

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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Important News Articles

GS II

1. Centre ensures place for Madiga member in Scheduled Caste panel- The Hindu

Relevance: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

News:

- The Union government has chosen to constitute the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) **by ensuring the presence of at least one member from the Madiga community**
- Community has a large presence in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Key Highlights

- the government formed an **internal committee for sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes** in response to the decades-long demand of the Madiga community in the two States.
- The Madiga community has argued that despite being among the most populous of the SCs
 - it is routinely crowded out of benefits and reservation by the relatively dominant Mala community.
- While the Supreme Court is yet to decide on whether SC quotas can be sub-categorised, the committee is looking into ways of targeting benefits towards this section of the Scheduled Castes.

The Madiga community

- It constitutes **at least 50% of the total Scheduled Castes in Telangana.**
- The 2011 census puts the **total SCs at a little over 15% of the population of the State.**
- The Madiga community had been struggling since **1994 for the sub-categorisation**, and the Prime Minister's announcement was considered an important step in that direction.

Constitution Order of 1950

- It initially provided for recognising only Hindus (with exceptions) as SCs, to address the social disability arising out of the practice of untouchability.
- **The Order was amended in 1956 to include Dalits who had converted to Sikhism** (in entirety) and once more in 1990 to include Dalits who had converted to Buddhism.
- **Both amendments were aided by the reports of the Kaka Kalelkar Commission** in 1955 and the High-Powered Panel (HPP) on Minorities, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in 1983 respectively.

Prelims Takeaway

- Kaka Kalelkar Commission
- Constitution Order of 1950

2. Report turns spotlight on India's 'zero-food children' - The Hindu

Relevance: Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

News:

- A study published recently in the peer reviewed JAMA Network Open journal found the prevalence of **'zero-food children' in India at 19.3%, drawing attention to extreme food deprivation among children.**

Key Highlights

- The study ranks **India as having the third highest percentage of zero-food children**, above only Guinea (21.8%) and Mali (20.5%).
- In terms of numbers, **India has the highest number of 'zero-food children' at more than six million.**
- "The states of Uttar Pradesh (28.4%), Bihar (14.2%), Maharashtra (7.1%), Rajasthan (6.5%), and Madhya Pradesh (6%) **account for nearly two-thirds of the total zero-food children in India,**" the report said.

Prelims Takeaway

- Malnutrition
- FAO

- Breastfeeding cannot provide infants with the necessary nutrition after they are six months old.
- Introducing solid or semi-solid foods alongside breastfeeding plays a pivotal role in early childhood growth and development.
- According to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), **the share of other food contributing to calorific requirements should be about 50%** for children aged nine to 11 months (that is, 300 out of 700 Kcal/day)
 - while the share of breastmilk should be greater than other food for children aged six-eight months (that is, 400 out of 600 Kcal/day).
- “Women from underprivileged economic backgrounds work to sustain their families, resulting in their having insufficient time to complement breastfeeding for children above six months of age.
- With rapid industrialisation, **nuclear families have grown in both urban and rural areas, so there is no one to invest the time and energy** required to feed a child, apart from the mother
 - lack of awareness about nutritional needs of children, and social misconceptions, also contribute to the likely numbers.

3. France inscribes the right to abortion in its constitution as world marks International Women's Day- The hindu

Relevance: Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.

News:

- France inscribed the **guaranteed right to abortion in its constitution on March 8**, a powerful message of support for women's rights on International Women's Day.

Key Points

- In January 2024, France's Parliament had passed an **amendment to provide constitutional validity to the right to abortion**.
- **Abortion, although legal in France since 1975**, has now been a “guaranteed freedom” for women.
- Although rare, amending the **constitution is not without precedent in France**.
- The French constitution has been modified nearly 25 times since it was adopted in 1958.
- The last instance was in 2008 when **Parliament was awarded more powers and presidential tenure was limited to a maximum of two consecutive five-year** terms in office.
- **France is the only country** to currently have such a specification about abortion.

What About Other European Countries?

- **Abortion is currently accessible in more than 40 European nations**, but some countries are seeing increased efforts to limit access to the procedure.
- In September 2022, **Hungary's far-right government made it obligatory for women to listen to the pulse of the foetus**, sometimes called the “foetal heartbeat,” before they can access a safe abortion.
- Poland, which has some of the most stringent abortion laws in Europe, allows termination only in the event of rape, incest or a threat to the mother's health or life.
- The U.K. permits abortion up to 24 weeks of pregnancy if it is approved by two doctors.

4. Arun Goel quits as Election Commissioner ahead of polls- The Hindu

Relevance: Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies

News:

- Days ahead of the announcement of the schedule for the upcoming Lok Sabha election, **Election Commissioner Arun Goel resigned recently**.
 - According to a notification by the Law Ministry, **his resignation has been accepted by President**
- Controversy surrounding the appointment of Arun Goel**

Prelims Takeaway

- India abortion law
- Right to abortion.

- After 37 years in the IAS, Goel took voluntary retirement on November 18, 2022, a month before he was set to retire.
- The very next day, **November 19, the President appointed him as Election Commissioner**, filling the post that had been vacant since May 15, 2022.
- Goel's appointment came **at a time when the SC was hearing petitions on the procedure for appointing Chief Election Commissioner** and Election Commissioners.
- The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) moved the court in April 2023 against Goel's appointment.
- It said that the appointment was arbitrary and he seemed to have remarkable foresight to seek voluntary retirement ahead of his appointment as EC.

The Election Commission of India

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) is **an autonomous constitutional authority** responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
- It was established in accordance with the **Constitution on 25th January 1950 (celebrated as national voters' day)**.
- The secretariat of the commission is in New Delhi.
- The body **administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and State Legislative Assemblies in India**, and the offices of the **President and Vice President** in the country.

GS III

5. Gig workers suffer from lack of social security, regulation: study- The Hindu

Relevance: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

Prelims Takeaway

- Gig worker

News:

- Almost a **third of app-based cab drivers work for over 14 hours a day**
- More than 83% work more than 10 hours and 60% work over 12 hours, according to a study of more than 10,000 Indian cab drivers, gig and platform workers.

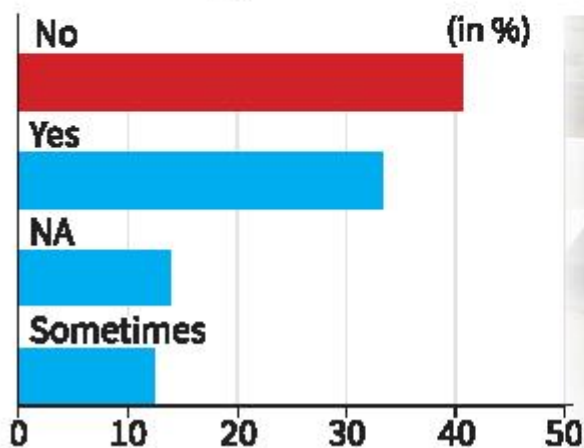
Key Highlights

- It noted that social disparities make the situation worse, with over 60% of the drivers from the Scheduled Castes and Tribes working for over 14 hours a day, while only 16% from the unreserved category work such long hours.
- The study was conducted by the People's Association in Grassroots Action and Movements, and the Indian Federation of App-based Transport Workers
 - with technical support from the University of Pennsylvania and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung India, a German foundation.
- Authors of the study, recommended **stronger social security for app-based workers**
 - and called on the government to exercise oversight on the fairness of algorithms and mechanisms used by platforms to monitor such workers.
- The study report says that over **43% of participants in the study earn less than ₹500 a day or ₹15,000 a month**, after deducting all their costs.
- It found that 34% of the **app-based delivery persons earn less than ₹10,000 a month**, while 78% spend over 10 hours each day at work.
- Noting the differences among workers from different castes, the report said that "these income disparities further exacerbate the already existing social inequalities
 - and perpetuate cycles of poverty and distress within these communities".
- Overall, 5,302 cab drivers and 5,028 delivery persons across eight cities — **Delhi, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Lucknow, Kolkata, Jaipur, and Indore**
 - participated in a 50-question survey; 78% of the respondents were in the age group of 21 to 40 years.

- Another major complaint of the workers is the issue of **ID deactivation and customer misbehavior.**

Constantly at work

Asked if they take a single day off in a week, 40% of the app-based workers surveyed said “No”



6. India signs free trade pact with 4 European nations, eyes \$100bn in investment- The Hindu

Relevance: Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

News:

- India signed a free trade agreement (FTA) with four European countries — **Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland**
- a goal of reaching \$100 billion in investments in India and one million jobs within 15 years.

Key Highlights

- The Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) marks the second such full-fledged FTA signed after India's agreement with the United Arab Emirates
 - will see considerable tariff reductions, increase market access, and simplify customs procedures.
- The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries, which are **separate from the European Union, said that, for the first time**
- The FTA also included a chapter on **commitments to human rights and sustainable development.**
- According to the TEPA's Chapter 7 that deals with "Investment Promotion and Cooperation"
 - the two sides had shared "objectives" to increase foreign direct investment from EFTA states into India by \$50 billion within 10 years and another \$50 billion in the next five years.
- It would also **"aim to facilitate the generation of 1 million jobs within 15 years in India** resulting from those investments.
- It's about creating the right environment, speaking to our companies and then tracing and tracking development
- If the goals are not achieved within 15 years, with a three-year grace period and another two years in negotiations
 - India will be entitled to withdrawing some of its trade concessions "temporarily", the agreement says.

Prelims Takeaway

- Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement
- European Free Trade Association

7. Navy demonstrates twin-carrier operations- The Hindu

Relevance: Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

News:

- The **first edition of the Naval Commanders' Conference** of 2024 concluded recently, .

Key Highlights

- The first part of the conference was held at sea on board **aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya**
 - during which the Navy showcased its “twin-carrier operations” with MiG-29K fighter jets taking off simultaneously from both INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant and then landing cross deck.
- The twin-carrier operations also demonstrate that the **first indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant**, has been fully integrated into the operational cycle.
- The twin operations were followed by a sail by several warships of the Navy.
- The conference happened amid the high operational tempo of the Navy with developments in the Red Sea and renewed piracy attempts in the Gulf of Aden.

Prelims Takeaway

- INS Vikramaditya
- INS Vikrant

8. Modi inaugurates Sela Tunnel connecting Assam to Arunachal. Why it is strategically important- The print

Relevance: Security challenges and their management in border areas – linkages of organized crime with terrorism.

News:

- In a long-awaited boost to the Indian armed forces in the Eastern sector, **Prime Minister inaugurated the strategically-important Sela tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh.**

Key Highlights

- it is constructed on **the road connecting Tezpur in Assam to Tawang in Arunachal**, which was overrun by Chinese soldiers in the 1962 War.
- The foundation stone for the Sela — the world’s longest bi-lane tunnel at an altitude above 13,000 ft — was laid in Arunachal’s West Kameng district.
- The Sela Tunnel, along with the **Nechiphu tunnel on the 317-km long Balipara-Chariduar-Tawang (BCT) road** which leads to West Kameng and Tawang
 - will ensure that both defence and private vehicles will have all-year mobility.
- At present, the Army and civilians use the Balipara-Chariduar Road (Assam) to reach Tawang, since the Sela pass is shut down in winters due to heavy snow.
- both tunnels are designed in such a way that all Army equipment, including large artillery pieces
 - like the Bofors guns, tanks like the T-90 and Vajra howitzers, can easily travel through it all-year round, while also cutting down on time.
- This tunnel will also ensure that the Chinese are not able to monitor traffic movement in the area.
- The Sela Pass, at 13,700 feet, is currently visible to the Chinese and **hence can observe all kinds of military movement.**
- While the Sela project has now been completed, the other big project that has been initiated is the Arunachal Frontier Highway, one of the country’s biggest and toughest projects.
- A 2,000-km long road project that follows the McMahon Line, the Arunachal Frontier Highway will begin from Mago in Arunachal, adjacent to Bhutan
 - and pass through Tawang, Upper Subansiri, Tuting, Mechuka, Upper Siang, Dibang Valley, Desali, Chaglagam, Kibithoo and Dong, before ending at Vijayanagar near the Myanmar border.

Prelims Takeaway

- Balipara-Chariduar-Tawang road
- Nechiphu tunnel

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

9. Govt clarifies its AI advisory on elections: How to understand the concerns and criticism around the issue- Indian express

Relevance: Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.

Context:

- the government has clarified that **its advisory on generative artificial intelligence (AI) services** was directed towards “significant” platforms and not startups.

<p>What did the government say in its advisory on AI and elections last week?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IT Ministry sent an advisory to generative AI companies like Google and OpenAI and to those running such platforms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> including foundational models and wrappers — that their services should not generate responses that are illegal under Indian laws or “threaten the integrity of the electoral process”. Platforms that currently offer “under-testing/unreliable” AI systems or large language models (LLMs) to Indian users must explicitly seek prior permission from the central government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> and appropriately label the possible and inherent “fallibility or unreliability of the output generated”. The advisory was criticized by some AI startups, including those invested in the ecosystem abroad, on grounds of regulatory overreach impacting the still nascent industry. <p>How should this advisory and its criticism be understood?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The government seems to have tried to signal that it was willing to play an arbiter’s role <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to protect Indian Internet users from some of the pitfalls of generative AI platforms — even if its effectiveness or legal basis remained unclear. As often happens in policymaking, the solution lies in the middle — and both lawmakers and companies will have to be ready for tradeoffs. While seeking the approval of the government before deploying an AI platform with problematic underlying data and algorithmic filters carries the possibility of arbitrary decision-making by officials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a free-for-all legal environment for AI companies with no checks and balances is not desirable either. The threat from AI-generated deepfakes that can potentially impact elections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> become ammunition for revenge pornography, or help create child sexual abuse material, needs to be taken into account as well. 	<p>What is the legal basis for the government’s advisory?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Questions have been raised about the legal basis of the advisory — critics have asked under which law the government could issue guidelines to generative AI companies, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> since India’s current technology laws do not directly cover large language models. The advisory was sent as a “due diligence” measure that online intermediaries need to follow under the Information Technology Rules, 2021. “Whether an AI model has been tested or not, proper training has happened or not, is important to ensure the safety of citizens and democracy.
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10. Poverty estimates the new weapons in India’s statistics war. But confusion began decades ago- The Print

Relevance: Role of women and women’s organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

News:

- Although there are debates regarding many of the current government’s claims, including about whether India has achieved as rapid growth as it claims, the fog of war is nowhere more present than in the arguments about poverty estimates.

Growing confusion

- At one point, India was the leading developing country to create a statistical system that monitored living standards and was also **the first to establish a widely accepted poverty line**.
- The concept was so influential that it became the reference point and primary basis for **the World Bank's earliest international poverty line developed in the late 1970s**.
- But confusion grew over the last decades as the poverty line for India previously thought suitable lost influence due to phenomena such as 'calorie drift'
 - in which people consume fewer calories but in new forms — and by changes to statistical methodologies, which led to endless debates about comparability.

the committee chaired by Suresh Tendulkar

- The committee held that a suitable poverty line for urban areas (in turn used to anchor the poverty line for all of India)
 - would be the one that happened to produce similar urban poverty estimates to those generated by the prior poverty line.
- The solution to the rot was not a fresh approach, but patch after patch placed upon the old one.
- Unfortunately, such an approach based on a careful reconsideration of concepts and methods has been lacking due to the premium on scoring points.

NITI Aayog's National Multidimensional Poverty Index

- It highlights the service-delivery attainments of the government without addressing whether incomes have been rising
- has added to the confusion, employing shortcuts and extrapolations to allow the government to claim victory just in time for the Lok Sabha election.
- If that were not enough, the government recently released a 'factsheet' of the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23, which declares, too, **that poverty has fallen sharply**
 - but the study depends on new methods that are insufficiently explained and have left experts reserving judgment.



Mentorship

India

Quick Look

1. Gold Nanoparticles

- Gold nanoparticles (AuNPs) are small gold particles with a diameter of 1 to 100 nm.
- Once dispersed in water, AuNPs are also known as colloidal gold.
- These are also called as 'gold bhasma,'
- Spherical AuNPs possess useful attributes such as size- and shape-related optoelectronic properties, large surface-to-volume ratio, excellent biocompatibility, and low toxicity.
- Important physical properties of AuNPs include surface plasmon resonance (SPR) and the ability to quench fluorescence.
- Spherical AuNPs exhibit a range of colors (e.g., brown, orange, red and purple) in aqueous solution as the core size increases from 1 to 100 nm.

2. DIETS of Excellence

- To strengthen teacher training, the District Institutes of Education and Training (DIET) will be developed into centers of excellence.
- Funding: Financial assistance, totalling to Rs 9000 crores, will be provided to States/UTs for the physical upgradation of all 613 District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) to develop them as DIET of Excellence in the country in a phased manner in the next five years.
- Upto 15 Crore per DIET will be provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha for improving various infrastructural facilities.

3. Golden Langurs

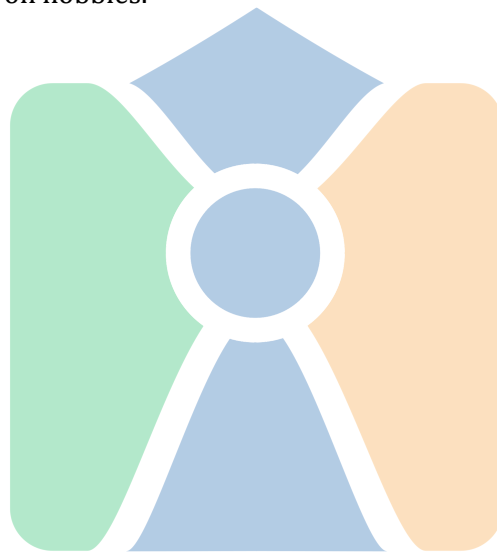
- It can be most easily recognized by the color of their fur, after which they are named.
- It has been noted that their fur changes colors according to the seasons.
- The color of the young also differs from adults in that they are almost pure white.
- It is limited to Assam, India and neighboring Bhutan where they live year-round.
- The area they inhabit is restricted to the region surrounded by four geographical landmarks: the foothills of Bhutan (north), Manas river (east), Sankosh river (west), and Brahmaputra river (south).

4. Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft

- It is India's fifth-generation multirole fighter jet.
- It will have advanced stealth features to avoid detection by enemy radar.
- The aircraft will have a large, concealed internal fuel tank of 6.5-tonne capacity, and an internal weapons bay for a range of weapons, including indigenous weapons.
- The AMCA Mk1 variant will have the US-built GE414 engine which will be developed indigenously by DRDO's Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) in collaboration with a foreign defence major.
- The aircraft will have a low electro-magnetic signature, which will make it difficult for enemy radar to detect it.
- At the same time, it will have powerful sensors and new weapons, so it is able to register the signature of enemy aircraft and take them out.

5. Inflection 2.5

- It is an “upgraded in-house model that is competitive with all the world’s leading LLMs.
- The newly upgraded Large Language Model comes with its signature personality and uniquely empathetic fine-tuning.
- With the new upgrade, Pi has now been endowed with world-class real-time web search capabilities to ensure that users get access to high-quality and up-to-date information in real time.
- The new LLM, users are talking to the Pi chatbot about a wider range of topics including
 - discussing current events
 - getting local restaurant recommendations
 - studying for a biology exam
 - drafting business plans
 - Coding
 - even fun discussions on hobbies.



Mentorship
India

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following statements about Constitution Order of 1950

1. It initially provided for recognising only Hindus (with exceptions) as SCs, to address the social disability arising out of the practice of untouchability.
2. The Order was amended in 1956 to include Dalits who had converted to Sikhism and once more in 1990 to include Dalits who had converted to Buddhism.
3. amendments were aided by the reports of the Kaka Kalelkar Commission in 1955

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Q2. Which of the following scheme government had started to end malnutrition in india:

1. POSHAN Abhiyaan
2. Mid-day Meal (MDM) scheme
3. The National Food Security Act
4. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

How many of the options given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

Q3. Consider the following statements

1. France and israel are the only country who inscribed the guaranteed right to abortion in its constitution
2. Abortion is currently accessible in more than 40 European nations, but some countries are seeing increased efforts to limit access to the procedure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding Registered Unrecognised Political Parties in India:

1. These Political Parties are those officially registered with the Election Commission of India but have failed to secure any seats in the Lok Sabha or State Legislative Assemblies.
2. These Political Parties are eligible for financial assistance from the Election Commission to support their election campaigns.
3. Recognition of a political party in India is solely based on its performance in the Rajya Sabha elections.
4. Registered Unrecognized Political Parties may be eligible for a reserved symbol when contesting elections, but they do not have the privilege of reserved seats.

How many of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

Q5. Consider the following statements

1. Blue-Collar Worker is a member of the working class, who performs manual labour and earns an hourly wage.
2. Gold -Collar Worker is a salaried professional, typically referring to general office workers and management.
3. White -Collar Worker is used to refer to highly-skilled knowledge people who are highly valuable to the company.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Q6. Consider the following statements

1. India signed a free trade agreement (FTA) with four European countries — Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland
2. The Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) marks the second such full-fledged FTA signed after India's agreement with the United Arab Emirates

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Q7. Consider the following statements About Vikramaditya

1. It is a modified Kiev-class aircraft carrier which entered into service with the Indian Navy in 2013.
2. It has been renamed in honour of Vikramaditya, a legendary emperor of Ujjain, India.
3. The carrier served with the Soviet Navy and later with the Russian Navy before being decommissioned in 1996.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Q8. Consider the following statements About sela tunnel

1. it is constructed on the road connecting Tezpur in Assam to Tawang in Arunachal, which was overrun by Chinese soldiers in the 1962 War.
2. It is the world's longest bi-lane tunnel at an altitude above 13,000 ft
3. The Sela Tunnel will ensure that both defence and private vehicles will have all-year mobility.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. All three
- D. None

Q9. Consider the following statements about AI companies,

1. India's current technology laws on AI do not directly cover large language models.
2. The government has Issued its advisory on generative artificial intelligence (AI) services to ensure that online intermediaries need to follow the Information Technology Rules, 2021.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Q10. Consider the following statements about poverty in india

1. NITI Aayog released the National Multidimensional Poverty Index. 13.5 crore people have fallen into poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21.
2. Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23 declares that poverty has increased sharply

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Prelims Track Answer

Answer 1 Option C is correct

Explanation

- It initially provided for recognising only Hindus (with exceptions) as SCs, to address the social disability arising out of the practice of untouchability.
- The Order was amended in 1956 to include Dalits who had converted to Sikhism (in entirety) and once more in 1990 to include Dalits who had converted to Buddhism.
- Both amendments were aided by the reports of the Kaka Kalelkar Commission in 1955 and the High-Powered Panel (HPP) on Minorities, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in 1983 respectively. **All statements are correct**

Answer 2 Option D is correct

Explanation

- POSHAN Abhiyaan: The government of India has launched the National Nutrition Mission (NNM) or POSHAN Abhiyaan to ensure a "Malnutrition Free India" by 2022.
- Mid-day Meal (MDM) scheme: It aims to improve nutritional levels among school children which also has a direct and positive impact on enrolment, retention and attendance in schools.
- The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013: It aims to ensure food and nutrition security for the most vulnerables through its associated schemes and programmes, making access to food a legal right.
- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY): Rs.6,000 is transferred directly to the bank accounts. **All options are correct**

Answer 3 Option B is correct

Explanation

- France is the only country to currently have such a specification about abortion. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- Abortion is currently accessible in more than 40 European nations, but some countries are seeing increased efforts to limit access to the procedure. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Answer 4 Option C is correct

Explanation

- Registered Unrecognized Political Parties may secure seats in Lok Sabha or State Legislative Assemblies, but they have not met the criteria to be recognized as a national or state party. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect**
- Unlike recognized parties, Registered Unrecognised Political Parties do not receive financial assistance from the Election Commission for their election campaigns. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect**
- The recognition of a political party in India is based on its performance in the Lok Sabha or State Legislative Assembly elections, not the Rajya Sabha elections. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect**
- Registered Unrecognized Political Parties may be eligible for a reserved symbol when contesting elections, but they do not have the privilege of reserved seats. Reserved seats are a benefit granted to recognized parties. **Hence, statement 4 is correct**

Answer 5 Option A is correct

Explanation

- Blue-Collar Worker is a member of the working class, who performs manual labour and earns an hourly wage. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- White-Collar Worker is a salaried professional, typically referring to general office workers and management. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Gold-Collar Worker is used to refer to highly-skilled knowledge people who are highly valuable to the company. Example: Lawyers, doctors, research scientists, etc. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

Answer 6 Option C is correct

Explanation

- India signed a free trade agreement (FTA) with four European countries — Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland - a goal of reaching \$100 billion in investments in India and one million jobs within 15 years.
- The Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) marks the second such full-fledged FTA signed after India's agreement with the United Arab Emirates

- will see considerable tariff reductions, increase market access, and simplify customs procedures. **Hence both the statements are correct**

Answer 7 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- It is a modified Kiev-class aircraft carrier which entered into service with the Indian Navy in 2013.
- It has been renamed in honour of Vikramaditya, a legendary emperor of Ujjain, India.
- History:
- The carrier served with the Soviet Navy and later with the Russian Navy (as Admiral Gorshkov) before being decommissioned in 1996. **Hence all statements are correct**

Answer 8 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- It is constructed on the road connecting Tezpur in Assam to Tawang in Arunachal, which was overrun by Chinese soldiers in the 1962 War.
- The foundation stone for the Sela — the world's longest bi-lane tunnel at an altitude above 13,000 ft — was laid in Arunachal's West Kameng district.
- The Sela Tunnel, along with the Nechiphu tunnel on the 317-km long Balipara-Chariduar-Tawang (BCT) road which leads to West Kameng and Tawang
- it will ensure that both defense and private vehicles will have all-year mobility. **Hence all the statement are correct**

Answer 9 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- since India's current technology laws do not directly cover large language models.
- The advisory was sent as a “due diligence” measure that online intermediaries need to follow under the Information Technology Rules, 2021.
- “Whether an AI model has been tested or not, proper training has happened or not, is important to ensure the safety of citizens and democracy. The government has clarified that its advisory on generative artificial intelligence (AI) services was directed towards “significant” platforms. **Hence both the statements are correct**

Answer 10 Option D is correct**Explanation**

- NITI Aayog's National Multidimensional Poverty Index, 13.5 crore people have escaped poverty between 2015-16 and 2019-21.
- It highlights the service-delivery attainments of the government without addressing whether incomes have been rising
- has added to the confusion, employing shortcuts and extrapolations to allow the government to claim victory just in time for the Lok Sabha election.
- If that were not enough, the government recently released a ‘factsheet’ of the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23, which declares, too, that poverty has fallen sharply. **Hence both the statements are incorrect**

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