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Daily news summary**NITI Aayog Report NEET Youth**

UPSC Civil Services · 23 August 2026 · Prelims and Mains

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WHY IN NEWS

- **NITI Aayog** published 'Reimagining Skilling for Viksit Bharat@2047' highlighting youth employment challenges.
- The report estimates 8.7 crore Indian youth are not in education, employment, or training.

WHAT IS THE NEET METRIC?

- NEET stands for youth Not in Education, Employment, or Training, covering individuals aged 15-29 years.
- Estimates in the report rely on sample data from the 78th round of the National Sample Survey (NSS).

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Categorises the workforce into five segments:** schooling, tertiary education, formal/informal work, NEET youth, and women.
- Calls for affordable and heavily subsidised skilling programs to overcome financial constraints and prior education sunk costs.
- Recommends aligning training modules directly with local demand drivers and emerging economic sectors.

WHY IT MATTERS

- **Demographic Dividend:** Unproductive youth capital undermines India's potential demographic advantage.
- **Policy Focus:** Highlights structural gaps between educational output and market-aligned skill requirements.

KEY TERMS

- **NEET Youth:** Individuals aged 15-29 who are currently unemployed and not enrolled in formal education or vocational training.

PAPERS

GS2, GS3

PRELIMS FACTS

- **NITI Aayog**'s definition of NEET covers youth aged 15-29 who are unemployed and outside education or training systems.

MAINS DISCUSSION

- Analyse structural barriers preventing **NEET youth** from transitioning into formal employment despite expanding vocational programs.

KEY DATA

- **Data Source:** NSS 78th Round - Official sample survey used by **NITI Aayog** to compute national NEET metrics.
- **Age Bracket:** 15-29 Years - Standard legal definition of youth for national skill development policy.

[Official source](#)

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