

Reasons for declining trend

- Mechanisation of agriculture
- Emergence of technologies that automate routine work.
- Lack of flexible work opportunities.
- Discrimination at the workplace as well as concerns regarding safety.

Comprehensive approach

- Better data to capture women's contribution to the economy through paid and unpaid work more accurately.
- For instance, gender-disaggregated data from the annual Periodic Labor Force Survey can help develop more targeted policies for women in rural and urban areas.
- Women's access to and enrolment in higher education must be prioritised.
- Economic Survey 2020 highlighted a strong correlation between the level of education and domestic work, with only 5.3% of highly educated women in the age group 15-59 years engaged in full-time domestic duties.
- The implementation of various progressive legislations and policies like the Maternity Benefit Act and Code of Wages needs to be monitored rigorously through audits.
- Skill training programmes that enable women to venture into non-traditional occupations should be emphasised.
- To ensure equity of access and opportunity, 50% of placements provided through skill development programmes should be allotted for women.
- Infrastructure has a major role to play in enabling more women to join and remain in the workforce.
- Aspects that require special attention include residential hostels and safe public transport options in towns and cities.

In order to adapt to the changing needs of the economy, the responsibility of regulating the cryptocurrencies can be taken by Reserve Bank of India. Comment

KEY POINTS

- The price of Bitcoin rose 68 per cent in the first two months of 2021, following an over 300 per cent rally in 2020. The RBI is concerned about money laundering and terror financing through cryptocurrencies.

Impossible to ban

- The basic structure of cryptocurrencies makes it downright impossible for any regulator to ban their creation or exchange.
- It is not possible to pin down the ownership of the copyright on any one individual or company.
- Closing down domestic trading platforms for cryptocurrencies is likely to be equally futile since it is quite easy for Indians to trade on overseas platforms.

Regulation