

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



**Date: 10-11 September 2023**

## **Important News Articles**

1. West Bengal unveils education policy, stresses on three-language formula - The Hindu
2. Education Ministry asks States to bring all data under one platform - The Hindu
3. SC to hear petitions challenging sedition law on September 12 - The Hindu
4. Launch of Global Biofuels Alliance a key moment in quest for clean energy: PM - The Hindu
5. On the crime of 'false promise to marry'
6. RBI has announced the issue price of Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2023-24 Series II (second tranche).
7. China-based hacking group compromise Microsoft's cloud security
8. Powerful earthquake causes extensive damage in Morocco
9. The RBI has proposed setting-up a Self Regulatory Organisation for fintechs

## **Editorials, Gists and Explainers**

1. An unforgettable presidency
2. Redouble efforts to reduce disaster risks

## **Quick Look**

1. Hunga-Tonga volcano
2. Air Quality Index
3. Rudra veena
4. Alias 'String of Pearls'
5. Model of human embryo in the lab

## Important News Articles

### GS II

#### 1. West Bengal unveils education policy, stresses on three-language formula - The Hindu

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

**News:**

- Recently, the **West Bengal** government notified the **State Education Policy, 2023**.
- It has **continued with the prevailing 5+4+2+2 pattern** for school education
- it has recommended the introduction of a **three-language formula**

**Prelims Takeaway**

- National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020)
- Schedule 7

**The Policy**

- It is suggested that in the upper **primary level (class V to VIII)** with the **first language, the “mother tongue”,** being the **medium of instruction**.
- The **second language may be English in a non-English medium** or any language other than first language, **depending upon the choice of the student**.
- “The **third language** may be any **other language opted by the student**, other than first and second languages.
- The three-language formula shall be **applicable for upper primary level only as the language learning ability in the primary stage**.
- In the primary level, the education policy also recommended that **‘Bangla’ as a subject may be introduced from Class I to Class XII for students of other mediums** of instruction.
- At the **secondary education level**, “**appropriate and adequate career counselling**” is recommended.
- It will help to equip students with the ability to **choose their future careers** based on their abilities and interests.
- It has recommended “**introducing a semester system** to ease the transition from **school to university in a phased manner**”.

**National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020)**

- **Objective:** “India a global knowledge superpower”.
- It is only the **3rd major revamp of the framework of education** in India since independence.
- The **two earlier education policies were brought in 1968 and 1986**.
- It will ensure **Universal Access at All Levels of schooling** from pre-primary school to Grade 12.
- It will ensure **quality early childhood care and education** for all children between **3-6 years**.
- **New Curricular and Pedagogical Structure (5+3+3+4) corresponds to the age groups of 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years** respectively.
- It covers four stages of schooling: **Foundational Stage (5 years), Preparatory Stage (3 years), Middle Stage (3 years), and Secondary Stage (4 years)**.
- **No hard separations between arts and sciences**, between curricular and extra-curricular activities, between vocational and academic streams;
- Emphasis on promoting **multilingualism and Indian languages**
- Setting up of a **new National Assessment Centre, PARAKH** (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development)
- A separate **Gender Inclusion fund and Special Education Zones** for disadvantaged regions and groups.



## 2. Education Ministry asks States to bring all data under one platform - The Hindu

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

**News:**

- Under the **National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR)**, the Ministry of Education is **pushing States to open Vidya Samiksha Kendras (VSKs)**.
- It is a **data repository** which will have data from all schemes run by the **Ministry of Education (MoE)**.

### Prelims Takeaway

- National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT)
- PM-POSHAN

**Vidya Samiksha Kendras (VSKs).**

- This will include regularly **updated data** from:
  - the **PM-POSHAN** mid-day meal programmes
  - **teacher training data** from National Initiative for School Heads’ Teachers’ Holistic Advancement portal
  - **textbook** content from Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing
  - **school dropout** and attendance-related data on Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE+)
  - students’ **learning outcomes** from National Achievement Survey
  - **Performance Grading Index** which evaluates school education system at the State/U.T. level.
- Currently, **at the Central level**, a VSK centre is housed in **the Central Institute of Educational Technology building in the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) campus**
- **multi-national IT company Ernst and Young**, managing its operations.
- It is an **open-source platform run on C-Qube software**.
- **EkStep Foundation**, which is a non-profit organisation, is on board in an advisory role for **implementing the VSK project**.
- “The Centre has allocated **funds ranging from ₹2 to ₹5 crore to each State** for adopting and establishing VSKs
- It includes **pre-configured open-source hardware and software** as well as hiring human resources.
- States like **Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Jharkhand** have already begun the process of setting up the tech platform,
- In certain schools, **Gujarat has employed biometrics to capture attendance** patterns of students and teachers.
- The attendance gets recorded and **reported at State level**.
- This can be **mapped with trends of student drop-out data** to analyse any co-relations between both data sets,”
- Another instance would be **co-relating data from the mid-day meal scheme** or PM-POSHAN with attendance.
- This will give us insight on whether in those **demographical areas where mid-day meals are provided regularly**, students are more **incentivised** to attend schools
- the idea of developing VSKs is also to map the school location layer with the population layer to **assess the Gross Access Ratio**,
- It which can help plan for new schools, or for industry clusters to **understand skilling requirements of the area**,
- It help plan **higher educational institutions based** on demand and future scenarios,

### 3. SC to hear petitions challenging sedition law on September 12 - The Hindu

**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 is scheduled** on September 12 to **hear a series of petitions** challenging the **legality of the sedition law**.

**Key Highlights:**

- The hearing follows **sweeping changes proposed in criminal law** by the government with the introduction of three new Bills in the Parliament.
- One of them, **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill**, seeks to replace the **colonial Indian Penal Code (IPC) of 1860**.
- The other two are **Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita 2023**, meant to replace the **Criminal Procedure Code**.
- **Bharatiya Sakshya Bill 2023**, in place of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.
- **section 124A is part of the IPC**. Its use had been kept in abeyance following a Supreme Court order in May 2022.
- The court had given the government time to **re-look the sedition law**.
- Though the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill **does not explicitly have a Section 124A** in it, it has Section 150.
- This proposed provision in the **new Bill avoids using the term 'sedition'**, but describes the offence as **"endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity of India"**.

**Prelims Takeaway**

- Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).
- Bharatiya Sakshya Bill 2023
- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill,

**Sedition Law**

- The law was **originally drafted in 1837 by Thomas Macaulay**, but was inexplicably omitted when the Indian Penal Code (IPC) was enacted in 1860.
- **Section 124A was inserted in 1870** by an amendment introduced by Sir James Stephen when it felt the need for a specific section to deal with the offence.
- Today the **Sedition is a crime under Section 124A** of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).
- It defines **sedition as an offence committed** when:
  - "any person by words, either spoken or written
  - by signs, or by visible representation,
  - or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt,
  - or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the government established by law in India".
- Disaffection includes **disloyalty and all feelings of enmity**.
- **comments without exciting or attempting to excite hatred**, contempt or disaffection, will **not constitute an offence** under this section.
- It is a **non-bailable offence** with Punishment ranging from imprisonment up to three years to a life term, to which a fine may be added.
- A person charged under this law is **barred from a government job**

### 4. Launch of Global Biofuels Alliance a key moment in quest for clean energy: PM - The Hindu

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

**News:**

- Recently, **the Prime Minister of India** announced the **launch of the Global Biofuels Alliance**.
- He launched the **GBA in the presence of leaders from the US, Brazil, the UAE, Singapore, Italy, Argentina, Bangladesh, and Mauritius**.

**Prelims Takeaway**

- Biofuels
- The 'Global Biofuel Alliance' or the GBA

**The 'Global Biofuel Alliance' or the GBA**

- It is a **grouping of more than 30 countries and international institutions**.

- It is formed to **facilitate adoption of biofuels**, in order to unlock bioenergy access in emerging economies.
- So far, a **total of 19 countries and 12 international organisations have agreed to join the GBA.**
- Seven of the 19 countries are from the **G20, four are among the G20 invitee countries**, while eight are neither G20 members nor invitees.
- In July, consultations about the GBA were held **on the sidelines of the G20 energy ministers' meeting in Goa.**
- **Organisations that have joined the alliance** are:
  - World Bank
  - Asian Development Bank
  - World Economic Forum
  - International Energy Agency
  - International Energy Forum
  - International Renewable Energy Agency
  - International Civil Aviation Organisation

### Significance

- Due to Climate change and the need to increase the **use of alternate fuels that can protect the environment**
- To work together **to achieve the goal of sustainable energy.**
- It will **facilitate mobilizing a virtual marketplace to assist industries**, countries, ecosystem players and key stakeholders in mapping demand and supply.
- It will also **facilitate:**
  - development, adoption and implementation of internationally recognized standards, codes
  - sustainability principles and regulations to incentivize biofuels adoption and trade."
- India is the **world's third largest consumer of crude oil.**
- Thus, increasing the use of biofuels is likely to significantly help in **reducing the country's carbon footprint.**

### Biofuels

- It refer to the **renewable fuels derived from biomass**, meaning biowaste that comes from agricultural, animal, or industrial production.
- These are known to be **significantly cleaner than conventional fossil fuels.**
- The **US and Brazil are seen as global leaders in biofuels** and account for 52 percent and 30 percent of global ethanol production, respectively.

## 5. On the crime of 'false promise to marry'

**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:

- **Section 69 of the proposed Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023** seeks to replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, identifies 'sexual intercourse on false promise of marriage' as an offence.
- If a man **promises to marry a woman but never intends to**, and still has 'consensual' sex with her, will amount to a criminal offence
- At present, **the offence is not carved out separately in the IPC.**
- Courts have dealt with similar cases through **other provisions within the criminal law framework.**
- **Section 69 creates two violations:** one by deceitful means, and one by a 'false promise to marry.'
- **Deceitful** means will include the "**false promise of employment** or promotion, inducement or marrying after suppressing identity."
- **The false promise to marry** will be attracted only when a man makes a promise to marry a woman, **with the intention of breaking it.**
- offences will extract a penalty of up to **ten years of imprisonment.**

### Prelims Takeaway

- National Crime Records Bureau
- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023

- In 2016, a **quarter of the total rape cases registered in Delhi** pertained to sex under ‘**false promise of marriage**’, as per Delhi Police data.
- The **National Crime Records Bureau** in the same year recorded 10,068 similar cases of rape by “**known persons on a promise to marry the victim**” (the number was 7,655 in 2015).
- In 2021, the **Supreme Court reiterated that under Section 375**, a woman’s consent “**must involve an active and reasoned deliberation towards the proposed act**”.
- If a **man can prove he intended to marry the woman** before he entered into a sexual relationship, **but later is unable to do so to whatever reason, it is not legally punishable.**

### GS III

## 6. RBI has announced the issue price of Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2023-24 Series II (second tranche).

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

**News:**

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** recently announced the **issue price for the upcoming Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) Tranche 2.**

**Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) Scheme:**

- SGBs were **introduced by the Government of India in 2015** under the **Gold Monetization Scheme.**
- SGBs are **government securities issued by the RBI** on behalf of the Government of India.
- They are **substitutes for holding physical gold.**
- SGBs are **denominated in grams of gold with a basic unit of 1 gram.**
- Investors have to **pay the issue price in cash, and the bonds will be redeemed in cash on maturity.**
- The Bonds will be restricted for **sale to resident Indian entities**, including individuals, HUFs, Trusts, Universities and Charitable Institutions.
- The tenor of the Bond will be for a **period of 8 years** with an exit option in the 5th, 6th and 7th year, to be exercised on the interest payment dates.
- **Investment Limit:**
  - Minimum: 1 gram of gold.
  - Maximum: 4 KG for individuals, 4 Kg for HUF and 20 Kg for trusts.
  - Interest: 2.5% per annum, paid on a half-yearly basis.
- The interest on Gold Bonds shall be **taxable as per the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961.**
- SGBs can be used as **collateral for loans.**

#### Prelims Takeaway

- Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) Scheme
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

## 7. China-based hacking group compromise Microsoft’s cloud security

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

**News:**

- The group, identified as **Storm-0558**, **gained access to email accounts** of 25 organisations, including **Western European government agencies**, email accounts from top **American officials** such as Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, U.S.
- The company further explained that hackers were able to **extract a cryptographic key** from the engineer’s account to access email accounts.
- The flaw has been **fixed now.**

**How did the threat actors breach Microsoft’s security?**

- The China-based threat actor was able to **compromise Microsoft’s cloud security systems**
- it used an acquired MSA key to forge tokens to access Outlook Web Access (OWA).

#### Prelims Takeaway

- Cryptographic key
- MSA keys



**MSA keys**

- These are token signing keys used by a service to **validate authentication tokens for the service**.
- Hackers then **used the acquired key to forge a token** that was used for validation issues to **impersonate Azure AD users** and gain access to enterprise email.

**A cryptographic key**

- It is a **string of characters used within an encryption algorithm** to alter data making it illegible to someone without the correct key.
- Like a physical key, a **cryptographic key encrypts data** and is used to decrypt the encased data by the holder of the key.
- In the case of **SSL encryption (HTTPS)**, two types of encryptions are used.
- They can be **symmetric and asymmetric encryptions**.
- In symmetric encryption, both sides of a **conversation use the same key for turning plain text into cyphers (encrypted) text**.
- However, **in asymmetric or public key encryption**, the two sides of the conversation **use a different key**.
- A public key and a private key, **the private key is never shared by the party with anyone**.
- When plaintext is encrypted with the public key, **only the private key can decrypt it, not the public key**.

## 8. Powerful earthquake causes extensive damage in Morocco

**Relevance:** Disaster and disaster management.

**News:**

- Recently, a rare, powerful **earthquake struck Morocco**, killing hundreds of people and damaging buildings, including in the **historic city of Marrakech**.
- Marrakech is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- So far, more than 2000 people have died, **mostly in Marrakech and five provinces near the quake's epicentre**.

**Prelims Takeaway**

- Earthquake
- Marrakech

**Earthquake**

- An earthquake is an **intense shaking of the ground caused by movement under the earth's surface**.
- The **location below the earth's surface** where the earthquake starts is called the **hypocentre**.
- The **location directly above the hypocentre** on the surface of the earth is called the **epicentre**.
- It happens when two blocks (tectonic plates) of the **earth suddenly slip past one another** releasing stored-up 'elastic strain' energy in the form of seismic waves.
- These spread through the earth and **cause the shaking of the ground**.
- They are measured on scales called the -
  - Moment Magnitude Scale (Mw), based on the total moment release of the earthquake.
  - The Richter scale (magnitude scale) - energy released - 0-10.
  - The intensity scale/Mercalli scale - visible damage - 1-12.
- Earthquakes **continue to remain the most common natural hazard** that cannot be predicted as no early warning systems can be developed.

## 9. The RBI has proposed setting-up a Self Regulatory Organisation for fintechs

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

**News:**

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has asked **fintech entities to form a Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO)**.
- Those entities who are **interested in being recognized as SROs will have to apply to the RBI**.
- Once the RBI finds an **entity suitable, it will issue a letter of recognition**.

**Prelims Takeaway**

- Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO):
- Financial Technology



**Financial Technology**

- FinTech (financial technology) is a **catch-all term referring to software, mobile applications, and other technologies** created to improve and automate traditional forms of finance for businesses and consumers alike.
- FinTech can include **everything from straightforward mobile payment apps to complex blockchain networks** housing encrypted transactions.
- The term “**fintech company**” describes any business that **uses technology to modify, enhance, or automate financial services for businesses or consumers.**
- Some **examples** include:
  - mobile banking
  - peer-to-peer payment services (e.g., Gpay, PhonePe)
  - automated portfolio managers (e.g., Fintoo, Motilal Oswal),
  - trading platforms (e.g., Zerodha, Groww).

**Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO):**

- An SRO is a **non-governmental organisation (NGO)** that sets and **enforces rules and standards relating to the conduct of entities in the industry (members)**
- **Objective:** to protect the customer and promote ethics, equality, and professionalism.
- SROs typically **collaborate with all stakeholders in framing rules and regulations.**

**Mentorship**  
India

## Editorials, Gists and Explainers

### 1. An unforgettable presidency

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

**Context:**

- Recently, **G20 summit was held in India** that concluded with the achievement of consensus on the New **Delhi Declaration**.

#### India's Convening power

- The consensus on New Delhi declaration shows **India's global leader ability**
- It demonstrated India's convening power, and **its ability to generate a consensus** at a platform as it was difficult to establish consensus on diverse issues like:
  - of the Ukraine war.
  - And addresses key global issues including climate change, gender equality,
  - SDG goals, financial inclusion as well as terrorism and money laundering
- Soft power Diplomacy**
- The Summit and 200-odd meetings held all over India **brought the diversity, colour and genius of the Indian people**.
- Soft power** of India which is the source of India's power, a civilisational strength often suppressed by a lack of self-confidence.
- This has changed, and changed in a way that **India will be perceived** as the key destination for dialogue and debate over the most contentious of issues.

#### India's role in new global world

- New Delhi summit will go down as the one where **much of the rest of the world recognised India** as an if not the alternative to China.
- The announcement of the **economic corridor connecting Europe with the Middle East and India** through a combination of rail and sea routes during a session at the G20 Leaders' summit in Delhi.
- It was clearly a response, if still an early idea, to the **Chinese Belt and Road Initiative** (which seems to hold the main stakeholder countries in a debilitating debt trap).
- India's as a global leader for one family one future**
- The theme of India's presidency **Vasudhaiva kutumbakam – "one earth, one family one future"** – signalled this
- It is fleshed out in the preamble and the text of the Declaration: "We meet at a defining moment in history where **the decisions we make now will determine the future of our people and our planet**."
- It is with the **philosophy of living in harmony with our surrounding ecosystem** that we commit to concrete actions to address global challenges."
- India's vision for inclusive growth by **raising the voice of global south** by joining of **Africa union as new member in New Delhi G 20 summit**.
- Along with it, the staggering possibilities, for instance, offered by the **Indian Stack for much of the world is obvious and India may make it available as open-source software**.
- World Bank's G20 **Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion document endorsed the transformative impact of DPs in India**.

**Conclusion:**

- Therefore, it can be no denying that this was India's summit that is **benchmark the presidency at a level that will be difficult to emulate**.
- Few remember the previous presidencies of the G20 India's will be remembered for **its impeccable diplomacy of consensus building on diverse issues**
- it laid down the **foundation of global peace and harmony** along with include development for all.

### 2. Redouble efforts to reduce disaster risks

**Relevance:** Disaster and disaster management.

**Context**

- The G20 Summit and India's success in disaster risk reduction** are an opportunity to accelerate international cooperation and build resilience to risks.

**About**

- Risks are being created faster** than they are being reduced.
- The aftershocks of the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with a polycrisis of war, debt, and food insecurity, **are putting our collective ability to cope to the test**.
- The rise in disasters is a trend**, not an aberration.
- Headlines this year alone have brought a **relentless wave of bad news** across the world like:
  - severe flooding in China
  - destructive wildfires in Europe and Hawaii to the hottest month ever on record in July.

- it is the most **vulnerable countries and communities** which are paying **the greatest price** despite having contributed least to the problem.
- The majority of the 50 countries **most vulnerable to climate change also suffer from severe debt issues.**
- **India**, already among the **world's most disaster-prone countries**, is experiencing this new reality acutely.
- In 2022, the country was **battered by disasters or extreme weather** nearly every day
- this year's **severe monsoon has caused widespread loss of livelihood** and lives.

### Solution

- First, we have the **solutions for both adaptation and mitigation** at hand.
- The SDGs remain our best blueprint for **peace and prosperity**, together with commitments made in Paris to:
  - limit global warming to 1.5°C,
  - the global framework for reducing disaster risks — the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Eight years into the implementation of the **Sendai Framework, progress is severely lacking.**
- Many lessons are being learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, including on the **importance of systems-wide disaster risk reduction, resilience, and adaptation.**
- The crisis **not only revealed our vulnerability to risk, but also forged new ways of working together**, including through digital innovations, such as computer modelling and India's CoWIN digital vaccine system.
- Another reason for **optimism is India's stewardship on disaster risk reduction.**
- All the **28 States have prepared their own disaster management plans** in recent years.
- Accordingly, **mortality from extreme weather events has fallen** drastically in recent years.
- **India's early warning system for cyclones** covers the entire coastline
- It has **helped reduce cyclone-related mortality** by 90% over the last 15 years, while heat wave action plans at the local level have reduced heat wave deaths by over 90%.
- The **recent zero death toll of Cyclone Biparjoy** in Gujarat demonstrates what can be achieved through effective preparedness, response, and early warning and action systems.
- The **15th Finance Commission in India introduced significant reforms to disaster risk financing.**
- the Government of India has **provided sufficient resources for disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and capacity development.**
- On the international stage, **India is promoting disaster resilience and sustainability,**
- **India's National Disaster Response Force responds to domestic disasters** and is also regularly deployed to disaster zones around the world.

### Need of an hour

- **Disaster risk must be integrated at all levels**, into how we build, how we invest, and how we live.
- One of the most cost-effective risk-reduction methods is **early warning systems for all, spearheaded by the UN, with India's support.**
- Just a 24-hour **warning of a coming storm can reduce the damage** caused by 30%.
- Yet, over a third of the world's population, **mostly in least developed countries and Small Island Developing States, do not have access** to such systems.

### Way forward

- The ultimate goal is a **global multi-risk warning system for all kinds of hazards**, whether biological, tectonic, or technological.
- **Improving global data capabilities** will help predict and respond to the risks.
- Enhance international cooperation in disaster prevention, response, and recovery, especially for the countries of the Global South.



## Quick Look

### 1. Hunga-Tonga volcano:

- Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha‘apai is a volcanic island in Tonga.
- It is located about 30 km south of the submarine volcano of Fonuafo‘ou and 65 km north of Tongatapu, the country's main island.
- The volcano is part of the highly active Tonga–Kermadec Islands volcanic arc, a subduction zone extending from New Zealand north-northeast to Fiji.
- The island arc is formed at the convergent boundary where the Pacific Plate subducts under the Indo-Australian Plate.
- It is along with the caldera rim of a much larger submarine edifice in the western South Pacific Ocean.
- It has erupted regularly over the past few decades.

### 2. Air Quality Index

- Launched in 2014 with outline ‘One Number – One Color -One Description’ for the common man to judge the air quality within his vicinity.
- The measurement of air quality is based on eight pollutants, namely: Particulate Matter (PM10), Particulate Matter (PM2.5), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>), and Lead (Pb).
- AQI has six categories of air quality. These are: Good, Satisfactory, Moderately Polluted, Poor, Very Poor and Severe.
- It has been developed by the CPCB in consultation with IIT-Kanpur and an expert group comprising medical and air-quality professionals.

### 3. Rudra veena

- A sizable plucked string instrument called the Rudra veena is employed in Hindustani music, particularly in the style of music known as dhrupad.
- It is one of the main veena kinds used in Indian classical music and is renowned for its deep bass resonance.
- The Rudra veena has a lengthy history and can be observed in the designs of temples built before the Mughal era.
- It first appears in court documents under the reign of Zain-ul-Abidin (1418–1470), and among Mughal court musicians it rose to prominence.
- Princely states supported Rudra veena players as dhrupad practitioners before to India's independence.
- However, after independence, this patronage structure was abolished, which caused Dhrupad and the Rudra veena to lose some of their appeal.
- The Rudra veena has seen a rise in popularity recently, in part due to interest from practitioners outside of India.

### 4. Alias ‘String of Pearls’:

- SN1987A is often referred to as a "string of pearls" as it showcases a series of luminous rings composed of gases and dust expelled by the dying star in its various phases of collapse and explosion.
- This string of pearls comprises material ejected about 20,000 years before the supernova event, offering insights into the star's history and evolution.
- Unusual Facts about SN1987A:
- The star exploded when it was a blue supergiant (contrary to the theories as per which only red supergiant stars could explode).
- Emission of molecular hydrogen in the ring was not necessarily expected (also it couldn't have been revealed without JWST).

## 5. Odel of human embryo in the lab

- Stem cells played a pivotal role in Model of human embryos in the lab .
- These cells possess the remarkable ability to transform into different cell types
- They were programmed to simulate the characteristics of early-stage embryonic cells.
- Chemical cues were introduced into the laboratory environment
- It helps to provide the necessary signals and instructions for the stem cells to differentiate into the diverse cell types required for embryonic development.
- This process led to the spontaneous assembly of a portion of these cells into an embryo-like structure
- It underwent differentiation to represent various components of an embryo, including fetal cells, umbilical cord etc.



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**Prelims Track Question**

**Q1. Consider the following statement relating to the medium of instruction in NEP 2020**

1. The medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond, will be the home language/mother tongue/local language
2. Medium of instruction is mandatory
3. It is only for Public School

**Select Incorrect answer given code below**

- A. 1 & 3 Only
- B. 2 & 3 Only
- C. 3 Only
- D. 1 & 2 Only

**Q2. Consider the following statements regarding DIKSHA Platform:**

1. It is an initiative of National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT).
2. It is built on open source technology and provides solutions for teaching and learning.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Q3. Consider the following statements:**

1. PM POSHAN (Poshan SHAKti Nirman) Scheme was earlier popularly known as Mid-Day Meal Scheme.
2. It covers all school children studying in Classes I-V in Government, Government-Aided Schools.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Q4. With reference to Global Biofuels Alliance, consider the following statements**

1. This initiative aims to accelerate the transition to sustainable biofuels and

reduce the world's dependency on traditional fossil fuels.

2. It was Proposed at G20 summit in indonesia.
3. India sees this alliance as a means to advance energy transitions in developing countries and promote a circular economy.

**How many of the above statements is/are Incorrect?**

- A. One Only
- B. Two only
- C. All of the Above
- D. None of the above

**Q5. Consider the following statements with respect to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**

1. It is a non-statutory body.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. It is the implementing and monitoring agency for implementation of Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS).

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- A. 2 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

**Q6. Which of the following is/are the purpose/purposes of Government's 'Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme' and 'Gold Monetization Scheme'?:**

1. To bring the idle gold lying with Indian households into the economy.
2. To promote FDI in the gold and jewellery sector.
3. To reduce India's dependence on gold imports.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3



**Q7. With reference to the End to End Encryption, consider the following statements:**

1. When data is being transferred using this technique, only the sender and recipient can decrypt it with key.
2. The message does not pass through an intermediary server.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

**Q8. With reference to Financial Stability Board's (FSB's), consider the following statements**

1. It is a global organization that came into being after the G20 Summit in London in April 2009 so as to regulate the global financial framework.
2. It is headquartered in Basel, Switzerland.
3. The Financial Stability Board publishes the list of Global Systemically Important Banks (G-SIBs) by consulting the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision.

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

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

**Q9. Consider the following statements, with respect to Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment**

1. It is a developmental initiative aimed at narrowing the infrastructure gap in developing countries
2. It helps towards accelerating progress on sustainable development goals globally.

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.**

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

**Q10. Consider the following statements about African Union (AU)**

1. It is an intergovernmental organisation and it aimed to bring African nations together and resolve common issues through collective action.
2. Recently, it became the permanent member of G20 group during the New Delhi summit

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.**

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

## Prelims Track Answer

**Ans:1 Option B is Correct**

**Explanation**

**National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020)**

- Objective: "India a global knowledge superpower".
- It is only the 3rd major revamp of the framework of education in India since independence.
- The two earlier education policies were brought in 1968 and 1986.
- It will ensure Universal Access at All Levels of schooling from pre-primary school to Grade 12.
- It will ensure quality early childhood care and education for all children between 3-6 years.
- New Curricular and Pedagogical Structure (5+3+3+4) corresponds to the age groups of 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years respectively.
- It covers four stages of schooling: Foundational Stage (5 years), Preparatory Stage (3 years), Middle Stage (3 years), and Secondary Stage (4 years).
- No hard separations between arts and sciences, between curricular and extra-curricular activities, between vocational and academic streams;
- Emphasis on promoting multilingualism and Indian languages
- Setting up of a new National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development)
- A separate Gender Inclusion fund and Special Education Zones for disadvantaged regions and groups.

**Ans:2 Option C is Correct**

**Explanation**

- The National eGovernance Division (NeGD) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is set to integrate Personalised Adaptive Learning (PAL) into its existing Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) platform.
- It is a national platform for school education, an initiative of National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT), Ministry of Education.
- It provides e-content for schools via an online portal and a mobile application.

- It was developed based on the core principles of open architecture, open access, open licensing, choice and autonomy.
- It is built on open source technology that is made in India and for India, incorporating internet scale technologies and allowing for a variety of use-cases and solutions for teaching and learning.

**Features**

- The core building blocks of DIKSHA comprise majority of National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR) building blocks, having enabled some successful use-cases of NDEAR such as: energized textbooks, online courses, content authoring, content sourcing, interactive quizzes, question banks, chatbot, analytics and dashboard.
- To aid teaching and learning for Children With Special Needs (CWSN), a large number of audio books, ISL (Indian Sign Language) Videos and Dictionary have been made available on DIKSHA for CWSN.
- Hence both statements are correct.

**Ans:3 Option A is Correct**

**Explanation**

- CCEA(Cabinet committee on economic affairs) cleared the PM POSHAN (POshan SHakti Nirman) Scheme for providing one hot cooked meal in Government and Government-aided schools from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- It was earlier known as 'National Programme for Mid-Day Meal in Schools' popularly known as Mid-Day Meal Scheme.
- This is a Centrally-Sponsored Scheme which covers all school children studying in Classes I-VIII in Government, Government-Aided Schools.

**Ans:4 Option B is Correct**

**Explanation**

**Global Biofuels Alliance**

- India proposed the creation of a Global Biofuels Alliance, which was launched during the G20 summit. **Statement 2 is Incorrect**
- This initiative aims to accelerate the transition to sustainable biofuels and reduce the world's dependency on traditional fossil fuels. **Statement 1 is correct**

- India sees this alliance as a means to advance energy transitions in developing countries and promote a circular economy. **Statement 3 is correct**

**Ans:5 Option D is Correct**

**Explanation:**

- National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) was set-up in 1986 to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators, based on the recommendations of the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA's Task force (1985).
- It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- It is the Nodal Agency for authentic source of data on crime, accidents, suicides, and prisons for policy matters and research.
- Bureau is also apex nodal agency for all Finger Print related matters including accreditation of Finger Print Experts in the country.
- Bureau is implementing and monitoring agency for implementation of Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS), a Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan of Government of India.
- The project aims at creating a comprehensive and integrated system for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of policing in the country.

**Ans:6 Option C is Correct**

**Explanation**

- Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme and Gold Monetization Scheme were launched by the Government in 2015.

**The main objectives of these schemes are**

- To mobilize the gold held by households and institutions in the country. To provide a fillip to the gems and jewellery sector in the country by making gold available as raw material on loan from the banks
- To be able to reduce reliance on import of gold over time to meet the domestic demand.
- To promote FDI in the gold and jewellery sector is not the objective of these schemes.

**Ans:7 Option A is Correct**

**Explanation**

- End to End encryption (E2EE) is a method of secure communication that prevents third parties from accessing data while it's

transferred from one end system or device to another.

- In E2EE, the data is encrypted on the sender's system or device, and only the intended recipient can decrypt it.
- As it travels to its destination through the server, the message cannot be read or tampered with by an internet service provider (ISP), application service provider, hacker or any other entity or service.

**Ans:8 Option C is Correct**

**Explanation**

- Financial Stability Board is a global organization that came into being after the G20 Summit in London in April 2009 so as to regulate the global financial framework.
- It is headquartered in Basel, Switzerland.
- The Financial Stability Board publishes the list of Global Systemically Important Banks (G-SIBs) by consulting the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision.

**Ans:9 Option D is Correct**

**Explanation**

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the President of USA, H.E. Mr. Joe Biden co-chaired a special event on Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII) and India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), on 9 September 2023 on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in New Delhi.
- PGII is a developmental initiative aimed at narrowing the infrastructure gap in developing countries as well as help towards accelerating progress on SDGs globally

**Ans:10 Option C is Correct**

**Explanation**

- The AU's predecessor, OAU, was also an intergovernmental organisation and it aimed to bring African nations together and resolve common issues through collective action.
- Its main focus, however, was to help liberate the colonised countries on the continent. To do so, OAU mustered diplomatic support and provided logistical aid to liberation movements across Africa.
- Recently, The African Union becomes a permanent member of the G20 summit that was held in India.



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