DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By

Mentorship India

SOURCES

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Important News Articles

GS I

1. Claudia Goldin wins 2023 Economics Nobel Prize for research on workplace gender gap- The Hindu

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

News:

- Recently, the **Nobel Prize for economics** was awarded to **Harvard University professor Claudia Goldin** for her research that has advanced the understanding of the **gender gap in the labour market.**

Prelims Takeaway
• Economics Nobel Prize

- Ms. Goldin is just **the third woman to win the prize** out of 93 economics laureates.

Key Points

- Her study showed that **despite continued economic growth, women's pay did not continuously catch up to men's**
- A **divide still exists** despite women gaining higher levels of education than men.

Explaining the gap

- women often taking jobs that allow them to be **on call at home — work that often pays less.**
- a woman's role in the job market and the pay she receives **aren't influenced just by broad social and economic changes.**
- They also are **determined partly by her individual decisions** about, for example, how much education to get.
- The process of evaluating prospects as times change "**helps explain why change in labour market gender gaps has been so slow.**

Gender inequality

- Gender inequality refers to **unequal treatment or perceptions of individuals wholly or partly due to their gender**

India and gender inequality

- Indian women's **labour force participation, at just 27 per cent,** is ranked 170 out of the world's 188 economies.
- Not only is Indian women's labour-force participation among the lowest in the world, research suggests **it may be declining.**
- This is **despite rising education** levels and declining fertility.

Reasons behind the gender inequality in India

- Preference for sons
- Dowry system
- Patriarchal mindset
- Poverty and lack of education

Way forward

- **Need for policy initiatives to empower women** as gender disparities in India persist even against the backdrop of economic growth.
- **Improvements in labour market prospects** also have the potential to empower women.
- **increase in marriage age an**d school enrolment of younger girls.
- Implement th**e numerous schemes announced in true spirit.**

GS II

2. HC to start live-streaming cases from tomorrow

Relevance: Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.

News:

	Prelims Takeaway
	• National Judicial Data Grid

- The **Delhi High Court will start the live-streaming** of its proceedings from Wednesday.
- For now, th**e live-streaming will be limited to the Chief Justice's court** and on a "case-to-case basis, as per the direction of the High Court

e-Courts Integrated Mission Mode Project

- As part of the **National e-Governance Plan, t**he project is under implementation since 2007 for **Information and Communications Technology** (ICT) **development of the Indian Judiciary**
- The **e-Courts project** is being implemented in association with the **e-Committee Supreme Court of India and the Department of Justice.**

Initiatives Taken Under the Project

- Under the Wide Area Network (WAN) Project, **connectivity has been provided to 99.4% of total Court Complexes** across India with an improved bandwidth speed.
- **Case Information Software (CIS) is based on Free and Open-Source Software** (FOSS) which has been developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- **National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)** is a database of orders, judgments, and cases, created as an online platform under the eCourts Project.
- It provides information relating to **judicial proceedings/decisions of all computerized district and subordinate courts.**
- 7 platforms have been created to **provide real-time information on case status**, cause lists, judgements, etc. to lawyers/Litigants.
- **Electronic Case Management Tools (E**CMT) have been created with Mobile Apps for lawyers and judges.
- **21 Virtual Courts in 17 States/UTs have been operationalized** to handle traffic challan cases.
- **Video-conferencing (VC) facilities** have also been enabled between court complexes and corresponding jails.
- **The Supreme Court emerged as a global leade**r by conducting lakhs of hearings.
- **New e-filing system has been rolled out for the electronic filing** of legal papers with upgraded features.
- \As of 2022, a total of **19 High Courts have adopted the model rules of e-Filing.**

3. Sri Lanka to take over as Chair of Indian Ocean Rim Association The Hindu

Relevance: Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.

News:

	Prelims Takeaway
	• Indian Ocean Rim Association

- Several Foreign Ministers of Association will participate in the **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers meeting in Colombo** on October 11, 2023.
- , India and Sri Lanka will launch a long-pending **ferry service connecting Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu with Kankesanthurai** in the Northern Province of **Sri Lanka**

Indian Ocean Rim Association

- It was **established in 1997 as an intergovernmental organisation** of states on the rim of the Indian Ocean,
- The IORA has members **from Africa, West Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia and Oceania**.
- The Association's membership has expanded to **23 member states and 11 dialogue partners.**
- Its **Secretariat** is based in Cyber City, Ebène, **Mauritius.**

- It manages, coordinates, services and monitors the **implementation of policy decisions, work programmes and projects adopted by the member states.**
- Importance:
  o the Indian Ocean carries half of the world's container ships
  o one-third of the world's bulk cargo traffic
  o two-thirds of the world's oil shipments.
- It is a **lifeline of international trade and transport** and the Indian ocean region is woven together by trade routes and commands control of major sea-lanes.

GS I

4. What is multimodal artificial intelligence and why is it important? - The Hindu

Relevance: Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.
News:

- The **next frontier of AI models would be towards multimodal systems,** where users can engage with AI in several ways.
- A chatbot, even though it can write competent poetry and pass the U.S. bar, **hardly matches up to this fullness of cognition.**
- If AI systems are to be as close a likeness of the human mind as possible, the natural course would **have to be multimodal.**

Prelims Takeaway
• Artificial intelligence

How does multimodality work?

- Like OpenAI's text-to-image model, **DALL.E, upon which ChatGPT's vision capabilities are based, is a multimodal AI model** that was released in 2021.
- **GPT's voice processing capabilities** are based on its **own open-source speech-to-text translation model**, called **Whisper**, which was released in September last year.
- Whisper can recognise **speech in audio and translate it into simple language text.**

Applications of multimodal AI

- Some of the **simpler but rather important functions** are performed by these models **like automatic image caption generation etc.**
- In 2020, Meta was working on a multimodal system to **automatically detect hateful memes on Facebook.**
- **AI models that perform speech translation** are another obvious segment for multimodality.
- Google Translate uses **multiple models as do others like Meta's SeamlessM4T model,** which was released last month.
- The model can perform **text-to-speech, speech-to-text, speech-to-speech and text-to-text translations** for around 100 languages.

5. Smart fence along Myanmar border in the pipeline: govt.- The Hindu

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

- An **advanced smart fencing system of 100 km along the Myanmar border i**s in the pipeline the 2022-23 as per annual **report of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**
- It is to **strengthen the existing surveillance system**

Prelims Takeaway
• Map Based question

Key highlights of the report

- **Unfenced border and unregulated migration from Myanmar** have been attributed as some of the factors responsible for the ethnic violence in Manipur
- The report stated that in 2022, out of the **201 insurgency-related incidents registered in all the northeast States,** as many as 137 incidents were registered in Manipur.
- **Free Movement Regime (FMR)** exists between **India and Myanmar.**

- Under the **FMR** the **border can be crossed on production of a border pass (**one year validity) issued by the competent authority and can stay up to two weeks per visit by :
  - every member of the hill tribes, who is either a citizen of India
  - a citizen of Myanmar
  - resident of any area within 16 km on either side of the Indo-Myanmar border
- The **Manipur government has suspended the FMR since 2020,** post COVID-19 pandemic.
- India shares a **1,643-km border with Myanmar** which passes through Arunachal Pradesh (520 km), Nagaland (215 km), Manipur (398 km) and Mizoram (510 km).
- Out of 1,643 km, **demarcation of 1,472 km has been completed**
- The construction of **fencing for a border length of 10.023 km at Moreh,** Manipur has been awarded to the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

Fragile security situation
- The **terrain, socio-economic development and historical factors** such as language, ethnicity, tribal rivalry, migration had resulted in a **fragile security situation in the northeastern States.**
- This has **resulted in violence, extortion and diverse demands** by various Indian Insurgent Groups [IIGs] which maintain safe havens/camps in neighbouring countries.
- A total of **16 insurgent organisations are declared "unlawful association**s" or "terrorist organisations" under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.
- Eight of the **unlawful groups are from Manipur.**

6. Urban unemployment rate drops to 6.6% in Q1- The Hindu

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

News:

Prelims Takeaway
- Unemployment rate

- Recently, survey was released by **the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**
- **As per survey, Urban unemployment rate** in April-June, slid to 6.6 per cent, as per the quarterly bulletin of **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)**

Key highlights of the survey
- The **unemployment rate for urban areas**, which was at the **lowest level** since the launch of the PLFS bulletin in 2018
- Nearly 1**4 states recorded a higher urban unemployment rate** than the national average.
- **For males, the urban unemployment rate**, based on current weekly status for persons above 15 years, d**eclined to 5.9 per cent.**
- **For females also the unemployment rate eased to 9.1 per cen**t in April-June from 9.2 per cent in the previous quarter and 9.5 per cent in the year-ago period.
- **Employment of both males and females,** however, **increased in self-employed categories** such as own account worker, helper in household enterprise.
- **Unemployment rate for youth for urban females** in the age group 15-29 years went **up to 23.4 per cent**
- **For urban males in the 15-29 years age** group, the unemployment rate went **up to 15.9** per cent
- In the urban areas, **states/UTs which recorded higher than national average** unemployment rate included
  - Himachal Pradesh (13.8 per cent),
  - Rajasthan (11.7 per cent),
  - Chhattisgarh (11.2 per cent),
  - Jammu and Kashmir (10.9 per cent)
  - Kerala (10 per cent).

Unemployment rate in states
- **States/UTs which posted a lower-than-national average unemployment rate :**
  - Delhi (2.7 per cent)
  - Gujarat (2.8 per cent)
  - West Bengal (4.4 per cent)

- o Bihar (6.1 per cent)
- o Maharashtra and Haryana (6.5 per cent each).
- the key labour market indicators of **Labour Force Participation Rate** (LFPR), **Worker Population Ratio (WPR) and unemployment rates improved** in urban areas for persons of age 15 years and above
- The **Unemployment Rate during April-June 2023 was 6.6 per cent** which is lower than the unemployment rates observed in the quarters covered in the pre-pandemic period," it said.
- **Unemployment rate had shot up sharply during the lockdown** imposed in 2020 during the first wave of the pandemic.

Unemployment rate
- It is **defined as the percentage of persons unemployed** among the persons in the labour force.
- The **urban unemployment PLFS** is **based on current weekly status approach**, under which a person is considered unemployed if he/she did not work even for one hour on any day during the week
  - o but sought or was available for work at least for one hour on any day during the period.
- **Labour force according to CWS** is the number of persons either employed or unemployed on an average in a week preceding the date of survey.

7. What is Hemochromatosis, the rare genetic disorder that causes organ dysfunction?

Relevance: Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.
News:
- Recently, health experts revealed all about Hemochromatosis or 'bronze diabetes'.

Prelims Takeaway
• Hemochromatosis

Hemochromatosis
- It is an **inherited condition where iron levels** in the body slowly build up over many years.
- This health condition is primarily classified into two types:

Hereditary hemochromatosis:
- It is **driven by a mutation in the HFE gene,** resulting in individuals being homozygous for the C282Y variant.
- This **genetic anomaly sets the stage for a lifelong struggle** with excessive iron absorption within the intestines.

Secondary hemochromatosis:
- It is ty**pically caused by external factors lik**e frequent blood transfusions, excessive iron supplementation, or certain medical conditions.
- The **iron accumulation in secondary hemochromatosis** is often more rapid and can have a similar impact on organ function
- S**ymptoms of haemochromatosis** usually start between the ages of 30 and 60.
- **Common symptoms include:** Feeling very tired all the time (fatigue), weight loss, weakness and joint pain etc

Treatment:
- **Phlebotomy is the standard treatment** for primary hemochromatosis.
- **Iron toxicity can be reduced by removing red blood cells, th**e body's main mobilizer of iron.
- **Phlebotomy** is usually performed once or twice a week.

8. With food inflation limited to dal roti, why govt policy may need changes-Indian Express

Relevance: Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.
News:
- **consumer food prices increases 9.9%** higher year-on-year in August and **overall retail inflation at 6.8%** – well above its target of 4% and upper tolerance limit of 6%

Prelims Takeaway
• Core Inflation
• Headline Inflation

Inflation
- It is defined **as the rise in the price of goods and services** within an economy over a period of time due to which each unit of currency has less purchasing power.

Types of inflation

Creeping or Mild Inflation
- When the speed of upward thrust in prices is slow but small
- It is helpful for economic development.

Walking or Trotting Inflation
- **When prices rise moderately,** and the annual inflation rate rises by a single digit.
- It is the time when the government should focus on the issue.

Galloping and Hyperinflation
- When **creeping and walking inflation are left unchecked**, the rate will rise above 10%.
- This leads to instability of the economy.
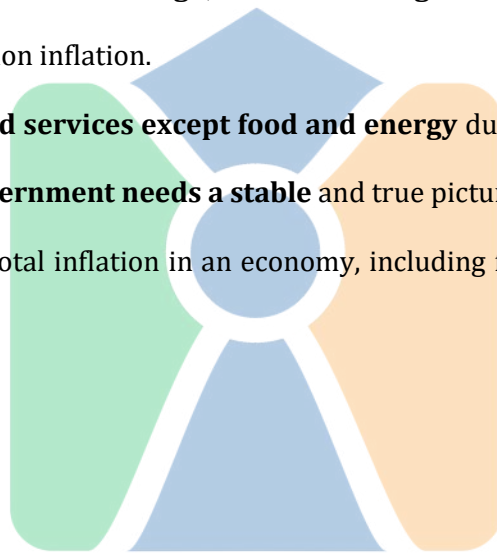- It is the last stage of inflation.

Stagflation
- It is a situation in which the **rate is high, the economic growth rate slows, a**nd unemployment remains steadily high.
- It is also known as recession inflation.

Core Inflation
- Price rise in **all goods and services except food and energy** due to high price fluctuations is core inflation.
- It is calculated **as the government needs a stable** and true picture of the rate of price rise.

Headline Inflation
- This measure considers total inflation in an economy, including food and energy prices, which are more volatile.

1. The state of India's Scheduled Areas- 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.

Context:
- **India's 705 Scheduled Tribe (ST)** communities — making up **8.6%** of the country's population — **live in 26 States and six Union Territories.**
- **Article 244**, pertaining to the administration of Scheduled and Tribal Areas, is the single most important constitutional provision for STs.

What are Scheduled Areas
- Scheduled Areas cover 11.3% of India's land area, and have been notified in 10 States
- Article 244(1) provides for the application of Fifth Schedule provisions to Scheduled Areas notified in any State other than Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.
- The Sixth Schedule applies to these States as per Article 244(2).
- However, despite persistent demands by Adivasi organizations, villages have been left out in the 10 States with Scheduled Areas and in other States with ST populations.
- As a result, 59% of India's STs remain outside the purview of Article 244.
- They are denied rights under the laws applicable to Scheduled Areas, including the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 and the Biological Diversity Act 2002.
- In 1995, the Bhuria Committee, constituted to recommend provisions for the extension of panchayat raj to Scheduled Areas, recommended including these villages, but this is yet to be done.

How are Scheduled Areas governed?
- The President of India notifies India's Scheduled Areas.
- States with Scheduled Areas need to constitute a Tribal Advisory Council with up to 20 ST members.
- They will advise the Governor on matters referred to them regarding ST welfare.
- The Governor will then submit a report every year to the President regarding the administration of Scheduled Areas.
- State panchayat laws had empowered the elected panchayat bodies, rendering the gram sabhas moot.
- PESA empowered the gram sabhas to exercise substantial authority through direct democracy, and stated that structures "at the higher level do not assume the powers and authority" of the gram sabha.

Who decides a Scheduled Area?
- The Fifth Schedule confers powers exclusively on the President to declare any area to be a Scheduled Area.
- In 2006, the Supreme Court held that "the identification of Scheduled Areas is an executive function" and that it doesn't "possess the expertise ... to scrutinize the empirical basis of the same".

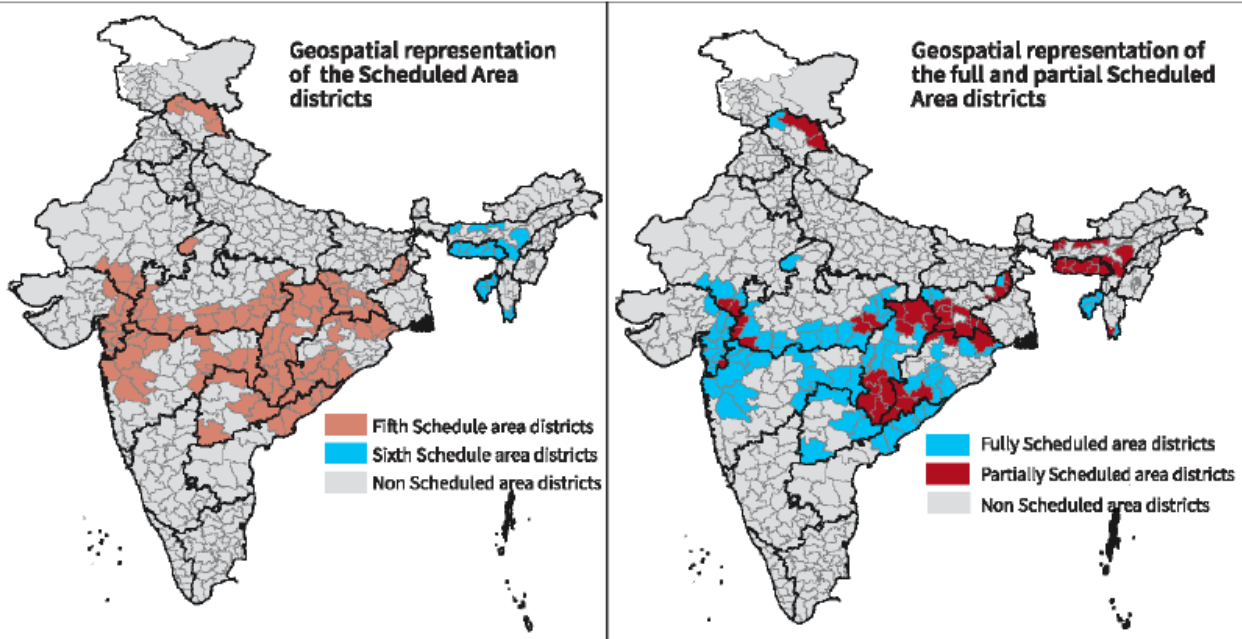### How are Scheduled Areas identified?
- Neither the Constitution nor any law provides any criteria to identify Scheduled Areas.
- However, based on the 1961 Dhebar Commission Report, the guiding norms for declaring an area as a Scheduled area are —
  o   preponderance of tribal population;
  o   compactness and reasonable size of the area;
  o   a viable administrative entity such as a district, block or taluk;
  o   and economic backwardness of the area relative to neighboring areas.
- No law prescribes the minimum percentage of STs in such an area nor a cut-off date for its identification.
- The Bhuria Committee recognised a face-to-face community, a hamlet or a group of hamlets managing its own affairs to be the basic unit of self-governance in Scheduled Areas.
- But it also noted that the most resource rich tribal-inhabited areas have been divided up by administrative boundaries, pushing them to the margins.
- Therefore, determining the unit of the area to be considered — whether a revenue village, panchayat, taluka or district, with an ST-majority population — gave way to arbitrary politico-administrative decisions.
- However, PESA's enactment finally settled this ambiguity in law.
- The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, also known as the FRA Act, adopted this definition.
- Here, too, the gram sabhas are the statutory authority to govern the forests under their jurisdiction.
- As a result, the definition of a village expanded beyond the Scheduled Areas to include forest fringes and forest villages as well.
- FRA 2006 requires them to demarcate 'community forest resource', which is the "customary common forest land within the traditional or customary boundaries of the village

What next?
- All habitations or groups of habitations outside Scheduled Areas in all States and Union Territories where STs are the largest social group will need to be notified as Scheduled Areas irrespective of their contiguity.
- The geographical limit of these villages will need to be extended to the 'community forest resource' area on forest land under the FRA 2006.
- The geographical limits of the revenue village, panchayat, taluka, and district will need to be redrawn so that these are fully Scheduled Areas.

The homelands of tribal communities

These maps show us geospatial representations of Scheduled Areas in India. Scheduled Areas cover 11.3% of India's land area, and have been notified in 10 States. The President holds exclusive power to declare any area as a Scheduled Area

Geospatial representation of the Scheduled Area districts

Fifth Schedule area districts
Sixth Schedule area districts
Non Scheduled area districts

Geospatial representation of the full and partial Scheduled Area districts

Fully Scheduled area districts
Partially Scheduled area districts
Non Scheduled area districts

Source: The Legal Regime and Political Economy of Land Rights of Scheduled Tribes in The Scheduled Areas of India, Namita Wahi and Ankit Bhatia, Centre for Policy Research

2. Mental health and the floundering informal worker -

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

Context:

- The theme of **World Mental Health Day** (October 10) this year is 'mental health as a **universal human right'.** A segment **often overlooked** when it **concerns** mental health is the **informal worker**.

Informal workers' mental health:

- A study by the International Labour Organization (ILO) says that 15% of working age adults, globally, live with a mental disorder.
- On one Side , decent work influences mental health in a positive way.
- On the other side , unemployment, or unstable or precarious employment, workplace discrimination, or poor and particularly unsafe working environments, can all pose a risk to a worker's mental health.
- Workers in low paid, unrewarding or insecure jobs, or working in isolation, are more likely to be exposed to psychosocial risks, thus compromising their mental health.

The Indian experience

- India's informal workforce accounts for more than 90% of the working population.
- These workers often operate without regulatory protection, work in unsafe working environments, endure long hours, have little access to social or financial protections, suffer high uncertainty and deep precarity, and face discrimination — all of which further undermine mental health and limit access to mental health care.

Gender disparities

- Over 95% of India's working women engaged in informal, low paying, and precarious employment, often without social protection, in addition to suffering patriarchal structures and practices in their social and familial spaces.

Youth unemployment

- It is one of the highest in India which, along with the stigma around unemployment, significantly impacts their mental health.
- Moreover, an ILO report highlights how young workers are shifting to more precarious and informal work, accepting less pay and poorer working conditions, out of desperation, and, sometimes, giving up and exiting the labour force altogether.

State of Inequality in India Report 2022

- It observes that the unemployment rate actually increases with educational levels, particularly for educated young women who show an unemployment rate of 42%.
- With this phase of demographic dividend, where half of India's population is of working age and projected to remain so for two decades, it is pertinent to think about the quality of employment and long term social security for them.

The elderly:
- India will also become an ageing society in 20 years, with no apparent social security road map for this rapidly growing group that is especially vulnerable to poor mental health.
- Census of India 2011 shows that 33 million elderly people are working postretirement in informal work.
- Another study, by the ILO on elderly employment in India, shows high poverty among them, in terms of economic dependency and access to financial assets.

Impact of COVID-19:
- A study by Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) among informal workers in Delhi, mostly migrants, indicates that recovery post COVID19 remains uneven among informal worker cohorts. Many still report food insecurity, skipped meals, or reduced consumption.
- While certain schemes have received a higher allocation this year, others such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) have seen their funding slashed.
- In 2021, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reported that 26% of the people who died by suicide were daily wage earners. Employment guarantee programmes can indeed improve mental health outcomes. Thus, social security can be:
  o promotional: aiming to augment income
  o preventive: aiming to forestall economic distress
  o protective: aiming to ensure relief from external shocks.

Way forward: A relook at the Code on Social Security (CSS) 2020:
- It shows how glaring issues concerning the social security of India's informal workforce still remain unheeded. While India should universalise social security, the current Code does not state this as a goal.
- Care needs drastic improvement Informal workers, despite their significant contribution to national income, are perennially exposed to various economic, physical, and mental vulnerabilities.
- India's budgetary allocation for mental health (currently under 1% of the total health budget) has overfocused on the digital mental health programme.
- As the World Mental Health Report 2022 observed, addressing mental health involves strengthening community based care, and people centred, recovery oriented and human rights oriented care.

Conclusion:
- There is an **urgent need** for **proactive policies** to **improve mental health** recognition and **action**.
- This is critical in upholding the basic human right to good health, including mental health, and in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 3 on 'good health and wellbeing' and SDG 8 on 'decent work for all/economic growth'.

Quick Look

1. Reticulated python

- It is a member of the family Pythonidae.
- These snakes come in a wide variety of color patterns, and many of the variations can be based on their location.
- It is a heavy-bodied, very long snake with a proportionately large head.
- Like most other python species, it has heat-sensing pits.
- The pits are deep and well-developed, located on the front upper and lower labials and the lower rear labials.
- This species, despite its striking color patterns, camouflage well within its environment.
- It's an example of disruptive coloration, a type of camouflage where the animal's pattern helps break up the outlines of its body. This pattern helps this giant snake disappear into the brush and allows it to ambush its prey.
- This species has a broad range across southeastern Asia, including the Nicobar Islands, Myanmar, across to Indochina, Philippines, and Malaysia.
- These tropical snakes are classically associated with lowland rainforests and wetlands.
- IUCN: Least concern

2. Exercise CHAKRAVAT

- It is an Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief HADR Exercise (AJHE)
- Since its first edition in 2015, the Annual Joint HADR Exercise, CHAKRAVAT has transformed itself into a multi-agency endeavour.
- It involves participation of all three Services, Paramilitary Forces, as well as several disaster response organisations, NGOs, academic institutions and international organisations.
- The 2023 edition would further synergise efforts at the national level among all stakeholders, as well as witness participation from eight countries of the Indian Ocean Region.

3. International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA):

- It was launched by India on April 9, 2023, for the conservation of seven big cats, namely Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma harbouring our planet.
- It is open to 97 'range' countries, which contain the natural habitat of these big cats, as well as other interested nations, international organizations, etc.
- It will provide a platform for the member nations to share knowledge and expertise and extend support to recovery efforts in potential habitats.
- Its major activities will include advocacy, partnership, knowledge e-portal, capacity building, eco-tourism, partnerships between expert groups, and finance tapping.

4. Satellite Spectrum

- The Satellite or orbit spectrum is a segment of radio spectrum made available when satellites are placed into orbit.
- This spectrum is part of the broader radio frequency spectrum, which encompasses all electromagnetic frequencies used for various wireless communications and broadcasting purposes.
- This spectrum is a limited resource for every country, utilised by firms to implement satellite broadcasting, communication satellites, and weather satellite services.

- This spectrum is divided into many different frequency bands. The choice of bands depends on many factors, including the specific applications.
- The frequency is an integral part of the satellite's construction and doesn't change after launch.

5. Curative Petition

- It is the last resort to the highest court that can be petitioned for redressal of grievances in court, and its ruling is final.
- It is a way to ask the court to review and revise their own decision, and it is filed after a review petition is dismissed or used.
- It is the final and last option for the people to acquire justice, as mentioned and promised by the Constitution of India.
- It is meant to ensure there is no miscarriage of justice and to prevent abuse of process.

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following statements:
1. Article 142 gives the Supreme Court extraordinary power to do complete justice.
2. SC has not used this power in the last 5 years.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?
A. Only 1
B. Only 2
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Q2. Which of the following gives 'Global Gender Gap Index' ranking to the countries of the world?
A. World Economic Forum
B. UN Human Rights Council
C. UN Women
D. World Health Organization

Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to exercises Varuna:
1. The Indian and French Navies have been conducting bilateral maritime exercises Varuna since 1993.
2. The joint-exercises are held either in the Indian Ocean or Mediterranean Sea with the aim of improving Indo-French coordination on capabilities.

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 with reference to the OTT Platforms
1. OTT or over-the-top platforms, are audio and video hosting and streaming services
2. They use AI to suggest users the content they are likely to view based on their past viewership on the platform.
3. The IT Rules, 2021 provide for self-classification of their content without any involvement of Central Board of Film Certification.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
A. Only one
B. Only two
C. All three
D. None

Q5. Consider the following statements about Kuki Tribe
1. It inhabits the northeastern regions of India including Myanmar and Bangladesh
2. They are mainly found in the states of Manipur and Mizoram in India
3. They are also known as Chin people
4. They speak various dialects of the Chin-Kuki-Mizo language family.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
A. Only one
B. Only two
C. Only three
D. All four

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding the National Career Service portal:
1. It is one of the mission-mode projects under the umbrella of the E-Governance Plan.
2. It works towards bridging the gap between job-seekers and employers
3. It is being implemented by the Directorate General of Employment, Ministry of Labour & Employment.

How many of the statements given above is/are incorrect?
A. Only one
B. Only two
C. All three
D. None

Q7. Consider the following terms related to inflation in an economy:
1. SKEWFLATION is skewed rise in the price of some items while remaining item prices remain the same
2. STAGFLATION is situation of rising prices along with falling growth and employment

3. Reflation is the act of stimulating the economy after a period of economic slowdown or contraction

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?
A. Only one
B. Only two
C. All three
D. None

Q8. **The provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Ares) Act, 1996 (PESA)**
A. Extends greater say to local tribe community over common resources
B. Provides greater devolution of powers to Scheduled Tribes
C. Extends provisions of 73rd constitutional Amendment to Scheduled Areas
D. Brings Scheduled Areas under the better control of local Panchayats

Q9. **Unemployment trap sometimes in news is defined as**
A. A situation when unemployment benefits discourage the unemployed to go to work.
B. A situation where people working informally, without proper job contracts and thus sans any legal protection.
C. It refers to the time lag between the jobs when an individual is searching for a new job or is switching between the jobs.
D. It is loss of jobs due to changes in technology.

Q.10 Consider the following statements about Hemochromatosis'
1. It is an inherited condition where iron levels in the body slowly build up over many years.
2. Phlebotomy is the standard treatment for primary hemochromatosis.

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

Ans. 1 Option B is correct
Explanation
- Article 142 gives the Supreme Court extraordinary power to do complete justice.
- SC has used this power in multiple cases in the last 5 years.

Ans. 2 Option A is Correct
Explanation
- Global Gender Gap Index:
- It is released by the World Economic Forum which is an annual report. Hence the option 1 is correct
- The first publication of this index was released in 2006.
- This index is ranked among 153 countries by using 4 dimensions namely as follows, *Educational attainment,
- Health and survival, *Economic participation & opportunity and Political empowerment.
- According to the 14th edition of the Global Gender Gap Index, India has ranked in the 112th position whereas Ireland is topped among the countries.

Ans. 3 Option C is correct
Explanation
- The Indian and French Navies have been conducting bilateral maritime exercises since 1993. Since 2001, these exercises have been called 'VARUNA'. Hence, statement 1 is correct
- These interactions further underscore the shared values as partner navies, in ensuring freedom of seas and commitment to an open, inclusive Indo-Pacific and a rules-based international order.
- The joint-exercises are held either in the Indian Ocean or Mediterranean Sea with the aim of improving Indo-French coordination on capabilities like: cross-deck operations, replenishment-at-sea, minesweeping, anti-submarine warfare and information sharing. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Ans. 4 Option C is correct
Explanation
- OTT, or over-the-top platforms, are audio and video hosting and streaming services which started out as content hosting platforms, but soon branched out into the production and release of short movies, feature films, documentaries and web-series themselves.
- These platforms offer a range of content and use artificial intelligence to suggest to users

the content they are likely to view based on their past viewership on the platform.
- Most OTT platforms generally offer some content for free and charge a monthly subscription fee for premium content which is generally unavailable elsewhere.
- Premium content is usually produced and marketed by the OTT platform themselves, in association with established production houses which historically have made feature films.
- he IT Rules, 2021 provide for self-classification of the content without any involvement of Central Board of Film Certification.
- Examples: Netflix, Disney+, Hulu, Amazon Prime Video, Hulu, Peacock, CuriosityStream, Pluto TV, and so many more.

Ans. 5 Option D is correct
Explanation
- Kuki tribe is one of the ethnic groups that inhabit the northeastern regions of India along with Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- They are mainly found in the states of Manipur and Mizoram in India, Chin State in Myanmar, and Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh.
- They are also known as Chin or Mizo people, and they share a common ancestry and culture.
- They are part of the larger Zo people, along with the Chin and Mizo tribes.
- They speak various dialects of the Chin-Kuki-Mizo language family, which belong to the Tibeto-Burman branch of the Sino-Tibetan languages.

Ans. 6 Option D is correct
Explanation
- National Career Service portal
- National Career Service is one of the mission-mode projects under the umbrella of the E-Governance Plan.
- It was launched in the year 2015.
- Objectives: It works towards bridging the gap between job-seekers and employers, candidates seeking training and career guidance and agencies providing training and career counselling by transforming the National Employment Service.
- It provides a host of career-related services such as dynamic job matching, career counselling, job notifications, vocational

guidance, and information on skill development courses, internships and alike. *The focus areas for the National Career Service platform are listed below:

- Enhancing Career and employment opportunities *Counselling and guidance for career development Focusing on decent employment
- Enhancing female labour force participation *Encouraging entrepreneurial endeavours
- Nodal Agency: The project is being implemented by the Directorate General of Employment, Ministry of Labour & Employment.

Ans. 7 Option C is correct
Explanation

- REFLATION: It is the act of stimulating the economy after a period of economic slowdown or contraction. The goal is to expand output, stimulate spending and curb the effects of deflation. Policies include tax cuts, infrastructure spending, increasing the money supply and lowering interest rates.
- SKEWFLATION (Skew + flation): It is the skewed rise in the price of some items while remaining item prices remain the same. E.g. Seasonal rise in the price of onions.
- STAGFLATION: The situation of rising prices along with falling growth and employment, is called stagflation. Inflation accompanied by an economic recession.

Ans. 8 Option C is Correct
Explanation

- To bring the people residing in Fifth Schedule Areas in the mainstream, the Parliament, in terms of Article 243M(4)(b) of the Constitution, has enacted "the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996" (PESA) to extend Part IX of the Constitution, relating to Panchayats, to the Fifth Schedule areas, with certain modifications and exceptions. States, having Fifth Schedule Areas, have been empowered to make Panchayat Laws for these areas
- Recently. Madhya Pradesh government has notified its PESA Rules on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas on 15th November, 2022.
- Currently, eight States namely; Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana have notified their State PESA Rules under their respective State Panchayati Raj Acts.

Ans. 9 Option A is correct.
Explanation

- Unemployment trap is a situation when unemployment benefits discourage the unemployed to go to work. People find the opportunity cost of going to work too high when one can simply enjoy the benefits by doing nothing.

Ans. 10 Option C is correct
Explanation
Hemochromatosis

- It is an inherited condition where iron levels in the body slowly build up over many years.
- Phlebotomy is the standard treatment for primary hemochromatosis.
- Iron toxicity can be reduced by removing red blood cells, the body's main mobilizer of iron.
- Phlebotomy is usually performed once or twice a week.

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