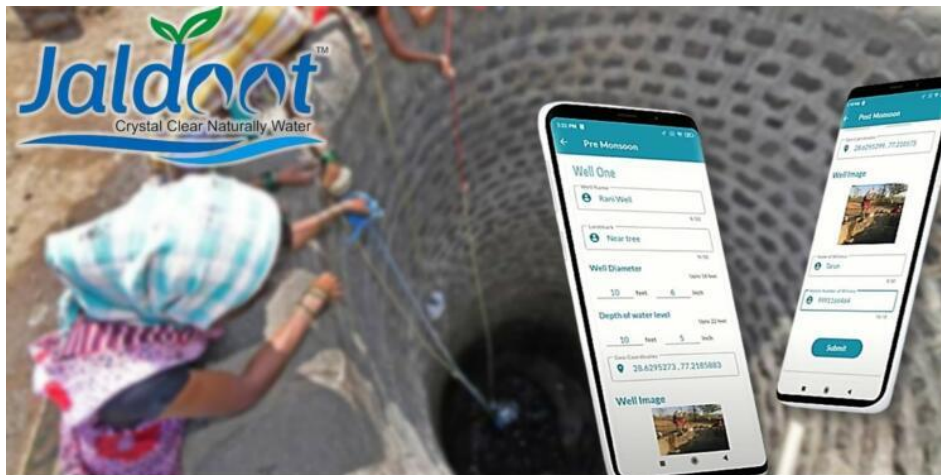


October - 02

NATIONAL

Jaldoot app

- ❖ The Ministry of Rural Development has launched the “JALDOOT App and JALDOOT App e-brochure” to capture the Ground water level in a better way.
- ❖ This app has been jointly developed by the Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.
- ❖ This app will be used across the country to capture the water level of selected 2-3 wells in a village.
- ❖ This app will facilitate observing water tables across the country.
- ❖ And the resulting data can be utilized for Gram Panchayat Development Plan and Mahatma Gandhi NREGA Plans.
- ❖ The total estimated groundwater depletion in India is in the range of 122–199-billion-meter cubes.
- ❖ 89% of groundwater extracted is used in the irrigation sector.
- ❖ It is making it the highest category user in the country.



Popular Front of India

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has banned the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its associations.
- ❖ This is made under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for their links with terrorist groups and subversive activities.

- ❖ The ban was imposed based on the recommendations from the state governments of Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Gujarat.
- ❖ Now, the PFI has joined the LeT, JeM, al Qaida, SIMI and other extremist groups on the “banned” list.
- ❖ 8 organizations that are operating as affiliates to the PFI have also been banned.
- ❖ The PFI was founded in 2007 as a result of the merger of the three Muslim organizations from Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

INTERNATIONAL

Bread for all

- ❖ Dubai has introduced vending machines to distribute bread free among the poor.
- ❖ The vending machines have a computer touch screen and it allowing people to select different types.
- ❖ 'Bread for all,' is the text on the vending machines which would be of some help to hundreds of migrant labourers.
- ❖ Dubai has been impacted by rapidly rising consumer prices.
- ❖ Dubai Statistics Center said the food price index, rose by 8.75 percent year on year in July.
- ❖ UAE is home to nearly 8.7 million migrants, mainly from India, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

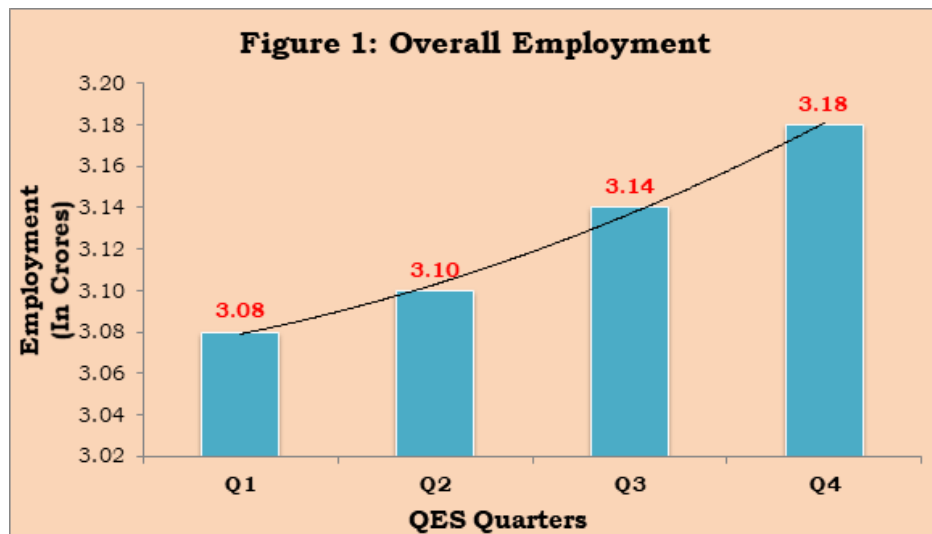


ECONOMY

Employment in fourth quarter

- ❖ The fourth round (January-March 2022) of the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) was released recently.

- ❖ It is a part of the All-India Quarterly Establishment based Employment Survey (AQEES).
- ❖ It claimed an increase of about four lakh workers compared with the third round of QES, which was done for the last three months of 2021.
- ❖ The Manufacturing continues to be the largest institutional employer in the country, employing about 38.5% of the workers.
- ❖ It was followed by education sector with 21.7%, IT/BPO sector with 12% and Health sector 10.6%.
- ❖ Almost 80% of the establishments engaged 10 to 99 workers.
- ❖ About 12% of the establishments reported fewer than 10 workers.
- ❖ Only 1.4% of the establishments surveyed reported at least 500 workers.
- ❖ The participation of women workers witnessed a marginal increase from 31.6% in the third quarter to 31.8% in the fourth quarter report.
- ❖ However, women workers constituted about 52% of the workforce in the health sector.
- ❖ While the corresponding percentages in education, financial services and IT/ BPO sectors stood at 44%, 41% and 36%, respectively.
- ❖ The survey said 86.4% of the workers were regular employees, and 8.7% were contractual employees followed by casual employees (2.3%) and self-employed (2%).



Extension of Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20

- ❖ The current Foreign Trade Policy has been extended by six months due to currency volatility and global uncertainty.

- ❖ Currently, there are fears of recession in major economies like the United State and Europe.
- ❖ This has resulted in the rapid withdrawal of investments and foreign funds outflow in India.
- ❖ Geopolitical crisis caused by the Ukraine war, inflation and monetary policy tightening are weakening the rupee against the US dollar.
- ❖ Currently the USD is at a 22-year high and the Indian Rupee has hit an all-time low of 81.6 against the dollar.
- ❖ Hence, the current geo-political situation is not favourable for the adoption of long-term foreign policy FTP 2022-27.
- ❖ The Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 provides the framework for increasing exports of goods and services and focuses on improving ease of doing business in India.



The infographic is titled "FOREIGN TRADE POLICY 2015-20" and is issued by the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. It commemorates 48 months of transforming India. The policy was announced on April 1, 2015, and its mid-term review was released on December 5, 2017. The infographic lists several key features:

Two new schemes introduced viz. 'Merchandise Exports from India Scheme' (MEIS) and 'Services Exports from India Scheme' (SEIS)	Enhanced MEIS extended to labour-intensive industries
Support extended to Special Economic Zones (SEZs)	Enhanced SEIS extended to all notified services such as business, legal, accounting, architectural, engineering, educational, hospital, hotels & restaurants
Duty Credit Scrips made freely transferable	Validity period of Duty Credit Scrips increased
Reduced Export Obligation (EO) for domestic procurement under EPCG scheme	New trust based Self Ratification Scheme to allow duty free inputs for export production for authorized economic operators

The bottom of the infographic features an illustration of a port with shipping containers, cranes, and trucks.

ENVIRONMENT

New Target under NCAP

- ❖ The Indian Government has set a new target of 40 per cent reduction in the particulate matter concentration by 2026 in cities under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).
- ❖ This is an update of the earlier goal of 20 to 30 per cent reduction of particulate matter concentration by 2024.
- ❖ The city-specific plans under NCAP are being upgraded to make them on par with the new goals.

- ❖ According to the Environment Ministry, 95 of the 131 non-attainment cities covered under the NCAP have reduced their PM10 levels in 2021 when compared with the 2017 levels.
- ❖ Non-attainment cities are those that have fallen short of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for over 5 years from 2011 to 2015.
- ❖ 20 cities have met the national standards for annual average PM10 concentration, which is 60 micrograms per cubic meters.
- ❖ The NCAP was launched in 2019 as the first-ever national framework for air quality management with time-bound reduction target.
- ❖ It aims to bring down the concentration of PM10 and PM2.5 across India.
- ❖ 2017 set as the base year for the comparison of concentration of the pollutants.

BY 2024, POLLUTION CUT BY 30%	
NATIONAL CLEAN AIR PROGRAMME (NCAP)	BUILD CAPACITY BY SETTING UP:
Cities to be covered: 102	1 National emission inventory
GOAL: To meet annual average ambient air quality standards	2 Air Information Centre for data analysis
MID-TERM (5 YEARS) TARGET: Reducing air pollution by 20-30% by 2024, taking 2017 as base year	3 Source apportionment studies
HOW: Through city-specific air pollution abatement action plan	4 Guidelines for indoor air pollution
	5 Rural monitoring stations
INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AGENCIES: World Bank, German development agency (GIZ), AFD (French funding agency), Swiss Development Corporation, Bloomberg Philanthropies	

STATES

Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Bill

- ❖ It gives preference to Kannadigas in government jobs and provides reservations to locals in private jobs generated in the state.
- ❖ The Bill defines Kannadigas as individuals whose parents have resided in Karnataka for a minimum of 15 years with the knowledge of reading and writing Kannada.



- ❖ Under this Bill, practical and functional knowledge of Kannada will be taught in higher, technical and professional education courses.
- ❖ Students who have studies in Kannada Medium schools will get reservations in higher education.
- ❖ It will deny land concession, tax rebates and other incentives to private companies that do not recruit at least a minimum percentage of Kannadigas.
- ❖ Government jobs in the state will be provided only if a Kannada language exam is passed.

