuberculosis (TB) is diminishing.

SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS OF THE REPORT

Closing the Gap on Missed Cases

A significant drop in undetected TB cases is a major victory. **In 2023, the number of missing cases fell to 2.3 lakh, compared to 3.2 lakh the year before.** This progress is attributed to **improved tracking through the Ni-kshay portal**, a centralised platform for TB management.

Boosting Private Sector Involvement

Private healthcare providers are playing an increasingly important role in TB detection. **In 2023, nearly one-third (8.4 lakh) of reported cases came from the private sector**, compared to a mere 1.9 lakh in 2015. This collaboration strengthens India's overall detection capacity.

Refined Estimates for a Clearer Picture

India's new TB incidence estimates, accepted by the World Health Organization (WHO), offer a more precise understanding of the disease burden. While the **estimated incidence increased slightly to 27.8 lakh in 2023, the mortality rate remained stable at 3.2 lakh.** This new model led to a significant adjustment in global TB mortality figures reported by the WHO.

Treatment on Track

India successfully achieved its target of **initiating treatment in 95% of diagnosed TB patients in 2023.** This ensures timely access to life-saving medication.

Battling Drug Resistance

- The fight against drug-resistant TB is gaining ground. The **percentage of patients tested for medication resistance jumped from 25% in 2015 to 58% in 2023**. This allows for early detection and prompt administration of appropriate treatments.
- India's comprehensive approach towards TB detection, treatment, and drug resistance is yielding positive results. Continued efforts are crucial to further reduce the TB burden and ultimately eliminate the disease.

ABOUT TUBERCULOSIS

- Tuberculosis (TB) casts a long shadow on global health. Caused by the **bacterium Mycobacterium tuberculosis**, TB is a major infectious disease with a concerning prevalence.
- While treatable and curable, TB remains the **world's leading infectious killer**, taking millions of lives annually. This highlights the critical need for continued efforts in prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.
- In humans, TB **primarily targets the lungs** (pulmonary TB), **but it can spread and cause extra-pulmonary TB in other organs**. This versatility of the bacteria and the potential for severe illness make TB a global public health concern.
- The **history of TB stretches back millennia**, with **evidence of the disease documented in Egypt as early as 3000 BC**. This demonstrates the enduring nature of TB and the ongoing challenge it presents.
- The burden of TB is particularly **heavy in low- and middle-income countries**. **Eight nations** – Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, and South Africa – account for nearly half of all TB cases globally. This uneven distribution underscores the need for a global approach to combating TB.

COMBATING TUBERCULOSIS

- The first line of defence is a **6-month regimen of four antibiotics** combined with patient education and support. This approach improves completion rates and reduces resistance.

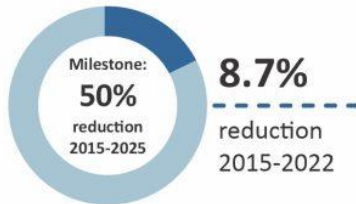
The Challenge of Resistance

Decades of antibiotic use have led to resistant strains. These strains, documented worldwide, highlight the need for proper antibiotic use to minimise resistance.

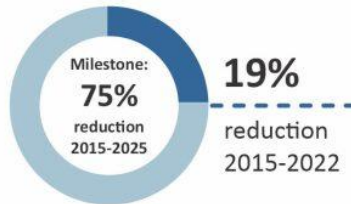
- **MDR-TB:** Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) is a serious form where **bacteria resist the two most powerful first-line drugs**. Thankfully, MDR-TB is treatable with alternative drugs, but this emphasises the need for new medications.
- **XDR-TB:** Extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) is **resistant to many effective drugs, limiting treatment options**. Stricter adherence to protocols, research into new antibiotics, and advocating for proper medication use are all crucial to combating drug resistance and ensuring effective TB treatment.

WHO End TB Strategy: 2025 milestones

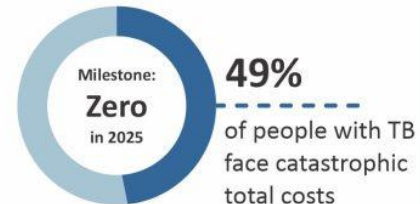
TB INCIDENCE RATE



NUMBER OF TB DEATHS



PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE WITH TB FACING CATASTROPHIC TOTAL COSTS*



INITIATIVES TAKEN TO COMBAT TUBERCULOSIS

- **Ni-kshay Portal:** This government platform acts as a central hub for TB notification, treatment management, and patient tracking. It facilitates better monitoring and reduces the number of missed cases.
- **Ni-kshay Poshan Portal:** It's a financial incentive program under India's National Health Mission. Registered TB patients receive a monthly **cash transfer of Rs. 500 to help them meet their nutritional needs during the 6-month treatment period**, improving treatment adherence and overall health outcomes.
- **TB-Mukt Bharat Abhiyan:** It aims to raise public awareness about TB in order to reduce stigma and encourage people to seek diagnosis and treatment.

PRELIMS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1. How does the Nikshay portal contribute to national TB control programs?

- (a) By providing funding for TB treatment
- (b) By facilitating collaboration between healthcare providers
- (c) By monitoring progress and evaluating program effectiveness
- (d) By conducting TB research studies

Answer: C

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. HIV/AIDS increases the risk of drug-resistant TB
2. Levofloxacin is a second-line drug used to treat drug-resistant TB
3. Both healthcare providers and government officials can access the Nikshay portal

How many of the statements above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Answer: C

UPSC MAINS QUESTIONS

Q1. compare and contrast the transmission, symptoms, and treatment approaches for drug-sensitive TB and extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB). How does the prevalence of XDR-TB affect healthcare systems and patient outcomes?

Q2. Compare and contrast the transmission, symptoms, and treatment approaches for drug-sensitive TB and extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB). How does the prevalence of XDR-TB affect healthcare systems and patient outcomes?

Himanshu Mishra

INDIA EMPLOYMENT REPORT 2024 AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDIA

SOURCE - THE HINDU AND PIB.

GENERAL STUDIES - GROWTH OF INDIAN ECONOMY, UNEMPLOYMENT, INDIA EMPLOYMENT REPORT 2024, NATIONAL SAMPLE SURVEY, PERIODIC LABOR FORCE SURVEY.

WHY IN THE NEWS ?



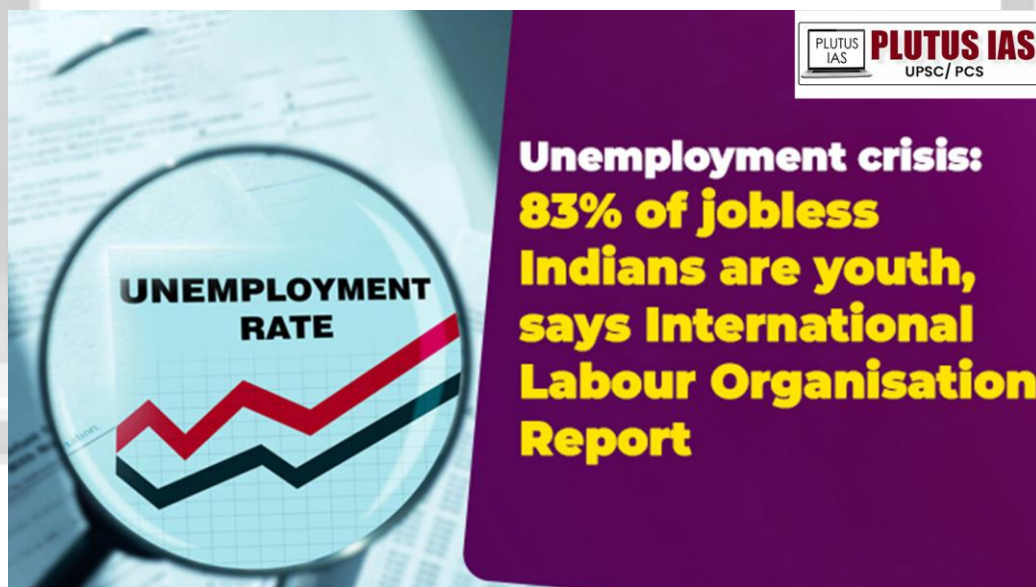
- Recently on 26 March 2024, the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the Institute for Human Development (IHD) have jointly published a report named India Employment Report 2024.
- According to this report, a total of 83% of the unemployed youth looking for work in India are unemployed.

- According to the report, overall labor force participation, workforce participation and employment rates in India have improved in recent years after a long-term decline during 2000-2019.
- India's youth population was 27% in 2021, which will reduce to 21% by 2036 and 70 to 80 lakh more youth will join the workforce every year.
- The report states that youth employment in India is largely of poor quality compared to adult employment.
- Youth in India are most likely to be employed in vulnerable occupations or informal sectors.
- According to this report, India has the highest youth unemployment rate among youth with graduate degrees and it is higher among women than men.
- The proportion of women who are not engaged in employment, education or training is almost 5 times higher than their male counterparts (48.4% vs. 9.8%).

INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE :

- The Institute of Human Development (IHD) was established in the year 1998 under the aegis of the Indian Society of Labor Economics (ISLE).
- Its objective is to contribute to the building of a society that promotes and values an inclusive social, economic and political system that is free from poverty and deprivation.
- It conducts research in the areas of labor and employment, livelihoods, gender, health, education and other aspects of human development.

IMPORTANT FACTS OF INDIA EMPLOYMENT REPORT 2024 :



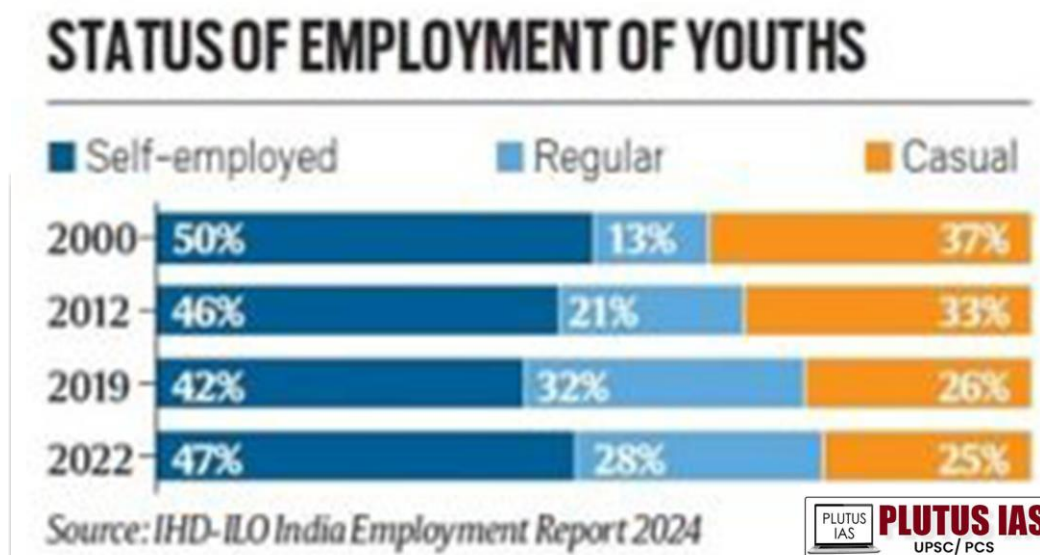
- The India Employment Report 2024 is the third edition in a series of regular publications by the Human Development Institute on labor and employment issues, jointly released in partnership with the International Labor Organization (ILO).
- This report examines the emerging economic labor market, educational and skill scenarios in India and the challenges facing youth employment in the context of the changes witnessed over the last two decades.
- The report also highlights recent trends in the Indian labor market, indicating the challenges that currently exist with respect to youth unemployment and new challenges that may arise in the

future, as well as improvements in some outcomes, including COVID-19. Challenges arising from the 19 pandemic are also included.

HIGHLIGHTS OF INDIA EMPLOYMENT REPORT 2024 :

- The India Employment Report 2024 is based primarily on the analysis of data from the National Sample Survey and Periodic Labor Force Survey between the year 2000 and the year 2022..

EMPLOYMENT SCENARIO AND CURRENT TRENDS IN INDIA :



- The female labor market participation rate in India, especially in rural areas, has increased rapidly by 2019 after a significant decline in earlier years.
- One of the most important features of the Indian labor market is the slow and steady transition of the workforce from agricultural to non-agricultural sectors.
- The main areas of employment available in India are self-employment and casual employment.
- In India, about 90 percent of the workforce is employed informally while about 82 percent of the workforce is engaged in the informal sector.
- There was a slight upward trend in wages of casual workers during 2012–22, while real wages of regular workers either remained stable or declined.
- Migration levels in India have not been adequately recorded through official surveys.
- Rates of urbanization and migration are expected to increase significantly in the future.
- The migration rate in India is expected to be around 40 percent in 2030 and the urban population will be around 607 million.

MAJOR CHALLENGES RELATED TO YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN INDIA :

- A large portion of India's population is of working age, which is expected to remain in the potential demographic dividend zone for at least another decade.
- Every year in India, about 7-8 million youth join the labor force whose productive utilization could yield a demographic dividend for India.
- Labor market participation of youth in India has been much lower than that of adults and was on a long-term (2000–19) declining trend, mainly due to greater participation in education.

- At present, youth unemployment in India has increased almost three times, from 5.7 percent in the year 2000 to 17.5 percent in 2019, but it is expected to reduce to 12.1 percent in the year 2022.

MAJOR SUGGESTIONS OF INDIA EMPLOYMENT REPORT 2024 TO IMPROVE THE EMPLOYMENT SECTOR :

The report recommends focusing on five key policy areas for action to tackle unemployment in India. Which is an important suggestion especially related to youth unemployment in India –

1. **To promote employment creation.**
2. **To improve the quality of employment.**
3. **Addressing labor market inequalities and making changes at the policy level.**
4. **strengthening skills and active labor market policies, and**
5. **Bridging the knowledge gap on labor market patterns and youth employment.**

PATH TO SOLUTION :



- **'The India Employment Report 2024'** The employment sector in India presents a disappointing scenario.
- Focusing on the current state of youth employment in India, the report paints a sobering picture of the widely publicized 'demographic dividend' in the country, calling for prompt and targeted policy interventions to tackle it and for India's technologically growing economy. There is a need to give priority to the training of youth.
- A large number of educated youth are still unable to meet the job criteria due to unavailability of jobs and deficiencies in the quality of education relative to the participation of educated youth in better paying jobs in India. On which there is a great need to pay attention to the policy makers of India.
- India has high rates of youth deprived of employment, education or training, and working conditions among the majority of employed youth are poor, with large groups of youth taking advantage of broader socio-economic benefits. Wages in India have either stagnated or seen a decline due to inflation, even though India's economy is growing at a high rate.
- As the process of 2024 general elections to the Lok Sabha in India begins, politicians have focused on creating employment and improving the quality of education and training for a

technologically growing economy, not only in their election campaigns but also in their policy making. There is an urgent need to consider the causes by giving priority.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR PRELIMINARY EXAM :

Q.1. Consider the following statements regarding India Employment Report 2024.

1. According to this report, A total of 83% of youth in India are unemployed.
2. The Human Development Institute was established in the year 1998 by the Indian Society of Labor Economics.
3. This report is jointly published by the International Labor Organization and the Institute of Human Development.
4. There is a slow and steady transition of the workforce from agricultural to non-agricultural sectors in the Indian labor market.

Which of the above statement / statements is/are correct ?

- (A). Only 1, 2 and 3
- (B). Only 2, 3 and 4
- (C). None of these.
- (D). All of these.

Answer - (D)

PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR MAIN EXAM :

Q.1. Underlining the important facts of India Employment Report 2024, Discuss in detail the major challenges related to youth employment in India and its solutions.

Akhilesh Kumar Shrivastava