



28-03-2024

World Water Day 2024

Why in News?

- World Water Day is held every year on 22 March, and is a United Nations (UN) day focused on raising awareness of the importance of freshwater.

More About the News

- This year's theme is Water for Peace.
- The aim is to highlight the tensions that can emerge over resources like water, leading to potential instability and conflict, but also the role that water can play, if carefully managed, in promoting peace.
- This World Water Day, we all need to unite around water and use water for peace, laying the foundations of a more stable and prosperous tomorrow.

**WORLD
WATER DAY
2024**

WATER FOR PEACE, WATER FOR LIFE



Key messages for World Water Day 2024

- Water can create peace or spark conflict. When water is scarce or polluted, or when people struggle for access, tensions can rise. By cooperating on water, we can balance everyone's water needs and help stabilize the world.
- Prosperity and peace rely on water. As nations manage climate change, mass migration and political unrest, they must put water cooperation at the heart of their plans.
- Water can lead us out of crisis. We can foster harmony between communities and

countries by uniting around the fair and sustainable use of water – from United Nations conventions at the international level, to actions at the local level.

Krishi Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC)

Why in the News?

- Union Agriculture Minister Arjun Munda inaugurated the Krishi Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) in New Delhi's Krishi Bhavan. It serves as a comprehensive dashboard showcasing digital innovations in the agricultural sector, emphasizing technology's role in advancing farming practices.

More About the News

- The ICCC is a tech-based solution involving multiple IT applications and platforms, which is designed to help in making informed decisions.
- The centre is housed in the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, which is responsible for legislation, policy formation, and implementation of initiatives in the agriculture sector.
- The ICCC uses state of the art technologies such as artificial intelligence, remote sensing, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to collect and process large



amounts of granular data - on temperatures, rainfall, wind speed, crop yields and production estimations - and presents it in graphical format.

- The ICCC will enable comprehensive monitoring of the farm sector by making available at one place geospatial information received from multiple sources, including remote sensing; plot-level data received through soil survey; weather data from the India Meteorological Department (IMD); sowing data from Digital Crop Survey; farmer and farm-related data from Krishi MApper, an application for ge-fencing and geo-tagging of land; market intelligence information from the Unified Portal for Agricultural Statistics (UPAg); and yield estimation data from the General Crop Estimation Survey (GCES).
- The integrated visualization of the data will enable quick and efficient decision-making by the ICCC ecosystem can be linked with the PM-Kisan chatbot going forward.

Practical Applications of ICCC :

- Farmer's Advisory: Provides authentic advisories based on soil health, weather data, and crop suitability.
- Drought Actions : Correlates yield variations with weather conditions to facilitate proactive decision-making during droughts.
- Crop Diversification : Identifies regions suitable for diversified cropping based on analysis of crop diversification maps.
- Farm Data Repository : Krishi Decision Support System (K-DSS) acts as an agriculture data repository, aiding evidence-based decision-making and customized advisories.
- Validation of Yield : Compares yield data captured through Krishi MApper with that generated through the General Crop Estimation Survey (GCES) for plot validation.

India Employment Report 2024

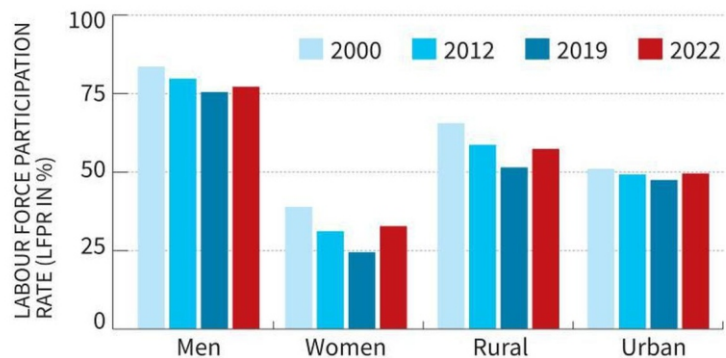
Why in the News?

- India's youth continue to grapple with soaring unemployment rates, with nearly 83

percent of the jobless population belonging to this demographic, as per the India Employment Report 2024 jointly published by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Institute of Human Development (IHD).

Employment blues

Labour participation for various sections increased slightly in 2022 (compared to 2019) but was still low vis-a-vis 2000



More About the News

- The report underscores a concerning trend where the proportion of educated young people, possessing at least secondary education, among the total unemployed youth has nearly doubled from 35.2 percent in 2000 to 65.7 percent in 2022.
- Despite rising enrolment in higher education, quality concerns persist, with significant learning deficits observed across school and higher education levels, as per the report.
- According to the study, youth employment and underemployment surged between 2000 and 2019 but saw a decline during the COVID-19 pandemic years. Educated youths, however, experienced significantly higher levels of joblessness during this period.
- The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), Worker Population Ratio (WPR), and the Unemployment Rate (UR) witnessed a sustained decline between 2000 and 2018, only to show signs of improvement post-2019, the report highlights.
- Wages have largely remained stagnant or declined, with real wages for regular workers and self-employed individuals showing a negative trend after 2019. A

substantial portion of unskilled casual workers did not receive the mandated minimum wages in 2022.

- Significant variations in employment outcomes exist across states, with certain states consistently ranking lower in employment indicators.
- States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh have struggled with poor employment outcomes over the years, reflecting the influence of regional policies.
- The trend in overall labour market indicators is echoed more prominently in the female labour market. After a notable decline in previous years, the female labour market participation rate displayed a swifter upward trajectory from 2019 onwards, particularly in rural areas.
- The slow transition away from agricultural employment witnessed a reversal after 2019, with a notable rise in agricultural employment and a decline in non-farm employment, especially in manufacturing.
- The report underscores widespread livelihood insecurities, especially among those not covered by social protection measures.
- Urbanization and migration rates are forecasted to increase, with projections suggesting a migration rate of around 40 percent by 2030 and a substantial urban population growth driven by migration, particularly from eastern and central regions to southern, western, and northern regions.
- The report also sheds light on the widening gender gap in the labour market, with low rates of female labour force participation. Young women, particularly those with higher education, face substantial challenges in securing employment.
- Social inequalities also persist despite affirmative action and targeted policies, with Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes facing barriers to accessing better job opportunities. Although educational

attainment has improved across all groups, social hierarchies persist, exacerbating the employment disparity.

Financing Agrochemical Reduction and Management Programme (FARM)

Why in the News?

- The Financing Agrochemical Reduction and Management Programme (FARM) is a \$379 million, five-year initiative to combat agrochemical pollution. Funded by the Global Environment Facility, the programme is led by UNEP, with the support of United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the African Development Bank. Participating countries include Ecuador, India, Kenya, Laos, Philippines, Uruguay, and Vietnam.



More About the News

- The Financing Agrochemical Reduction and Management Programme – or FARM – led by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) with financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), seeks to change that, elaborating the business case for banks and policy-makers to reorient policy and financial resources towards farmers to help them adopt low- and non-chemical alternatives to toxic agrochemicals and facilitate a transition towards better practices.
- The five-year programme is projected to prevent over 51,000 tons of hazardous pesticides and over 20,000 tons of plastic waste from being released, while avoiding 35,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions and protecting over 3 million hectares of

land from degradation as farms and farmers convert to low-chemical and non-chemical alternatives.

- The FARM programme will support government regulation to phase out POPs-containing agrochemicals and agri-plastics and adopt better management standards, while strengthening banking, insurance and investment criteria to improve the availability of effective pest control, production alternatives and trade in sustainable produce.
- The FARM launch event convened representatives from all seven countries, with over 100 partners and stakeholders directly involved in the programme, including public and private banks, policy makers, farmer cooperatives, agrochemical and plastic manufacturers, international organizations, civil society, academia, and retailers.
- It marks a step change in collaborative efforts between governments, financial institutions, farmers and manufacturers to combat agricultural pollution, paving the way for a more equitable and resilient food system.

PSLV Orbital Experimental Module 3 (POEM 3) Mission

Why in the News?

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced that its PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3 (POEM-3) re-entered the Earth's atmosphere without leaving any debris in orbit.

More About the News

- POEM-3 was configured with a total of 9 different experimental payloads to carry out technology demonstrations and scientific experiments on the newly developed indigenous systems.
- Out of these, six payloads were delivered by NGEs through IN-SPACe. The mission objectives of these payloads were met in a month.
- The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)

has taken the lead in conceptualizing and realizing the POEM by augmenting the 4th stage of PSLV.

- The orbital altitude of the upper stage continued to decay under the influence of natural forces, primarily atmospheric drag with the module expected to have impacted the North Pacific Ocean on March 21, 2024.
- Through the POEM, which serves as a very cost-effective platform for carrying out short-duration space-borne experiments, ISRO has opened up new vistas for academia, startups, and NGEs to experiment with their new payloads.
- This novel opportunity has been effectively utilized by numerous startups, universities, and NGEs for carrying out experiments in space, which included electric thrusters, satellite dispensers, and star-tracking.
- POEM also incorporates new features such as total avionics in single-chain configuration, industrial-grade components in avionics packages including Mission Management Computer, standard interfaces for electric power, telemetry & telecommand, and new in-orbit navigation algorithms making use of rate-gyro, sun sensor, and magnetometer.
- ISRO affirmed its dedication to offering a cost-efficient orbital experiment platform. Recognizing the escalating danger posed by space debris, particularly with the emergence of numerous small satellite constellations, the agency emphasized the substantial threat it poses to space operations, encompassing satellite launches, human spaceflight endeavours, and exploration missions.

