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FORMAL JOB CRISIS

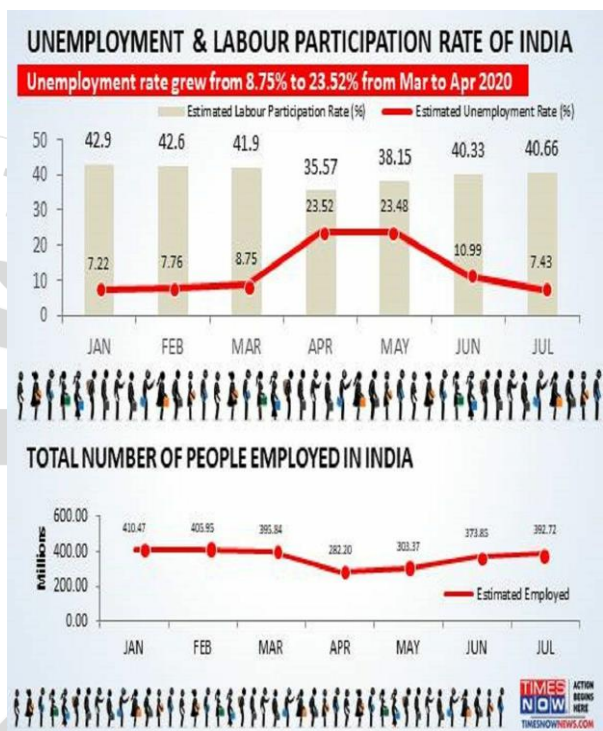
GS 3 ECONOMY

SOURCE: TH

WHY IN NEWS : The contours of India's 'formal jobs' crisis

FACTSHEET:

- According to the latest report, 7.5 per cent of the labour force was unemployed in 2020-21 (July to June), even when a person is defined as employed if he/she worked for at least one hour on at least one day during the seven days preceding the date of survey (current weekly status).
- About 42 million people who were available for work were not employed.
- Around 21 million of unemployed people were in the 15-29 years age group.
- The transition from agriculture to manufacturing in terms of GDP and employment generation, key to development, has not taken place.



REASONS FOR FORMAL JOB CRISIS IN INDIA

- **Economic Slowdown:** A prolonged economic slowdown can result in reduced business expansion and hiring, leading to fewer job opportunities
 - For example, the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 significantly impacted India's economy and caused job losses in various sectors.
- **The decline of the farm sector:** Farm sector has been declining in recent years, due to a number of factors including the lack of investment, the low productivity, and the impact of climate change.

- **The rise of the gig economy.** The gig economy is a growing trend in India, as more and more People are taking on temporary or contract work. However, the gig economy does not offer the same level of security or benefits as traditional formal jobs.
- **Infrastructure Bottlenecks:** Inadequate infrastructure can hinder industrial growth and job creation, affecting various sectors like manufacturing and construction.
- **Demographic Challenges:** India's growing population can put pressure on the job market, exacerbating the formal job crisis.
- The shift of the workforce away from agriculture that India has experienced over the last three decades or longer does not meet the criteria of what economists refer to as "**structural transformation**."

PRELIMS SPECIFIC :

DISGUISED UNEMPLOYMENT: There is an excess of people in the workforce, and the overall production remains unaffected even if some of them are withdrawn.EG: AGRICULTURE AND INFORMAL SECTOR.

Seasonal Unemployment: This type of unemployment happens at different times of the year. Production activities only happen during certain seasons in several sectors.

Structural Unemployment: This type of unemployment arises due to significant changes and adaptations made to a country's economic framework.

Cyclical Unemployment: Unemployment results from a reduction in economic activity, and cyclical unemployment is generally a temporary condition in the short term.

WHAT SHOULD BE THE WAY AHEAD:

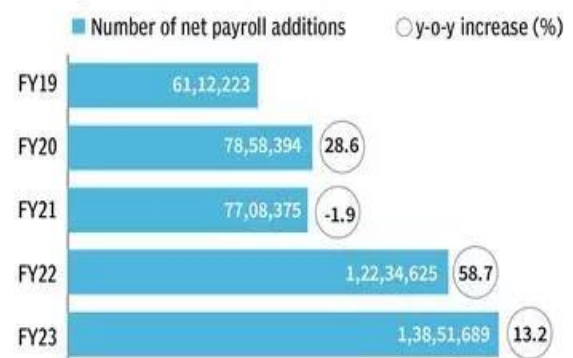
- **Skill Development Programs:**

- Implement comprehensive skill development programs to bridge the gap between demanded and available skills in the job market.
- Collaborate with industries to identify the most relevant skills needed and design training accordingly.

- **Promote Entrepreneurship and Startups:**

- Create a conducive environment for entrepreneurs and startups to flourish by reducing bureaucratic hurdles and providing financial support.
- Encourage innovation and technology-driven ventures that can generate new job opportunities.

Formal job creation rises in FY23



Source: EPFO Payroll data, BL Analysis

- **Encourage Formalization of Informal Sector:**
 - Provide incentives and support to encourage informal businesses to formalize their operations.
 - Offer benefits and assistance to registered businesses to improve their viability and create more formal jobs.

- **Enhance Education and Vocational Training:**
 - Revamp the education system to align with industry demands and promote practical skills.
 - Invest in vocational training to equip the workforce with relevant skills for various job sectors.

- **Support MSMEs (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises):**
 - Provide financial support and easy access to credit for MSMEs to stimulate their growth.
 - Facilitate market linkages and technological upgrades for these enterprises.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES:

1. **Skill India Mission:** This mission aims to skill 10 million people in India annually in various sectors. This will help to make the workforce more employable and create more opportunities for formal jobs.
2. **Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY):** This scheme provides incentives to employers for creating new jobs. This will help to encourage businesses to create more formal jobs.
3. **Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana (ABRY):** This scheme provides incentives to employers for creating new jobs and providing social security benefits to their employees.
4. **National Career Service (NCS) Project:** This project provides a platform for job seekers to connect with employers. This will help to match the skills of job seekers with the needs of employers and create more formal jobs.

COUP IN NIGER

GS 2

SOURCE : [TH](#) , [REUTERS](#)

WHY IN NEWS : Niger coup: Why some people want Russia in and France out

- The removal of President Mohamed Bazoum in Niger on July 26th poses a challenge to political stability in the emerging democracy and hampers efforts to combat the rapidly spreading Islamist insurgency in the Sahel region.



MAJOR REASONS FOR NIGER COUP:

Insecurity: Niger has been struggling with insecurity for years, as the country is home to several armed groups, including **Boko Haram and the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS)**. The insecurity has led to a humanitarian crisis, as hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced from their homes.

Economic hardship: Niger is one of the poorest countries in the world and the economic situation has been worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Political dissatisfaction: The coup leaders have also cited political dissatisfaction as a reason for their actions. They have accused President Mohamed Bazoum of corruption and of failing to address the country's problems.

Military dissatisfaction: coup was led by a group of high-ranking military officers.

The rise of populism: Populism has been on the rise in Niger in recent years. This has led to a decline in trust in traditional institutions, such as the military and the government.

The weakness of the government: The government of Niger has been weak and ineffective in recent years.

IMPACT OF NIGER COUP ON INDIA

Security implications: Niger is a major transit point for terrorists and other criminals, and the coup could make it easier for them to operate in India.

Economic implications: Niger is a major supplier of uranium to India, and the coup could disrupt supplies

Humanitarian implications: Niger is a poor country, and the coup could lead to a humanitarian crisis. India has a long history of providing humanitarian assistance to Niger, and the coup could increase the need for such assistance.

Economic Ties: Any disruptions in governance and political stability in Niger could affect trade and investment prospects between the two nations.

PRELIMS SPECIFIC :

- Niger is a landlocked country located in West Africa.
- It is bordered by seven countries, including Nigeria, Chad, Algeria, Libya, Benin, Burkina Faso, and Mali.
- Niger gained independence from France on August 3, 1960, making it one of the earliest African nations to gain sovereignty from colonial rule.
- Niamey, the Capital of Niger, also serves as the nation's political, economic, and cultural hub.

Military coup in Myanmar

Myanmar's military has seized power in a bloodless coup against the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, alleging fraud in elections her party won by a landslide in November

AUNG SAN SUU KYI, 75

- Nobel Peace Prize winner came to power in 2015 election. Victory followed decades of house arrest in struggle for democracy with Myanmar's junta that turned her into an international icon
- International standing badly damaged after hundreds of thousands of ethnic **Rohingya** Muslims fled army crackdown in Rakhine state in 2017, but she remains hugely popular at home



COUNTDOWN TO COUP

- Nov 3, 2020: Army chief **Gen Min Aung Hlaing** accuses Suu Kyi's government of "widespread violations" of pre-voting procedures in run-up to election
- Nov 9: Suu Kyi's **National League for Democracy (NLD)** party claims resounding victory in second democratic election since end of military rule in 2011
- Nov 11: Main opposition – military-backed **Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)** refuses to recognise results
- Jan 26, 2021: Army threatens to "take action" over alleged fraud
- Jan 28: Election commission rejects allegations of vote fraud
- Jan 30: Military says it will protect constitution and "act according to law"
- Feb 1: Suu Kyi, President **Win Myint** and other senior NLD figures detained. One-year state of emergency declared



Sources: Reuters, BBC
Picture: Getty Images
© GRAPHIC NEWS

MYANMAR COUP :

- India, known as the birthplace of Lord Buddha, holds significant religious importance for the people of Myanmar, attracting them as a country of pilgrimage.
- In 1951 INDIA and MYANMAR formalized their relationship by signing a Treaty of Friendship

- The visit of the Prime Minister in 1987 played a crucial role in laying the groundwork for a stronger bilateral relationship between India and Myanmar.
- Since 2014, Myanmar has been included in India's "Neighborhood First" policy and its "Act East" policy, signifying the growing importance of the bilateral relationship.

ARTICLE 370

GS 2

SOURCE : [TH](#) , [IE](#)

WHY IN NEWS : HEARING ON CHALLENGE TO ARTICLE 370 STARTS

Article 370 of the Indian Constitution is a constitutional provision that gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

- **Article 370** exempted the State from the complete applicability of the Constitution of India.
- The State was conferred the power to have its own constitution.
- Central legislative powers over the State were limited, at the time of framing, to the three subjects of defence, foreign affairs and communications.
- Other constitutional powers of the Central Government could be extended to the State only with the concurrence of the State Government.
- The 'concurrence' was only provisional. It had to be ratified by the State's Constituent Assembly.

PRELIMS SPECIFIC :

ARTICLE 370: The provision for the removal of Article 370 by Presidential order, has been mentioned in Article 370(3). However, the order requires the concurrence of the state's constituent assembly.

NATIONAL PARKS OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Dachigam National Park: famous for being home to the endangered Hangul or Kashmiri Stag, one of the rarest species of deer in the world.

Hemis National Park: Situated in Ladakh, Hemis National Park is the largest national park in India and provides habitat for various endangered species like the snow leopard, Tibetan wolf, and the Eurasian brown bear.

Kishtwar National Park: This national park is known for its diverse flora and fauna, including the Himalayan black bear and the Kashmir flying squirrel.

Salim Ali National Park: Situated in Srinagar, this park is named after the renowned ornithologist Salim Ali and is a sanctuary for various bird species, including migratory birds during winters.

ARTICLE 35 A

- Article 35A of the Indian Constitution was an article that empowered the Jammu and Kashmir state's legislature to define "permanent residents" of the state and provide special rights and privileges to Citizens of Jammu and Kashmir.
- It was added to the Constitution through a presidential order, i.e., The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1954 – issued by the President of India under Article 370.
- Non-permanent residents of Jammu and Kashmir do not have the same rights as permanent residents.

IMPACT OF ABROGATION OF ARTICLE 370

Education: This would result in the establishment of prestigious institutions such as IITs and IIMs in the valley. Professors who were previously hesitant to relocate due to their children's school admission concerns would be more inclined to settle there.

Improved access to healthcare and education: The abrogation of Article 370 has led to improved access to healthcare and education in Jammu and Kashmir. This has been achieved through the extension of central government schemes to the region and the opening of new schools and hospitals.

Security: The new union territory status ensures that the state's police will report directly to the central government instead of Kashmir-based politicians.

Corruption: Under the central government's jurisdiction, there is a better chance to combat corruption and promote the region's development.

Political integration: The abrogation of Article 370 has led to the political integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of India. This has been achieved through the reorganization of the state into two union territories, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.



ISSUES WITH THE ABROGATION ON ARTICLE 370

The erosion of autonomy: Article 370 gave Jammu and Kashmir a special status within the Indian Union, and its abrogation has been seen by some as an erosion of the region's autonomy. This has raised concerns that the people of Jammu and Kashmir will have less control over their own affairs.

The impact on the security situation: The abrogation of Article 370 has also been seen as a potential threat to the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir. The region has been a hotbed of militancy for decades, and there are concerns that the abrogation could lead to an increase in violence.

The impact on human rights: There have also been concerns about the impact of the abrogation on human rights in Jammu and Kashmir. There have been reports of human rights abuses by the security forces in the region, and there are fears that the abrogation could lead to further abuses.

The impact on the economy: The abrogation of Article 370 has also been seen as a potential threat to the economy of Jammu and Kashmir. The region is a major tourist destination, and there are concerns that the abrogation could lead to a decrease in tourism.

WAY FORWARD

- Atal Bihari Vajpayee's vision of Kashmiriyat, Insaniyat, Jamhooriyat (inclusive culture, humanitarianism, and democracy) should be a cornerstone for reconciliation in the State.
- The legitimacy crisis in Kashmir can be addressed by adopting the Gandhian principles of non-violence and peace
- To uplift Kashmir, a 10-year strategy should be implemented, focusing on education, employment, and employability.

