

Answers

1) C

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission

The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) had been established by the Government of India under the provisions of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998.

CERC is the Central Commission for the purposes of the Electricity Act, 2003 which has repealed the ERC Act, 1998. The Commission consists of a Chairperson and four other Members including Chairperson, Central Electricity Authority who is the ex-officio Member of the Commission.

It also regulates the inter-State transmission of electricity and to determine tariff for such transmission of electricity, etc.

2) A

List of Tree City of the World

Arbor Day Foundation and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations have jointly released the list of 'Tree City of the World'. It is an international effort to recognise cities and towns committed to ensuring that their urban forests and trees are properly maintained, sustainably managed, and duly celebrated.

The 'Tree City of the World' program provides direction, assistance, and worldwide recognition for communities' dedication to its urban forest. Hyderabad has become the only city in India to be recognised as a 'Tree City of the World'.

3) D

SWAYAM seeks to bridge the digital divide for students who have hitherto remained untouched by the digital revolution and have not been able to join the mainstream of the knowledge economy. This is done through a platform that facilitates hosting of all the courses, taught in classrooms from Class 9 till post-graduation to be accessed by anyone, anywhere at any time.

SWAYAM PRABHA is a group of 34 DTH channels devoted to telecasting of high-quality educational programs on 24X7 basis using the GSAT-15 satellite.

DIKSHA serves as National Digital Infrastructure for Teachers. It enables, accelerates and implies solutions in realm of teacher education. It seeks to aid teachers to learn and train themselves

for which assessment resources will be available. It will help teachers to create training content, profile, in-class resources, assessment aids, news and announcement and connect with teacher community

4) A

National Translation Mission (NTM) is a Government of India scheme to establish translation as an industry in general and, to facilitate higher education by making knowledge texts accessible to students and academics in Indian languages in particular. The vision is to create a knowledge society by transcending language barriers. NTM aims to disseminate knowledge in all Indian languages listed in the VIII schedule of the Constitution through translation.

Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) is the nodal agency and the chief facilitator for NTM and the Mission operates from the CIIL premises in Mysore.

The idea to celebrate International Mother Language Day (Feb 21) was the initiative of Bangladesh. It was approved at the 1999 UNESCO General Conference and has been observed throughout the world since 2000. The theme of the Day this year, "Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in education and society"

5) A

National Urban Digital Mission aims to build the shared digital infrastructure that will strengthen the capacity of the urban ecosystem to solve complex problems at scale and speed. It is built as a public good and provides the ecosystem actors the foundational digital building blocks, ready-to-use platforms, standards, specifications and frameworks.

The National Urban Digital Mission (NUDM) has been launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs along with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. The NUDM will be anchored by the Centre for Digital Governance (CDG) at the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).

6) A

Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD)

It is the abnormal accumulation of fat in the liver in the absence of secondary causes of fatty liver, such as harmful alcohol use, viral hepatitis, or medications.

It is an independent predictor of future risk of cardiovascular diseases, type 2 diabetes and other metabolic syndromes.

The cardiovascular disease is the most common cause of death in NAFLD. Recently, the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has launched the Operational Guidelines for integration of NAFLD.

The Government of India has objectives to prevent and control NAFLD with the following

- Behaviour and lifestyle changes,
- Early diagnosis and management of NAFLD,
- Building of capacity at various levels of healthcare for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of NAFLD

7) A

Black Necked Cranes

Both the sexes in the black necked crane are almost of the same size but male is slightly bigger than female. The upper long neck, head, primary and secondary flight feathers and tail are completely black and body plumage is pale gray/whitish.

A conspicuous red crown adorns the head.

In 2020, a re-assessment of the crane's population led its status to change from Vulnerable to Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List. The bird is revered by the community of Monpas (major Buddhist ethnic group of Arunachal Pradesh) as an embodiment of the sixth Dalai Lama (Tsangyang Gyatso).

Monpas inhabit the West Kameng and Tawang districts, are essentially Buddhists who follow the Mahayana sect.

The high altitude wetlands of the Tibetan plateau, Sichuan (China), and eastern Ladakh (India) are the main breeding ground of the species, the birds spend winter at lower altitudes.

In Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh, it only comes during the winters. In Arunachal Pradesh, it can be seen in West Kameng district and Tawang district.

8) C

The focus of the Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0 will be the children and pregnant women who have missed their vaccine doses during the COVID-19 pandemic. They will be identified and vaccinated

during the two rounds. Beneficiaries from migration areas and hard to reach areas will be targeted as they may have missed their vaccine doses during COVID19.

Intensified Mission Indradhanush 3.0 (IMI 3.0) aimed to reach the unreached population with all the available vaccines under Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) and thereby accelerate the full immunization and complete immunization coverage of children and pregnant women.

As per the Guidelines released for IMI 3.0, the districts have been classified to reflect 313 low risk; 152 as medium risk; and 250 as high-risk districts. IMI 3.0 will have two rounds starting from February 22 and March 22, 2021 and will be conducted in pre-identified 250 districts/urban areas across 29 States/UTs in the country.

9) c

2015 Paris Agreement established a goal to limit average global temperature rise to well below 2° degrees C, and to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5° degrees C.

To meet this goal, every country is expected to prepare and communicate a nationally determined contribution (NDC) every five years. NDCs include targets, measures and policies and are the basis for national climate action plans.

Statement 2 is correct. Starting in 2023 and then every five years, governments will take stock of the implementation of the Agreement to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Agreement and its long-term goals.

The outcome of the global stock-take will inform the preparation of subsequent NDCs, in order to allow for increased ambition and climate action to achieve the purpose of the Paris Agreement and its long-term goals.

The United Kingdom is holding the Presidency of the UNSC for the month of February 2021 and it is organizing the United Nations Security Council Open Debate on “Addressing climate-related risks to international peace and security”.

10) A

Amidst growing concerns around lack of transparency, accountability and rights of users related to digital media and after elaborate consultation with the public and stakeholders, the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021 has been framed in exercise of powers under section 87 (2) of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and in supersession of the earlier Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines) Rules 2011.

The Rules seek to empower the users by mandating the intermediaries, including social media intermediaries, to establish a grievance redressal mechanism for receiving resolving complaints from the users or victims.

Intermediaries shall appoint a Grievance Officer to deal with such complaints and share the name and contact details of such officer. Grievance Officer shall acknowledge the complaint within twenty-four hours and resolve it within fifteen days from its receipt.

To encourage innovations and enable growth of new social media intermediaries without subjecting smaller platforms to significant compliance requirement, the Rules make a distinction between social media intermediaries and significant social media intermediaries.

11) A

The City Innovation Exchange (CiX) platform was launched recently by Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

The CiX will connect cities to innovators across the national ecosystem to design innovative solutions for their pressing challenges. The platform will ease the discovery, design & validation of solutions through a robust, transparent and user centric process that will reduce barriers for innovators and cities to discover fitting solutions.

No such provision has been made. The platform will bring together Citizen Organisations- Academia- Businesses- Government to co-create for the future of Urban India in a transparent and sustainable manner.

12) A

13) A

It is described as a whirling cone of low pressure over the poles that is strongest in the winter months due to the increased temperature contrast between the polar regions and the mid-latitudes, such as the US and Europe.

The polar vortex spins in the stratosphere. Usually, when the vortex is strongest, cold air is less-likely to plunge deep into North America or Europe.

But occasionally, the polar vortex is disrupted and weakens, due to wave energy propagating upward from the lower atmosphere. When this happens, the stratosphere warms sharply in an event known as sudden stratospheric warming, in just a few days, miles above the Earth's surface.

The warming weakens the polar vortex, shifting its location somewhat south of the pole or, in some instances, 'splitting' the vortex up into 'sister vortices'.

A warmer Arctic, in turn, favours more severe winter weather in the Northern Hemisphere mid-latitudes including the eastern US. The deep freeze can be caused by the weakening polar vortex, a swirling mass of cold air over a large low-pressure area around the North and South Poles.

14) B

Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by a bacterium called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. The bacteria usually attack the lungs, but TB bacteria can attack any part of the body such as the kidney, spine, and brain.

TB bacteria are spread through the air from one person to another. The TB bacteria are put into the air when a person with TB disease of the lungs or throat coughs, speaks, or sings. People nearby may breathe in these bacteria and become infected.

15) D

16) B

The International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) is a non-governmental International Organization which provides a forum for the exchange of knowledge and experience in dam engineering. The Organization leads the profession in ensuring that dams are built safely, efficiently, economically, and without detrimental effects on the environment.

ICOLD was founded in 1928 and has National Committees from more than 100 countries with approximately 10 000 individual members.

The Committee for International Commission on Large Dams, (INCOLD) is the Indian Committee interacting with ICOLD Central Office in Paris and helps in dissemination, in India, of

information about new developments in dam engineering, besides projecting India's expertise at international level through participation in various events of ICOLD.

International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) in collaboration with Central Water Commission (CWC), Dam Rehabilitation Improvement Project (DRIP) and National Hydrology Project (NHP) is organising Symposium on "Sustainable Development of Dams and River Basins" under the aegis of ICOLD at New Delhi.

17) B

The Digital Media Ethics Code Relating to Digital Media and OTT Platforms are to be administered by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB).

MIB shall formulate an oversight mechanism. It shall publish a charter for self-regulating bodies, including Codes of Practices. It shall establish an Inter-Departmental Committee for hearing grievances.

Publishers of news on digital media would be required to observe Norms of Journalistic Conduct of the Press Council of India and the Program Code under the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act thereby providing a level playing field between the offline (Print, TV) and digital media.

18) A

The NITI Aayog comprises of the Prime Minister of India as the Chairperson; Governing Council comprising the Chief Ministers of all the States and Lt. Governors of Union Territories. Further, Maximum of 4 members of the Union Council of Ministers nominated by the Prime Minister as ex-officio members of the NITI Aayog.

The current composition of the NITI Aayog includes the following as Ex-officio Members:

–Shri Raj Nath Singh, Minister of Defence

–Shri Amit Shah, Minister of Home Affairs

–Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs

–Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Minister of Rural Development; Minister of Panchayati Raj.

The sixth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog was held recently.

19) A

20) D

Thermoelectricity is formed when heat is converted into energy. What makes a material have the ability to create thermal electricity is both high electrical conductivity and low thermal conductivity.

Electrons flow back and forth on what is called a temperature gradient. Since we generally know that metal is a good energy conductor, electrons that are responsible for creating the thermoelectric energy can flow easily through metal.

Furthermore, a typical thermoelectric material should have low thermal conductivity and thus must maintain a temperature gradient.

Scientists from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru, an autonomous institution of the Department of Science & Technology (DST) have identified a lead-free material called Cadmium (Cd) doped Silver Antimony Telluride (AgSbTe_2) which can efficiently allow recovery of electricity from 'waste heat'.

