

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-SEPTEMBER 28,2021

NATIONAL

- On September 27, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - launched the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission through video conferencing in New Delhi

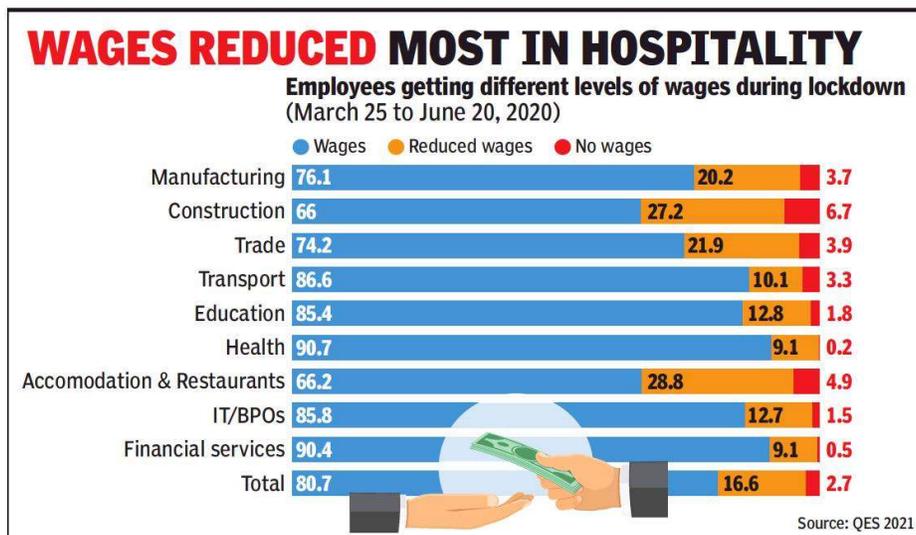


- ✓ The mission is a complete digital health ecosystem providing a unique 'health ID' for every citizen, along with digitised personal health records, as well as a registry of doctors and health facilities across the country.
 - ✓ According to the PM, the Digital Mission will play a big role in eliminating problems in providing medical treatment to the poor and the middle class.
 - ✓ The pilot project of the Mission was announced by the PM from the Red Fort on August 15, 2020, and has been implemented in six Union territories.
 - ✓ Under the Mission, a unique digital health ID will be provided to people, which will contain health records of the person and enable interoperability within the digital health system.
- On September 27, Union Minister for Labour and Employment, Bhupender Yadav - released the report of first quarter of Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) part (April to June 2021), of the All-India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey (AQEES) prepared by the Labour Bureau



- ✓ The AQEES provides quarterly updates about the employment and related variables of establishments, in both organised and unorganised segments of nine selected sectors
- ✓ The nine sectors which the survey focused are manufacturing, construction, trade, transport, education, health, accommodation and restaurant, IT/BPO and financial services.
- ✓ The employment in these nine key non-farm sectors of the economy rose 29% to 3.08 crore in the first quarter of 2021-22 compared to 2.37 crore reported in the sixth economic census in 2013-14.
- ✓ The IT/ BPO sector reported 152% growth, followed by health (77%), financial services (48%), education (39%), manufacturing (22%), transport (68%) and construction (42%) during the current period compared to 2013-14 economic census.
- ✓ The employment in the two services sectors, trade and accommodation and restaurant segment, declined by 25% and 13% respectively due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic
- ✓ Regarding the total employment in the selected nine sectors, manufacturing accounts for 41%, education 22% and health 8%, while trade and IT/BPO had 7% of the total estimated number of workers
- ✓ The survey results showed that 38.1% establishments in the manufacturing sector, 34.5% in the construction sector and 34.4% in the accommodation and restaurant sector reported decreased employment during the nationwide lockdown.
- ✓ The health sector registered the highest percentage share (7%) reporting an increase in employment during the lockdown.
- ✓ Regular workers constitute 88% of the estimated workforce in the nine selected sectors, with only 2% being casual workers.

- ✓ The over-all participation of female workers stood at 29%, slightly lower than 31% reported during 6th Economic Census.



- ✓ There are two components under AQEES, Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) and Area Frame Establishment Survey (AFES).
 - ✓ QES has been launched to compile relevant data from about 12,000 establishments selected through a sampling design to represent each of the nine sectors within each state/ Union Territory, as also each size-class (range of number of workers) within each sector-State/ UT.
 - ✓ Area Frame Establishment Survey (AFES) covers the unorganised segment (with less than 10 workers) through a sample survey.
- **The Ministry of Finance – has set up two group of ministers (GoM), based on the decision taken at the 45th GST Council meeting held on September 17 in Lucknow**
- ✓ One of the group will look into the rate rationalisation under the goods and services tax including the current slab structure, while the next group will look at systems reforms required to plug revenue leakages
 - ✓ The current GST has as many as seven rates – exempt, 0.25%, 3%, 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%.
 - ✓ The 15th Finance Commission had also recommended the revamping of GST rate structure.
 - ✓ The seven-member panel, looking into rate structure, would be headed by Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommai
 - ✓ It includes West Bengal finance minister Amit Mitra, Kerala finance minister K N Balagopal, Bihar deputy chief minister Tarkishore Prasad, Uttar Pradesh finance minister Suresh Khanna, Goa transport minister Mauvin Godinho and Rajasthan urban development and housing minister S K Dhariwal.
 - ✓ The GoM has been given two months to submit its report of short, medium and long term recommendations.

Gst Revamp
GST Council sets up 2 GoMs
Rate rationalisation, systems review in focus

ON THE TABLE
Merging slabs
Special rates
Inverted duty structure
Reducing exemptions

GoM ON SYSTEMS
steps to plug revenue leakage
subsume committees on revenue mobilisation, IT challenges

NEW MANDATE

GoM on rate rationalisation



Chairman
BS Bommai
 (Karnataka)

Members |
 Tarkishore Prasad
 (Bihar), Mauvin

Godinho (Goa), KN Balagopal
 (Kerala), SK Dhariwal
 (Rajasthan), Suresh
 Khanna (UP) & Amit
 Mitra (Bengal)

To expand base | Review goods, services exempt from GST for expansion of tax base

For simpler rate structure & more resources | Review tax slab rates, current slab rates for possible merger of slabs

To cut refunds | Review inverted duty structure

GoM on systems reforms



Chairman
Ajit Pawar
 (Maharashtra)

Members |
 Manish Sisodia
 (delhi), Dushyant
 Chautala (Haryana), B
 Rajendranath (AP), Ajanta
 Neog (Assam), T S Singh
 Deo (Chhattisgarh),
 Niranjana Pujari (Odisha)
 & P Thiaga Rajan (TN)

➤ Review tools and interface available with officers

➤ Identify potential sources of evasion

➤ Identify possible use of data analysis for improved compliance

- ✓ It would also look at measures needed to eliminate breaking of input tax credit, special rates and rationalisation and review inverted duty structure.
- ✓ The GoM on GST system reforms would identify potential sources of evasion and suggest changes in business processes and IT systems to arrest revenue leakage.
- ✓ The eight-member panel will be headed by Maharashtra deputy chief Minister Ajit Pawar
- ✓ It includes Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, Tamil Nadu finance minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan and Chhattisgarh commercial tax minister TS Singh Deo.
- ✓ The panel would review IT tools and interface available with tax officers and suggest ways to make them more effective, identify potential sources of evasion and suggest changes in business processes and IT systems to plug revenue leakage.
- ✓ The panel would also identify possible use of data analysis towards better tax compliance and suggest ways of better coordination between central and state tax officers.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Germany's centre-left Social Democrats and outgoing Chancellor Angela Merkel 's center-right bloc - both laid claim to lead the country's next government**



- ✓ A partial count based on 267 of the 299 constituencies showed the Social Democrats leading with 25.7% of the vote against 24.6% for the Union bloc, as on September 27.
- ✓ The Greens, who made their first bid for the chancellery with co-leader Annalena Baerbock, were running in third place with 14.1%, while the pro-business Free Democrats had 11.5% of the vote, according to the partial count.
- ✓ Social Democrats' Olaf Scholz, the outgoing vice chancellor and finance minister is seen as the next chancellor of Germany, while Merkel stays on in a caretaker role until a successor is sworn in

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) - has evaluated a new and simplified RT-PCR testing method to detect SARS-Cov-2**
- ✓ The new method is aimed at reducing testing time and cost.
- ✓ The new diagnostic method omits extraction of the virus's genetic RNA before RTPCR testing, simplifying sample purification and reducing test time
- ✓ At present, RNA extraction before RT-PCR testing is a major bottleneck, as it was time-consuming, expensive and required trained human resources.
- ✓ Researchers evaluated the performance of this alternative method by enrolling 1138 clinic attendees from two independent study sites in Pune and Kolkata — ICMR-National AIDS Research Institute (ICMR-NARI), Pune, and School of Tropical Medicine (STM), Kolkata.
- ✓ The new method was an alternative protocol with shortened turnaround time and potential to address the shortage of RNA extraction kits when demand was high.

