

Answers

1) B

National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is an autonomous institution established by the University Grants Commission (UGC), under Section 12-ccc of the UGC Act of 1956, for assessing and accrediting higher education institutions (HEIs) of the country. It is registered under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act of 1960, Karnataka Societies Registration Rules of 1961 and is headquartered at Bangalore.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) through a gazette notification dated 19th January 2013, has made it mandatory for Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) to undergo accreditation.

2) C

MIS-C is a rare but severe hyper inflammatory condition in children and adolescents that typically occurs 2-6 weeks after a Covid-19 infection. It is a potentially deadly condition where different body parts can become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs.

Children with MIS-C may have a fever and various symptoms, including abdominal (gut) pain, vomiting, diarrhea, neck pain, rash, bloodshot eyes, or feeling extra tired.

In a recent study, young people with the MIS-C syndrome have shown neurological issues which were life-threatening such as strokes or severe encephalopathy (any brain disease that alters brain function or structure). It involves symptomatic relief such as supportive care or use of various medicines to treat inflammation.

3) B

Global Forum on TB Vaccines

It is the world's largest gathering of stakeholders striving to develop new vaccines to prevent TB. It brings together stakeholders from across the spectrum of TB vaccine research and development to share data, concepts, and new approaches to tuberculosis vaccine R&D, as well as promote a global dialogue on the path forward for this critical research.

Due to the ongoing corona virus pandemic, 5th Global Forum on TB Vaccines will be convened virtually from 20 - 22 April 2021. The 6th Global Forum on TB Vaccines will be convened in Toulouse, France from 22 - 24 February 2022.

4) C

Ministry of Rural Development's Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) and the Initiative for What Works to Advance Women and Girls in the Economy (IWWAGE) jointly launched the Gender Samvaad Initiative recently.

Gender Samvaad

It was launched as a part of the Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav launched by the Prime Minister of India. It is a unique attempt aims to establish a shared platform to generate awareness on NRLM's gender interventions across the country, with a focus on hearing voices from the states and of SHG members.

5) C

Following Basel-III norms, central banks specify certain capital adequacy norms for banks in a country. The CCCB is a part of such norms and is calculated as a fixed percentage of a bank's risk-weighted loan book.

However, one key respect in which the CCCB differs from other forms of capital adequacy is that it works to help a bank counteract the effect of a downturn or distressed economic conditions.

With the CCCB, banks are required to set aside a higher portion of their capital during good times when loans are growing rapidly, so that the capital can be released and used during bad times, when there's distress in the economy. The CCCB is supposed to be in the form of equity capital, and if the minimum buffer requirements are breached, capital distribution constraints such as limits on dividends and share buybacks can be imposed on the bank.

Although the RBI had proposed the CCCB for Indian banks in 2015 as part of its Basel-III requirements, it hasn't actually required the CCCB to be maintained, keeping the ratio at zero per cent ever since.

6) A

Recently a rare celestial event occurred when the moon came between Earth and Mars, known as occultation. The term occultation is most frequently used to describe those relatively frequent occasions when the Moon passes in front of a star during the course of its orbital motion around the Earth.

If the closer body does not entirely conceal the farther one, the event is called a transit. Both transit and occultation may be referred to generally as occlusion; and if a shadow is cast onto the observer, it is called an eclipse.

7) C

It is an intergovernmental body established in 1963. It is constituted jointly by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO), within the framework of the Joint Food Standards Program

It is the body responsible for all matters regarding the implementation of the Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Program. The Commission meets in regular session once a year alternating between Geneva and Rome.

Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) was formed in 2013 with support of more than a hundred countries under Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC).

It has been successful in developing harmonised global Codex standards for spices and herbs. It has developed and finalized standards for four spices, viz. dried or dehydrated forms of black/ white/ green pepper, cumin, thyme, and garlic.

8) B

US Commission for International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)

It is a quasi-judicial body constituted by US-Congress, established by the US Government in 1998 after the inaction of the International Religious Freedom Act. The recommendations of USCIRF are non-binding to the State Department.

It monitors international religious freedom. It is an independent, bipartisan U.S. federal government commission created by the 1998 International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA).

Recently, USCIRF has recommended India for 'countries of particular concern' tag along with other three countries are Russia, Syria and Vietnam.

The USCIRF report has alleged that religious freedom conditions in 2020 in these countries continued their negative trajectory. USCIRF urges to impose targeted sanctions on individuals and entities responsible for severe violations of religious freedom by freezing those individuals' or entities' assets and barring their entry into the US.

9) C

Revaluation is a change in a price of a good or product, or especially of a currency, in which case it is specifically an official rise of the value of the currency in relation to a foreign currency in a fixed exchange rate system.

Currency depreciation is the loss of value of a country's currency with respect to one or more foreign reference currencies, typically in a floating exchange rate system in which no official currency value is maintained.

10) C

E-Way Bill system was launched by National Informatics Centre (NIC) as per the directions of the GST Council in 2018. E-Way Bill needs to be generated for the movement of goods from one place to another, having value more than Rs 50,000/-. This has replaced the need of e-way bill of multiple states with one e-way bill. E-way Bill has helped in reducing the transport time in movement of the goods.

The system has also been enhanced regularly to improve the user experience and friendliness. Validations of the vehicle number with VAHAN system and auto calculation of the distance between source and destination pin-codes for movement of goods are the major enhancements carried out.

E-Way Bill System under GST regime has achieved a new milestone of generation of 7.12 Crores E-way Bills in the month of March 2021. This is the highest number of e-way bills generated in any month during last three years' journey of E-Way Bill system.

11) A

The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH&WC) Code, 2020 has been enacted after amalgamating of thirteen different labour legislations and to simplify the laws regulating the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions in establishments.

The code empowers the state government to exempt any new factory from the provisions of the Code in order to create more economic activity and employment.

The bill introduced in 2019 excluded mines from the definition of a factory. The bill passed in parliament in 2020 removed this provision.

The Central Government has constituted Expert Committees comprising of industry and subject experts from both public and private sector across the country to review the existing rules and regulations on safety, health and working conditions standards, pertaining to factories, docks and construction work.

12) C

In a major push towards deep technology and driving the country to become a digitally transformed nation, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog has launched AIM-PRIME (Program for Researchers on Innovations, Market-Readiness & Entrepreneurship), an initiative to promote and support science-based deep-tech startups & ventures across India.

In this regard, AIM has joined hands with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) to launch this nationwide program which will be implemented by Venture Center – a non-profit technology business incubator.

The first cohort of the program is open to technology developers (early-stage deep tech start-ups, and scientists/ engineers/ clinicians) with strong science-based deep tech business ideas. The program is also open to CEOs and Senior incubation managers of AIM Funded Atal Incubation Centers that are supporting deep tech entrepreneurs.

13) D

COVISHIELD:

It is a vaccine developed by the Serum Institute of India based on the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine named ChAdOx1 vaccine (also christened AZD1222)

Type of vaccine: It is made from a weakened version of a common cold adenovirus that causes infections in chimpanzees.

Dosage, protection duration and storage: The vaccine has been recommended for the approval of two full doses administered around 4-6 weeks apart. Immune response could last at least a year.

COVAXIN:

It has been indigenously developed by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

Type of vaccine: It is an inactivated vaccine and is made by using particles of the corona virus that were killed making them unable to infect or replicate. Injecting particular doses of these particles serves to build immunity by helping the body create antibodies against the dead virus.

Dosage, protection duration and storage: The vaccine will be administered in two doses and stored at 2-8° degrees Celsius.

14) A

15) C

The United Nations Secretary General has called for the first ever UN Food Systems Summit to be held in September 2021 to strategize the actions for positive change in Agri-food systems in the World to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Summit will focus on levers and pathways to shape food systems nationally and globally to accelerate progress in the SDGs.

The term “food system” refers to the constellation of activities involved in producing, processing, transporting and consuming food.

16) A

The EatSmart Cities Challenge aims to motivate Smart Cities to develop a plan that supports a healthy, safe and sustainable food environment supported by institutional, physical, social, and economic infrastructure along with the application of ‘smart’ solutions to combat food related issues.

Shri Hardeep S Puri, MoS (I/C), Housing and Urban Affairs launched the EatSmart Cities Challenge and Transport 4 All Challenge at an online event recently.

The ‘Eat Right India’ movement initiated by FSSAI under the aegis of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, has gone a long way in creating awareness amongst the people about eating safe, healthy and sustainably. The launch event of EatSmart Cities Challenge today was organized in association with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

17) D

18) C

The Indian Navy has recently dispatched its deep submergence rescue vessel (DSRV) from Visakhapatnam to support the Indonesian Navy in the search and rescue efforts for its submarine KRI Nanggala that went missing recently with 53 personnel aboard. An alert was received by the Navy through the International Submarine Escape and Rescue Liaison Office (ISMERLO), regarding the missing Indonesian submarine.

International Submarine Escape and Rescue Liaison Office (ISMERLO)

It is an organisation that aims to facilitate an international response for a distressed submarine (DISSUB) and to improve the ability to respond to a call for assistance through its coordination role. Although established by NATO, ISMERLO supports all nations and pursues the involvement of global submarine-operating nations.

ISMERLO is a military organisation operating in an international environment focused on the humanitarian objective of saving lives at sea.

19) D

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

It was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 1992/1, upon request of General Assembly (GA) resolution 46/152. It acts as the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

It offers Member States a forum for exchanging expertise, experience and information in order to develop national and international strategies, and to identify priorities for combating crime. It is the preparatory body to the United Nations Crime Congresses. India was elected by acclamation to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2022.

UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

The UN Charter established ECOSOC in 1945 as one of the six main organs of the United Nations. It is at the heart of the United Nations system to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.

It is the central platform for fostering debate and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals. ECOSOC links a diverse family of UN entities dedicated to sustainable development, providing overall guidance and coordination.

20) D

The Heart of Asia provides a platform for sincere and results-oriented regional cooperation by placing Afghanistan at its center, in recognition of the fact that a secure and stable Afghanistan is vital to the prosperity of the Heart of Asia region.

This platform was established to address the shared challenges and interests of Afghanistan and its neighbors and regional partners. The Heart of Asia is comprised of 15 participating countries, 17 supporting countries, and 12 supporting regional and international organizations.

The participating countries are Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates.