

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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1. Standing panel adopts reports on criminal laws - Indian Express
2. India, Bhutan to discuss new routes of regional connectivity - The Hindu/ India, Bhutan to broaden partnership on energy, health, space technology - Indian Express
3. 'Simple touch is not penetrative sexual assault' - The Hindu
4. Collegium recommends Chief Justices of three High Courts for appointment to SC - The Hindu
5. 'Quad's IPMDA initiative proof of our commitment to a free Indo-Pacific' - The Hindu
6. Heeralal Samariya is Chief Information Commissioner - The Hindu
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Editorials, Gists and Explainers

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2. A National Security Strategy for India: what it should be guided by - Indian Express
3. Odd-even's health impact: what studies, doctors say - Indian Express

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Important News Articles

GS II

1. Standing panel adopts reports on criminal laws - Indian Express

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

News:

- The parliamentary standing committee on Home Affairs on **three new criminal laws** has adopted its draft.
- The draft of these three Bills that seek to replace the **Indian Penal Code, CrPC and the Evidence Act**.
- Many changes have been proposed on the bills.

Prelims Takeaway

- New Criminal Law Bills
- Section-124-A

Objections Over the Bills

- Some of the members of Parliament have **sought some more time** for detailed analysis of bills.
- The Members want time for submitting **dissent notes**.
- **All the 10 opposition members** in the panel would submit separate dissent notes.
- Many of the members offered **several suggestions** over the bills.
- Some members objected that the **usage of Hindi** in the Bills goes against the spirit of the Constitution.
- The panel has **stuck to the Hindi** names given to the bills.

Changes in Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

- The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, has prescribed **community service** as an alternate form of punishment for **some offences** including
 - small **theft**
 - **Defamation**
 - attempt to **suicide**
- The **definition and scope** of the Community Service is not decided in the Sanhita.

Proposed Changes in Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita

- The parliamentary committee has recommended including a **gender-neutral provision** that criminalises Adultery.
- The committee is considering a clause to criminalize **non-consensual sex** between men, women, or transpersons, as well as acts of **bestiality**.
- The committee has suggested **better definitions** for terms like "community service" and "life imprisonment" in the bill.
- The new draft code has included the **removal of Section 124-A** (Sedition).
- It also proposed removal of the provisions for **prosecuting offences committed in foreign countries**.

2. India, Bhutan to discuss new routes of regional connectivity - The Hindu/ India, Bhutan to broaden partnership on energy, health, space technology - Indian Express

Relevance : India and its neighbourhood- relations.

News:

- India and Bhutan agreed to **discuss new routes** of regional connectivity and upgrade border and immigration posts to
- This will support Bhutan's 5th King's plans for a **smart city at Gelephu** on the border between Bhutan and Assam
- **No mention was made** of India's overhanging concerns over Bhutan's boundary delimitation agreement process with China.

Prelims Takeaway

- Gelephu SEZ
- Darranga-Samdrup Jongkhar

Bilateral Developments Related to two Countries

- There was agreement **on the final survey** for the 58 km cross-border rail link between Gelephu and Kokrajhar in Assam to be built by India.

- The two sides agreed to **explore a second rail link** for about 18 km between Samtse in Bhutan and Banarhat in West Bengal tea gardens area.
- India also agreed to allow Bhutanese trade items to be carried further on from **Haldibari in West Bengal to Chilahati in Bangladesh**.
- **Rail connectivity** could in the future assist air connectivity for Indians in the northeast as well
 - as Bhutan plans to build an international airport at Gelephu as part of the larger Sarpang district Special Economic Zone.
- **India and Bhutan** agreed to designate the **Darranga-Samdrup Jongkhar** border crossing between **Assam and Bhutan's** less developed-South **Eastern district** as an immigration check post,
 - so as to allow third country nationals to enter and exit as well "for enhancing connectivity, and promoting tourism".
- Both sides agreement to upgradation of an existing land customs station at **Dadgiri (Assam)** to a modernised "Integrated Check Post" (ICP) along with "development of facilities on the Bhutanese side at Gelephu",
 - indicating India's support to the Bhutanese SEZ project.

Development Assistance from India to Bhutan

- India reiterated continued and full support to the socio-economic development in Bhutan based on the priorities of the Royal Government
- The Bhutanese King also thanked the government for its development assistance for Bhutan's 12th Five-Year plan, (2018-2023) that ended on October 31 2023.
- India reiterated its commitment to support the new 13th Five-Year Plan as well.
- Bhutan's King is visiting Mumbai to explore investment and collaborations for Bhutan's infrastructure.

Economic Vows of Bhutan

- Bhutan's economy, is expecting
 - to grow by a modest **4.3%**, lower than the sub-regional average,
 - **low forex reserves**
 - **a major public debt**, with an estimated 125% Government Debt to GDP ratio in 2022

3. 'Simple touch is not penetrative sexual assault' - The Hindu

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

News:

- Recently, the Delhi High Court observed that a "**simple touch**" cannot be considered "manipulation" of a **minor victim's body so as to cause penetration** and attract the offence of penetrative sexual assault under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act

Prelims Takeaway

- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act

- It is the **first comprehensive law(enacted in 2012)** in the country dealing specifically with sexual abuse of children
- It is administered by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
- It was intended to **protect children from sexual assault, sexual harassment**, and pornographic violations, as well as to establish Special Courts for such trials.
- In 2019, **the Act was amended to strengthen the penalties** for specified offences in order to deter abusers and promote a dignified upbringing.

4. Collegium recommends Chief Justices of three High Courts for appointment to SC - 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:

- Recently, the **Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India recommended** the Chief Justices of three High Courts for **appointment to the apex court.**

Prelims Takeaway

- Collegium System

Collegium System

- It is the system of **appointment and transfer of judges** that has evolved through judgments of the SC, and **not by an Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution.**

Background

- First Judges Case (1981)** declared that the “primacy” of the CJI’s (Chief Justice of India) recommendation on judicial appointments and transfers can be refused for “cogent reasons”.
- The ruling gave the **Executive primacy over the Judiciary in judicial appointments.**
- In Second Judges Case (1993)**, SC introduced the Collegium system, holding that “**consultation**” really meant “**concurrence.**”
- It added that it was not **the CJI’s individual opinion, but an institutional opinion formed in consultation with the two senior-most judges in the SC.**
- In Third Judges Case (1998)**, SC on the **President’s reference (Article 143)** expanded the **Collegium to a five-member body**, comprising the CJI and four of his senior-most colleagues.

5. ‘Quad’s IPMDA initiative proof of our commitment to a free Indo-Pacific’ - The Hindu

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

News:

- Recently, Navy Chief Admiral said, the **Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) initiative**, announced by the Quad grouping, **will help building networks**
- The partnerships would be **instrumental in ensuring the security and stability of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).**

Prelims Takeaway

- The Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)

The Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)

- The initiative was **introduced during the 2022 Quad Leaders’ Summit** held in Tokyo.

Objective

- Its primary objective is **to monitor opaque shipping**
- To develop a more rapid, extensive, and precise understanding of real-time events within the **waters of partner nations across three vital regions in the Indo-Pacific**
- The Purpose of the IPMDA initiative is **to employ advanced technology and training programs**
 - in order to enhance maritime situational awareness within the Indo-Pacific region
- increasing the **transparency** of its crucial maritime routes.
- This initiative **leverages innovative technologies**, such as the collection of radio frequency data from commercial satellites
- To furnish countries throughout Southeast Asia, **the Indian Ocean region, and the Pacific** with timely and up-to-date information concerning activities taking place within their maritime territories.

6. Heeralal Samariya is Chief Information Commissioner - The Hindu

Relevance : Statutory, regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.

News:

- Heeralal Samariya has been **selected as** the Chief Information Commissioner.
- He was **sworn in as** an Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission on November 7, 2020.

Prelims Takeaway

- The Right to Information Act
- Chief Information Commission

Background before Appointment

- The post of the CIC had been **lying vacant** since October 3, 2023
- Y. K. Sinha **retired** as the last CIC at that time.
- On October 30, 2023 the Supreme Court had asked **both the Central and the State governments** to take steps to fill the top post in the CIC
- The court observed that failing this appointment the Right to Information Act, brought in 2005, would become a “dead letter”.

Personnel in the Office of the Chief Information Commission of India

- After taking his oath, Mr. Samariya **administered the oath** of office to two Information Commissioners
 - Anandi Ramalingam
 - Vinod Kumar Tiwari
- After these appointments, there are **now six vacancies** in the CIC.

About Central Information Commission

- The office of CIC was established by the Central Government in **2005**.
- The CIC was created under the provisions of the **Right to Information Act (2005)**.
- It is not a constitutional body but a **statutory body**.
- It consists of a Chief Information Commissioner (**CIC**) and not more than **ten** Information Commissioners (**IC**).
- They are appointed by the **President** on the recommendation of a **committee**.
- The committee **consists of**
 - the Prime Minister as **Chairperson**
 - the **Leader of Opposition** in the Lok Sabha
 - a **Union Cabinet Minister** nominated by the Prime Minister.
- The jurisdiction of the Commission extends over all **Central Public Authorities**.
- The Chief Information Commissioner and an Information Commissioner shall hold office for such term
 - as prescribed by the **Central Government** or
 - until they **attain the age** of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- They are **not** eligible for **reappointment**.

GS III

7. The earth's interior may hold relics of moon-forming mega impact - The Hindu

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

News:

- Seismologists have long known about **two continent-sized blobs deep in Earth's mantle** - one under **Africa** and the other under the **South Pacific**.
- These dense blobs are believed to be **relics of a cataclysmic event** that may have led to the **formation of the moon**.

Prelims Takeaway

- Earth's Interior Structure
- Blobs under Earth's Mantle
- Theia

The Moon-Forming Collision

- Recent research suggests that the **moon was formed over 4.46 billion years ago** when a **Mars-sized object, Theia, collided with primordial Earth**.
- The impact sent **molten rock into space**, which eventually coalesced into the moon.
- Chunks of Theia may have **remained within Earth, sinking to the deepest part** of the mantle.

Computer Simulations

- Researchers conducted computer simulations **to study the impact event, the properties of Theia and the evolution of Earth's mantle**.
- They proposed that **most of Theia was absorbed into Earth, forming the mysterious blobs**, while **residual debris became the moon**.

Characteristics of the Blobs

- The blobs are located **2,900 kilometres below the Earth's surface and make up about 2% of Earth's mass**.
- **Seismic waves travel slower within these regions** compared to the surrounding mantle.
- Each blob is **twice the mass of the entire moon**, making them massive.

Significance of the Study

- If the study's conclusions are correct, the blobs could **provide evidence of the moon-forming collision on Earth**.
- These blobs are considered the **most significant deviations in Earth's structure** from a simple layered planet.
- The **increased density of the blobs** is attributed to their **high iron content**, similar to moon rocks.

Potential for Future Research

- The researchers suggest that **volcanic rocks reaching Earth's surface may contain samples of Theia**, offering insights into the vanished planet.
- **Isotopes and trace elements within the blobs** could be **compared to lunar mantle rocks** in future lunar missions.
- Understanding the moon-forming collision may shed light on the **evolution of Earth and other rocky planets** in our solar system.

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

1. States in Court against their Governors - The Hindu

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

Context:

- Several states in India have **approached the Supreme Court**, alleging that their **Governors are unreasonably delaying the passage of important Bills** into law.
- The Bills in question pertain to various sectors such as **public health, higher education, Lokayukta and cooperative societies**.

Accusations and Instances

- Tamil Nadu accuses the Governor of inappropriately delaying Bills, positioning himself as a “political rival” and causing a “constitutional deadlock.”
- Kerala reports that eight proposed laws, passed by its Legislative Assembly, have been pending with the Governor for years, not months.
- Punjab states that seven Bills have been stuck with the Governor since June, hampering administrative functioning.
- The Telangana case required Supreme Court intervention to clear pending Bills in opposition-ruled States.

The Process of Granting Assent

- Article 200 of the Constitution outlines the options before the Governor when a Bill passed by both Houses of the Legislature is presented to him.
- The Governor could either declare his assent to the Bill or withhold the assent or reserve the law for the consideration of the President
- A Bill is reserved for the President’s consideration if the Governor thinks the Bill derogates or endangers the power of judicial review of the High Court.
- If the Governor withholds assent, they must return the Bill “as soon as possible” for reconsideration by the Legislative Assembly.
- The Assembly would reconsider and pass the Bill, and this time, the Governor should not withhold his assent.

Governors’ Discretion

- Governors once had more discretion in returning Bills, but this was amended by the Constituent Assembly in 1949.
- The amended proviso clarified that Governors should act on the advice of their Council of Ministers in a responsible government.
- Article 163 reinforces that Governors are not expected to act independently; they rely on the advice of their Council of Ministers.
- Shamsher Singh case verdict
 - A “Governor exercises all his powers and functions conferred on him by or under the Constitution on the aid and advice of his Council of Ministers save in spheres where the Governor is required by or under the Constitution to exercise his functions in his discretion.”

Timeline for Returning Bills

- The Constitution states that Bills should be returned “as soon as possible,” but the exact time frame is not defined.
- The Supreme Court interpreted this phrase to mean “as early as practicable without avoidable delay” in its 1972 judgement in Durga Pada Ghosh versus State of West Bengal.
- In the recent 2020 judgement in the Keisham Megha Chandra Singh case, SC suggested a ‘reasonable time’ would mean three months.
- States have urged the court to set a specific time limit for Governors to assent or return Bills, following the 1988 Sarkaria Commission report’s recommendation.

Appeal to Review Legal Precedent

- Kerala has requested a seven-judge Bench to review a 1962 Supreme Court Purushothaman Nambudiri versus State of Kerala judgement.
 - It held that Article 200 did not specify a time limit for Governors to decide on Bills.
- The State argues that this judgement did not consider the possibility of Governors withholding Bills indefinitely.
- The 1988 Sarkaria Commission report on Centre-State relations had suggested consultation with the Governor while drafting the Bill and fixing a deadline for its disposal.

2. A National Security Strategy for India: what it should be guided by - Indian Express

Relevance: Defence

Context:

- The **National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)** is working on **drafting India’s first written National Security Strategy (NSS)**, a significant development after decades of debate.
- The need for a **publicly articulated NSS** is crucial for **national cohesion, common understanding, and ensuring the well-being of India’s people**.

<p style="text-align: center;">Comprehensive Nature of NSS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NSS will encompass all aspects of security, including military, economic, internal, diplomatic, human, climate, food and water security. Robust management of defence and internal security is essential to enable other forms of security. <p style="text-align: center;">Consultation and Iterative Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The preparation of the NSS will require wide consultations, as it involves multidimensional aspects of security. An iterative process with inter-ministerial consultation and multiple iterations is necessary before it can be considered by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS). The NSS may have both a public version and a classified one. <p style="text-align: center;">India's Growing Importance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> India's rising stature and growth projections make it a significant player in world affairs. Complex geopolitical scenarios necessitate detailed scrutiny and commentary on the publicly articulated NSS. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Guiding Principles of the NSS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A National Security Doctrine should precede the NSS and provide guiding principles. The NSS must be in line with the principles found in India's Constitution. It must be flexible, adaptable, and taught to facilitate a common understanding among security planners and practitioners. <p style="text-align: center;">Hierarchy of Doctrines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Doctrines exist at different levels, from national strategic to military-strategic, operational, and tactical levels. The NSS should serve as a critical doctrine that guides the formulation of lower doctrines. It should facilitate theaterisation of the Indian armed forces, with clear hierarchies and responsibilities. <p style="text-align: center;">Expected Timeline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The progress of the NSS draft is unclear, but it should not be rushed. The NSS should evolve over time, and adjustments should be made as circumstances change. While there is a need for the NSS, it's wise to proceed cautiously, with an estimated timeframe of around two years.
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Conclusion

- The drafting of India's first National Security Strategy is a significant step towards providing a comprehensive framework for addressing the nation's security needs in a rapidly changing global landscape.
- It is essential for **guiding policies and ensuring national well-being**.

3. Odd-even's health impact: what studies, doctors say - Indian Express

Relevance: Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation

Context:

- Some Indian states have implemented **odd-even vehicle restriction policies to reduce air pollution levels**.
- Experts, however, argue that while there is some **evidence of reduced pollutants during daytime hours, the effectiveness of these policies is limited** in addressing health-related impacts.

<p style="text-align: center;">Why Odd-Even May Not Prevent Health Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Researchers suggests that odd-even policies don't reduce vehicle numbers significantly. Emission reductions may not always translate to air quality improvements due to meteorological factors. There is no study proving that the small reduction in air pollution significantly affects public health. Even a 20% decrease in PM2.5 levels may not be sufficient when levels are already high, as it remains harmful. <p style="text-align: center;">Long-term Health Impacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-term exposure to pollution is linked to health issues such as hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, lung diseases, cancers, lower immunity, and depression. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Studies on the Impact of Odd-Even</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studies on the 2016 odd-even implementation in Delhi showed a 5-10% reduction in particulate matter. Factors contributing to reductions include fewer vehicles, fast-moving traffic, and reduced engine idling. Reductions were most significant during mid-day, not early morning when pollutants are closer to the ground. <p style="text-align: center;">Importance of Reducing NO2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Odd-even policies may reduce gaseous pollutants like nitrogen dioxide (NO2). Recent studies show that increased NO2 levels are associated with a higher rate of emergency room visits. <p style="text-align: center;">Recommendations to Reduce Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For immediate air pollution reduction, experts recommend avoiding the use of firecrackers during festivals. Long-term solutions include phasing out older vehicles (BSIV) and introducing more electric vehicles. Regional implementation of pollution control measures and air purifiers in schools to protect children from cumulative exposure are also suggested.
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Conclusion

- Odd-even policies may provide some **short-term relief from air pollution**.
- However, experts emphasize the need for **more comprehensive, long-term measures to tackle India's persistent air pollution problem**.

Quick Look

1. Advocate-on-Record (AoR)

- The concept of AoR was introduced by the SC with the power given to it under Article 145(1) of the Indian Constitution.
 - It states that the SC may, from time to time, make rules for regulating the practices and procedures in the court.
- “Advocate on record” is a title given to an advocate who can represent a cause or plead before the SC.
- Only these advocates are entitled to file any matter or document before the SC.
- They can also file an appearance or act for a party in the SC.
- No other High Court in India has a similar provision.
- Order IV Rule 5 of the Supreme Court Rules, 2013 lays down the following requirements to be fulfilled to become an AoR
 - The Advocate is required to be enrolled with any State Bar Council.
 - The Advocate is required to have a prior experience of at least 4 years.
 - The Advocate has undergone a training of 1 year under a senior AoR.
 - The Advocate has appeared for the examination conducted by the SC.
 - The Advocate is required to have an office in Delhi within a radius of 10 miles from the SC house and give an undertaking to employ a clerk, who shall be a registered clerk, within one month of being registered as an advocate on record.
- Once registered, an AOR is issued a unique identification number that must be used on all documents filed in the SC.

2. Ballistic Missile

- Russia recently carried out a successful test launch of the Bulava ballistic missile, designed to carry nuclear warheads.
- Ballistic Missile is a rocket-propelled self-guided strategic weapon system that follows a ballistic trajectory to deliver a payload from its launch site to a predetermined target.
- They are initially powered by a rocket or series of rockets in stages, but then follow an unpowered trajectory that arches upwards before descending to reach their intended target.
- Ballistic missiles can carry either nuclear or conventional warheads.

3. Alycaeus himalayae

- A new snail species named *Alycaeus himalayae* was recently discovered from a cave in Arunachal Pradesh.
- It is a new snail species belonging to the genus *Alycaeus*.
 - *Alycaeus* is a genus of small land snails.
- The genus is the first to be reported in India, as this genus is restricted to Southeast Asia and not known in the Indian region.
- This new species differs from all other Himalayan alycaeid species due to its yellowish, conical shell.
- The most similar shell in the vicinity is *Stomacosmethis spratti* from the Shan States, Myanmar.
- It differs from all other *Alycaeus* species by the characteristic trumpet-like projection on the outer side of the operculum.
- It is, so far, the only *Alycaeus* species inhabiting the Himalayas.
- All other known *Alycaeus* species are reported from Laos, Vietnam, southern Thailand, and Peninsular Malaysia.

4. QUAD

- It is known as the 'Quadilateral Security Dialogue' (QSD).
- It is an informal strategic forum comprising four nations, namely -- United States of America (USA), India, Australia and Japan.
- The main objective is to work for a free, open, prosperous, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.
- It is considered an alliance of maritime democracies, and the forum is maintained by meetings, semi-regular summits, information exchanges and military drills of all the member countries.
- Since its establishment in 2007, the representatives for the four-member nations have met periodically. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was the first to pitch the idea for the formation of Quad in 2007.



Mentorship
India

Prelims Track Question

Q1. With reference to the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee on the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which has remained in news recently, consider the following statements

1. The committee proposed gender-neutral provision that decriminalises adultery.
2. The committee proposed removal of the provisions for prosecuting offences committed in foreign countries.

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 pairs

Place	Country
1. Haldibari	: Bangladesh
2. Chilahati	: India
3. Dadgiri	: Bhutan

How many of the above pairs are incorrectly matched?

- A. Only one pair
- B. Only two pairs
- C. All three pairs
- D. None of the pairs

Q3. Consider the following statements about The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act

1. The POCSO Act was enacted in India to address sexual offenses against children and provide legal safeguards for their protection.
2. This law applies to both male and female children under the age of 18 years
3. The POCSO Act mandates that all cases registered under it must be investigated by child welfare officers

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 about appointment to High Court

1. The Chief Justice of India and the collegium of two Judges of the Supreme Court would take into account the views of the Chief Justice of the High Court
2. The appointment is subject to final approval by the President

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. Consider the following statements about Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) initiative

1. The IPMDA initiative was launched at the 2022 Quad Leaders' Summit held in Tokyo.
2. Its primary focus is to enhance maritime security by combating piracy and illegal fishing in the Indian Ocean.
3. The IPMDA initiative employs innovative technology to provide partner countries with real-time information on activities in their maritime zones.

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

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

Q6. With reference to the Chief Information Commission of India, consider the following statements

1. It is a kind of statutory body.
2. It consists of a maximum of twelve Information Commissioners.
3. The Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioner are appointed by the President of India.
4. The Leader of Opposition is not the part of the Committee making recommendations for the appointment of the Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners.

5. The Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioner are not eligible for reappointment.

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

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

Q7. Which of the following is the main hypothesis regarding the formation of the continent-sized blobs in the Earth's mantle?

- A. They are remnants of a volcanic eruption.
- B. They are the result of tectonic plate movements.
- C. They are believed to be the result of a collision between Earth and a Mars-sized object.
- D. They are formed due to the accumulation of heavy metals over millions of years.

Q8. Consider the following statements

- 1. When a Bill passed by the Legislative Assembly of a State is presented to the Governor for assent, he may either assent, withhold assent or reserve the Bill for consideration by the President but cannot return the Bill..
- 2. The Constitution has not prescribed any time limit for the Governor to give assent to bills passed by the Legislative Assembly.

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

Q9. With reference to Integrated Theatre Command, consider the following statements

- 1. It is a concept that seeks to integrate the capabilities of the three services viz. army, air force and navy.
- 2. The commander of such a force will be able to bear all resources at his disposal with seamless efficacy.
- 3. The integrated theatre commander will be answerable to individual services.

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

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

Q10. Consider the following

- 1. Carbon Dioxide
- 2. Methane
- 3. Tropospheric ozone
- 4. Chlorofluorocarbons

How many of the pollutants mentioned above is/are categorised as short-lived climate pollutants ?

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

Prelims Track Answer

Ans.1 Option B is correct

Explanation

- The parliamentary committee has recommended including a gender-neutral provision that criminalises Adultery. **Hence, Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The committee is considering a clause to criminalize non-consensual sex between men, women, or transpersons, as well as acts of bestiality.
- The committee has suggested better definitions for terms like "community service" and "life imprisonment" in the bill.
- The new draft code has included the removal of Section 124-A (Sedition).
- It also proposed removal of the provisions for prosecuting offences committed in foreign countries. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

Ans. 2 Option C is correct

Explanation

- Haldibari is located in West Bengal. It is linked to Bangladesh not located in Bangladesh. **Hence, Pair 1 is incorrect.**
- Chilahati is located in Bangladesh and is linked to Haldibari located in West Bengal, India. **Hence, Pair 2 is incorrect.**
- Dadgiri is located in Assam, India. A new Integrated Check Post will be opened between India and Bhutan at this place. Thus, the place is not located in Bhutan. **Hence, Pair 3 is incorrect.**
- The given places have remained in news due to bilateral developments between India and Bhutan during the visit of Bhutanese King to India

Ans. 3 Option C is correct

Explanation

- The POCSO Act was enacted in India to address sexual offenses against children and provide legal safeguards for their protection." **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, is an Indian legal framework designed to address sexual offenses against children
- Objective is to provide legal safeguards for their protection. It was enacted to specifically address crimes against minors and ensure their well-being.
- This law applies to both male and female children under the age of 18 years and covers a wide range of sexual offenses, including

non-penetrative and penetrative acts. This statement is correct. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**

- The POCSO Act mandates that all cases registered under it must be investigated by child welfare officers and ensures that the identity of the child victim is never revealed during legal proceedings. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

Ans. 4 Option C is correct

Explanation

- The Chief Justice of India and the collegium of two Judges of the Supreme Court would take into account the views of the Chief Justice of the High Court and Judges of the High Court, Judges in the Supreme Court. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- It is of no consequence whether that High Court is their parent High Court or they have functioned in that High Court on transfer.
- After their consultations, the Chief Justice of India will in the course of 4 weeks send his recommendation to the Union Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs.
- the recommendation or the Chief Justice of India to the Prime Minister who will advise the President in the matter of appointment.
- The appointment is approved by the President. **Hence, statement 2 is correct**

Ans. 5 Option B is correct

Explanation

- The IPMDA initiative was launched at the 2022 Quad Leaders' Summit held in Tokyo. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- The IPMDA initiative was indeed announced at the 2022 Quad Leaders' Summit in Tokyo. It reflects the timing and context of the initiative's launch.
- "Its primary focus is to enhance maritime security by combating piracy and illegal fishing in the Indian Ocean." **Hence, this statement is incorrect.** While enhancing maritime security is one of the goals of the IPMDA initiative, it is not limited to the Indian Ocean.
- The IPMDA initiative employs innovative technology, including the collection of commercial satellite radio frequency data, to provide partner countries with real-time information on activities in their maritime zones." This statement is correct. **Hence, statement 3 is correct**

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

- The office of CIC was established by the Central Government in 2005.
- The CIC was created under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005).
- It is not a constitutional body but a statutory body. **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**
- It consists of a Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and not more than ten Information Commissioners (IC). **Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- They are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee. **Hence, Statement 3 is correct.**
- The committee consists of
 - the Prime Minister as Chairperson
 - the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha. **Hence, Statement 4 is incorrect.**
 - a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister.
- The jurisdiction of the Commission extends over all Central Public Authorities.
- The Chief Information Commissioner and an Information Commissioner shall hold office for such term
 - as prescribed by the Central Government or
 - until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- They are not eligible for reappointment. **Hence, Statement 5 is correct.**

Ans. 7 Option C is correct**Explanation**

- Seismologists have long known about two continent-sized blobs deep in Earth's mantle - one under Africa and the other under the South Pacific.
- These dense blobs are believed to be relics of a cataclysmic event that may have led to the formation of the moon.
- Recent research suggests that the moon was formed over 4.46 billion years ago when a Mars-sized object, Theia, collided with primordial Earth.
- The impact sent molten rock into space, which eventually coalesced into the moon.
- Chunks of Theia may have remained within Earth, sinking to the deepest part of the mantle. **Hence, option C is correct.**

Ans. 8 Option B is correct**Explanation**

- Article 200 of the Indian Constitution outlines the process for a Bill passed by the Legislative Assembly of a State to be presented to the Governor for assent, who may either assent, withhold assent or reserve the Bill for consideration by the President.
- The Governor may also return the Bill with a message requesting reconsideration by the House or Houses. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- The Constitution has not prescribed any time limit for the Governor to give assent to bills passed by the Legislative Assembly. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

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

- An integrated theatre command envisages a unified command of the three Services, under a single commander, for geographical theatres (areas) that are of strategic and security concern. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The commander of such a force will be able to bear all resources at his disposal, from the Army, the Indian Air Force, and the Navy, with seamless efficacy. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The integrated theatre commander will not be answerable to individual Services. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- Integration and jointness of the three forces will avoid duplication of resources.
- The resources available under each service will be available to other services too.
- The Shekatkar committee had recommended the creation of 3 integrated theatre commands viz. northern for the China border, western for the Pakistan border, and southern for the maritime role.

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

- Short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) have a relatively short lifetime in the atmosphere - a few days to a few decades.
- Though short-lived, their potential to warm the atmosphere can be many times greater than CO₂.
- SLCPs are responsible for up to 45% of current global warming, only next to CO₂.
- SLCPs include black carbon, methane, tropospheric ozone, and hydrofluorocarbons. **Hence, option B is correct.**

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