

Answers

1) C

Ministry of AYUSH has recently released a booklet Traditional Food Recipes from Ayush Systems of Medicine. Patrode is one among the 26 traditional recipes selected by the Ministry while preparing the booklet.

Patrode

- It is a delicacy made with colocasia leaves that is popular in Malnad, coastal Karnataka and some other parts of the country.
- In addition to Kerala where Patrode is called 'chembila appam', the dish is also prepared in parts of Maharashtra, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and the North East region.
- Patrode is widely cooked in coastal and Malnad belts during the rainy season.
- A variant of colocasia leaves, which grows on tree trunks during the monsoon, is in huge demand for making the dish.
- Iron-rich colocasia leaves help in improving the hemoglobin level.
- The leaves contain phenols, tannins, flavonoids, glycosides and sterols, which help in reducing chronic inflammation such as rheumatoid arthritis.
- The leaves have significant amounts of vitamin C and beta carotene.
- Some among other traditional recipes selected by the Ministry are peya (medicated rice gruel), lajardraka (puffed paddy ginger granules), amalaki panaka (Indian gooseberry drink), amla squash, takra (buttermilk), khalam' (medicated buttermilk), yusha (medicated soup), rasala (medicated curd), ragi and banana smoothie, and niger seeds laddu.

2) C

Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman has recently announced a slew of measures to provide relief to diverse sectors affected by the 2nd wave of COVID-19 pandemic. As part of the measures announced, it has been decided to provide additional corpus to NEIA over 5 years.

This will enable it to underwrite additional Rs. 33,000 crore of project exports.

National Export Insurance Account (NEIA)

- It aims to facilitate medium and long-term exports, which are commercially viable, considering the limitations of the ECGC Limited in providing adequate cover on its own and non-availability of reinsurance cover to such exporters.
- NEIA aims to ensure the availability of credit risk cover for projects and other high-value exports, which are desirable from the point of view of national interest, but which ECGC is unable to underwrite at terms which will not affect the competitiveness of the exports.
- It provides covers to buyer's credit, given by EXIM Bank, to less credit-worthy borrowers and supporting project exporters.
- Government of India has also set up a High-Powered Committee called the Committee of Directions (COD) under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry to ensure proper and effective utilisation of NEIA scheme.
- The Ministry of Commerce & Industry is the competent authority to make suitable changes in the composition of the committee as and when considered necessary.

NEIA Trust

- A Trust by the name of National Export Insurance Account Trust has been set up for maintaining and operating NEIA and will be subject to the directions that would be issued by the Govt. of India from time- to- time.
- The Trust primarily deals with the funds made available for NEIA and the investments keeping in view the funds requirement for meeting the immediate obligations.
- The interest derived from the investments, premium received and the recoveries in respect of claims paid out of NEIA is credited to the NEIA account.
- The Trust submits quarterly reports to COD and the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MOCI).

3) C

Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA)

- It is a 1998 law passed in the US, It is among the world's first laws recognising intellectual property on the internet.
- The treaties require member nations to provide in their respective jurisdictions, protection to intellectual property that may have been created by citizens of different nations who are also co-signatories to the treaty.
- The protection, accorded by each member state, must not be any less in any way than the one being given to a domestic copyright holder.

- It obligates that signatories to the treaty ensure ways to prevent circumvention of the technical measures used to protect copyrighted work.

4) A

Agni Prime Missile

It is a new generation advanced variant of the Agni class of missiles, designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

- It is a double stage missile which is lighter and much sleeker than its predecessor Agni-1.
- The ballistic missile weighs 50% less than Agni 3 and has new guidance and a new generation of propulsion.
- It can be launched from rail and road and stored for a longer period and transported all across the country as per operational requirements.

5) C

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is providing Tele-Counseling to children through SAMVEDNA. Sensitizing Action on Mental Health Vulnerability through Emotional Development and Necessary Acceptance (SAMVEDNA)

It is a Toll-Free Helpline launched to provide psycho-social mental support for Children affected during COVID 19 Pandemic. SAMVEDNA tele counselling service is for psychological support to children to address their stress, anxiety, fear and other issues during the Pandemic.

Tele counseling is provided to the children under three categories:

- Children who are in Quarantine/isolation/COVID Care centers.
- Children who have COVID positive parents or family members and near ones.
- Children who have lost their parents due to Covid-19 Pandemic.

This Toll-free Tele-Counseling cater to the children from all over India in various regional languages. National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

It is a statutory body established through Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005, an Act of Parliament (December 2005). It works under the aegis of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt. of India.

6) C

- Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) partners with Intel India to launch first-of-its-kind initiative Fund for Industrial Research Engagement (FIRE) to advance deep tech-based research in India.
- Through this Indian research community will soon be able to pursue industry-relevant research opportunities in the areas of deep technologies that are novel, transformative, and can have a ground-breaking impact on a national scale.
- It will increase research opportunities in the space of Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning (ML), platform systems, circuits & architecture, Internet of Things (IoT), materials & devices, security, and so on from edge to cloud.

Fund for Industrial Research Engagement (FIRE)

- The FIRE program was launched under the Industry Relevant R&D (IRRD) Scheme of SERB.
- It aims to utilize the expertise available in academic institutions and national laboratories to solve industry-specific problems for the larger benefit of society.
- The scheme supports ideas that address a well-defined problem of industrial relevance, defined jointly with concerned industries, in a project mode through an open call at the national level by SERB.

7) A

Coral Triangle (CT)

The Coral Triangle (CT) is a roughly triangular area in the tropical waters around Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste.

The Coral Triangle is located between the Pacific and Indian oceans. The World Wide Fund for Nature considers the region a top priority for marine conservation, and is addressing ecological threats to the region through its Coral Triangle Program.

8) C

- Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises Shri Prakash Javadekar has recently inaugurated NATRAX- the High Speed Track (HST) in Indore.
- It is the Asia's longest and world's fifth longest High Speed Track for automobiles.
- NATRAX, developed in an area of 1000 acres of land, is a one stop solution for all sorts of high speed performance tests for widest categories of vehicles from 2 wheelers to heavy tractor trailers.

- At present, foreign OEMs go to their respective high speed track abroad for high speed test requirements.

9) A

ZyCov-D Vaccine

- ZyCov-D is a “plasmid DNA” vaccine — or a vaccine that uses a genetically engineered, non-replicating version of a type of DNA molecule known as a ‘plasmid’.
- The plasmids in this case are coded with the instructions to make the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes Covid-19.
- It is developed by Zydus Cadila with the support of the central government’s Department of Biotechnology and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- If approved by the regulator, ZyCov-D will be the world’s first DNA vaccine against infection with SARS-CoV-2.

10) D

The 7th edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) was held recently. It is a biennial event hosted by the French Navy at La Reunion.

Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)

- It was conceived by the Indian Navy in 2008.
- It seeks to enhance maritime cooperation among Navies of the littoral states of the IOR by providing an open and inclusive forum for discussion of regionally relevant maritime issues that would lead to common understanding on the way ahead.
- There are 24 members and 8 observers in IONS.
- Australia, United Kingdom, India, Saudi Arabia Timor Leste, UAE are members of the forum.
- China, Germany, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, Netherland, Russian and Spain are observer Countries of IONS forum.
- The chairmanship of IONS has been held by India (2008-10), UAE (2010-12), South Africa (2012-14), Australia (2014-16), Bangladesh (2016-18) and Islamic Republic of Iran (2018-21).
- France has assumed the Chairmanship on 29 Jun 21 for a two-year tenure.
- IONS Conclave of Chiefs (CoC) is the decision-making body at the level of Chiefs of Navies, which meets biennially.
- 6th IONS and CoC was conducted by Iran Navy in April 2018 at Tehran.

- Owing to the pandemic, the CoC 2021, will be hosted by French Navy later this year.

11) C

Gravitational waves

- Gravitational waves were first predicted in 1916 by Albert Einstein on the basis of his Theory of General Relativity.
- Strongest sources of gravitational waves are among enigmatic objects in our universe like black holes, supernova, neutron stars and Big Bang.
- Recently researchers has discovery of a new source of gravitational waves that is collisions between Neutron Star and Black Hole.

12) B

13) A

14) A

Agri Stack Program

- Recently, the Ministry of Agriculture has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Microsoft to run a pilot program for 100 villages in 6 states.
- The MoU requires Microsoft to create a 'Unified Farmer Service Interface' through its cloud computing services.
- This comprises a major part of the ministry's plan of creating 'AgriStack' (a collection of technology-based interventions in agriculture), on which everything else will be built.
- It is a collection of technologies and digital databases that focuses on farmers and the agricultural sector.

15) C

The Second Gender Samvaad was recently organised by the Ministry of Rural Development. This edition of the Gender Samvaad, held virtually, focused on the best practices of various states and from women's collectives in responding to the COVID-19 crisis.

Gender Samvaad Initiative

- It is a joint attempt between DAY-NRLM and the Initiative for What Works to Advance Women and Girls in the Economy (IWWAGE).

- It aims to create a common platform to share experiences emerging from this effort and to generate greater awareness on gender related interventions under DAY-NRLM across the country.

16) B

SMASH 2000 plus Systems

- It is manufactured by Israeli based company Sharp Shooter, they are anti-drone systems can be retrofitted onto an AK-47 or any other rifle of a similar make.
- The drone detection can be RF-based or via conventional radars tuned to detect drones or via electro-optic payloads that use thermal imaging.
- The DRDO has designated Bharat Electronics as the lead agency for development and production of much needed anti-drone system for the armed forces.

17) B

LEAF Coalition

- It is an ambitious new public-private initiative designed to accelerate climate action by providing results-based finance to countries committed to protecting their tropical forests.
- It is an initiative with initial participation from the governments of Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- It is a step towards concretising the aims and objectives of the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) mechanism.

18) B

- There is a wealth of information carefully curated by various departments of the government, which can be very relevant to the farmers but on different platforms and not in a manner comprehensible to them.
- To address this challenge, Atmanirbhar Krishi App was recently launched by the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India (GoI).

Atmanirbhar Krishi App

- The app provides real time useful and appropriate information to farmers digitally.
- It is a component under the Kisan Mitr Initiative of Office of Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India (GoI).

- The app combines data from various government ministries/departments like Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC), and others and making it available to the farmers through the Atmanirbhar Krishi app.
- The Atmanirbhar Krishi app was created to equip farmers with actionable agricultural insights and early weather alerts.
- Data related to soil type, soil health, moisture, weather, and water table were aggregated and analysed to generate personalized insights related to crop selection, fertilizers requirements, and water needs for each farmer at the farm-holding level.

KisanMitr (Friends of the Farmers project)

- It is an initiative of the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA), Government of India.
- This project aims to make Indian farmers more self-reliant by giving them insights and recommendations based on information from various data sources from different departments of the Government.
- KisanMitr was developed by Indian Centre for Social Transformation (ICSST), a Bengaluru-based Public Charitable Trust.

19) C

Heat Dome

The causes of heat dome can be understood by considering Pacific Ocean to a large swimming pool in which the heater is turned on. The portions of the pool close to the heating jets will warm up faster once the heater is on and therefore, the temperature in that area will be higher.

In the same way, the western Pacific Ocean's temperatures have increased in the past few decades and are relatively more than the temperature in the eastern Pacific. The strong change in ocean temperature from the west to the east is what a team of scientists believe is the reason for the heat dome.

20) B

Global Cyber security Index (GCI) 2020

It is a composite index produced, analysed and published by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). It is a trusted reference that measures the commitment of countries to cyber security at a global level. The ranking is based on five pillars i.e. legal

measures, technical measures, capacity building measures, cooperation and organisational measures. The US was ranked on the first spot, indicating highest commitment to cyber security.

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