

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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Important News Articles

1. India reiterates call for a 'sovereign Palestine state' - The Hindu
2. India ranks 111 out of 125 countries in hunger index - The Hindu
3. Disqualification pleas: Shinde group seeks separate hearings, Uddhav-led faction disagrees- The Hindu
4. Bihar accident: Train derailed when driver applied emergency brakes after 'sensing rattling' on tracks- India express
5. Proposals for acquisition of aircraft carrier, LCA-Mk1A jets lined up for approval by DAC
6. Need a 'collective effort' to bring about lifestyle changes to protect environment: Birla - The Hindu
7. Tea industry in 'acute financial crisis', says Indian Tea Association in a report - The Hindu

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

1. Gaza war and markets: No impact for now, but need for caution - Indian Express
2. Giant Ozone 'Hole' found over Antarctica: Reason to Worry? - Indian Express
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4. Prosopis juliflora
5. Diverse Epigenetic Epidemiology Partnership (DEEP)

Important News Articles**GS II****1. India reiterates call for a 'sovereign Palestine state' - The Hindu**

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

News:

- **India's "longstanding and consistent" policy on Palestinian state** remains unchanged, says MEA spokesperson

Prelims Takeaway

- Map based question

Evolving relationship between India and Palestine

- India's support for the Palestinian cause is an integral **part of the nation's foreign policy.**
- In 1974, **India became the first Non-Arab State** to recognize Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.
- **India became the first non-Arab state to recognize** Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1974
- India is one of the **first countries to recognize the State of Palestine.**
- Unlike in Israel, **India does not have an embassy in Palestine.**
- India voted in favour of Palestine for its **acceptance as a full member of UNESCO.**
- India co-sponsored the resolution that made **Palestine a 'non-memberstate' of United Nations General Assembly.**
- India supported **the installation of the Palestine flag at UN premises.**

2. India ranks 111 out of 125 countries in hunger index - The Hindu

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

News:

- **India ranks 111 out of a total of 125 countries** in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2023.
- **The Union government,** though, contested India's performance for the third year in a row, **citing flawed methodology.**

Prelims Takeaway

- Global Hunger Index (GHI)

Key Points

- **The index** is jointly released by **Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe every October.**
- **Afghanistan, Haiti and 12 sub-Saharan countries perform worse** than India on the GHI.
- **The GHI score is based on a** formula which combines **four indicators** that together capture the multi-dimensional nature of hunger including
 - Under-nourishment
 - child stunting
 - child wasting
 - child mortality.
- While **India made significant strides between 2000 and 2015**, with its score improving from 38.4 in 2000 to 35.5 in 2008 and 29.2 in 2015, over the past eight years
- Globally, **the share of people who are undernourished**, which is one of the indicators used in the index, **actually rose from 7.5% in 2017 to 9.2% in 2022**
- **South Asia and Africa South of the Sahara are the world regions with the highest** hunger levels, with GHI scores of 27.0 each, indicating serious hunger.
- **West Asia and North Africa** is the region with the third-highest hunger level with a score of **11.9** indicating "moderate" hunger level.
- **Latin American and the Caribbean** is the only region in the world whose **GHI scores have worsened between 2015 and 2023.**
- **East and Southeast Asia, dominated by populous China**, has the **second-lowest** 2023 GHI score of any region in the report.
- **China**, for example, is among the top 20 countries that each have a **GHI score of less than 5.**

Reason:

- According to the **GHI 2023 report**, the stagnation in the fight against global hunger is largely due “to the **combined effects of overlapping crises**, including:
 - the COVID-19 pandemic
 - the Russia-Ukraine war
 - economic stagnation
 - the impacts of climate change
 - The intractable conflicts facing many countries of the world
- It adds that **the combination of these crises have led to a cost of living crisis** and exhausted the coping capacity of many countries.

3. Disqualification pleas: Shinde group seeks separate hearings, Uddhav-led faction disagrees- The Hindu

Relevance: Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.

News:

- The **Shiv Sena group** led by Maharashtra Chief Minister sought **separate hearings on the disqualification petitions** filed against MLAs of the faction

Prelims Takeaway

- The anti-defection law

The anti-defection law

- it was introduced in 1985, through the **52nd Amendment Act of 1985**.
- It was **inserted in the Tenth Schedule** of the Indian Constitution and is popularly known as Anti Defection Act.
- Defection has been defined as a "**conscious abandonment of allegiance or duty**".
- It lays down the **process of disqualification on grounds of defection**.
- The presiding officer **has the authority to disqualify a member on proven grounds of defection**.
- The goal was to **prevent the legislators from changing their political affiliations** during their tenure in office.
- It applies to **both the Parliament and the state assemblies**.

Ground

- One of the most important grounds is the phrase "**Voluntarily giving up his membership**".
- It has a **wider connotation than resignation**.
- In **absence of formal resignation**, the giving up of his membership can also be inferred from the legislator's conduct.
- Another **ground of Defection is "Violation of Instructions"**.
 - It means that if the legislator votes or abstains from voting in the House contrary to a direction issued by the political party he belongs to, he is deemed to be disqualified.

GS III

4. Bihar accident: Train derailed when driver applied emergency brakes after 'sensing rattling' on tracks- India express

Relevance: Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

News:

- The **train accident in Bihar's Buxar** killed four persons and injured at least 70 was caused when the engine driver applied emergency brakes after sensing a “rattling” on the tracks

Prelims Takeaway

- Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh

Reasons behind Accidents

- **Infrastructure Defects:** The railway infrastructure, which includes tracks, bridges, overhead wires, and rolling stock,
- **Human Errors:** The railway staff, who are responsible for operating, maintaining, and managing the trains and tracks, are prone to human errors

- **Signalling Failures:** The signalling system, which controls the movement and direction of trains on the tracks, can fail due to technical glitches, power outages, or human errors.
- **Unmanned level crossings:** UMLCs are places where railway tracks crossroads without any barriers or signals to regulate traffic.

Way Forward

- Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh (RRSK)
- LHB Design Coaches
- Modern Track Structure
- Elimination of Unmanned Level Crossings

5. Proposals for acquisition of aircraft carrier, LCA-Mk1A jets lined up for approval by DAC

Relevance: Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

News:

- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**, chaired by Defence Minister, has two mega proposals lined up from the Navy and the Air Force
- The Navy's proposal is for a repeat order of a Vikrant-like aircraft carrier
- the Air Force is looking to acquire 97 additional light combat aircraft, LCA-Mk1A

Prelims Takeaway

- The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)

The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)

- the programme was **started by the Government of India in 1984** when they established the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) to manage the LCA programme.
- It **replaced the ageing Mig 21 fighter planes.**
- It was **Designed by Aeronautical Development Agency** under the Department of Defence Research and Development.
- It was **Manufactured by State-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).**
- The **lightest, smallest and tailless multi-role supersonic fighter** aircraft in its class.
- It was **Designed to carry a range of air-to-air, air-to-surface, precision-guided, weapons.**
- **Air to air refuelling capability.**
- Maximum payload **capacity of 4000 kg.**
- It can **attend the maximum speed of Mach 1.8.**
- The **range of the aircraft is 3,000km**
- Variants of Tejas:
 - Tejas Trainer:
 - LCA Navy: Twin-L
 - LCA Tejas Mk-1A

6. Need a 'collective effort' to bring about lifestyle changes to protect environment: Birla - The Hindu

Relevance: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

News:

- While addressing the **Parliamentary Forum on 'LiFE: Lifestyle for Environment'**, ahead of the **ninth G-20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P-20)**, the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla emphasised on "collective effort to bring about lifestyle changes" to deal with Climate change effectively.

Prelims Takeaway

- Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P-20)

Highlights of his speech:

- Mere discussions in the Parliament on lifestyle for the environment and **laws are not enough** to tackle climate change. Rather, **collectively contribute** by changing daily routine is important.
- Prime Minister of India has recently put forward the idea of **Mission Lifestyle, a comprehensive approach to environmental protection** by focusing on **reduce, reuse and recycle.**

7. Tea industry in 'acute financial crisis', says Indian Tea Association in a report - The Hindu

Relevance: Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country, – different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers.

Prelims Takeaway

- Indian Tea Association (ITA)

News:

- The Indian Tea Association (ITA), a leading body of tea planters, has recently showcased its concern over the industry's current financial distress as prices are not at par with the rising cost of production.

Current Status of the Industry:

- As per the **status paper 'Tea scenario 2023' of ITA, tea prices rose at a CAGR of about 4% over the last decade**, but the **cost of vital inputs** grew at a CAGR of **9-15%** during the same period.

Reasons for the Distress

- **Surplus tea:** Besides, the **exponential increase in production** following the emergence of small tea growers resulted in surplus teas remaining in the system.
- **Iran exports drop:** Payment issues resulted in grim export to Iran, which constitutes almost 20% of total tea exports from India.

Way Ahead:

- To mitigate the situation, the industry urged the government to consider **enhancing RoDTEP** (remission of duties or taxes on export products) incentive cap for high quality CTC, orthodox and Darjeeling teas.



Mentorship
India

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

1. Gaza war and markets: No impact for now, but need for caution - Indian Express

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

Context:

- Conflict between Israel and Hamas in West Asia **initially led to uncertainty in the markets**, witnessing a **sharp sell-off and investors opting for safe havens** like gold.
- However, markets recovered as the scope and spread of the war became clearer.

How have markets traditionally responded to wars?

- When **Russia attacked Ukraine**, domestic stock markets crashed like ninepins.
 - Sensex tumbled 4.72%
 - NSE Nifty tanked 4.78%
- During the **Kargil war**, 1999, the Sensex gained 38% in less than three months.
- During **World War II (1939-1945)**, Dow Jones was up a total of 50%, a rise of 7% per year.

What led to recovery this time?

- Resilience of the US economy
- Declining US bond yields
- Localised character of Israel-Hamas conflict

What concerns remain?

- Spread to other countries may impact **crude oil prices** impacting oil import-dependent countries like India.
- If **Iran, Syria or Lebanon join the conflict**, will **affect sea routes** and push up transport and insurance costs, leading to **adverse impact over India's balance of trade** and CAD, thus putting **pressure on the rupee**.

2. Giant Ozone 'Hole' found over Antarctica: Reason to Worry? - Indian Express

Relevance: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

Context:

- **European Space Agency Copernicus Sentinel-5P satellite** detected a **huge hole in the ozone layer** in September, 2023, as part of the **EU's environmental monitoring program**.
 - This year's ozone hole **started earlier than usual**, and had a big extension.

Prelims Takeaway

- Ozone Hole / Ozone Depletion

What Experts Say?:

- As per Experts it is not likely to increase warming of Antarctica.
- Not a concern for climate change.
- Ozone holes grow and shrink every year

Ozone Layer and its Significance:

- A trace gas in the stratosphere, one of the four layers of the Earth's atmosphere.
- Functions as a protective gas shield that absorbs ultraviolet radiation, protecting humans and ecosystems from dangerous amounts of UV.

Ozone Hole over Antarctica:

- Usual phenomena that occurs every year, opening each year in August and closing again in November or December.
- Its size over Antarctica fluctuates each year
- Reason for Formation:
 - It opens up because of the rotation of the Earth causing special winds over the closed landmass of Antarctica.
 - The winds create a mini climate, creating a shield over Antarctica preventing it from mixing with surrounding air.

What caused the giant ozone hole this year?

- Could be due to the volcanic eruptions at Hunga Tonga during December 2022 and January 2023.
- Intensity of its eruption sent a lot of water vapor into the stratosphere which is not usual.
- Impact of Water vapor on Ozone Layer:
 - Results in chemical reactions
 - Change in heating rate
 - Presence of elements like bromine and iodine lead to Ozone Depletion

Human-caused ozone holes

- Human activities like widespread use of chlorofluorocarbons result in ozone depletion
- Use of gaseous propellants in aerosol cans which contain chlorine leading to ozone depletion.

Actions Taken So Far:

- In 1987, the Montreal Protocol was created to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production of these harmful substances.

Why its a Concern now?

- Extensive hole will result in longer time to repair, meaning a longer, more drawn out polar vortex, leading to longer winters.

3. Jobs, Still - Indian Express

Relevance: Population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues

Context

- In recent decades the **issue of jobs** has been at the **heart of economic policy** discussion
 - The link between economic growth and employment generation has been seen to be rather tenuous.
- The **pandemic** being the **major trigger** caused widespread **financial distress**, touching off a **surge in unemployment** and leading to **mass migration** back to villages

What the Data Says?	Major outcomes of the Survey:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), (by NSSO) : The unemployment rate has shown a decrease between April and June 2023. • Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR): Persons of age 15 years and above and the Worker-Population Ratio (WPR) have also improved during the period. • This indicates an improvement in the labour market. • However, the survey also documents a decline in the share of regular wage/salaried employment and a rise in self-employment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The labour force participation rate (15 years and above): Increased from 49.8% in 2017-18 to 57.9% in 2022-23. • While participation rates have increased in both rural and urban areas, the rise is to a much greater extent in the former. • Female participation rate in rural areas has risen from 24.6 % in 2017-18 to 41.5 % in 2022-23 — an increase of roughly 17 percentage points over this period. • Alongside this increase in labour force participation rates, the share of the self-employed has risen from 55.6 % in 2020-21 to 57.3 % in 2022-23, • While the share of regular wage/salaried employed has fallen from 21.1 % to 20.9 %. • The percentage of workers engaged in informal sector enterprises in the non-agricultural sector has also gone up from 71.4 % in 2020-21 to 74.3 % in 2022-23.

Conclusion:

- While **unemployment rates** have **declined** across board, and among the youth (15-29 years),
- The **falling share** of regular **wage/salaried** and **rise in self-employment** reinforces **concerns** that the **economy is unable to generate sufficient productive** and remunerative forms of **employment** to absorb the millions entering the labour force each year.
- Inadequate job creation was, and still remains, the biggest challenge confronting policymakers.

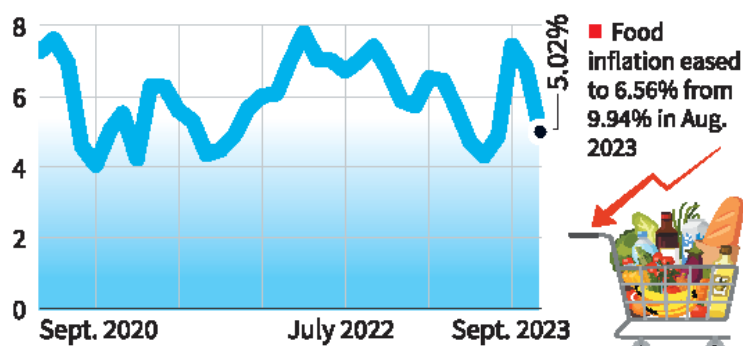
Quick Look

1. Retail Inflation

- India's retail inflation eased from 6.83% in August to 5.02% in September, breaking a two-month streak over the tolerance threshold of the Reserve Bank of India, with the rise in food prices easing to 6.6% from almost 10%.

Sigh of relief

India's retail inflation eased to 5.02% in September from 6.83% in August, going below RBI's 6% tolerance limit after two months, aided by lower food inflation and LPG price cuts



2. World Arthritis Day

- To help spread awareness about the existence and impact of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs), October 12 is marked as World Arthritis Day.
- Arthritis refers to joint pain or joint disease, the inflammation or swelling of one or more joints.
- As per a 2022 paper in the Osteoarthritis and Cartilage journal, 62.35 million people in India had osteoarthritis as of 2019.

3. ICRISAT

- It is a non-profit, non-political public international research organisation that conducts agricultural research for development in Asia & sub-Saharan Africa.
- It helps farmers by providing improved crop varieties and hybrids and also helps smallholder farmers in the drylands fight climate change.
- It conducts research on five highly nutritious drought-tolerant crops: chickpea, pigeonpea, pearl millet, sorghum, and groundnut.
- It has been awarded 2021 Africa Food Prize for the Tropical Legumes Project that has improved food security across 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.
- It is headquartered in Hyderabad, Telangana State, in India, with two regional hubs (Nairobi, Kenya and Bamako, Mali).

4. Prosopis juliflora

- It is a shrub or small tree in the family Fabaceae, a kind of mesquite.
- It is native to Mexico, South America and the Caribbean.
- It is one of the most invasive species in arid and semi-arid areas.
- It was brought to Delhi by the British in the 1920s, when the national capital was being built.
- In India it is known locally by many names such as Bellary jaali, seemai karuvelam, seemai jaali, gando baval, vilayati kikar.
- It has a very wide ecological adaptability which can grow on soils from sand dune to clay soil, and from saline to alkaline soil type.

- It can grow below 200 to above 1500 m above sea level, and with a mean annual rainfall ranging from 50 to 1500 mm
- It is considered as an Invasive plant.

5. Diverse Epigenetic Epidemiology Partnership (DEEP)

- It is a integrated genomics and epigenomics study to understand the genetics behind Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in diverse populations
- The project is to uncover the effects of genomic and environmental diversity in disease risk observed in people across the world It is a five-year international project.
- Researchers will be studying individuals representing diverse genetic and environmental contexts and learn which DNA methylation patterns contribute to their disease risk in each context
- The study will develop software and infrastructure and conduct advanced statistical analyses to build new resources.



Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following

1. Chad
2. Libya
3. Sudan
4. Israel

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

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

Q2. With reference to the Global Hunger Index consider the following statements

1. It is a tool for comprehensively measuring and tracking hunger at global level only
2. GHI scores are based on the values of two indicators namely child stunting and child wasting
3. It is prepared by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe.
4. It is released once in every two years

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

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

Q3. Consider the following statements, with respect to the anti-defection law

1. It was originally mentioned in the constitution.
2. This law applies to both Parliament and state legislature.
3. The law specifies the time limit within that speaker has to decide the disqualification of the member.

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

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

Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the Real Time Train Information System (RTIS) project:

1. RTIS devices that use satellite imagery are installed on the trains under the project.

2. The project is executed by the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS).

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

Q5. With reference to LCA Tejas, consider the following statements.

1. It is a twin-engine multirole light combat aircraft.
2. It is the lightest but biggest multi-role supersonic fighter aircraft in its class.
3. It is designed to carry a range of air-to-air, air-to-surface, precision-guided, and standoff weaponry.

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

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

Q6. Match List I (Environmental protocols) with List II (Description).

List -I	List-II
1. Kyoto Protocol	A. International environment protocol on Access to Genetic Resources
2. Basel Convention	B. Convention for the Protection of Ozone Layer
3. Nagoya Protocol	C. International protocol to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
4. Vienna Convention	D. Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a. 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 4-D
- b. 1-C, 2-D, 3-A, 4-B
- c. 1-A, 2-D, 3-C, 4-B
- d. 1-C, 2-B, 3-A, 4-D

Q7. Consider the following statements:

1. The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) in India is conducted by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
2. The labour force participation rate (15 years and above): Increased from 49.8% in 2017-18 to 57.9% in 2022-23.
3. Female participation rate in rural areas has risen from 24.6 % in 2017-18 to 41.5 % in 2022-23 — an increase of roughly 17 percentage points over this period.

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

1. The Montreal Protocol aimed to phase out the production and consumption of ozone depleting substances.
2. The Kigali amendment to the Montreal Protocol addresses the phase-down of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

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

Q9. Consider the following pairs:

1. Strait of Hormuz – Connects Persian Gulf to Gulf of Oman
2. Golan Heights – Israel and Syria dispute
3. Nagorno Karabakh – Azerbaijan and Armenia dispute

How many of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Q10. With reference to the "Tea Board" in India, consider the following statements:

1. The Tea Board is a statutory body.
2. It is a regulatory body attached to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
3. The Tea Board's Head Office is situated in Bengaluru.
4. The Board has overseas offices in Dubai and Moscow.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

- a. 1, 2 and 4 only
- b. 1, 2 and 3 only
- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. 1, 3 and 4 only

Prelims Track Answer**Ans. 1 Option C is correct****Explanation**

- Egypt's land frontiers border Libya to the west, Sudan to the south, and Israel to the northeast.

Ans.2 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool for comprehensively measuring and tracking hunger at global, regional, and national levels.
- GHI scores are based on the values of four component indicators namely
 - Undernourishment
 - Child stunting
 - Child wasting
 - Child mortality
- The GHI score is calculated on a 100-point scale reflecting the severity of hunger
- Zero is the best score (implies no hunger) and 100 is the worst.
- The GHI is prepared by European NGOs of Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe.
- The GHI is an annual report and each set of GHI scores uses data from a 5-year period.

Ans. 3 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- Tenth Schedule, also known as Anti-defection Law was not part of the part of constitution at the time of its enactment, This was added in the constitution by the 52nd Amendment Act of 1985.
- The anti-defection law deals with situations of defection in Parliament or state legislatures.
- The law does not specify a time limit within that speaker/chairman has to decide the disqualification of the member.

Ans. 4 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- The Indian Railways is collaborating with Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) under the Real Time Train Information System (RTIS) project.
- ### Real Time Train Information System (RTIS) project:
- RTIS devices that use satellite imagery are being installed on the trains to automatically acquire its "movement timing at the stations, including that of arrival and departure or run-through".

- These timings get automatically plotted on the control chart of those trains in the Control Office Application (COA) system.
- The project is executed by the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS).
- RTIS is developed in collaboration with ISRO. ISRO has launched GSAT satellites that have GAGAN payloads for tracking the movement of trains.
- ### Applications of RTIS:
- RTIS gives mid-section updates with a periodicity of 30 seconds.
- The Train Control can now track the location and speed of RTIS-enabled locomotives/train more closely, without any manual intervention.
- It allows passengers to get the real-time location or train running status of a train on their smartphone.

Ans. 5 Option A is correct**Explanation**

- LCA Tejas is a single-engine multirole light combat aircraft.
- It is the lightest and smallest multi-role supersonic fighter aircraft in its class.
- It is designed to carry a range of air-to-air, air-to-surface, precision-guided, and standoff weaponry.
- Tejas has a single-engine, compound Delta wing, and has a tailless design.

Ans.6 Option B is correct.**Explanation:**

- Kyoto Protocol - It is an international protocol to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Basel Convention - It is a convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.
- Nagoya Protocol - It is an international environment protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- Vienna Convention - It is a convention for the Protection of Ozone Layer.

Ans.7 Answer: Option B is correct.**Explanation:**

- The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) in India is conducted by NSSO. **Thus, statement 1 is not correct.**

- The labour force participation rate (15 years and above): Increased from 49.8% in 2017-18 to 57.9% in 2022-23. **Thus, statement 2 is correct.**
- Female participation rate in rural areas has risen from 24.6 % in 2017-18 to 41.5 % in 2022-23 — an increase of roughly 17 percentage points over this period. **Thus, statement 3 is correct.**

Ans. 8 Answer: Option D is correct

Explanation

- Montreal Protocol is a worldwide agreement to phase out the production and consumption of substances causing ozone-depletion. **Thus, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is the only UN treaty ever that has been ratified by every country on Earth - all UN Member States.
- Kigali Agreement is an amendment to the Montreal Protocol that addresses the phase-down of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) used as replacements for the ozone-depleting substances. **Thus, statement 2 is correct.**
- It aims to reduce the production and consumption of HFCs with the aim of mitigating their contribution to global warming.

Ans:9 Option C is correct

Explanation

- The Strait of Hormuz is a strait between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. It provides the only sea passage from the Persian Gulf to the open ocean.
- Since the 1967 Six-Day War, the western two-thirds of the Golan Heights has been occupied and administered by Israel, whereas the eastern third remains under control of the Syrian Arab Republic.
- Nagorno-Karabakh lies within Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia.

Ans:10 Option C is correct

Tea Board

- The Tea Board was set up under the Tea Act 1953.
- The Tea Board is functioning as a statutory body of the Central Government under the Ministry of Commerce. **Thus, Statement 1 is correct and Statement 2 is not correct.**
- Its headquarters is located in Kolkata. **Thus, Statement 3 is not correct.**
- The offices are located in Kolkata, London, Moscow, and Dubai. **Thus, Statement 4 is correct.**

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