Answers

1) C

Monkey B virus

- Monkey B virus is an alpha herpesvirus enzootic (endemic) in macaques and it was initially isolated in 1932.
- Till date, only one case has been documented of an infected person spreading B virus to another person.
- The first indications of B virus infection are typically flu-like symptoms such as fever and chills, muscle ache, fatigue and headache, following which an infected person may develop small blisters in the wound or area on the body that came in contact with the monkey.
- In the later stage, the virus can lead to the loss of muscle coordination and neurological damage.

2) C

Minister of Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari has said with an aim to preserve and promote the heritage of vintage vehicles, the registration process of Vintage Motor Vehicles has been formalized.

In a tweet he said with no existing rules for regulating the process of registration across different states, the new rules shall provide a hassle-free process along with salient features such as retention of old number for already registered vehicles and a "VA" series (Unique Registration Mark) for fresh registrations.

Policy on Vintage Vehicles

- The government is framing a new policy to regulate the vintage motor vehicles (2-wheeler or 4-wheeler).
- Definition - Currently, the Central Motor Vehicle Rules (CMVR), 1989 do not define what vintage vehicles are.
- The new policy will insert new clauses to bring a standard definition and how such vehicles cannot be used.
- The term will cover any vehicle, 2-wheeler or 4-wheeler, which is more than 50 years old from the date of first registration after first sale, including any vehicle imported into India.
- Conditions - This will be subject to the condition that such vehicles should be maintained in its original form.

- These vehicles should not have undergone any substantial overhaul that includes any modification in chassis or body shell, and/or engine.
- The new policy seeks to mandate that such vehicles cannot be used for commercial purposes or put to regular use. Other than that, the owners can use their vintage cars in any way wish.
- Registration - Old vehicles already carry their registration numbers, which will continue.
- For new ones, like imported vintage vehicles or old Indian cars over 50 years old seeking to enter the vintage category, a new numbering system will come into effect.
- These vehicles will carry a registration plate displaying the state code in two letters followed by VA for vintage, then a 2-letter series and finally a 4-digit series (0001 to 9999) allotted by the state registering authority.
- Registration information will be on the Parivahan portal of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- New vintage vehicles can be registered for Rs. 20,000; re-registration/ renewal will cost Rs 5,000. The registration certificate will be valid for 10 years, renewable thereafter.
- Sale and purchase of vehicles registered as vintage is permissible; the buyer and seller have to inform their respective State Transport Authorities.
- Application of Scrappage Policy - The upcoming vehicle scrappage policy will not apply to these vehicles.
- If a vehicle is more than 15 years old but within 50 years, the owner can continue to keep it by passing fitness tests every 5 years.

3) B

Adjournment Motion

- It can be introduced only in Loksabha to draw the attention of the House to a definite matter of urgent public importance.
- It involves an element of censure against the government, therefore Rajya Sabha is not permitted to make use of this device
- It is regarded as an extraordinary device as it interrupts the normal business of the House.
- It needs the support of 50 members to be admitted.

4) D

Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)

- The Commission was first formed by an ordinance in October 2020.
- Recently CAQM bill was presented in parliament to establish the commission and replace an ordinance.
- The government has decriminalised the act of stubble burning and withdrawn the clause for possible jail time.
- However, environmental compensation fees are levied on those who are found to be engaged in stubble burning, including farmers.

5) C

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Ropar has recently developed a first-of-its-kind Oxygen Rationing Device – AMLEX.

AMLEX

- It will increase the life of medical oxygen cylinders three fold.
- The device supplies a required volume of oxygen to the patient during inhalation and trips when the patient exhales CO_2.
- This process saves oxygen which otherwise unnecessarily get wasted.
- The device can operate on both portable power supply (battery) as well as line supply (220V-50Hz).

Oxygen Wastage

- So far, during exhalation, the oxygen in the oxygen cylinder/pipe is pushed out along with the exhaled CO_2 by the user.
- This leads to wastage of a large volume of oxygen in long run.
- In addition to this, a large volume of oxygen escapes from the openings of the mask to the environment in the resting period (between inhalation and exhalation) due to continuous flow of life saving gas in the mask.

6) A

IRENA is a separate organization.

7) D

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have successfully flight-tested the latest Akash surface-to-air missile system recently.
- The ministry claims that the new version of the Akash missile (Akash-NG) can strike targets at a distance of around 60 km and fly at a speed of up to Mach 2.5.

- Speeds greater than five times the speed of sound (Mach 5) are often referred to as hypersonic.
- The new missile system has been developed by the Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad.
- It has been built in collaboration with other wings of the defence research organisation.

8) A

Dairy Investment Accelerator

- It is set up by the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD), Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- The aim is to provide dedicated focus towards promoting & facilitating investments in the Indian dairy sector.
- It will also generate awareness among investors about the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF).

9) A

UNESCO Heritage Sites

- A World Heritage Site is a place that is listed by UNESCO for its special cultural or physical significance.
- The list of World Heritage Sites is maintained by the international 'World Heritage Programme', administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.
- Recently Gwalior and Orchha cities have been selected by UNESCO under Historic Urban Landscape Project for inclusive development.
- The project focuses on involving more people in preservation efforts, raise levels of awareness and seek innovative schemes.
- Liverpool has been removed from the list due to concerns over new buildings that are being planned in the city, which will undermine the Victorian heritage of the site.
- Only two sites have been dropped from the UNESCO World Heritage List previously, which include a wildlife sanctuary in Oman in 2007 after poaching and habitat loss and the Dresden Elbe valley in Germany in 2009 after a four-lane bridge was built over the river.

10) C

National Security Council

- The National Security Advisor (NSA) presides over the NSC, and is also the primary advisor to the prime minister.
- NSC comprises the three tier structure- Strategic Policy Group (SPG), the National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) and the National Security Council Secretariat.
- The SPG chaired by the Cabinet Secretary is the principal forum for inter-ministerial coordination and integration of the relevant inputs.
- The NSAB undertakes long-term analysis and provides perspectives on issues of national security.

11) C

12) B

- Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation
- It a survey conducted every two years by United Nation's Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific (UNESCAP).
- India has scored 90.32% in the latest Survey for the year 2021.
- The Survey hails this as a remarkable jump from 78.49% in 2019.

After evaluation of 143 economies, the 2021 Survey has highlighted India's significant improvement in the scores on all 5 key indicators, as follows:

- Transparency:100% in 2021 (from 93.33% in 2019)
- Formalities: 95.83% in 2021 (from 87.5% in 2019)
- Institutional Arrangement and Cooperation: 88.89% in 2021 (from 66.67% in 2019)
- Paperless Trade: 96.3% in 2021 (from 81.48% in 2019)
- Cross-Border Paperless Trade: 66.67% in 2021 (from 556% in 2019)
- The Survey notes that India is the best performing country when compared to South and South West Asia region (63.12%) and Asia Pacific region (65.85%).
- The overall score of India has also been found to be greater than many OECD countries including France, UK, Canada, Norway, Finland etc. and the overall score is greater than the average score of EU.
- India has achieved a 100% score for the Transparency index and 66% in the "Women in trade" component.

13) A

The Chief Justice of India (CJI) announced the rollout of a new scheme called FASTER. It will ensure the timely release of prisoners from jail and uphold their dignity. About FASTER:

It stands for 'Fast and Secure Transmission of Electronic Records'. It would enable the Supreme Court (SC) to instantly, directly, securely, and electronically transmit bail and other orders to jail authorities, district courts, and High Courts.

14) B

Pegasus spyware has evolved from its earlier spear-phishing methods using text links or messages to 'zero-click' attacks About Zero-click Attack:

- A Zero-Click attack helps spyware like Pegasus gain control over a device without human interaction or human error.
- Zero-click attacks occur only when an attacker is able to take over a device remotely after successfully exploiting vulnerabilities in the software and hardware of the phone.
- So all awareness about how to avoid a phishing attack or which links not to click is pointless if the target is the system itself.
- Zero-click attacks are hard to detect given their nature and hence even harder to prevent. Detection becomes even harder in encrypted environments, where there is no visibility on the data packets being sent or received.

15) B
- Near-Earth Asteroid Scout, or NEA Scout, is a miniaturized spacecraft, known as a CubeSat, developed under NASA's Advanced Exploration Systems (AES) Program.
- Its main mission is to fly by and collect data from a near-Earth asteroid. It will also be America's first interplanetary mission using special solar sail propulsion.
- NEA Scout is equipped with special cameras and can take pictures ranging from 50 cm/pixels to 10 cm/pixels. It can also process the image and reduce the file sizes before sending them to the earth-based Deep Space Network via its medium-gain antenna.

16) C

Benchmark Lending Rates

- The Internal Benchmark Lending Rates are a set of reference lending rates which are calculated after considering factors like the bank's current financial overview, deposits and non-performing assets (NPAs) etc.
- BPLR, Base rate, MCLR are the examples of Internal Benchmark Lending Rate.
- External Benchmark Rates - RBI has offered banks the options to choose from 4 external benchmarking mechanisms:
- The RBI repo rate
- The 91-day T-bill yield

- The 182-day T-bill yield
- Anny other benchmark market interest rate as developed by the Financial Benchmarks India Pvt. Ltd.
- Financial Benchmarks India Pvt. Ltd was recognised by the Reserve bank of India as an independent Benchmark administrator on 2nd July 2015.

17) A

Sessions of Parliament

- Prorogation - It is the end of session and not the dissolution of the house, it is done by the President of India.
- Quorum - It refers to the minimum number of the members required to be present for conducting a meeting of the house.
- The Constitution has fixed one-tenth strength as quorum for both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- Thus, to conduct a sitting of Lok Sabha, there should be at least 55 members present while to conduct a sitting of Rajya Sabha, there should be at least 25 members present.

18) C

In a major boost towards AatmaNirbhar Bharat and strengthening of Indian Army, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested indigenously developed Man Portable Antitank Guided Missile (MPATGM).

- It is a low weight, fire & forgets Man Portable Antitank Guided Missile (MPATGM).
- The missile was launched from a man portable launcher integrated with thermal site and the target was mimicking a tank.
- The test has validated the minimum range successfully.
- The missile has already been successfully flight tested for the maximum range.
- The missile is incorporated with state-of-the-art Miniaturized Infrared Imaging Seeker along with advanced avionics.
- The test brings the development of indigenous third generation man portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile close to completion.

19) C

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has formulated a scheme Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE).

The Ministry has also initiated pilot projects on Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons engaged in the act of Begging in ten cities namely Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Indore, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna and Ahmadabad.

20) D

- Three monuments of Andhra Pradesh have been recently identified as Adarsh Smarak.
- Further, Fort at Gandikota has been included in the Adopt-a-Heritage scheme of Ministry of Tourism, which is PPP mode.

Adarsh Smarak

- Archaeological Survey of India has identified 100 monuments as Adarsh Monument.
- Adarsh Monuments will be provided tourist amenities and other facilities like toilets, drinking water, wi-fi services, cafeteria, interpretation centre, etc.

Adopt-a-Heritage scheme

- It is an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and the Archaeological Survey of India.
- Under the scheme, government invites public sector companies, private sector firms as well as individuals, to develop selected monuments and heritage and tourist sites across India.
- Selected firms and individuals will be appointed as Monument Mitras for the development of tourist amenities in the selected heritage sites for an initial period of 5 years.
- There is no financial bid involved and the corporate sector is expected to use Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds for the upkeep of the site.