

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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Important News Articles

GS I

1. Over 42% of Indian graduates under 25 unemployed: Report - Indian Express

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

News:

- Recently, "**State of Working India 2023**" report by **Azim Premji University's Centre for Sustainable Employment** was released.
- It stated that over **42 per cent of India's graduates under 25 were unemployed** in 2021-22.

Prelims Takeaway

- Periodic Labour Force Survey
- Unemployment

Key highlights

- The overall **unemployment rate reduced to 6.6 per cent** in 2021-22 from 8.7 per cent in 2017-18,
- After the coronavirus pandemic, **60 percent of women were self-employed** as compared to 50 per cent before the pandemic.
- It was accompanied by a **decline in self-employment earnings**, which in 2022 were only 85 percent of what they were in the first quarter of 2019.
 - It is reflecting the impact of distress induced by the pandemic.
- There has been an **upward trend in intergenerational mobility**
- The trend has been **weaker for workers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes categories** as compared to workers belonging to general castes.
- For unemployment based on education and age groups, the report stated that **42.3 per cent of graduates under 25 are unemployed**
- The figure stands at **21.4 per cent** for those who have completed **higher secondary education** in the same age group.
- Notably, **with lower educational qualifications, the rate of unemployment also decreased.**
- The **minimum wage a graduate** would demand is much higher and if the **economy is not generating such jobs**, they may choose to be unemployed."
- Those getting **graduate-level education come from high-income households** or with at least one parent with a good job.
- For those kinds of young people, they have the **luxury to stay unemployed.**
- With regards to intergenerational upward mobility, **75.6 percent of SC/ST men in casual wage work also had sons involved in casual wage work in 2018.**
- In comparison, **the figure stood at 86.5 per cent in 2004.**
- This is indicating that **sons of casual wage workers belonging to SC/ST category have moved to other kinds of employment**, most notably informal regular wage work.
- The drop in this figure is more significant for the **general caste category, from 83.2 per cent in 2004 to 53 per cent in 2018.**

Caste-wise participation in the workforce

- The report observed that the share of **SC workers in casual wage work has reduced** significantly between 1983 and 2021
- The reduction has been **more significant for general caste workers.**
- For instance, in 2021, **40 percent of SC workers were involved in casual employment as compared to 13 per cent of general caste workers.**
- Furthermore, around **22 percent of SC workers were regular wage workers as opposed to 32% of general caste workers.**
- According to the **Periodic Labour Force Survey 2021-22**, the unemployment rate in India stood at **4.1 percent for that period.**

Impact of economic growth on job

- The **report looks at the nature of economic growth** in India.

- One thing that **stands out is that economic growth has not guaranteed employment**. With every percentage increase in GDP, the capacity to generate jobs has systematically declined,
- There has been **movement of the labour force out of agriculture**, workers have not been able to move into salaried employment,
 - a trend that was present before the pandemic as well.
- whatever **salaried work is being generated has tended to be informal salaried work**.
- Salaried work **should come with a contract and other benefits**, but increasingly good salaried jobs are less and less prominent.

GS II

2. Immunity to legislators on bribery: Supreme Court to revisit order- Indian Express

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:

- **The Supreme Court referred a 1998, 5-judge Constitution Bench judgement** (in the P V Narasimha Rao case) to a **7-judge Bench, as the issue deeply affects the morality of the Indian polity**.
- In its **1998 judgement**, the majority of the **SC Bench had held that legislators have immunity against criminal prosecution on bribery charges** for any speech or vote in Parliament.

Prelims Takeaway

- Article 105
- Article 194

Privileges and Immunities to the MPs and MLAs

- Privileges are **special rights, immunities and exemptions enjoyed by the two Houses** of Parliament and legislature of States, and their committees and their members.
- The **Constitution has also extended these privileges** to those persons who are entitled to speak and take part in:
 - the proceedings of a House
 - any of its committees.
- The **main purpose of these MPs/MLAs** can perform their duties or function properly without any hindrances.
- It is **essential for democratic functioning of the legislatures**.
- Without these **privileges the Houses can neither maintain their authority, dignity and honour**.
- Nor can **protect their members from any obstruction in the discharge of their parliamentary responsibilities**.
- **Article 105 and Article 194** to the Constitution of India grant privileges or advantages to the MPs (Article 105) and to the MLAs (Article 194) of every State.
- These powers, **privileges and immunities should be defined by the law** from time-to-time.
- These **privileges are considered as special provisions** and have an overriding effect in conflict.
- It must be clarified here that these privileges **do not extend to the President** (or Governor) who is also an integral part of the Parliament (or state legislature).
- The same provisions are stated under **Article 194, where MLAs of a state are referred instead of MPs**.

3. Delimitation debate: gender vs regional, caste identities - The Hindu

Relevance: Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.

News:

- Recently, the Government said the **Women's Reservation bill would come into effect after the delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies**.

Prelims Takeaway

- Delimitation
- Delimitation Commission

- an exercise that will be carried out only after the completion of the next Census.

Key points

- The next **delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies** will hence involve two shifts:
 - The southern to northern and eastern States
 - Men to women across the country.
- In the process, the serious concerns regarding the **diminishing say of States that have stabilised their populations**.

Population skew

- If **Lok Sabha seats were to be redistributed according to current distribution of the population**
 - the **northern States** might have as many as **32 seats more**.
 - the **southern States** might have up to **24 seats fewer**.
 - **Kerala** could **lose six** of its current 20 Lok Sabha seats
 - **Tamil Nadu 11 of its 39**, according to some calculations.
- Delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies **was kept on hold until 2026** through a constitutional amendment in 2002
 - It is in the hope that population growth across the country will be even by then.
- Northern States like **Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar** have **decennial growth rates of 12% to 15%**.
- In the southern States, **the decennial growth rates range between 6% and 10%**.

Delimitation

- It literally means **the act or process of fixing limits** or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country **to represent changes in population**.
- The Delimitation Commission is to **work without any executive influence**.
- The Constitution mandates that the **Commission's orders are final**
- It **cannot be questioned before any court** as it would hold up an election indefinitely.
- When the orders of the Delimitation Commission are laid before the Lok Sabha or State Legislative Assembly, **they cannot effect any modification in the orders**.
- **Under Article 82**, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.
- Under **Article 170**, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.
- Once the Act is in force, the **Union government sets up a Delimitation Commission**.
- The **first delimitation exercise** was carried out by the President (with the help of the Election Commission) in **1950-51**.
- The **Delimitation Commission Act was enacted in 1952**.
- Delimitation Commissions have been **set up four times — 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002** under the Acts of 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002.
- There was **no delimitation after the 1981 and 1991 Censuses**.

4. Constitution Bench to examine validity of extending quota - The Hindu/ Continuation of reservation is 'absolutely necessary': Govt to SC - Indian Express

Relevance: Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States, issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure, devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein.

News:

- Recently, the **Centre told the Supreme Court that it will submit more material** to strengthen its case regarding extension of reservation.
 - Central government Favours **extension of the period of reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs)** in Lok Sabha and state Assemblies.
- a **five-judge Constitution bench**, which took up the **petitions challenging the Constitutional validity of the Constitution 104th (Amendment) Act**.

Constitution 104th (Amendment) Act

Prelims Takeaway

- Article 334
- Representation of the People Act of 1951

- It extended the **deadline for the cessation of seats for SCs and STs in the Lok Sabha and states assemblies from Seventy years to Eighty.**
- It removed the reserved seats for the **Anglo-Indian community in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies.**

Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Lok Sabha and state Assemblies

- As per **Article 334** of the Indian Constitution, **Anglo-Indians, the Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes have been provided with reservations since 1950.**
- Various amendments have been made to the Constitution to **extend this reservation every 10 years.**
- The reservation of seats for the SCs and STs was **set to expire in 2020** as mandated by the 95th Amendment.
- The SCs and STs have **seats reserved in the Indian Parliament, state assemblies, and urban and rural-level organizations**
- Seats for **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes** in the Lok Sabha are allocated based on the **proportion of their population** in the State, as prescribe by:
 - Article 330 of the Constitution of India
 - Section 3 of the Representation of the People Act of 1951

5. Union Minister of Civil Aviation inaugurates 'Udaan Bhawan' at Delhi's Safdarjung Airport - PIB

Relevance: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

News:

- Recently, the **Union Minister of Civil Aviation** launched an **e-wallet payment option on Bharatkosh portal.**

The e-wallet Payment

- It will be particularly useful for **processing of fees for various regulatory approvals** in the Bharat Kosh portal.
- It acts as a **prepaid wallet** that would enable registered users to **add funds in advance.**
 - Initially, only NEFT/RTGS mode will be allowed for adding funds.
- The users would also be able to **generate receipts and challan instantly eliminating the problem of failed bank transactions.**
- The facility will only be **available to registered Bharatkosh users**, wherein a **unique wallet ID** will be generated for each user to manage the wallet transactions.

Bharatkosh Portal

- An initiative of the **Controller General of Accounts, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.**
- It provides **one-stop services to deposit any fees/fine/other money into the government's account.**
- It **converges all the Civil Ministries/Departments** of the Government of India.
- It aims to **provide 24X7 year-round electronic services to deposit money into Government accounts** using internet-based payment technologies to the users.
- It thus **leverages the e-Governance commitment** of the Government to provide **e-efficient, e-effective, e-excellent government** anywhere anytime.

Prelims Takeaway

- Bharatkosh Portal
- NEFT
- RTGS

GS III

6. ADB lowers India GDP growth outlook for this fiscal to 6.3% - The Hindu

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

News:

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** recently **pared its forecast for India's economic growth** in the current fiscal year to **6.3%**, from 6.4% estimated earlier.
- The ADB's economists also **raised their inflation forecast** for the year to **5.5%**, from 5% estimated earlier.
- They, however, **retained their real GDP growth projection for 2024-25 at 6.7%**, on expectations that **private investment and industrial output would increase**.

Prelims Takeaway

- Asian Development Bank
- Gross Domestic Product

Asian Development Bank

- ADB, **established in 1966** is owned by **68 members** - 49 from the region.
- **Objective:**
 - to achieve a prosperous, **inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia** and the Pacific while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.
 - It assists **members and partners by providing loans**, technical assistance, grants, and equity investments to promote social and economic development.
 - To **promote social and economic development in Asia** and the Pacific.
- As of 31st December 2019, **ADB's five largest shareholders** are:
 - Japan the United States (each with 15.6% of total shares)
 - the People's Republic of China (6.4%)
 - India (6.3%),
 - Australia (5.8%).
- It is **headquartered in Manila, Philippines**.

Tempering expectations

ADB pares its FY24 GDP growth view on concerns that the erratic rains in this year's monsoon could hit farm output

■ **Erratic rainfall has resulted in damage to rice crop, lower kharif sowing for pulses, says Bank**

■ **Lender slashes its farm sector growth outlook for the year by almost 1 percentage point**

■ **Says uptick in capacity utilisation in several industries reflects better policy environment**



7. Study throws light on how gravitational instabilities affect evolution of galaxies - The Hindu

Relevance: Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

News:

- A study conducted by the **Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)** could help **understand how gravitational instabilities are connected to galaxy evolution.**

The Study

- It tried to explore **how gravitational instabilities are connected** with
 - star formation
 - gas fraction
 - timescale for growth of gravitational instabilities
 - the observed morphology
- They **compared the star formation rate, gas fraction and timescale for the growth of gravitational instabilities** of nearby galaxies.
- They **investigated the stability levels of a sample of 175 galaxies** taken from the **Spitzer Photometry and Accurate Rotation Curves (SPARC) database.**
- This **helped** them to
 - **trace the role of dark matter** in regulating the stability levels of the galaxies
 - understand if stars and gas can **self-regulate the stability levels**

Key Findings

- **Spiral galaxies** like the Milky Way exhibit a
 - Higher median star formation rate
 - Lower stability
 - Lower gas fraction
 - Smaller timescale for the growth of gravitational instabilities
- This indicates that **gravitational instabilities in spirals** rapidly **convert a substantial amount of gas into stars**, depleting the gas reservoirs.

Prelims Takeaway

- Dark Matter
- Dark Energy
- Indian Institute of Astrophysics

8. New marine tardigrade species named after former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam - The Hindu

Relevance: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation

News:

- Recently, researchers have identified a **new species of marine tardigrade**, which they have named after the **late former President and scientist A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.**

Tardigrades

- These are **extremely tiny animals** whose **size is measured in micrometres.**
- Their **microscopic size**, however, **belies their toughness.**
- They are known for their **extraordinary resilience and survival instincts.**
- Studied using microscopes, these water-dwelling animals are **also known as 'water bears.'**

Batillipes kalami

Prelims Takeaway

- Batillipes kalami
- Tardigrades

- Batillipes kalami, the new species, **discovered from Mandapam in southeast Tamil Nadu** belongs to the **genus Batillipes**.
- It is the **second marine tardigrade** to be **discovered from Indian waters** and the **first one from the east coast**.
- It is also the **first taxonomically described species** belonging to the **genus Batillipes from India**.
 - **Three species were reported** from Indian waters in the past.
 - However, they **lack proper taxonomic descriptions** making verification impossible.

Key Features

- Size-wise **it averages 170 micrometres in length** and around **50 micrometres in width**.
- It has a **trapezoid-shaped head** with **sharp-tipped filament-like appendages (cirri)** extending from it.
- All four pairs of legs possess **sensory spines** of varying lengths.
- The **females are slightly bigger** compared to the males.

**Mentorship**
India

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

1. 'Socialist' and 'secular': What do these words mean in the Constitution, and how did they come to be part of the Preamble? - Indian Express

Relevance: Constitution of India —historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.

Context:

- The **Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha** recently claimed that the words **“socialist” and “secular” were missing in the Preamble of the Constitution of India** in the copies which were given to the Members of the Parliament.

The Preamble of the Constitution

- The Preamble of the Constitution **serves as an introduction to the Constitution.**
- It contains its basic principles and goals.**
- N. A. Palkhivala**, an eminent jurist and constitutional expert, called the Preamble as the **‘identity card of the Constitution.**
- It is based on the **‘Objectives Resolution’**, drafted and moved by Jawaharlal Nehru and adopted by the Constituent Assembly on January 22, 1947.
- It puts in words the **ideal contained in the Objectives Resolution.**

The words “Socialist” and “Secular”

- These two words were originally not a part of the Preamble.
- They were added by The Constitution (42nd Amendment) Act, 1976 during the Emergency imposed by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Addition of “Socialist” word

- The government headed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, ran socialist and pro-poor images with slogans like “garibi hatao” as part of their campaign.
- It inserted the word Socialist in the Preamble to underline that socialism was a goal and philosophy of India.
- However, the socialism envisaged by the Indian state was not the socialism of the USSR or China of the time.
- It did not envisage the nationalisation of all of India’s means of production.

Addition of “Secular” word

- The people of India profess numerous faiths, and endorse unity and fraternity which was sought to be achieved by enshrining the ideal of “secularism” in the Preamble.
- In essence, this means
 - The state protects all religions equally
 - Maintains neutrality and impartiality towards all religions
 - Does not uphold any one religion as a “state religion”
- A secular Indian state is concerned with the relationship between human being and human being and not between human being and God.
 - The relationship between human being and God is a matter of individual choice and individual conscience.
- Secularism in the Indian Constitution, therefore, is not a question of religious sentiment, but a question of law.
- The secular nature of the Indian state is secured by Articles 25-28 of the Constitution.
- In essence, it was always a part of the philosophy of the Constitution.
- The 42nd Amendment only formally inserted the word into the Constitution.
- It made explicit what was already implicit in various provisions and overall philosophy of the founding document of the Republic.

2. An unclear road ahead - Indian Express

Relevance: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation

News:

- In the recent **G20 New Delhi Leaders’ Declaration**, several paragraphs have been devoted to matters relating to **renewable energy, climate change and low carbon growth.**
- Efforts will be made to **promote low-carbon growth and adopt lifestyles for sustainable development**, and **conserve biodiversity, forests and oceans.**
- Efforts will also be made to **implement the Paris Agreement** through international cooperation.
- This would include the **transfer of low-cost finance and technology.**

Finance for achieving goals

- As highlighted in the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), the emissions could peak by 2025, so, the need to go net-zero by 2050 is reiterated.
- The figure of committing \$100 billion per year is repeated and the Declaration adds that it would probably be reached by 2023 onwards.
- However, it admits that the developing countries would need about \$5.8 to \$5.9 trillion to implement their nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

Role of MDBs and Private institutions

- To help mobilise resources, it recommends
 - Greater access to climate funds
 - Enhancing the role of multilateral development banks (MDBs)
- The need to seek a greater role of the private sector has also been suggested.
- In order to do that, the Declaration recommends the use of public funds as leverage.
- The Declaration also speaks of operationalising the loss and damage fund, a decision taken during COP27.

Issues with the Declaration

1. Paraphrase of Previous Declaration

- The latest Declaration is merely paraphrasing the text of the previous G20 Leaders' Declaration issued in 2022 with respect to climate change.
- The only new aspect mentioned is that renewable generating capacity will be tripled by 2030 which probably implies solar and wind.
 - This is apart from the setting up of the Global Biofuels Alliance and the Green Hydrogen Innovation Centre.
- Challenges
 - Availability of polysilicon for solar and rare earths for wind-based capacities.
 - Issues of grid stability, which can be solved through the installation of batteries on a large scale.
 - However, it would mean that lithium needs to be available in plenty.

2. Mention of "common but differentiated responsibilities" (CBDR)

- This phrase was also mentioned in the Bali Declaration (2002) and in the Rome Declaration (2001).
- It implies that it was recognised that the developed countries were more responsible for the emissions.
 - Since they were the ones emitting carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.
- However, in today's scenario, emissions reduction by developed countries will not be enough to save the planet or meet the Paris targets.
- The steps taken by each country, whether positive or negative, are going to affect the world community at large and the less-developed countries.
- Currently, the concept of nationally determined contributions (NDCs), has replaced CBDR.
- In NDCs, each country sets its own targets which, however, are monitored and evaluated.
- Hence, there is an element of responsibility and introspection.
- So, in a way, all countries, be it developed or developing, are equal partners.
- Therefore, there is a need to drop the phrase CBDR from our future documents as it is superfluous.

Conclusion

- The **New Delhi Declaration is done and dusted.**
- One can hope that before the G20 countries meet again, **some concrete steps will have been taken**, especially towards the **flow of funds committed.**
- It would be reassuring to see a **Declaration** that not only states **what needs to be done**, but also **what has been done.**

Quick Look

1. Mithun

- The Mithun or gayal (*Bos frontalis*), is considered a descendant of the Indian Gaur or bison.
- It is distributed in Northeast India, Bangladesh, northern Myanmar and in Yunnan, China.
- Reared under free-range conditions in hilly forests, the mithun is known as the 'cattle of the mountain'.
- It plays an important role in the socio-economic and cultural life of tribes such as the Nyishi, Apatani, Galo and Adi in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The gayal is the state animal of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.
- It is listed in CITES Appendix I.

2. Tasmanian Tiger

- The Tasmanian tiger (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*) was a marsupial mammal.
- It was the only animal in the Thylacinidae family to survive in modern times.
- It was widespread over continental Australia, extending North to New Guinea and south to Tasmania Island.
- It had disappeared from mainland Australia over 2000 years ago and later was confined to Tasmania till its extinction.
- It earned its nickname because of the stripes along its back.
- It was also known as the Tasmanian Wolf as it had a dog-like head.
- It was a slow-paced carnivorous and ate kangaroos, other marsupials, small rodents and birds.
- It went extinct in the wild in the 1930s and the last one died in captivity in Tasmania's Hobart Zoo in 1936.
- It went extinct mainly because of over-hunting by humans, diseases and competition from the Dingo (*Canis lupus*), a wild dog native to Australia.
- It was also widely persecuted because it was believed to be a threat to sheep.

3. Abraham Accord

- The Abraham Accords Peace Agreement is the official name for the Israel-UAE normalisation agreement.
- On August 13, 2020, the United States, Israel, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) agreed to it in a joint statement.
- After Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994, the UAE became the third Arab country to agree to formally normalise relations with Israel.
- The agreement formalized the two countries' long-standing but robust foreign relations.
- The treaties are named after Abraham, the patriarch whom both Judaism and Islam view as a prophet.
- The UAE and Bahrain will create embassies and swap ambassadors, according to the accords and will cooperate with Israel in a variety of fields, including tourism, trade, healthcare, and security.
- It also allows Muslims from all over the world to visit Israel's ancient monuments and quietly pray at Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, Islam's third holiest site.

4. National Green Tribunal (NGT)

- It is a specialised body set up under the National Green Tribunal Act (2010) for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
- With the establishment of the NGT, India became the third country in the world to set up a specialised environmental tribunal, only after Australia and New Zealand
- NGT is guided by the principles of 'natural justice'.
- It is mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing the same.
- An order/decision/award of Tribunal is executable as a decree of a civil court.

- An appeal against order/decision/ award of the NGT lies to the Supreme Court, generally within ninety days from the date of communication.
- The NGT deals with civil cases under the seven laws related to the environment, these include:
 - The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974,
 - The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977,
 - The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980,
 - The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981,
 - The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986,
 - The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 and
 - The Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

5. SIMBEX 23

- It is an annual bilateral Naval exercise between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).
- It has been conducted since 1994.
- It holds the distinction of being the longest continuous naval exercise that the Indian Navy has conducted with any other country.
- SIMBEX-2023 is being conducted in two phases:
 - a harbour Phase at Singapore from September 21 to 24, 2023
 - Sea Phase.
- Besides Ranvijay, Kavaratti, and Sindhukesari, Long-Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft P8I is also participating in the exercise.
- The Harbour Phase will witness a wide range of professional interactions, cross-deck visits, Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEE), and sports fixtures.
- The Sea Phase of SIMBEX 23 will involve complex and advanced air defence exercises, gunnery firings, tactical manoeuvres, anti-submarine exercises, and other maritime operations.

6. Supra Thermal & Energetic Particle Spectrometer (STEPS)

- It is a sub-system of the ASPEX (Aditya Solar Wind Particle Experiment) payload on the spacecraft.
- Objective: STEPS is to study the environment of energetic particles from the spacecraft's position on the L1 point till it will function.
- The data from STEPS in the long term will also help us understand how space weather changes.
- It comprises six sensors, each observing in different directions and measuring supra-thermal and energetic ions.
- The data collected during the Earth's orbit helps scientists analyse the behaviour of particles surrounding the planet, especially in the presence of its magnetic field.
- It was developed by the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) with support from the Space Application Centre (SAC) in Ahmedabad.

7. Nuakhai Juhar

- It is an important social festival of Western Odisha and adjoining areas of Simdega in Jharkhand.
- The word "nua" means new, and "khai" means food.
- It is an agricultural festival which is observed to welcome the new rice of the season.
- It is observed on the fifth day of the lunar fortnight of the month of Bhadrapada or Bhadra (August–September), the day after the Ganesh Chaturthi festival.

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following statements with reference to unemployment

1. Structural Unemployment is a category of unemployment arising from the mismatch between the jobs available in the market and the skills of the available workers in the market.
2. Cyclical Unemployment is a result of the business cycle, where unemployment rises during recessions and declines with economic growth.

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

Q2. Consider the following statements about Privileges

1. These are special rights, immunities and exemptions enjoyed by the two Houses of Parliament and legislature of States only.
2. Article 105 and Article 194 to the Constitution of India grant privileges or advantages to the MPs and to the MLAs of every State respectively.

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

Q3. Consider the following statements with reference to Delimitation Commission

1. The Delimitation Commission is to work without any executive influence.
2. The Constitution mandates that the Commission's orders are final
3. Delimitation Commissions have been set up four times
4. There was no delimitation after the 1981 and 1991 Censuses.

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

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

Q4. Consider the following statements

1. The SCs and STs have seats reserved in the Indian Parliament, state assemblies, and urban and rural-level organizations
2. Seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha are allocated based on the proportion of their population in the State.

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

Q5. Consider the following statements with reference to the Bharatkosh Portal

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Commerce.
2. It provides one-stop services to deposit any fees/fines/other money into the Government account.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

Q6. An increase in tax to GDP ratio of a country indicates which of the following?

1. Increasing economic growth rate
2. Less equitable distribution of national income

Select the correct code

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

Q7. With reference to dark energy and dark matter, consider the following statements

1. The majority of the universe is dark energy.
2. Dark energy attracts and holds the galaxies together.
3. Both dark energy and dark matter are visible to the naked eye.

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

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

Q8. What is “Batillipes kalami” seen in the news recently ?

- A. It is a genetically modified variety of rice.
- B. It is a new species of marine Tardigrade.
- C. It is a newly discovered fungi.
- D. It is a virus which affects the pigs.

Q9. Consider the following words

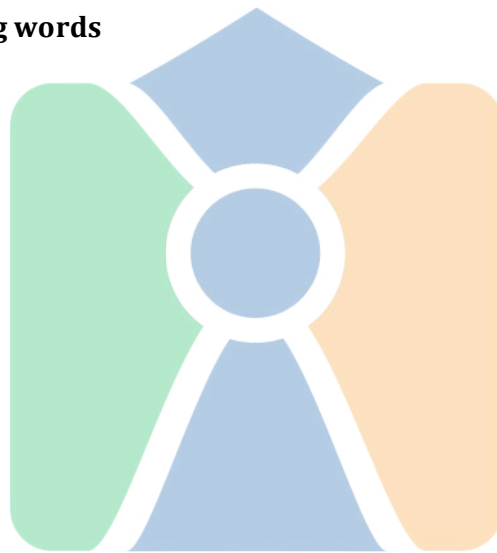
- 1. Socialist
- 2. Secular
- 3. Integrity
- 4. Unity

How many of the words mentioned above was/were added in the preamble of the constitution by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act?

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

Q10. Which of the following reflects the primary objective of the Paris Agreement?

- A. Promoting renewable energy
- B. Combating deforestation
- C. Ensuring global food security
- D. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions



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Prelims Track Answer

Ans.1 Option C is correct

Explanation

- Structural Unemployment: It is a category of unemployment arising from the mismatch between the jobs available in the market and the skills of the available workers in the market. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Many people in India do not get jobs due to a lack of requisite skills and due to poor education levels, it becomes difficult to train them.
- Cyclical Unemployment: It is a result of the business cycle, where unemployment rises during recessions and declines with economic growth. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Ans.2 Option B is correct

Explanation

- These are special rights, immunities and exemptions enjoyed by the two Houses of Parliament and legislature of States, and their committees and their members.
- The Constitution has also extended these privileges to those persons who are entitled to speak and take part in the proceedings of a House or any of its committees. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The main purpose of these MPs/MLAs can perform their duties or function properly without any hindrances.
- It is essential for democratic functioning of the legislatures.
- Without these privileges the Houses can neither maintain their authority, dignity and honour.
- Nor can protect their members from any obstruction in the discharge of their parliamentary responsibilities.
- Article 105 and Article 194 to the Constitution of India grant privileges or

advantages to the MPs (Article 105) and to the MLAs (Article 194) of every State. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Ans.3 Option D is correct

Explanation

- It literally means the act or process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a country to represent changes in population.
- The Delimitation Commission is to work without any executive influence. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Constitution mandates that the Commission's orders are final. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It cannot be questioned before any court as it would hold up an election indefinitely.
- Once the Act is in force, the Union government sets up a Delimitation Commission.
- The first delimitation exercise was carried out by the President (with the help of the Election Commission) in 1950-51
- The Delimitation Commission Act was enacted in 1952.
- Delimitation Commissions have been set up four times — 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002 under the Acts of 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- There was no delimitation after the 1981 and 1991 Censuses. **Hence, statement 4 is correct.**

Ans.4 Option D is correct

Explanation

- The SCs and STs have seats reserved in the Indian Parliament, state assemblies, and urban and rural-level organizations. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Lok Sabha are allocated based

on the proportion of their population in the State, as prescribe by:

- Article 330 of the Constitution of India
- Section 3 of the Representation of the People Act of 1951. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Ans.5 Option A is correct

Explanation

- Bharatkosh Portal is an initiative of the Controller General of Accounts, Ministry of Finance, Government of India. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It provides one-stop services to deposit any fees/fine/other money into the government's account. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It converges all the Civil Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.
- It aims to provide 24X7 year-round electronic services to deposit money into Government accounts using internet-based payment technologies to the users.

Ans.6 Option A is correct

Explanation

- The tax-to-GDP ratio is a ratio of a nation's tax revenue relative to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP). For example, if India's tax-to-GDP ratio is 20%, it means that the government gets 20% of its GDP as tax contribution.
- The tax-to-GDP ratio is used to compare tax receipts from year to year. As taxes are related to economic activity, the ratio should stay relatively consistent. When the gross domestic product (GDP) grows, tax revenue should increase as well.
- The higher the tax to GDP ratio, the better the country's financial position, Increasing economic growth rate, the government's ability to fund its expenditures. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

- A greater tax to GDP ratio indicates that the government can cast a wider fiscal net.
- The less equitable distribution of national income is not directly related to increase in tax to GDP ratio.
- Equal distribution of national income and resource allocation generally depends upon the economic planning of a country. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

Ans.7 Option A is correct

Explanation

- Roughly 68% of the universe is dark energy and dark matter makes up about 27% only. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The rest of everything on Earth, everything ever observed with all of our instruments, all normal matter adds up to less than 5% of the universe.
- Dark matter attracts and holds galaxies together while dark energy repels and causes the expansion of our universe. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**
- Both dark energy and dark matter are invisible. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

Ans.8 Option B is correct

Explanation

- Batillipes kalami, the new species, discovered from Mandapam in southeast Tamil Nadu belongs to the genus Batillipes.
- It is the second marine tardigrade to be discovered from Indian waters and the first one from the east coast. **Hence, Option B is correct**
- It is also the first taxonomically described species belonging to the genus Batillipes from India.
- It has a trapezoid-shaped head with sharp-tipped filament-like appendages (cirri) extending from it.

Ans.9 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- Through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act (1976), three new words i.e. “Socialist”, “Secular” & “Integrity” were added to the Preamble of the Constitution. **Hence, Option C is correct.**
- However, the socialism envisaged by the Indian state was not the socialism of the USSR or China of the time i.e. it did not envisage the nationalisation of all of India’s means of production.
- A secular Indian state is concerned with the relationship between human being and human being and not between human being and God and not between human being and God as it is a matter of individual choice and individual conscience.

Ans.10 Option D is correct**Explanation**

- The Paris Agreement on Climate Change is a legally binding global agreement under the UNFCCC that was adopted in 2015.
- It aims to combat climate change and limit global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, with an ambition to limit warming to 1.5°C.
- It sets out a framework for countries to work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to the impacts of climate change, and provide support to developing countries in their efforts to address climate change. **Hence, Option D is correct.**
- Under the Paris Agreement, each country is required to submit and update their NDCs every 5 years, outlining their plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change.

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