

Answers

1) A

The “Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain” Campaign will be undertaken across the country, in both rural and urban areas, with the theme “catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls”.

It will be implemented from 22nd March 2021 to 30th November, 2021 – the pre-monsoon and monsoon period in the country.

It will be launched as a Jan Andolan to take water conservation at grass-root level through people’s participation. It is intended to nudge all stakeholders to create rainwater harvesting structures suitable to the climatic conditions and subsoil strata, to ensure proper storage of rainwater.

After the event, Gram Sabhas will be held in all Gram Panchayats of each district (except in the poll bound states) to discuss issues related to water and water conservation. Gram Sabhas will also take ‘Jal Shapath’ for water conservation

2) A

Study in India is a program of the Govt of India that aims to attract international students to higher education institutions in India.

It caters to NIRF Top 100 institutes in any category except medical institutes, along with a NAAC accreditation of 3.26 or above and those which have been empaneled by UGC, be it government or private. All institutes fulfilling these criteria, partner with Study in India, including Institutes of Eminence and Institutes of National Importance.

Select 117 institutions are partners under the program that was launched in 2018. Admissions are merit based and done through a common portal.

In a review meeting of the Education Ministry’s Study in India Program with partner institutions yesterday, Secretary Higher Education said that the criteria for institutions partnering under the program will soon be revised so that more institutions that have the necessary infrastructure and academic quality can join the program

3) C

In order to accelerate initiatives aimed at addressing the challenges related to water resources, the General Assembly proclaimed the 2018-2028 as the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development”.

World Water Day, held on 22 March every year since 1993, focuses on the importance of freshwater. The idea for this international day goes back to 1992, the year in which the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro took place. That same year, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution by which 22 March of each year was declared World Day for Water, to be observed starting in 1993. The theme of World Water Day 2021 is valuing water.

4) C

Article 124 of the Constitution states that there shall be a Supreme Court of India consisting of a Chief Justice of India and, until Parliament by law prescribes a larger number, of not more than seven other Judges. Parliament last year passed the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill to increase the number of judges in Supreme Court number from 30 to 33.

The Judges remain in office until they reach the retirement age — 65 for Supreme Court judges and 62 for high court judges.

5) A

The Directorate of Film Festivals (DFF) was set up under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in 1973 with the objective of promotion of India films and cultural exchange. DFF organizes and implements the various events and program to promote Indian cinema including the National Film Awards and the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

The 67th National Film Awards winners for the year 2019 have been announced recently. Sikkim has bagged the award for being Most Film Friendly State.

6) B

The Indus Waters Treaty was signed between India and Pakistan in September 1960 in Karachi by the then Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistan President Ayub Khan.

Under the treaty signed between India and Pakistan in 1960, all the waters of the three eastern rivers- Sutlej, Ravi and Beas, averaging around 33 million acre-feet (MAF), were allocated to India for exclusive use.

The waters of the western rivers – Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab – averaging to around 135 MAF, were allocated to Pakistan except for ‘specified domestic, non-consumptive and agricultural use permitted to India’.

7) B

The Model Code of Conduct states that the Ministers shall not combine their official visit with electioneering work and shall not also make use of official machinery or personnel during the electioneering work. No transport including official air-crafts, vehicles etc. shall be used for furtherance of the interest of any party or a candidate.

There shall be a total ban on the transfer and posting of all officers/officials directly or indirectly connected with the conduct of the election. If any transfer or posting of an officer is considered necessary, prior approval of the Commission shall be obtained.

8) B

According to the ‘Report of Government of India’s Technical Group on Population Projection for India and States’ by the year 2036, population of senior citizens would be 22.74 crore (14.9%).

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment aims to launch a Poshan Abhiyan for the Elderly, to provide nutrition support to the indigent elders, who are not staying in the Old Age Homes and are victims of severe malnutrition, by focusing on procuring locally available healthy food material and serving hot-cooked mid-day meals.

The Gram Panchayats and Urban Municipalities are the implementing agencies of the Scheme. The funding for the Scheme is from the Senior Citizens Welfare Fund

9) A

The Electoral Bonds under this Scheme may be purchased by a Person, who is a Citizen of India or Incorporated or Established in India. The definition of “Person” includes- an Individual; a Hindu Undivided Family; a Company; an Association of Persons or a Body of Individuals, whether incorporated or not.

The extant instructions issued by the Reserve Bank of India regarding Know Your Customer norms of a Bank's customer are applicable for all Applicants of the Electoral Bonds.

10) C

DigitalSky is a Ministry of Civil Aviation initiative, a highly secure and scalable platform which supports technology framework such as NPNT (No permission no take-off) designed for enabling flights permission digitally and managing Unmanned Aircraft operations and traffic efficiently.

Every UAS / RPAS sold in India under the regulations published by DGCA for UAS / RPAS, must have a secure mechanism built on to the equipment to self-authenticate its permission to take-off. It is made possible through a digitally signed document called a Permission Artefact (machine-readable) which when read by the equipment establishes its authenticity and permission to fly.

This technology framework is referred to as NPNT (No Permission No Take-off). NPNT or 'No Permission – No Take-off' is a software program that enables every RPA (except Nano) to obtain a valid permission through DigitalSky platform before operating in India.

11) B

Gandhi Peace Prize Awards are for Social, Economic and Political transformation through Non-violence was instituted in the year 1995. The Award comprises an amount of Rs. One Crore and a Citation. The Award may be divided between two persons / institutions who are considered by the Jury to be equally deserving of recognition in a given year.

The Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2020 is being conferred on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman; while for the year 2019 it is being conferred on late Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said of Oman in recognition of his vision to strengthen relations with India, and his efforts to promote peace and non-violence in the Gulf region.

12) D

The United Nations World Water Development Report (WWDR) is UN-Water's flagship report on water and sanitation issues, focusing on a different theme each year. Launched in conjunction with World Water Day, the report is published by UNESCO, on behalf of UN-Water and its production is coordinated by the UNESCO World Water Assessment Program

The 2021 edition of the United Nations World Water Development Report (UN WWDR 2021) entitled 'Valuing Water' has been released recently.

13) D

14) C

The NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR) Mission will measure Earth's changing ecosystems, dynamic surfaces, and ice masses providing information about biomass, natural hazards, sea level rise, and groundwater, and will support a host of other applications.

The satellite will be launched in 2022 from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, India, into a near-polar orbit. NISAR will observe Earth's land and ice-covered surfaces globally with 12-day regularity on ascending and descending passes, sampling Earth on average every 6 days for a baseline 3-year mission.

15) C

Liquefied natural gas (LNG) is natural gas that has been cooled to a liquid state, at about -260° Fahrenheit, for shipping and storage. The volume of natural gas in its liquid state is about 600 times smaller than its volume in its gaseous state. This process makes it possible to transport natural gas to places pipelines do not reach.

When LNG reaches its destination, it is turned back into a gas at re gasification plants. It is then piped to homes, businesses and industries where it is burnt for heat or to generate electricity.

To promote the usage and distribution of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), the Government has put LNG imports under Open General Licensing (OGL) category and establishment of LNG infrastructure, including LNG terminals is also under 100% FDI (automatic route).

The government is also promoting usage of natural gas in gaseous/liquid (LNG) through expansion of gas infrastructure including City Gas Distribution, gas grid network and development/retro fitment of LNG based vehicles etc.

16) A

Article 224 (1) of the Constitution provides that if by reason of any temporary increase in the business of a High Court or by reason of arrears of work therein, it appears to the President that the number of the Judges of that Court should be for the time being increased, the President may appoint duly qualified persons to be additional Judges of the Court for such period not exceeding two years as he may specify.

Article 224A of the Constitution provides for appointment of retired Judges to sit and act as a Judge of the High Court for that State, and every such person so requested shall, while so sitting and acting, be entitled to such allowances as the President may by order determine and have all the jurisdiction, powers and privileges of, but shall not otherwise be deemed to be, a Judge of that High Court.

17) A

Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) works by transmitting millions of polarized light particles (photons) over a fiber optic cable from one entity to another. Each photon has a random quantum state, and collectively all the photons create a bit stream of ones and zeros.

The Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) technology underpins Quantum Communication technology that ensures unconditional data security by virtue of the principles of quantum mechanics, which is not possible with the conventional encryption systems. The conventional cryptosystems used for data-encryption rely on the complexity of mathematical algorithms, whereas the security offered by quantum communication is based on the laws of Physics.

For the first time in the country, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully demonstrated free-space Quantum Communication over a distance of 300 m.

18) A

The Suez Canal crosses the Suez isthmus in Egypt. It is about 193km (120 miles) long and incorporates three natural lakes. The Isthmus of Suez is the only land bridge between the African and Asian continents which used to form a single continental mass.

The canal connects the Mediterranean and Red Seas and divides Egypt from the Sinai Peninsula.

It was opened for navigation in 1869. Egypt nationalized the canal in July 1956. The Canal was closed few times; the last time was the most serious one when Egypt closed down the Suez Canal which trapped fifteen international ships in the canal for more or less eight years. The Canal was then reopened for navigation in June 1975.

19) B

Teesta river originates as Chhombo Chhu from a glacial lake Khangchung Chho at an elevation of 5,280 m in the northeastern corner of the Sikkim. The glacial lake lies at the snout of the Teesta Khangse glacier descending from Pauhunri peak (7,056 m) in north western direction.

Major Left bank tributaries: Lachung Chhu, Chakung Chhu, Dik Chhu, Rani Khola, Rangpo Chhu.
Major Right bank tributaries: Zemu Chhu, Rangyong Chhu, Rangit River.

Teesta river ultimately drains into Brahmaputra at Teestamukh Ghat in Kamarjani-Bahadurabad in Rangpur district of Bangladesh. Teesta and most of its tributaries are flashy mountain rivers and carry boulders and considerable quantity of sediment.

The flow of the river is highly variable and the reduction in its flow during lean season causes friction between India and Bangladesh. Bangladesh, being the lower riparian, is dependent on upper riparian India for keeping minimum flows in the Teesta river.

20) c

PovcalNet was developed by staff of the World Bank's Development Research Group to allow users to replicate the calculations made by the World Bank's researchers.

PovcalNet also allows you to calculate the poverty measures under different assumptions and to assemble the estimates using alternative economy groupings or for any set of individual economies of the user's choosing.

