

Answers

1) C

Mahinder Giri, range officer of Rajaji Tiger Reserve has recently won the prestigious International Ranger Award for his contribution towards conservation. He is the only ranger from Asia to win the award.

International Ranger Award

The award aims to highlight and felicitate the extraordinary work that rangers do in protected and conserved areas worldwide.

The award was created in 2020 by IUCN and World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) in collaboration with International Ranger Federation, Global Wildlife Conservation, and Conservation Allies.

This can include purchasing essential supplies or equipment, providing training, providing insurance, supporting the family of a deceased ranger, or other ranger welfare activities.

2) A

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu announced phase 2 of purple revolution under Aroma Mission, after the success of the phase 1 in Doda, Jammu.

Under the purple revolution, the farmers in Doda district had their incomes quadrupled after shifting from maize to lavender cultivation.

Aroma Mission

In 2016, the Centre launched Aroma Mission to boost cultivation of plants for essential oils which have aromatic medicinal properties.

The mission supports domestic aromatic crop based agro economy to move from imported aromatic oils to homegrown varieties. Nodal laboratory - CSIR-Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CSIR-CIMAP), Lucknow.

Objectives of the mission

- Bring about 5500 ha of additional area under captive cultivation of aromatic cash crops particularly targeting rain-fed /degraded land across the country
- Provide technical and infrastructural support for distillation and values-addition to farmers/growers all over the country
- Enabling effective buy-back mechanisms to assure remunerative prices to the farmers/growers
- Value-addition to essential oils and aroma ingredients for their integration in global trade and economy

3) C

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has recently said that India is going to set up a new Development Financial Institution (DFI) with initial paid-up capital of around 3 billion Dollars with a lending target of 69 billion Dollars in next three years.

Development Financial Institutions (DFIs)

The vehicle for extending development finance is called development financial institution (DFI) or development bank.

A DFI is defined as "an institution promoted or assisted by Government mainly to provide development finance to one or more sectors or sub-sectors of the economy.

The institution distinguishes itself by a judicious balance as between commercial norms of operation, as adopted by any private financial institution, and developmental obligations.

It emphasizes the project approach - meaning the viability of the project to be financed – against the collateral approach.

DFIs in India

There is no specific use of the term 'DFI' in either the RBI Act, 1934 or the Companies Act, 1956 or various statutes establishing DFIs. While the RBI Act defines the term 'Financial Institution' (FI), the Companies Act has categorised certain institutions as Public Financial Institutions (PFIs).

While the various FIs including PFIs vary from each other in terms of their business specifications, some of them perform the role of DFIs.

4) B

The traditional vaccines consist of either killed or weakened forms of a virus or bacterium. These provoke an immune response that allows the body to fight off the actual pathogen later on.

RNA vaccines deliver genetic information that allows the body's own cells to produce a viral protein. Synthetic mRNA that encodes a viral protein can borrow this machinery to produce many copies of the protein. These proteins stimulate the immune system to mount a response, without posing any risk of infection.

COVID-19 mRNA vaccines give instructions for cells to make spike protein, that is found on the surface of the virus that causes COVID-19.

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and Bharat Biotech International are looking at bringing the messenger RNA platform to India after seeing its successful use in quick development of covid-19 vaccines by US-based Pfizer and Moderna.

5) A

Article 128 talks about “attendance of a retired judge” as the judge of the Supreme Court.

It states that the Chief Justice of India at any time, with the previous consent of the President, may request any person who has held the office of a judge of the Supreme Court or the high court to sit and act as a judge of the Supreme Court.

Under Article 224A, the retired high court judges can be appointed as ad-hoc judges to HCs.

The President can appoint duly qualified persons as additional judges of a high court for a temporary period not exceeding two years when:

- There is a temporary increase in the business of the high court; or
- There are arrears of work in the high court.
- The President can also appoint a duly qualified person as an acting judge of a high court when a judge of that high court (other than the chief justice) is:
 - Unable to perform the duties of his office due to absence or any other reason; or
 - Appointed to act temporarily as chief justice of that high court
 - An acting judge holds office until the permanent judge resumes his office.
- The Constitution provides that both the additional or acting judge cannot hold office after attaining the age of 62 years.
- Recently, the Supreme Court has suggested that appointing ad-hoc judges in high courts would overcome the vacancy crisis in the judiciary and reduce the number of pending cases.

6) C

TRIFED under Ministry of Tribal Affairs has recently entered a Memorandum of Understanding with the Administration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu for the implementation of the MSP for MFP Scheme and the Van Dhan Yojana.

MSP for MFP Scheme

- It is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- It aims to provide remunerative and fair prices to tribal gatherers of forest produces.
- The fair prices provided is almost three times higher than what is available to them otherwise and trebles their overall income.
- Over the last year, it has succeeded in injecting 3000 crores in the tribal economy and has emerged as a beacon of change for the tribals.

7) C

The National Dairy Development Board — initially registered as a society under the Societies Act 1860 — was merged with the erstwhile Indian Dairy Corporation, a company formed and registered under the Companies Act 1956, by an Act of India's Parliament — the NDDB Act 1987. The new body corporate was declared an institution of national importance by the Act.

India is the world's largest milk producer, with 22 percent of global production, followed by the United States of America, China, Pakistan and Brazil.

8) A

In a major push towards deep technology and driving the country to become a digitally transformed nation, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog has recently launched AIM-PRIME (Program for Researchers on Innovations, Market-Readiness & Entrepreneurship) program

AIM-PRIME Program

- It is an initiative to promote and support science-based deep-tech startups & ventures across India.
- It was launched by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), in cooperation with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).
- The program will be implemented by Venture Center - a non-profit technology business incubator.

- The program is specifically tailored for the rapid scaling up of deep-tech science ventures in India, providing not just the necessary intellect and support but also the exposure they rightly deserve. The program aimed at promoting science based, deep technology ideas to market through training and guidance over a period of 12 months.
- Deep technology is an outcome of very intense research and development (R&D) with high knowledge content.

9) C

Research led by scientists from Aryabhata Research Institute of observational sciences (ARIES), Nainital, an autonomous institute under DST, along with their collaborators from Royal Observatory of Belgium, have led to the development of an algorithm, CMEs Identification in Inner Solar Corona (CIISCO) to detect and track the accelerating solar eruption in the lower corona.

Software named Computer Aided CME Tracking Software (CACTus) was so far used to detect and characterise such eruptions automatically in the outer corona.

However, this algorithm could not be applied to the inner corona observations due to the vast acceleration experienced by these eruptions.

This severely limited the capability to track the eruptions as CMEs accelerate in the lower corona.

The parameters determined by CIISCO are useful to characterise these eruption in the lower corona, a region where the properties of such eruptions are less known.

An implementation of CIISCO on the large volume of data available from space observatories mentioned above will be helpful to improve our understanding of eruptions in the inner corona.

As India's first solar mission, Aditya-L1, will be observing this region of the solar corona, implementation of CIISCO on the Aditya-L1 data will provide new insight into the CME properties in this less explored region.

Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs)

They are large expulsions of plasma and magnetic field from the Sun's corona.

They can eject billions of tons of coronal material and carry an embedded magnetic field (frozen in flux) that is stronger than the background solar wind interplanetary magnetic field (IMF) strength.

CMEs travel outward from the Sun at speeds ranging from slower than 250 kilometers per second (km/s) to as fast as near 3000 km/s.

The fastest Earth-directed CMEs can reach our planet in as little as 15-18 hours. Slower CMEs can take several days to arrive.

They expand in size as they propagate away from the Sun and larger CMEs can reach a size comprising nearly a quarter of the space between Earth and the Sun by the time it reaches our planet.

10) A

Founded in 1977, IFAD focuses on rural poverty reduction, working with poor rural populations in developing countries to eliminate poverty, hunger, and malnutrition.

IFAD supports initiative to revive Kodo and Kutki Millets cultivation in Dindori district of Madhya Pradesh.

11) B

Ex Desert Flag is an annual multi-national large force employment warfare exercise hosted by the United Arab Emirates Air Force. The Indian Air Force participated for the first time in Exercise Desert Flag-VI along with air forces of United Arab Emirates, United States of America, France, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Bahrain. Jordan, Greece, Qatar, Egypt and South Korea participated as observer forces. The objectives for the exercise were to expose coalition participating forces to large force employment, sharpen tactical capabilities, and enhance interoperability along with fostering closer relations between the participating forces. The aim for the participating crew and specialist observers was to expose them to operational environment in scenarios requiring multinational forces working together.

12) B

The Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (HoA-IP) was founded on November 2nd, 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey. The Heart of Asia provides a platform for sincere and results-oriented regional cooperation by placing Afghanistan at its center, in recognition of the fact that a secure and stable Afghanistan is vital to the prosperity of the Heart of Asia region. This platform was established to address the shared challenges and interests of Afghanistan and its neighbors and regional partners. The Heart of Asia is comprised of 15 participating countries, 17 supporting countries, and 12 supporting regional and international organizations.

India is part of the process and External Affairs Minister reached Dushanbe on a three-day visit to Tajikistan to attend the 9th Ministerial Conference of Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process on Afghanistan.

13) B

14) A

India and Mauritius signed the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) on 22 February 2021. The CECPA is the first trade Agreement signed by India with a country in Africa.

The Agreement is a limited agreement, which will cover Trade in Goods, Rules of Origin, Trade in Services, Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, Dispute Settlement, Movement of Natural Persons, Telecom, Financial services, Customs Procedures and Cooperation in other Areas.

As regards trade in services, Indian service providers will have access to around 115 subsectors from the 11 broad service sectors and India has offered around 95 sub-sectors from the 11 broad services sectors.

Both sides have completed their internal legal procedures and the India-Mauritius CECPA will enter into force on Thursday, 01 April 2021.

15) A

In May 2016, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934 was amended to provide a statutory basis for the implementation of the flexible inflation targeting framework.

The amended RBI Act explicitly provides the legislative mandate to the Reserve Bank to operate the monetary policy framework of the country. The framework aims at setting the policy (repo) rate based on an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation; and modulation of liquidity conditions to anchor money market rates at or around the repo rate. Repo rate changes transmit through the money market to the entire the financial system, which, in turn, influences aggregate demand – a key determinant of inflation and growth.

The amended RBI Act also provides for the inflation target to be set by the Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank, once in every five years.

The Centre has decided to retain the inflation target of 4%, with a tolerance band of +/- 2 percentage points for the Monetary Policy Committee of the RBI for the coming five years; April 1, 2021, to March 31, 2026.

16) A

PM Yoga Awards were announced first in 2016. Due to pandemic of Covid-19, the applications for the award were not invited in 2020. However, this year like previous years, the Ministry of AYUSH (MoA) will be felicitating the achievers and unsung heroes and institutions of the domain of Yoga, from different parts of the country and across the world with the Prime Minister's Yoga Awards (PMYA). The award will be hosted on the My Gov platform.

17) C

The Union Cabinet has approved the Central Sector Scheme – “Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI)”.

- –The first component relates to incentivising manufacturing of four major food product segments viz. Ready to Cook/ Ready to Eat (RTC/ RTE) foods, Processed Fruits & Vegetables, Marine Products, Mozzarella Cheese.
- –Innovative/ Organic products of SMEs including Free Range -Eggs, Poultry Meat, Egg Products in these segments are also covered under above component.
- –The second component relates to support for branding and marketing abroad to incentivise emergence of strong Indian brands.
- –For promotion of Indian Brand abroad, the scheme envisages grant to the applicant entities for – in store Branding, shelf space renting and marketing.
- –Scheme will be implemented over a six-year period from 2021-22 to 2026-27.

18) C

The Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) is a specific response to the unprecedented situation COVID-19. It seeks to provide much needed relief to the MSME sector by incentivizing Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) to provide additional credit of up to Rs. 3 lakh crores at low cost, thereby enabling MSMEs to meet their operational liabilities and restart their businesses.

All Scheduled Commercial Banks are eligible as MLIs. NBFCs which have been in operation for at least 2 years and d Financial Institutions (FIs) will also be eligible as MLIs under the Scheme.

The entire funding provided under the scheme shall be provided with a 100% credit guarantee coverage by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC) under the Scheme. No additional collateral shall be asked by MLIs for additional credit extended under GECL.

In recognition of the continuing adverse impact of COVID-19 pandemic on certain service sectors, the Government has now extended the scope of ECLGS through introduction of ECLGS 3.0 to cover business enterprises in Hospitality, Travel & Tourism, Leisure & Sporting sectors.

Further, the validity of ECLGS i.e. ECLGS 1.0, ECLGS 2.0 & ECLGS 3.0 have been extended up to 30.06.2021 or till guarantees for an amount of Rs. 3 lakh crores are issued.

19) D

20) C

The JLN has been established with an aim of integrating the military's logistics. Further, it aims to set up and improving the military's war-fighting ability.

