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Periodic Labour Force Survey 2018-19

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Why in News

Recently, the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** released the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for July 2018 to June 2019.

Key Points

- **Unemployment Rate:** India's **unemployment rate** fell to 5.8% during 2018-19 from 6.1% during the same period of 2017-18.
 - The urban unemployment rate reduced to 7.7% from 7.8%.
 - The rural unemployment reduced to 5% from 5.3%.
- **Labour Force Participation Rate:** The **labour force participation rate** rose to 37.5% during 2018-19 from 36.9% of 2017-18.
- **Female Participation Rate:** The **female participation rate** also improved going up to 18.6% in 2018-19 from 17.5% the year before.
- **Worker Population Ratio:** The **worker population ratio** also increased, to 35.3% as against 34.7% in the 2017-18.
- **Issues Involved:**
 - Unemployment was a concern in 2019 and it worsened in 2019-20 due to **Covid-19**.
 - According to the monthly Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy data, the unemployment rate in India shot up from 7.87% in June 2019 to 23.48% in May 2020.

- **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)**
 - PLFS is India's **first computer-based survey** launched by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in 2017.
 - It has been constituted based on the recommendation of **Amitabh Kundu**.
 - PLFS has two fold objective:
 - To estimate the key employment and unemployment indicators (viz. **Worker Population Ratio, Labour Force Participation Rate, Unemployment Rate**) in the **short time interval of three months** for the **urban areas only** in the **Current Weekly Status (CWS)**.
 - To estimate **employment and unemployment indicators** in both **usual status** and **CWS** in both **rural and urban areas annually**.
 - Before PLFS the NSSO (previous name of NSO) used to bring the data related to **employment and unemployment** based on its **quinquennial household socio-economic survey programme**.

Key Terms

- **Unemployment Rate (UR):** UR is defined as the percentage of persons unemployed among the persons in the labour force.
- **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR):** LFPR is defined as the percentage of persons in the labour force (i.e. working or seeking or available for work) in the population.
- **Female Labour Force Participation Rate:** It is the share of working-age women who report either being employed, or being available for work.
- **Worker Population Ratio (WPR):** WPR is defined as the percentage of employed persons in the population.
- **Activity Status:** The activity status of a person is determined on the basis of the activities pursued by the person during the specified reference period.
 - **Usual Status:** The activity status determined on the basis of the reference period of the last 365 days preceding the date of survey, it is **known as the usual activity status** of the person.
 - **Current Weekly Status (CWS):** The activity status determined on the basis of a reference period of the last 7 days preceding the date of survey is **known as the current weekly status (CWS)** of the person.

National Statistical Office

- NSO is the **central statistical agency of the Government** mandated under the **Statistical Services Act 1980** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**.

- It is responsible for the development of arrangements for **providing statistical information services** to meet the needs of the Government and other users for information on which to base policy, planning, monitoring and management decisions.
 - The services include collecting, compiling and disseminating official statistical information.
 - All business operations in NSO are done in compliance with **international standards, procedures and best practices.**

Recent Government Initiatives to Tackle Unemployment

- The Union government has come up with an economic stimulus package under **Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan** to support the Indian economy and create jobs.
 - Under the **Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)**, the Union Government is providing affordable loans to street vendors.
 - The government has allocated an additional fund of Rs 40,000 crore for **MGNREGA**, as part of the stimulus package.
 - The government is offering **credit guarantees for MSMEs** which will help them in getting loans easily and boost their functioning.
- State governments have also come up with the initiative to support their economy and increase jobs.
 - Andhra Pradesh government's **'ReStart' programme** to support the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector in the State.
 - **Jharkhand has launched three employment schemes** to create wage employment for workers in rural areas.

Source: PIB