



# DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

LEADING HEALTH, POPULATION AND FAMILY WELFARE STORIES OF THE DAY  
Friday 20220527

## NFHS

### **What does NFHS tell us about the pandemic's employment impact? (Hindustan Times: 20220527)**

Did the Covid-19 pandemic have a lasting impact on employment in India? There is no official data to answer this question in a comprehensive manner at the moment. The latest annual report of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) – it is the official source of employment statistics in India – is available for the July 2019 to June 2020 period. It does show a sharp increase in unemployment during the period of the 68-day long nationwide lockdown which began on March 25. But what happened to labour markets after the lockdown was lifted? While quarterly employment reports of PLFS are available up to December 2021, they only cover urban labour markets and do not have as much information as the annual reports. It is in this void that the recently released unit level data of the fifth round of the National Family and Health Survey (NFHS) – it was conducted between June 2019 and May 2021 – emerges as a useful proxy for the pandemic's impact on employment. An HT analysis of unit level data from NFHS shows that the economic pain in labour markets did not decrease enough with the removal of lockdown restrictions.

# 1 But first, a caveat on NFHS employment numbers

Because NFHS is not focused on employment alone, there is a qualitative difference between employment statistics available in NFHS and PLFS. It is important to list these differences upfront and the resultant limitations of NFHS data to make inferences about the state of labour markets in India.

One, the criteria for being considered employed is much more liberal in NFHS than PLFS. NFHS asks whether a person worked or had work (but was on leave) in the week before the survey or if the person worked at any time in the year before. To be considered employed in the past week in PLFS, a person should have had work for at least one hour on at least one day of the week. To be considered employed in the year before, the person should have had work for at least one month.

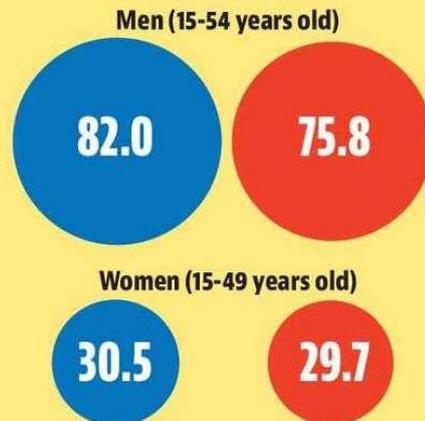
Two, NFHS only seeks responses on employment related questions from men and women in the age-group of 15-54 years and 15-49 years, respectively, while PLFS asks this question of all members of the household. This has an impact on the total sample for employment in NFHS and PLFS. In the 2019-21 NFHS, 101,839 men and 108,785 women gave responses on the employment question. The 2019-20 PLFS had a much bigger sample; 213,063 men and 205,170 women.

Three, unlike PLFS, which surveys every part of the country in each quarter, the NFHS sampling is spread across the entire period of the survey and therefore prone to more seasonal contamination.

These differences, however, do not make NFHS employment numbers worthless. A comparison of the latest PLFS and NFHS shows that NFHS over-estimates the share of working people but not very drastically.

## Share of men and women employed in the past one year

● NFHS 2019-21 ● PLFS 2019-20 (in %)



Note: NFHS data for people employed in the past 12 months; PLFS data for usual status (past 365 days) Source: Unit-level PLFS and NFHS

# 2 NFHS data does suggest a lasting adverse impact of the pandemic on labour markets

One way to overcome the seasonal contamination problem in the NFHS is to compare clubbed districts which were surveyed before and after the lockdown and compare the change in their employment indicators with the previous round which was conducted in 2015-16. HT has used a unit level data analysis to make three such district groups — districts surveyed completely before March 2020, districts surveyed partly before and partly after March 2020 and districts surveyed completely after March 2020 — to make this comparison. To be sure, no district was canvassed between April 2020 and September 2020 and the NFHS only resumed from October 2020 onwards, by when the lockdown restrictions had been largely removed (so when we say after March

2020, it automatically means after September 2020).

A simple comparison of headline employment numbers — currently working, and who usually work all year — shows the biggest proportional fall in male employment for the districts surveyed after March 2020. For women, the degree of increase in employment was less in districts surveyed after the pandemic than in those surveyed before. To be sure, an increase in women's work participation is not surprising — it increased by a bigger degree compared to men even between the 2017-18 and 2019-20 PLFS. This calculation has excluded respondents who reported working seasonally or occasionally as it would not be uncommon for them to not be working when the survey was being conducted.

## Ratio (2019-21 to 2015-16) of currently employed (for those who usually work all year)

■ Districts surveyed before March 2020 ■ Districts surveyed after March 2020 ■ Districts surveyed both before and after March 2020



Note: Currently employed means those employed in the week before the survey Source: Unit-level NFHS

# 3 NFHS data also shows a shift towards farming/manual work

For men, who constitute a majority of the work force and largely drive the overall labour market trends, the NFHS data show a change which is similar to what is seen in the PLFS data: a shift towards agriculture. The share of men employed in agricultural work increased in the districts surveyed after the pandemic in

NFHS, while this share decreased in the districts surveyed before the pandemic. A somewhat similar trend — more increase in post-pandemic districts than in pre-pandemic ones — is seen for share of men doing manual work. To a lesser degree, these trends were also true for women.

## Ratio (2019-21 to 2015-16) of share in different occupations

■ Districts surveyed before March 2020 ■ Districts surveyed after March 2020 ■ Districts surveyed both before and after March 2020



## **World Health Organization**

### **Tedros re-elected as head of World Health Organization Had steered the UN agency through a turbulent period dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic (The Tribune: 20220527)**

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/health/who-chief-tedros-to-be-confirmed-for-2nd-term-after-no-opposition-397735>

Tedros re-elected as head of World Health Organization  
Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus addresses the 75th World Health Assembly at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland on May 22. Reuters

The World Health Organization's (WHO) members re-elected Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus as Director General by a strong majority for another five years, the president of the World Health Assembly said on Tuesday.

The vote by secret ballot, announced by Ahmed Robleh Abdilleh from Djibouti at a major annual meeting, was seen as a formality since Tedros was the only candidate running.

Ministers and delegates took turns to shake hands and hug Tedros, a former health minister from Ethiopia, who has steered the UN agency through a turbulent period dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The president had to use a gavel several times to interrupt the applause.

German Health Minister Karl Lauterbach tweeted on Tuesday: "Just re-elected as ?Director General of #WHO: @DrTedros?."

155/160 votes, spectacular result. Congratulations, fully deserved. Germany recently overtook the United States as the UN health agency's top donor.

## **Monkeypox**

### **WHO asks countries to increase surveillance for Monkeypox The recent outbreak in non-endemic countries has raised concerns (The Tribune: 20220527)**

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/health/who-asks-countries-to-increase-surveillance-for-monkeypox-398405>

WHO asks countries to increase surveillance for Monkeypox  
Photo for representational purpose only. AP/PTI

About 200 confirmed and more than 100 suspected cases of Monkeypox have been detected so far outside of the countries where it usually spreads, a World Health Organization official said on Thursday, urging countries to increase surveillance for the infectious disease.

Monkeypox, a mild viral infection, is endemic in the African countries of Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Nigeria.

The recent outbreak in non-endemic countries has raised concerns. The strain circulating globally is thought to have a fatality rate of around 1%, although effective vaccines and treatments are available.

Talking during an online briefing, WHO's senior epidemiologist Maria Van Kerkhove said cases have so far been detected in more than 20 non-endemic countries, adding that the agency expected the numbers to go up.

"We expect more cases to be detected. We are asking countries to increase surveillance...This is a containable situation. It will be difficult, but it's a containable situation in the non-endemic countries." Reuters

## **AIIMS-Bhubaneswar**

**AIIMS-Bhubaneswar conducts total femur replacement in first in Odisha  
A team of doctors, led by orthopaedic department additional professor Sujit Tripathy, operated on a man from Kendrapara district who had a huge tumour in the left thigh bone, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bhubaneswar said in a statement (The Tribune: 20220527)**

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/aiims-bhubaneswar-conducts-total-femur-replacement-in-first-in-odisha-398394>

AIIMS-Bhubaneswar conducts total femur replacement in first in Odisha  
AIIMS-Bhubaneswar on Thursday said it successfully performed a total femur replacement, which is used as an alternative to lower limb amputation, in a first of its kind surgery in Odisha.

A team of doctors, led by orthopaedic department additional professor Sujit Tripathy, operated on a man from Kendrapara district who had a huge tumour in the left thigh bone, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bhubaneswar said in a statement.

The 30-year-old was suffering from a primitive neuroectodermal tumour of the thigh bone. He had already undergone two surgeries in 2018 and 2019, but that was inadequate to remove the tumor completely, according to the hospital.

The patient subsequently developed a recurrence of the tumour, which was close to the blood vessels, and received chemotherapy prior to the current surgery.

The whole tumour was excised and a total femur mega-prosthesis was implanted during the four-hour surgery. “This was the first surgery of total femur replacement in Odisha,” the hospital said.

The patient is fine, but he has to receive more chemotherapy and the postoperative period needs vigilant management, doctor Tripathy said.

## **Heart problems, pneumonia, asthma claimed**

**Heart problems, pneumonia, asthma claimed 42 per cent of total deaths in India in 2020; Covid 9 per cent**

**While diseases of circulatory system claimed 32.1 per cent lives, respiratory system-related diseases were responsible for 10 per cent deaths  
(The Tribune: 20220527)**

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/health/heart-problems-pneumonia-asthma-claimed-42-per-cent-of-total-deaths-in-india-in-2020-covid-9-per-cent-398376>

Heart problems, pneumonia, asthma claimed 42 per cent of total deaths in India in 2020; Covid 9 per cent

Photo for representational purpose only. iStock

Heart diseases, pneumonia and asthma together claimed the highest number of lives—over 42 per cent—of the total 18,11,688 medically certified deaths registered in the country in 2020.

However, the total number of registered deaths in the country was 81,15,882.

According to the ‘Report on Medical Certification of Cause of Death 2020’, prepared by India’s Registrar General and Census Commissioner, COVID-19, which hit the country in that year, claimed nearly nine per cent of the lives -- 1,60,618 people.

While diseases of circulatory system claimed 32.1 per cent lives, respiratory system-related diseases were responsible for 10 per cent deaths.

Those who died due to diseases of pulmonary circulation and other forms of heart diseases and ischemic heart diseases were categorised as deaths due to ‘diseases of circulatory system’.

Deaths from pneumonia, asthma and related diseases were termed as deaths due to the ‘diseases of respiratory system’.

The third leading group, constituting 8.9 per cent of the total medically certified deaths, was classified under the ‘Codes for special purposes: COVID-19’.

Certain infectious and parasitic diseases, which were the fourth leading cause of death, were mainly constituted by septicemia and tuberculosis. They claimed 7.1 per cent lives in 2020 in India.

The fifth leading cause, endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases were responsible for 5.8 per cent of the total medically certified deaths. Diabetes and mellitus were the major causes under this category.

The sixth leading reason of country’s deaths was injury, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes (fractures, poisoning by drugs and biological substances) and it constituted 5.6 per cent of the total deaths.

Neoplasm (cancer) was the seventh leading cause, accounting for 4.7 per cent of the total medically certified deaths.

Male and female constituted 64 per cent and 36 per cent respectively of the total medically certified death.

The highest number of deaths (5,17,678 or 28.6 per cent of total medically certified deaths) were reported for the age-group 70 years and above.

For the age-groups of 45 years and above, diseases of circulatory system (heart diseases) were the first leading cause of death.

A total of 5.7 per cent of total medically certified deaths were reported among infants (age less than 1 year).

About 71.7 per cent of all infant deaths were reported to be caused by certain conditions originating during the perinatal period.

In the age-group of 15-24 years, diseases of circulatory system claimed 18 per cent of deaths - the highest—followed by injury, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes, which constituted 15.7 per cent of deaths, implying the age group to be peculiarly vulnerable to ‘injuries and poisoning related deaths.’

## **vaccination**

**Even vaccinated people can develop Long Covid, finds study  
It also shows that vaccination against Covid-19 reduced the risk of death by 34 per cent and risk of getting long Covid by 15 per cent, compared with unvaccinated patients (The Tribune: 20220527)**

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/health/even-vaccinated-people-can-develop-long-covid-finds-study-398345>

Even vaccinated people can develop Long Covid, finds study  
Photo for representational purpose only. iStock

Even vaccinated people with mild breakthrough infections can experience Long COVID—debilitating, lingering symptoms that affect the heart, brain, lungs and other parts of the body, according to a study of over 13 million people in the US.

The research, published on Wednesday in the journal Nature Medicine, also shows that vaccination against COVID-19 reduced the risk of death by 34 per cent and the risk of getting long COVID by 15 per cent, compared with unvaccinated patients.

However, vaccines were shown to be most effective in preventing some of the worrisome manifestations of long COVID—lung and blood-clotting disorders—which declined about 49 per cent and 56 per cent, respectively, among those who were vaccinated.

“Vaccinations reduce the risk of hospitalisation and dying from COVID-19. But vaccines seem to only provide modest protection against long COVID,” said first author Ziyad Al-Aly, a clinical epidemiologist at Washington University.

“People recovering from breakthrough COVID-19 infection should continue to monitor their health and see a health-care provider if lingering symptoms make it difficult to carry out daily activities,” Al-Aly said in a statement.

The researchers classified patients as fully vaccinated if they had received two doses of the Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine.

At the time the study was conducted, the database used for the research did not include information about whether patients had received boosters, the researchers said.

“Now that we understand that COVID-19 can have lingering health consequences even among the vaccinated, we need to move towards developing mitigation strategies that can be implemented for the longer term since it does not appear that COVID-19 is going away any time soon,” said Al-Aly.

“We need to urgently develop and deploy additional layers of protection that could be sustainably implemented to reduce the risk of long COVID,” he added.

Such protective layers could include nasal vaccines that are more convenient or potent than the current shots, or other types of vaccines or drugs aimed at minimising the risks of long COVID.

“Getting COVID-19, even among vaccinated people, seems almost unavoidable nowadays,” said Al-Aly, noting that 8 to 12 per cent of vaccinated people with breakthrough infections may develop long COVID.

The researchers analysed the de-identified medical records of more than 13 million veterans from a database maintained by the US Department of Veterans Affairs.

They examined data of 113,474 unvaccinated COVID-19 patients and 33,940 vaccinated patients who had experienced COVID-19 breakthrough infections, all from January 1 through October 31, 2021.

The patients with COVID-19 were mostly older, white men. However, the researchers also analysed data that included more than 1.3 million women and adults of all ages and races.

The study does not include data involving the Omicron variants, which began spreading rapidly in late 2021.

However, Al-Aly said prior studies have suggested the vaccine is effective against all current variants.

In addition to complications involving the heart, brain and lungs, other symptoms associated with long COVID included disorders involving the kidneys, blood clotting, mental health, metabolism and the gastrointestinal and musculoskeletal systems.

Long COVID risks were 17 per cent higher among vaccinated immunocompromised people with breakthrough infections compared with previously healthy, vaccinated people who experienced breakthrough infections, the researchers said.

An analysis of 3,667 vaccinated patients who were hospitalised with breakthrough COVID-19 infections showed that they experienced 2.5 times the risk of death than people who were hospitalised with influenza.

They also had a 27 per cent higher risk of long COVID in the first 30 days after diagnosis compared with 14,337 people who were hospitalised with seasonal influenza.

**Vaccines (The Asian Age:20220527)**

<http://onlinepaper.asianage.com/articledetailpage.aspx?id=16391669>

# Big vaccine drive, self-reliance mark 8 yrs of Modi govt

*PM's popularity, support growing*

**YOJNA GUSAI**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 26

Taking forward the motto of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas", the Narendra Modi-led NDA government has completed eight years in office since the BJP came to power in 2014 under Mr Modi's leadership, bagging 282 Lok Sabha seats, and then crossing the 300-seat mark in 2019. While Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity and support base keeps growing, the BJP's recent electoral wins, including in states like Uttar Pradesh, has already solidified the ruling party's position ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Since being elected to power in 2014, the Narendra Modi government has implemented many pro-people steps and taken many key decisions, including historic ones like nullification of the contentious Article 370 of the Constitution. The resolution of the age-old Ram Mandir-Babri

▶ **THE RESOLUTION** of the age-old Ram Mandir-Babri Masjid dispute by the Supreme Court is also seen as among the Modi government's achievements

Masjid dispute by the Supreme Court is also seen as among the Modi government's achievements.

However, the launch of the largest vaccination drive in the world against the global Covid-19 pandemic, with over 192 crore doses administered so far, is perhaps the biggest achievement of the Modi government's second term. While the world was battling the pandemic, India's early Covid management and its vaccine diplomacy got praise from the entire world.

As the world was battling against Covid-19 and the country was under a full lockdown, the Modi government provided free rations under the "PM-Garib

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## Post-Covid challenges

**National Assessment Survey lays out post-Covid challenges. Teacher- and student-centred approaches are needed**

**Conducted in November 2021 among students of more than one lakh schools in 720 districts, the NAS shows a sharp dip in the performance of students in almost all subjects during the pandemic years. ( The Indian Express:20220527)**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/editorials/national-assessment-survey-lays-out-post-covid-challenges-7938451/>

The Union education ministry has said that the NAS data “will help states in taking remedial measures, both short-term and long-term”.

With social and economic activity returning to near normal after the pandemic, one of the critical challenges is to extend the post-Covid recovery to the classroom. India witnessed one of the longest school closures in the world. For the better part of the past two years, teachers struggled to cope with the pedagogical challenges posed by the switch to online classes. The country’s digital divide proved to be a hurdle for a large number of underprivileged learners. Field reports by private agencies and state government bodies have indicated that this disruption resulted in an alarming regression in children’s foundational skills — reading, writing, doing simple mathematics. Now a study commissioned by the Centre, the National Assessment Survey (NAS), details the magnitude of this learning crisis across the country. Conducted in November 2021 among students of more than one lakh schools in 720 districts, the NAS shows a sharp dip in the performance of students in almost all subjects during the pandemic years. Worryingly, it reveals that the breakdown affected even states that traditionally do well on educational parameters. The average scores of Delhi’s Class V students in mathematics, for instance, were well below the national average.

The Union education ministry has said that the NAS data “will help states in taking remedial measures, both short-term and long-term”. The first step should be to acknowledge that children are returning to schools with diminished skills as well as recognise that some learners may have experienced more setbacks than their peers. Planners and school administrators should give teachers the freedom to adopt creative approaches that turn classrooms into spaces where students can shed the anxieties of the past two years and regain skills at their own pace. This would require re-imagining pedagogical practices and a shift from syllabus-centred approaches of the past to learner-centric methods. The New Education Policy 2020, announced in the first year of the pandemic, recognises this imperative. Unfortunately, however, the public health emergency seems to have put on the back-burner the implementation of school education reforms envisaged by the NEP. Funds for training teachers have been slashed by nearly 50 per cent in the current budget and the outlay for the Mid-Day Meal Scheme — whose positive impact on school enrollment, student retention and nutrition of children is well-documented — has come down by almost 10 per cent. Instead, there seems to be an over-reliance on e-learning. But as the NAS shows, these methods cannot be a substitute for the interactions in a classroom.

Several studies, including the annual ASER reports, have underlined that most of the failings of the country’s educational system stem from the lack of connect between the lived experiences of most students and what is taught in classrooms. The pandemic-induced crisis — no doubt formidable — is an opportunity to apply correctives. Failure to do so will imperil the academic future of an entire generation.

## **Menopause**

### **An attempt to stop menstrual penalty (The Hindu:20220527)**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/a-creative-video-by-boondh-attempts-to-stop-menstrual-penalty/article65459751.ece>

Menstruators will menstruate is a creative video that highlights the menstrual discrimination girls face at home and workplace

We are in 2022 but the menstruation stigma still runs deep. Shame and secrecy surround conversations about periods -- a normal biological process for half the world's population which lives with the ingrained idea that it is impolite to talk about it.

Bengaluru-based Boondh, a hybrid social enterprise, has created what it claims to be the first prevalence data report on menstrual discrimination in the

## **Respiratory diseases**

### **In first year of lockdown, more died of other respiratory diseases than COVID-19(The Hindu:20220527)**

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/heart-problems-pneumonia-asthma-claim-42-of-total-deaths-in-india-in-2020-covid-9/article65463397.ece>

The medical certification of cause of death report says that 1,60,618 deaths in 2020 were due to COVID-19 which differs from government's official toll of 1.49 lakh.

The first year of COVID-19 lockdown saw the highest incidences of persons dying of respiratory illnesses in a decade, the 2020 report on medical certification of cause of death (MCCD) compiled by the Registrar General of India (RGI) says. In 2020, as many as 1,81,160 deaths occurred due to respiratory

## **Lean diabetes**

### **Lean diabetes: reality that needs further research, says study (The Hindu:20220527)**

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/lean-diabetes-reality-that-needs-further-research-says-study/article65462742.ece>

A recent article in Diabetes Care has argued that diabetics who have a low BMI have a unique metabolic profile compared to other groups of diabetics.

Diabetics who have a low body mass index (BMI) have a unique metabolic profile compared to other groups of diabetics, and could be a distinct entity warranting further investigation, a recent article in Diabetes Care has argued.

The study looked at the metabolic factors in subjects who were recruited at the Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore, against control groups comprising individuals with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, and similar BMI subjects without diabetes. It was conducted with the Global Diabetes Institute, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, U.S.

## **Monkeypox virus**

### **The monkeypox virus: origins and outbreaks (The Hindu:20220527)**

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/the-monkeypox-virus-origins-and-outbreaks/article65459957.ece>

How did monkeypox spread? What are the observations from genome sequencing?

The story so far: With cases being reported from across the world, monkeypox has caught everyone's attention. The present outbreak has a toll of over 220 confirmed cases spread across 19 countries. U.K., Spain and Portugal are leading the pack with the highest number of confirmed cases but no deaths reported till date.

The present outbreak has been interesting in many ways. While sporadic outbreaks have occurred in Africa and a few outside of Africa in regions which had recorded travel from areas where outbreaks have occurred, such massive flare-ups spanning multiple countries simultaneously has not happened before. Additionally many of the affected patients did not travel to regions where the disease is considered prevalent and the initial cases were largely, but not exclusively among young individuals who identify themselves as men who have sex with men (MSM).

## **Monkeypox cases**

### **WHO seeks India's help to test monkeypox cases in south-east Asia (The Hindu:20220527)**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/who-seeks-indias-help-to-test-monkeypox-cases-in-south-east-asia/article65460759.ece>

ICMR- NIV, Pune Director says this is not first time India is extending its diagnostic support to countries of this region

The World Health Organisation Country Office for India has sought the assistance of India's — ICMR-National Institute of Virology, Pune, — help to test suspected cases of monkeypox for the south-east Asia region (SEAR) member-states.

The SEAR accounts for one-quarter of the world's population, 40% of the global poor and already bears approximately 30% of the overall global disease burden.