

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

By



SOURCES



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Important News Articles

GS II

1. As distance from China grows, India and US work on technology projects - chips to AI - Indian Express

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

News:

- In a bilateral meeting Indian Prime Minister and US President reiterated their stance on building **resilient global semiconductor supply chains**.
- India also **supported the US's 'Rip and Replace' pilot project**.
 - It mandates that American companies tear out telecom equipment made by the Chinese companies Huawei and ZTE.

Prelims Takeaway

- 5G and 6G
- artificial intelligence (AI)

Key highlights of the meeting

- Memory manufacturer Micron has committed an **investment to set up a chip packaging plant in Gujarat**, as part of India's \$10 billion incentive scheme for chipmaking.
- Lam Research had announced a proposal to **train 60,000 Indian engineers** through its Semiverse Solution virtual fabrication platform.
- Applied Materials announced a proposed investment of \$400 million to **establish a collaborative engineering centre in India**.
- The India-US Major Defence Partnership to deepen and diversify through expanded cooperation in new and emerging domains such as **space and artificial intelligence (AI)**.
- The PM had recently called for a **global framework to ensure the ethical use of AI** as he flagged concerns over algorithmic bias and its disruptive impact on society.
- **Two Joint Task Forces** to be set up, focused on **collaboration in the field of Open RAN and research and development in 5G/6G technologies**.
 - Open RAN is an ongoing shift in mobile network architectures that enables service providers the use of non-proprietary subcomponents from a variety of vendors.
- India and the U.S. also welcomed the signing of an **agreement between the Bharat 6G Alliance and Next G Alliance**, operated by Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions.
 - It is a first step towards deepening public-private cooperation between vendors and operators.
- The **Bharat 6G alliance, a public-private sector initiative**, was formed after the PM said India would launch the **next-generation high speed network by 2030**.
- The alliance, **aims to establish India as a supplier of:**
 - IP
 - Products and solutions of affordable 5G and 6G
 - Other future telecom solutions have all the three telcos – Jio, Airtel and Vi – as members along with companies like Tech Mahindra.

2. UN's global climate stocktake flags large deficits as G20 drags its feet - Indian Express

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

News:

- Recently, A **report** released by **UN Climate** highlights the rapidly closing window of opportunity **to contain the rise in global temperatures within 1.5 degree Celsius from pre-industrial times**.
- The **synthesis report of the Global Stocktake (GST)** is a **Paris Agreement-mandated exercise** at assessing the progress on climate action,

Prelims Takeaway

- Paris agreement
- synthesis report of the Global Stocktake (GST)

- It notes that while headway had indeed been made, **countries were nowhere close to achieving targets** that would keep global warming under agreed levels.

Key Highlights of the report:

- **Citing previous assessments**, the synthesis report pointed out **Keeping the chances of meeting the 1.5 degree Celsius target implied:**
 - a reduction of “around 43, 60 and 84 per cent in global GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions below the 2019 level by 2030, 2035 and 2050 respectively”.
- **Global greenhouse gas emissions in 2030** were expected to be about **24 billion tonnes of CO₂-equivalent**, more than where it should be to keep the 1.5 degree Celsius.
- There are the **deficits in every aspect of climate action** — mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology and capacity building.
- While action is proceeding, **much more is needed now on all fronts**.
- This report would be presented at the **year-ending annual climate change meeting, in Dubai**, and is expected to inform and influence its outcome.
- In fact, the **Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group of G20** which wrapped up its deliberations in **Chennai** in July:
 - It had been unable to reconcile the differing positions of the developed and developing countries within the grouping.
- At the **Chennai meeting**, there was also a proposal to commit to **global emission reductions by 60 per cent by the year 2035 from the 2019 baseline**.
- Countries need to **cut their emissions by about 45 per cent from 2019 levels** by the year 2030 to retain hopes for meeting the 1.5 degree Celsius target.

3. Modi, Biden welcome progress in defence ties - The Hindu/ Biden and Modi take their Washington pact forward in Delhi - Indian Express

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

News:

- Recently, Prime Minister and visiting US President made **progress in a sweeping range of areas** they had flagged last June, like:
 - space research
 - cancer to critical tech and small modular nuclear reactors.

Prelims Takeaway

- India-US Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X)
- Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET)

Key Highlights:

- The commencement of negotiations for a commercial agreement between **GE Aerospace and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** to manufacture GE F-414 jet engines in India.
- In June, both sides had welcomed **India's plans to procure General Atomics MQ-9B HALE UAVs — powerful drones**.
- Launching the **Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET)** as a major milestone in India-U.S relations, in June,
- Advancement toward a multi-billion-dollar investment platform to provide **catalytic capital for greenfield renewable energy projects**.
- **India's National Investment and Infrastructure Fund and the US Development Finance Corporation** exchanged letters of intent to anchor a renewable infrastructure investment fund.
- In June, the leaders had welcomed the setting up and launch of the **India-US Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X)**,
- They had thought of a **network of universities, startups, industry and think tanks**.
- On trade disputes, the agreement lauded the settlement of the seventh and last outstanding **India-US World Trade Organisation (WTO) dispute**.
- This was **beyond the settlement of six outstanding bilateral trade disputes** in the WTO in June 2023.

4. “Bharat: The Mother of Democracy” Portal- Indian Express

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

News:

- On the eve of the G20 leadership summit, the **Ministry of Culture launched a portal of the mega exhibition—‘Bharat: The Mother of Democracy’.**

The Portal

- The portal showcases the **content on the history of democracy in India.**
- It showcases 7,000 years of democratic ethos starting from the **Sindhu-Saraswati civilisation to 2019.**
- It is **available in 16 languages**, including German, French, Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese, Italian, Turkish, and Russian besides English and Hindi.
- The portal is divided into **five sections and 22 sub-sections** starting from:
 - Sindhu-Saraswati Civilisation (6000-2000 BCE)
 - Mahajanapada and Gantantra (7-8 BCE)
 - Vijaynagar Empire (14-16 century)
 - Mughal emperor Akbar reign (1556-1605)
 - Constitution of India (1947)
 - Elections in Modern India (1952 onwards).
- The website-- www.motherofdemocracyg20.com-- is **curated by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).**

Key Points

- The **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)** was established in 1987.
- It is an **autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture**, as a centre for research, academic pursuit and dissemination in the field of the arts.
- The **IGNCA has a trust** (i.e. Board of Trustees), which meets regularly to give general direction about the Centre’s work.
- The **Executive Committee, drawn from among the Trustees**, functions under a Chairman.

Prelims Takeaway

- Bharat: The Mother of Democracy’
- Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA)

GS III

5. 21st EDITION INDIA FRANCE BILATERAL NAVAL EXERCISE ‘VARUNA’ - 2023 - PIB

Relevance: Defence

News:

- Recently, **Phase II of the Varuna naval exercise between Indian and French Navy** was conducted in the Arabian Sea.

Prelims Takeaway

- Exercise Varuna
- Frigates

Exercise Varuna

- It is the **bilateral Naval Exercise between India and France** initiated in 1993.
- The exercise witnessed participation of **guided missile frigates, tanker, Maritime Patrol Aircraft and integral helicopters** from the two sides.
- Units of both **navies endeavoured to enhance and hone their war fighting skills, improve interoperability and demonstrate their ability.**
- The exercise also facilitates operational level interaction between the two Navies.
- It will **foster mutual cooperation** for good order at sea, underscoring the shared commitment to ensuring security, safety and freedom of the global maritime commons.

6. Crypto to climate: Delhi takes step back to move forward, get consensus - Indian Express

Relevance: Economics

News:

- India, as part of its **G20 presidency**, is working to **evolve a consensus on a range of issues** even if that means stepping back on its stated position.
- These issues range from **calling for a global framework on regulating crypto-assets to yielding on climate transition.**

Prelims Takeaway

- Cryptocurrency
- International Monetary Fund
- G20

Policy Paper on Crypto

- Recently, the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** and the **Financial Stability Board (FSB)**, released a **policy paper**, at the request of **India's G20 Presidency**.
- It suggested introducing a **licensing regime for crypto-asset platforms** instead of an **outright ban on crypto-assets**

India's Crypto Scenario

- In 2018, the **Central Board of Direct Taxes** had submitted a **draft scheme** to the finance ministry for **banning virtual currencies**.
- A month later, the **RBI restrained banks from dealing in cryptocurrencies**, a decision that had to be **reversed by the Supreme Court in 2020**.
- **RBI has been vocal about its problems with crypto-assets**, having identified them as **"a macro-economic risk"**.
- The government had also imposed a **tax on "any income from transfer of any virtual digital asset" at a rate of 30%**.
- It also imposed a **1% tax deduction at source (TDS) on each transaction**.
- Last year, the Finance Minister said in Parliament that **"international collaboration" would be needed** for "any effective regulation or ban" on cryptocurrency.
 - This is because the **digital currency is borderless in nature**.

7. RBI decides to discontinue I-CRR in a phased manner - The Hindu/ RBI to discontinue I-CRR in a phased manner from today - Indian Express

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

News:

- Recently, the RBI announced the **discontinuation of the incremental cash reserve ratio (I-CRR) in a phased manner** beginning September 9.
- Earlier, the RBI had asked banks to maintain an **I-CRR of 10% on the increase in their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL)** between May 19 and July 28, 2023.

Prelims Takeaway

- Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio
- Cash Reserve Ratio
- Reserve Bank of India

Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (I-CRR)

- A **monetary policy tool** used by central banks, including the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- It is an **additional cash balance** which the banks maintain over and above the CRR to **absorb excess liquidity** from the banking system.
 - **CRR is the minimum amount** of the total deposits that banks have to keep with the central bank for a specific period.
- Announced as a **temporary measure** to absorb the surplus liquidity **caused due to**
 - the return of Rs 2,000 banknotes to the banking system
 - surplus transfer to the government by the RBI
 - pick up in government spending
 - sustained foreign inflows

Features

- **Temporary Nature**

- It's implemented for a **short duration** to address a particular liquidity issue or economic circumstance.
- **Targeted Absorption**
 - The purpose of the Incremental CRR is to **absorb excess liquidity** in the banking system.
 - This might arise due to particular events, policies, or economic conditions.
- **Graduated Approach**
 - RBI typically specifies a **certain percentage of additional CRR** that banks need to maintain **on the incremental deposits** they receive during the specified period.
 - The graduated approach ensures that the **impact on banks' liquidity and lending activities is proportional and manageable**.

8. In a first, scientists identify variant of chickenpox-causing virus: ICMR-NIV study - Indian Express

Relevance: Health

News:

- Recently, the **Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Virology scientists** found the presence of **Clade 9 variant of varicella zoster virus (VZV) for the first time** in the country.
- So far, the clade 9 is the **most common strain** in circulation in countries such as Germany, UK and USA.

Prelims Takeaway

- Varicella Zoster Virus
- Chicken Pox

Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV)

- According to the World Health Organisation, it is a **herpes virus** that causes **chickenpox**, a common childhood illness.
- It is an **exclusively human virus** that belongs to the **α -herpesvirus family**.
- In rare cases, VZV infections can progress to the **central nervous system involvement and severe complications**.

Chicken Pox

- Also known as **varicella**, it is a **communicable, infectious, viral disease** characterised by **itchy red blisters** that appear all over the body.
- This dreadful disease was **introduced in the mid-1990** and more often **affects children**.
- The **incubation period is 10 to 21 days**.
- **Symptoms**
 - It can cause an **itchy, blister-like rash**, among other symptoms.
 - The **rash first appears on the chest, back, and face** and then **spreads over the entire body**.
- **Transmission**
 - Through contact with infected individuals
 - Through contact with infected fluids
 - Airborne transmission from sneezing or coughing
- It can be serious, especially **during pregnancy, in babies, adolescents, adults and people with weakened immune systems**.
- It can be **easily prevented by vaccinating newborn kids** with the chickenpox vaccine.

Editorials, Gists and Explainers

1. Self-regulatory organisation for fintechs: How it will benefit the sector - Indian Express

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

Context:

- Recently, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor** asked **fintech entities** to form a **Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO)** themselves.

<p style="text-align: center;">Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An SRO is a non-governmental organisation that sets and enforces rules and standards relating to the conduct of entities in the industry. SROs typically collaborate with all stakeholders in framing rules and regulations. It aims to protect the customer and promote ethics, equality, and professionalism. Their self-regulatory processes are administered through impartial mechanisms such that members operate in a disciplined environment and accept penal actions by the SRO. Regulations, standards, and dispute resolution and enforcement by an SRO get legitimacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> by mutual agreement of its members by the efficiency with which self-regulation is perceived to be administered. Such regulations supplement, and do not replace, applicable laws or regulations, according to the Reserve Bank of India. <p style="text-align: center;">Need for an SRO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It can help in establishing codes of conduct for its members that foster transparency, fair competition, and consumer protection. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have been many instances where a few fintech players were involved in unethical practices. These include practices like charging exorbitant higher interest rates and harassment of borrowers for recovering loans. It can act as a watchdog and encourage members to adopt responsible and ethical practices. It can provide a link between the regulator and market participants through a less formal set-up. SROs can help build trust among consumers, investors, and regulators by proactively addressing issues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> like market integrity, conduct, data privacy, cybersecurity, and risk management 	<p style="text-align: center;">Benefits of an SRO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SROs are widely considered experts in their fields and so have in-depth knowledge of the markets they operate in. This is helpful to their members as they can be called in to participate in deliberations and learn more about the nuances of the industry. It ensures member organisations follow a certain standard of conduct which can lead to enhanced confidence in the ecosystem. <p style="text-align: center;">Functions of an SRO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It will serve as a two-way communication channel between its members and the RBI. It will work towards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> establishing minimum benchmarks and standards helping instil professional and healthy market behaviour among its members It will impart training to the staff of its members and others. It will establish a uniform grievance redressal and dispute management framework across its members. It will also conduct awareness programmes.
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How to become SRO

- Those **entities who are interested** in being recognised as SROs will have to **apply to the RBI**.
- Once the **regulator finds an entity suitable**, it will **issue a letter of recognition**.

2. An overhaul, the criminal law Bills, and the big picture - The Hindu

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

Context:

- The central government had introduced **three Bills in Parliament in August** namely the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023**, the **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023** and the **Bharatiya Sakshya (BS) Bill, 2023**.
- They were to replace the **existing Indian Penal Code, 1860**, the **Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) 1973** and the **Indian Evidence Act, 1872**, respectively.

The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita

Institutionalises Zero FIR

- Has provisions for the registration of a cognisable offence in any police station, irrespective of the area where the offence is committed.
- Though this practice, called zero FIR, has been in use, its formal inclusion may help complainants get their cases registered as a matter of right.
- **Provisions on Preliminary Inquiry**
- A provision has been added to permit the conduct of a preliminary inquiry to ascertain the existence of a prima facie case.
- This will be done even if the information discloses the commission of a cognisable offence punishable with more than three years but less than seven years of imprisonment.
- This is at variance with the ratio of the Supreme Court judgement in Lalita Kumari versus Govt. of Uttar Pradesh (2013).
- It held that the police have no option but to register an FIR if the information discloses commission of a cognisable offence.

Provisions on Arrest

- All provisions of the CrPC on arrest have been retained in the BNSS.
- For offences punishable with less than three years of imprisonment, an arrest could be done only with the prior permission of Deputy Superintendent of Police if the accused person is infirm or is aged over 60.
- This may provide some relief to these two categories of persons provided the Deputy Superintendent of Police uses the clause judicially.
- It provides for handcuffing in at least a dozen categories of persons who are accused of serious offences.
 - Like one who commits a terrorist act, murder, rape, acid attack or offence against the state.
- This is sure to help police, who may be short staffed, to secure their custody.
- **At the scene of crime**
- For offences punishable with more than seven years of imprisonment, it provides for
 - a mandatory visit of the crime scene by a forensic expert
 - the collection of forensic evidence
- However, due to limited forensic infrastructure at field level, five years have been given to State governments to implement this clause.
- Therefore, unless State governments commit themselves for the development of forensic infrastructure, the impacts may not be visible soon.
- It encourages the use of audio-video means in recording the various steps of investigation including searches.
 - However, the preferred use of smartphones has its limitations.
- **Shafhi Mohammad vs The State Of Himachal Pradesh (2018)**
 - SC directed to develop facilities for videography and photography of crime scenes during investigation at the level of the police station.

Provisions on Identity Disclosure

- Despite a ban on the two-finger test in a case of rape, the ban does not have a place in the Code.
 - This test is termed as unscientific and violative of the dignity and privacy of a rape victim/survivor by the SC in Lillu @ Rajesh & Anr vs State Of Haryana, 2013.
 - The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had also issued similar instructions, with guidelines for the medical examination.
- The provision of giving authorisation to disclose identity of victim/survivor of rape, to the next of kin in case the victim is minor, may also be omitted
 - This is because the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, which exclusively deals with this issue, does not have a similar provision.

Duration of police custody

- The provision for increase in the period of police custody exceeding 15 days, as provided in the CrPC has been criticised.
- This may help the police to interrogate an accused person again if additional evidence is found during an investigation.
 - However, there must be adequate grounds to permit an extension.
 - Also, the 15 day limit can be exceeded only after the initial days.
 - The accused will still be eligible to be released on default bail as provided in the CrPC.
- It also proposes enlarging the scope of judicial inquiry into suspicious deaths by including dowry deaths.
- It however relaxes the provision of the mandatory recording of statements of a woman, a male under the age of 15 or above 60 (65 years in the CrPC) at the place of their residence based on their willingness.
- It is hoped that this provision is not misused by the police, especially in crimes against women and children.

Provisions that could have been included

- The videography and photography of a post-mortem, particularly in cases
 - where it is a custodial death
 - where it is a death caused in an exchange of fire with the police or other authorities.
- To make a spot sketch of the scene of crime drawn on scale by a draftsman in order to make it admissible in court to improve the quality of investigation.

Conclusion

- Overall, some of the **proposed changes are definitely progressive** in nature, but cannot be termed as **path-breaking or radical**.
- The police stations are **generally under-staffed, have poor mobility, insufficient training infrastructure and poor housing facilities**.
- The Police personnel **work under stressful conditions**.
- Therefore, it is necessary that **police reformation is taken up in its entirety** and not just by tweaking some provisions of the applicable laws.

Quick Look

1. Fujianvenator prodigiosus

- Scientists recently said they unearthed in Fujian Province the fossil of a Jurassic Period dinosaur they named Fujianvenator prodigiosus.
- Fujianvenator is a member of a grouping called avialans that includes all birds and their closest non-avian dinosaur relatives.
- Features
 - Its lower leg bone - the tibia - was twice as long as its thigh bone - the femur.
 - Such dimensions are unique among theropods; it also had a long bony tail.
 - The forelimb is generally built like a bird's wing but with three claws on the fingers, which are absent from modern birds. So you can call it wing.

2. Indian oil sardine

- It is a very important pelagic fish species.
- It contributes to about 15% of the total marine fish production in India.
- Distribution: The entire west coast from Gujarat to Kerala and also on the Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa coasts in the east.
- Highest abundance and large-scale shoaling are observed off Kerala and Karnataka coasts.
- Local names: Mathi, Nalla mathi, Nei chala (Malayalam); Bhutai (Kannada), Tarli (Marathi and Hindi).

3. Meniere's Disease

- It is a rare inner ear disorder.
- It is the result of a build-up of fluid in the inner ear, called labyrinth, which contains the organs of balancing and hearing.
- The fluid build-up in the labyrinth interferes with the normal balance and hearing signals between the inner ear and the brain.
- It can lead to severe dizziness (vertigo), ringing in the ears (tinnitus), hearing loss, and a feeling of fullness or congestion in the ear.
- It usually affects only one ear.
- Ménière's disease can develop at any age, but it is more likely to happen to adults between 40 and 60 years of age.
- Left untreated, the symptoms get worse over time and may cause permanent hearing loss and ongoing balance problems.
- There is no cure, but lifestyle tips and medical treatments can help ease the symptoms.

4. Nation First Transit Card

- State Bank of India has launched its 'Nation First Transit Card'.
- It is a RuPay prepaid instrument under the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) that can be used nationwide.
- Objective
 - To facilitate a seamless and convenient customer commuting experience.
 - To ensure easy digital ticketing fare payments in metro, buses, water ferries, parking, etc. through a single card.
- Individuals can also use this card for making retail and e-commerce payments.

5. Solar Orbiter Aircraft

- It was launched in 2020 and will take images of the Sun from closer than any spacecraft before.
- It contains six remote-sensing instruments and four sets of in situ instruments.
- Objectives
- To observe the Sun's 11-year cycle of rising and subsiding magnetic activity.
- To study the upper layer of its atmosphere, the corona.

6. Botanical Survey of India

- It is the apex taxonomic research organization of India.
- It works under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India.
- It was established in 1890 under the direction of Sir George King.
- The mandate of the organization has been broadened to biosystematics research, floristic studies, documentation, databasing of the National Botanical collection, digitization of herbarium specimens etc.
- Headquarters: Kolkata

7. Cheriyal scroll painting

- It is a popular and modified version of Nakashi art, considered highly rich in the local motifs.
- This art form is unique to the state of Telangana and made mostly in Hyderabad currently.
- The Nakashis are the artists of Telangana and the scrolls constitute a key element of the social and cultural setting of Telangana.
- This traditional art form is considered an inseparable part of the profession comprising the story-telling and balladeer community called Kaki

Prelims Track Question

Q1. Consider the following statements with reference to 6G.

1. It is anticipated to have substantially high latency when compared to 5G.
2. It is anticipated to be more energy-efficient than its forerunners.
3. It is anticipated to be commercially accessible by 2030.

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

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

Q2. Consider the following statements about Paris Climate Accord:

1. It is a legally binding international treaty on climate change.
2. It was adopted by 196 countries at Conference of the Parties COP 21 in Paris in December 2015.
3. The main objective was to limit global warming to well below 2° Celsius, and preferably limit it to 1.5° Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.

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

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

Q3. Consider the following statements about National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) :

1. It was set up as a sovereign wealth fund and is registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India.
2. Its main objective is to raise funds through suitable instruments which also include off-shore credit-enhanced bonds.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q4. Consider the following statements about Bharat: The Mother of Democracy' Portal:

1. The portal showcases the content on the history of democracy in India starting from the Sindhu-Saraswati civilisation to 2019.
2. It is curated by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA).

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 exercises Varuna:

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q6. Consider the following statements regarding blockchain technology

1. Blockchain is a centralised ledger system used primarily by the governments.
2. Transactions on a blockchain are irreversible and cannot be altered once recorded.
3. It can only be used for financial transactions and has limited applicability in other industries.

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

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

Q7. Which of the following statements describe the term "incremental CRR" most aptly?

- A. The regular quarterly adjustments made by banks to maintain their reserve requirements.
- B. An additional reserve requirement imposed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a specific period.
- C. The interest rate at which banks borrow money from the RBI.
- D. The percentage of a bank's total deposits held in government securities.

Q8. Consider the following statements regarding Chickenpox

1. It is caused by bacteria called Varicella Zoster.
2. It can spread through fluids from an infected person.
3. It can be easily prevented by vaccinating newborn kids with a vaccine.

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

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

Q9. Consider the following statements regarding Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO)

1. An SRO is a non-governmental organisation that sets and enforces

rules and standards relating to the conduct of entities in the industry.

2. It will act as a watchdog and encourage members to adopt responsible and ethical practices.
3. SROs are widely considered experts in their fields and so have in-depth knowledge of the markets they operate in.
4. Those entities who are interested in being recognised as SROs will have to apply to the Ministry of Finance.

How many of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

Q10. Which of the following statements describe the term "Zero FIR"?

- A. An FIR filed without any evidence or information.
- B. An FIR filed by a police officer against a person with a clean criminal record.
- C. An FIR filed exclusively for cases involving financial frauds.
- D. An FIR filed at any police station, regardless of jurisdiction, for a cognizable offence.

Prelims Track Answer

Ans. 1 Option B is correct

Explanation

- Speed and latency: 6G is anticipated to provide 5G users with higher speeds and lower latency. While 6G is anticipated to reach rates of up to 1 Tbps, 5G can only deliver speeds of up to 20 Gbps. Additionally, 6G is anticipated to have substantially lower latency, which will result in almost instantaneous data transfer. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- New technologies: The 6G network is anticipated to deliver innovations like holographic communication, improved artificial intelligence, and expanded reality (XR). Higher speeds and lower latency will be necessary for these technologies to operate properly. Real-time data transfer and smooth device communication would be made possible by this.
- Energy efficiency: 6G is anticipated to be more energy-efficient than its forerunners, which will aid in lowering the technology's carbon footprint. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Timeline: While 6G is anticipated to be commercially accessible by 2030, 5G is still being deployed globally. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Ans. 2 Option C is correct

Explanation

- Paris Climate Accord is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Adoption: It was adopted by 196 countries at Conference of the Parties COP 21 in Paris in December 2015. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- Goal: To limit global warming to well below 2° Celsius, and preferably limit it to 1.5° Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- Objective: To achieve the long-term temperature goal, countries aim to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions

as soon as possible to achieve a climate-neutral world by mid-century.

Ans. 3 Option C is correct

Explanation

- National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) was set up as a sovereign wealth fund and is registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- Objective: To raise funds through suitable instruments which also included off-shore credit-enhanced bonds. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- To attract the anchor investors for their participation as partners in NIIF.
- Servicing of the investors of the fund.
- To consider and approve the candidate companies, institutions, and projects for investments.
- To invest in the corpus created by the Asset Management Companies (AMCs) to invest in private equity.
- To provide advisory service and prepare a shelf of infrastructure projects.

Ans. 4 Option D is correct

Explanation

- Bharat: The Mother of Democracy' the portal showcases the content on the history of democracy in India.
- It showcases 7,000 years of democratic ethos starting from the Sindhu-Saraswati civilisation to 2019. **Hence, statement 1 is correct**
- It is available in 16 languages, including German, French, Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese, Italian, Turkish, and Russian besides English and Hindi.
- The portal is divided into five sections and 22 sub-sections starting from:
- Sindhu-Saraswati Civilisation (6000-2000 BCE)
- Mahajanapada and Gantantra (7-8 BCE)
- Vijaynagar Empire (14-16 century)
- Mughal emperor Akbar reign (1556-1605)
- Constitution of India (1947)

- Elections in Modern India (1952 onwards).
- The website-- www.motherofdemocracy20.com-- is curated by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA). **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Ans. 5 Option C is correct

Explanation

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

Ans. 6 Option A is correct

Explanation

- Blockchain technology is a decentralized ledger system that is shared among the nodes of a computer network. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- As a database, a blockchain stores information electronically in digital format.
- It is used in various industries, including finance, healthcare, and supply chain management. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- The transactions recorded on a blockchain are typically irreversible, enhancing security and immutability. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Ans. 7 Option B is correct

Explanation

- Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (I-CRR) is a monetary policy tool used by central banks, including the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- It is an additional cash balance which the banks maintain over and above the CRR to absorb excess liquidity from the banking system. **Hence, Option B is correct**

Ans. 8 Option B is correct

Explanation

- Chicken Pox, also known as varicella, is a communicable, infectious, viral disease characterised by itchy red blisters that appear all over the body. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- It was introduced in the mid-1990 and more often affects children.
- It can cause an itchy, blister-like rash, among other symptoms.
- The rash first appears on the chest, back, and face and then spreads over the entire body.
- Transmission: Through contact with infected individuals, Through contact with infected fluids and Airborne transmission from sneezing or coughing. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- It can be serious, especially during pregnancy, in babies, adolescents, adults and people with weakened immune systems.
- It can be easily prevented by vaccinating newborn kids with the chickenpox vaccine. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

Ans. 9 Option A is correct

Explanation

- Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) is a non-governmental organisation that sets and enforces rules and standards relating to the conduct of entities in the industry. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- It aims to protect the customer and promote ethics, equality, and professionalism.
- It can act as a watchdog and encourage members to adopt responsible and ethical practices. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- SROs can help build trust among consumers, investors, and regulators by proactively addressing issues.
- SROs are widely considered experts in their fields and so have in-depth knowledge of the markets they operate in. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

- It will serve as a two-way communication channel between its members and the RBI.
- It will establish a uniform grievance redressal and dispute management framework across its members.
- Those entities who are interested in being recognised as SROs will have to apply to the RBI. **Hence, statement 4 is incorrect.**
- Once the regulator finds an entity suitable, it will issue a letter of recognition.

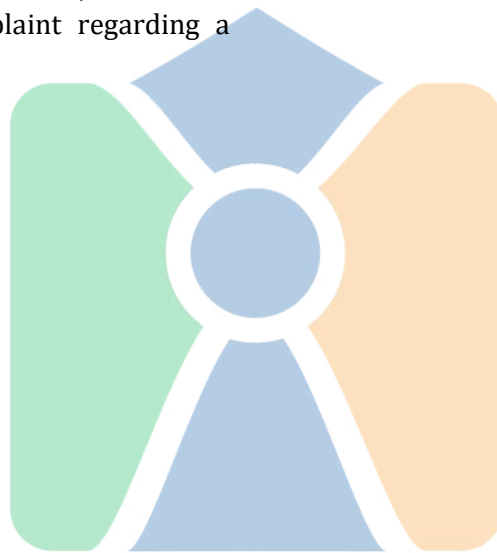
Ans. 10 Option D is correct

Explanation

- Zero FIR is an FIR that can be registered by any police station, irrespective of jurisdiction, when it receives a complaint regarding a

cognisable offence. **Hence, Option D is correct**

- It is transferred to the relevant police station where the offence has taken place or where the investigation has to be conducted.
- Zero FIR was introduced after the recommendation of the Justice Verma Committee, which was set up after the 2012 Nirbhaya gangrape case.
- It is meant to help victims of serious crimes, especially women and children, to lodge a complaint quickly and conveniently, without having to go from one police station to another.



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