

Answers

1) A

The UNESCO Science Report was released recently.

UNESCO Science Report

It is a flagship report published by UNESCO for every five years. According to the report, India has made solid progress towards the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets concerning industry, infrastructure and innovation, but the country's investment in research remains unsatisfactory.

The gross domestic expenditure on research (GERD) has been stagnant at 0.7% of the GDP for years, although, in absolute terms, research expenditure has increased. India has one of the lowest GERD/GDP ratios among the BRICS nations.

Background

India's research intensity has been declining since 2014. The Science and Technology Policy of 2003 fixed the threshold of devoting 2% of GDP to research and development (R&D) by 2007. This target date was set back to 2018 in the new Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (2013) then again to 2022 by the Economic Advisory Council of the Prime Minister.

In 2020, the task force drafting the country's new Science and Technology Policy recommended pushing back the target date to a more realistic 2030.

2) D

Project O2 for India

It is an initiative of the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India. The second wave of COVID-19 saw an increase in demand for medical oxygen in different parts of the country.

It aims to enable stakeholders working to augment the country's ability to meet this rise in demand for medical oxygen. Under Project O2 for India, a National Consortium of Oxygen is enabling the national level supply of critical raw materials such as zeolites, setting up of small oxygen plants, manufacturing compressors, final products, i.e oxygen plants, concentrators, and ventilators.

The consortium is not only looking forward to providing immediate to short-term relief but also working to strengthen the manufacturing ecosystem for long-term preparedness.

3) C

4) C

Union Minister of Women and Child Development Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani has recently appealed to Citizens to report the instances of Child Labour on PENCIL Portal, on the occasion of World Day Against Child Labour. The World Day against Child Labour is observed on 12th June every year around the world.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the World Day against Child Labour in 2002 to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it.

Platform for Effective Enforcement for No Child Labour (PENCIL) Portal

It is an electronic platform for no child labour developed by the Labour Ministry. The portal creates a robust implementing and monitoring mechanism for enforcement of the legislative provisions of National Child Labour Policy (NCLP).

Since the subject of labour is in the concurrent list, the enforcement of the policy depends on respective state governments. This online portal aims to connect the Centre to the state government, district and to all project societies for effective implementation of NCLP. The portal has a component of child tracking system.

5) C

Indian Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has recently delivered a keynote address at the UN “High-Level Dialogue on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought”. In the address, PM Modi has said that the Delhi Declaration of 2019 called for better access and stewardship over land, and emphasised gender-sensitive transformative projects.

In India, over the last 10 years, around 3 million hectares of forest cover has been added. This has enhanced the combined forest cover to almost one-fourth of the country's total area.

Shri Modi conveyed that India is on track to achieve its national commitment of Land degradation neutrality. India is also working towards restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. This would contribute to India's commitment to achieve an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

In 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) or so called Rio Earth Summit recommended the elaboration of a United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

The Convention, the only convention stemming from a direct recommendation of the Conference's Agenda 21, was adopted in Paris on 17 June 1994 and entered into force in December 1996.

It is the first and only internationally legally binding framework set up to address the problem of desertification. The Convention is based on the principles of participation, partnership and decentralization - the backbone of Good Governance.

It now has more than 180 country Parties to the Convention, making it truly global in reach. The Conference of the Parties is the supreme decision-making body. It reviews the implementation of the Convention; promotes and facilitates the exchange of information; approves the budget and activity programmes of its subsidiary bodies; cooperates with international organizations, NGOs & other related conventions; and meets on a biannual basis. India currently holds the presidency of UNCCD.

6) D

Minister of Tribal Affairs, Sh. Arjun Munda has recently launched Adi Prashikshan portal in New Delhi.

Adi Prashikshan Portal

The portal was developed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. It would act as a Central Repository of all training programs conducted by Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs), different divisions of Ministry, National Society for Education of Tribal Students (NESTS), Centre of Excellences funded by Ministry of Tribal Affairs and National Tribal Research Institute.

7) C

Ministry of Consumer Affairs has recently made Hallmarking of Gold Jewellery mandatory.

Hallmarking Scheme

It is a Scheme under Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Under the scheme, jewellers are registered for selling hallmarked jewellery and recognise testing and Hallmarking centres.

Hallmarking will enable Consumers/ Jewellery buyers to make a right choice and save them from any unnecessary confusion while buying gold.

At present, only 30% of Indian Gold Jewellery is hallmarked. The Hallmarking of jewellery/artefacts is required to enhance the credibility of gold Jewelry and Customer satisfaction through third party assurance for the marked purity/fineness of gold, consumer protection.

This step will also help to develop India as a leading gold market center in the World. According to World Gold Council (WGC), India has around 4 lakh jewellers, out of this only 35879 have been BIS certified.

8) C

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India has recently signed a \$484 million loan to improve transport connectivity and facilitate industrial development in the Chennai–Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in the state of Tamil Nadu. Chennai–Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) is a part of India's East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC).

East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC) stretches from West Bengal to Tamil Nadu and connects India to the production networks of South, Southeast, and East Asia. ADB is the lead partner of the Government of India in developing ECEC.

9) C

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has recently approved the proposal of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) on Deep Ocean Mission.

Deep Ocean Mission

The mission aims to explore deep ocean for resources and develop deep sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources. It will be a mission mode project to support the Blue Economy Initiatives of the Government of India.

Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) will be the nodal Ministry implementing this multi-institutional ambitious mission. The estimated cost of the Mission will be Rs. 4077 crore for a period of 5 years to be implemented in a phase-wise manner.

10) A

Atlantic Charter

It was signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt (USA) and Prime Minister Winston Churchill (UK) in 1941. It outlined their goals for after World War II.

Recently, the US President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson have signed a revamped Atlantic Charter. It affirms the ongoing commitment to sustaining our enduring values and defending them against new and old challenges. It commits to combating the modern challenges of cyber threats and climate change and to bringing the pandemic to an end.

11) A

12) A

The Election Commission's role ends with the declaration of results i.e. once the Returning Officer has signed the final result sheet. The voter or the candidate can challenge the result through an election petition submitted to the High Court of the state in which the constituency is located.

The election petition has to be filed within 45 days from the date of the poll results and nothing is entertained by courts after that. The Representative of the People Act of 1951 suggests that the High Court should try to conclude the trial within six months but it usually drags on for much longer.

13) C

14) A

Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India

It has been published by Space Application Centre, ISRO, Ahmedabad. The Atlas provides state wise area of degraded lands for the time frame 2018-19. It was released on the occasion of the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, observed on 17 June.

15) A

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are a distinct group of 38 UN Member States and 20 Non-UN Members/Associate Members of UN regional commissions that face unique social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities.

Maldives is one of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). They were recognized as a distinct group of developing countries in June 1992 at the UN Conference on Environment and Development.

The geographical regions in which SIDS are located are the Caribbean, the Pacific, and the AIS (Atlantic, Indian Ocean and South China Sea).

The Barbados Program of Action was produced in 1994 in order to assist the SIDS in their sustainable development efforts. The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS) represent this group of states

16) A

Operation Olivia was launched by the Indian Coast Guard in the early 1980s. The operation aims to protect Olive Ridley turtles when they arrive at the Odisha coast for breeding and nesting from November to December.

Indian Coast Guards (ICGs) execute this operation. As part of the operation, ICGs conducts round-the-clock surveillance. Assets of Indian Coast Guards such as fast patrol vessels, air cushion vessels, interceptor craft, and Dornier aircraft are used in this operation to enforce laws near the rookeries (colony of breeding animals).

17) C

The International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) is an international nongovernmental organization which was founded in 1997 and has consultative status with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Acknowledging the diversity of culture, background, and life style of the world population, INPEA aims to increase society's ability, through international collaboration, to recognize and respond to the mistreatment of older people in whatever setting it occurs, so that the latter years of life will be free from abuse, neglect and exploitation

18) A

19) D

Tulu Language

It is a Dravidian language spoken mainly in two coastal districts Dakshina Kannada and Udupi of Karnataka and Kasaragod district of Kerala. As per the 2011 Census report, there are 18,46,427 Tulu-speaking people in India.

Some scholars suggest Tulu is among the earliest Dravidian languages with a history of 2000 years. Robert Caldwell (1814-1891), in his book, A Comparative Grammar of the Dravidian or South-Indian Family of Languages, called Tulu “one of the most highly developed languages of the Dravidian family”.

Tulu has a rich oral literature tradition with folk-song forms like paddana, and traditional folk theatre yakshagana. At present, Tulu is not an official language in the country.

The Tulu speakers, mainly in Karnataka and Kerala, have been requesting the governments to give it official language status and include it in the eighth schedule to the Constitution.

20) D

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar has recently addressed the 42nd session of FAO Conference.

Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)

It is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. It is the largest of the UN agencies.

It was established in 1945 and its headquarters is in Rome, Italy. Its goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.

With over 194 member states, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide. India is a founder member of the FAO and has played significant role since inception as Chair and member of various statutory bodies and committees.

