

Answers

1) A

National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI)

- It was established by an order of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in 2001.
- As India's apex advisory body on immunization, the NTAGI provides guidance and advice to the MoHFW on provision of vaccination and immunization services for the effective control of vaccine preventable diseases in the country.
- It is chaired by Secretary Health, MoHFW and Co-chaired by Secretary Department of Biotechnology and Secretary Department of Health Research.
- The NTAGI Secretariat was established in 2013, under MoHFW to provide techno-managerial support to NTAGI and STSC and its working groups.
- The NTAGI secretariat is tasked with undertaking technical review of scientific evidence on matters related to immunization policy and programs.

2) D

Nine Dash Line

- It is a U-shaped line that owes its origin back to 1947, demarcated by Chinese geographer Yang Huai ren.
- It is a discontinuous line meaning that other countries can pass through it freely.
- It includes the disputed Paracel and Spratly islands. It represents China's historical claim over 90% of the regions in South China Sea.
- China included it in its map in 2009 when it submitted the document in UN during a dispute with Vietnam.



3) D

Indian researchers have discovered three super massive black holes from three galaxies merging together to form a triple active galactic nucleus, a compact region at the center of a newly discovered galaxy that has a much-higher-than-normal luminosity.

This rare occurrence in our nearby Universe indicates that small merging groups are ideal laboratories to detect multiple accreting super massive black holes and increases the possibility of detecting such rare occurrences.

Super massive Black Holes

- They are difficult to detect because they do not emit any light.
- But they can reveal their presence by interacting with their surroundings.
- When the dust and gas from the surroundings fall onto a super massive black hole, some of the mass is swallowed by the black hole, but some of it is converted into energy and emitted as electromagnetic radiation that makes the black hole appear very luminous.
- They are called active galactic nuclei (AGN) and release huge amounts of ionized particles and energy into the galaxy and its environment.
- Both of these ultimately contribute to the growth of the medium around the galaxy and ultimately the evolution of the galaxy itself.
- Many Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN, super massive black hole at the centre of a galaxy) pairs have been detected in the past, but triple AGN are extremely rare.

4) C

5) A

Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)

- Union Cabinet has recently approved the highest ever FRP for sugarcane for the next marketing year starting October 2021.
- With the amendment of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 in 2009, the concept of Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane was replaced with the 'Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)' of sugarcane for 2009-10.
- It is decided on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) in consultation with the State Governments and after taking feedback from associations of sugar industry.

- Under the FRP system, the farmers are not required to wait till the end of the season or for any announcement of the profits by sugar mills or the Government.
- The FRP is linked to a basic recovery rate of sugar, with a premium payable to farmers for higher recoveries of sugar from sugarcane.
- This is to ensure that higher sugar recoveries are adequately rewarded and to account for variations amongst sugar mills.

6) B

Manthan 2021

- It is an online hackathon organised by The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), in coordination with the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).
- It is for identification of innovative concepts and technology solutions to address the challenges faced by intelligence agencies.
- It will be held in 2 phases in which the participants will have to develop digital solutions under six themes using new technologies like artificial intelligence, deep learning, augmented reality and machine learning.

7) B

SAMRIDH Program

- Start-up Accelerators of MeitY for product Innovation, Development and growth (SAMRIDH) program was launched by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).
- SAMRIDH will create a conducive platform to growing Indian Software Product start-ups that are ready for acceleration stage to enhance their products and secure investments for scaling their business.
- It will provide them with funding support, mentorship and other supports that are required by startups at this stage.
- The program is being implemented by MeitY Start-up Hub (MSH).
- The government has invited existing startup accelerators to partner with and will provide funding of up to Rs.40 lakh to them.
- Only accelerators that have been in the incubation business for at least 3 years and supported more than 50 startups, with at least 10 having a non-public business will be able to apply for the scheme.

- They must also have operations in India and the necessary space and infrastructure to be eligible.

8) C

9) A

- NITI Aayog and World Resources Institute (WRI), India, jointly launched the 'Forum for De-carbonizing Transport' in India as part of the NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) Project.
- The project aims at bringing down the peak level of GHG emissions in transport sector in Asia in line with a well below 2-degree pathway, resulting in problems like congestion and air pollution.
- India has a massive and diverse transport sector, which is also the third most CO2 emitting sector.
- Data from IEA, 2020; Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change, 2018 suggests that within the transport sector, road transport contributes to more than 90% of the total CO2 emissions.

10) C

NDC Transport Initiative for Asia (TIA 2020-2023)

- The NDC Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) aims to facilitate a paradigm shift to zero-emission transport across Asia.
- It is a joint program of seven organisations that will engage China, India, and Vietnam in promoting a comprehensive approach to de-carbonizing transport in their respective countries.
- The project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI).
- The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) support the initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag.
- Beyond the three countries, on the regional and global level, the program will maximize impact by reaching out to additional countries in Southeast Asia.

11) C

The government has recently launched Yuktdhara portal.

Yuktdhara

- It is a geospatial planning portal.
- Yukt is derived from Yojanam, the planning and Dhara indicates the flow.

- It will facilitate planning of new MGNREGA assets using Remote Sensing and GIS based information.
- The portal will serve as a repository of geo-tags created under various national rural development programs i.e. MGNREGA, Integrated Watershed Management Program, Per Drop More Crop program and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, along with field photographs

Highlights of the portal

- This portal integrates wide variety of thematic layers, multi-temporal high resolution earth observation data with analysis tools.
- Planners will analyse previous assets under various schemes and facilitates identification of new works using online tools.
- Plans prepared will be evaluated by appropriate authorities under State Departments.
- Thus, Yuktdhara based plans will be prepared by grass-root functionary and verified by appropriate authorities for relevance and resource allocation.
- This would ensure quality of plan and enable a long term monitoring of the assets created over the years.

12) D

India's First Smog Tower

- It was recently inaugurated in Delhi to purify air in a 1-km radius around the structure.
- The structure is 24 m high with 40 fans in its base which can discharge up to 1,000 cubic meters per second of air from the tower.
- The tower uses a 'downdraft air cleaning system' in which the polluted air is sucked in at a height of 24 m, and filtered air is released at the bottom of the tower, at a height of about 10 m from the ground.
- Inside the tower in two layers are 5,000 filters.
- The 'macro' layer in the filter traps particles of 10 microns and larger, while the 'micro' layer filters smaller particles of around 0.3 microns.
- In China, the updraft system is deployed in which air is sucked in from near the ground and filtered air is released at the top by propelling upwards by heating and convection.

13) C

Children's Climate Risk Index

- It is released by UNICEF for the first time.
- India is among 33 “extremely high risk” countries where children are most at risk of climate change affecting their health and education.
- It ranks India at a vulnerable 26th rank and is among 4 South Asian Nations such as Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.
- In India, flooding and air pollution is considered as the repeated environmental shocks leading to socio-economic adverse consequences for women and children.
- India's neighbours Nepal is ranked 51st and Sri Lanka 61st. Bhutan is ranked 111th, with children at relatively lower risk.

14) D

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has recently launched the Ubharte Sitaare Fund

Ubharte Sitaare Fund

- The fund will aid the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) which could be future champions with good export potential.
- The fund has been set up by EXIM Bank and SIDBI.
- The fund is expected to identify Indian enterprises with potential advantages by way of technology, products or processes along with export potential, but which are currently underperforming or unable to tap their latent potential to grow.
- The fund is a mix of structured support, both financial and advisory services through investments in equity or equity like instruments, debt (funded and non-funded) and technical assistance (advisory services, grants and soft loans) to the Indian companies.
- The fund will go a long way in making India a major exporting hub.

15) D

Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India: It was published by the Space Applications Centre under ISRO in June 2021.

- Report Highlights – In 2018-19, 29.7% of the country's Total Geographical area (97.85 million hectares) became degraded.
- Land degradation within dry land regions (arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid regions) is termed as 'desertification'.
- Most of the degraded area is contributed by Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Ladakh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana.