

## Answers

1) A

Project BOLD (Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought) has been recently launched by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). It is the first of its kind exercise in India which was launched from the tribal village Nichla Mandwa in Udaipur, Rajasthan.

### Project BOLD

- It is a unique scientific exercise serving the combined national objectives of reducing desertification and providing livelihood and multi-disciplinary rural industry support.
- It seeks to create bamboo-based green patches in arid and semi-arid land zones.
- 5000 saplings of special bamboo species – Bambusa Tulda and Bambusa Polymorpha specially brought from Assam – have been planted over 25 bigha (16 acres approx) of vacant arid Gram Panchayat land.
- KVIC has thus created a world record of planting the highest number of bamboo saplings on a single day at one location.
- The project is aligned with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's call for reducing land degradation and preventing desertification in the country.
- The initiative has been launched as part of KVIC's "Khadi Bamboo Festival" to celebrate 75 years of independence "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav".

2) C

The Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education will launch National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat).

### NIPUN Bharat

The vision of NIPUN Bharat Mission is to create an enabling environment to ensure universal acquisition of foundational literacy and numeracy, so that every child achieves the desired learning competencies in reading, writing and numeracy by the end of Grade 3, by 2026-27.

NIPUN Bharat will be implemented by the Department of School Education and Literacy and a five-tier implementation mechanism will be set up at the National- State- District- Block- School level in all States and UTs, under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha.

3) D

- To make Ayurveda based clinical trials, a worldwide visibility, the Ayurveda dataset on CTRI Portal will be launched online by the Union AYUSH Minister Shri Kiren Rijiju.
- This Ayurveda Dataset of CTRI has been jointly developed by ICMR and Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Ministry of Ayush.
- Until now the clinical trials in Ayurveda were dependent on terminology borrowed from modern medicine.
- The Minister will also launch four more Portals, AMAR, SAHI, e-MEDHA and RMIS.
- All of these four portals are primarily developed by CCRAS while RMIS is a collaborative effort of ICMR and CCRAS.

#### **Clinical Trials Registry - India (CTRI)**

- It was launched in July 2007 and has been managed by the ICMR-National Institute of Medical Statistics, New Delhi, India.
- It is an online, free and searchable system for the prospective registration of all clinical studies being conducted in India.
- In addition, the CTRI also registers clinical studies being conducted in countries which do not have a Primary Registry of their own.
- It is a primary register of Clinical Trials under WHO's International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP).
- Initiated as a voluntary measure, since 15th June 2009, trial registration in the CTRI has been made mandatory by the Drugs Controller General India (DCGI).

4) B

#### **Spinner Dolphin**

- The spinner dolphin lives in nearly all tropical and subtropical waters between 40°N and 40°S.
- The species primarily inhabits coastal waters, islands, or banks.
- They are categorised as 'Data Deficient' on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List.
- They are also included in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and in Appendix II of the Convention on Migratory Species.

5) C

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry has initiated a project on Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). The task has been assigned to Quality Council of India (QCI).

An advisory council has been recently constituted to advise the Government on measures needed to design and accelerate adoption of ONDC. Nandan M Nilekani, the co-founder and non-executive chairman of Infosys, has been included in the 9-member advisory council.

### **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)**

It aims at promoting open networks developed on open sourced methodology, using open specifications and open network protocols independent of any specific platform. ONDC is expected to digitize the entire value chain, standardize operations, promote inclusion of suppliers, derive efficiencies in logistics and enhance value for consumers.

#### **6) A**

### **EU Digital COVID Certificate (EUDCC)**

The European Union has recently implemented the EU Digital COVID Certificate (EUDCC) or the “Green Passport”. It allows ease of intra-European travel for passengers who have taken one of four vaccines ‘recognised’ by the European Medicines Agency (EMA).

The certificate excludes Indian-made Covishield and Covaxin, among others. The move led to a sharp protest from India, as well as the African Union, as concerns grow over vaccine passports that discriminate against travelers from developing countries with limited access to vaccines.

The “green pass” is not compulsory. However, those who don’t possess the certificate will be subject to the usual travel restrictions and quarantine rules which are in effect in every country.

#### **7) D**

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Giriraj Singh, has recently launched the Online Course Mobile App “Matsya Setu”.

### **Matsya Setu App**

It is an online course app that aims to disseminate the latest freshwater aquaculture technologies to the aqua farmers of the country. The app was developed by the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar, with the funding support of the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad.

Matsya Setu app has species-wise/ subject-wise self-learning online course modules, where renowned aquaculture experts explain the basic concepts and practical demonstrations on breeding, seed production and grow-out culture of commercially important fishes like carp, catfish, scampi, murrel, ornamental fish, pearl farming etc.

Better Management Practices to be followed in maintaining the soil & water quality, feeding and health management in aquaculture operations were also provided in the course platform.

### **GEMINI**

It is the satellite-based alert system that ensures seamless and effective dissemination of alerts and other important disaster-related information to the fishermen who venture out deeper into the seas. It has been developed by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) and Airport Authority of India (AAI).

### **8) D**

Zika Virus

- It is a mosquito-borne flavivirus that was first identified in Uganda in 1947 in monkeys.
- Zika virus disease is caused by a virus transmitted primarily by Aedes mosquitoes, which bite during the day.
- Symptoms are generally mild and include fever, rash, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise or headache.
- Symptoms typically last for 2–7 days. Most people with Zika virus infection do not develop symptoms.
- Zika virus infection during pregnancy can cause infants to be born with microcephaly and other congenital malformations, known as congenital Zika syndrome.
- Infection with Zika virus is also associated with other complications of pregnancy including preterm birth and miscarriage.
- An increased risk of neurologic complications is associated with Zika virus infection in adults and children, including Guillain-Barre syndrome, neuropathy and myelitis.

### **9) D**

In a major boost to wheat exports, the first shipment of Geographical Indication (GI) certified Bhalia variety of wheat was exported recently to Kenya and Sri Lanka from Gujarat.

**Bhalia Wheat**

The GI certified wheat variety has high protein content and is sweet in taste. The crop is grown mostly across Bhal region of Gujarat which includes Ahmadabad, Anand, Kheda, Bhavanagar, Surendranagar, Bharuch districts.

The unique characteristic of the wheat variety is that grown in the rainfed condition without irrigation and cultivated in around two lakh hectares of agricultural land in Gujarat. The Bhalia variety of wheat received GI certification in July, 2011. The registered proprietor of GI certification is Anand Agricultural University, Gujarat.

### **10) A**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has recently gave its approval to the modifications in Central Sector Scheme of Financing Facility under 'Agriculture Infrastructure Fund'.

#### **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)**

The Union Cabinet in 2020 has approved a new pan India Central Sector Scheme called Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF).

The scheme shall provide a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support.

Under the scheme, Rs. 1 Lakh Crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Marketing Cooperative Societies, Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Group (SHG), Farmers, Joint Liability Groups (JLG), Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Agri-entrepreneurs, Startups, Aggregation Infrastructure Providers and Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored Public Private Partnership Project.

#### **Recent Modifications**

##### **Eligibility**

The eligibility has now been extended to State Agencies/APMCs, National & State Federations of Cooperatives, Federations of Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) and Federations of Self Help Groups (SHGs).

##### **Interest Subvention Criteria**

At present Interest subvention for a loan up to Rs. 2 crore in one location is eligible under the scheme. In case, one eligible entity puts up projects in different locations then all such projects will be now be eligible for interest subvention for loan upto Rs. 2 crore.

However, for a private sector entity there will be a limit of a maximum of 25 such projects.

This limitation of 25 projects will not be applicable to state agencies, national and state federations of cooperatives, federations of FPOs and federation of SHGs.

### **Various Infrastructure Projects**

For APMCs, interest subvention for a loan up to Rs. 2 crore will be provided for each project of different infrastructure types e.g. cold storage, sorting, grading and assaying units, silos, et within the same market yard.

### **Restrictions**

The power has been delegated to Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare to make necessary changes with regard to addition or deletion of beneficiary in such a manner so that basic spirit of the scheme is not altered.

### **Extension**

The period of financial facility has been extended from 4 to 6 years upto 2025-26 and overall period of the scheme has been extended from 10 to 13 upto 2032-33.

## **11) C**

DBT-National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG) has recently created a database of genomic variations in oral cancer named dbGENVOC.

### **dbGENVOC**

It is the world's first of its kind database of genomic variations in oral cancer created by National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG). dbGENVOC has a built-in powerful search engine. So, it is a browsable free resource.

It contains somatic and germline variants derived from whole exome sequences of oral cancer patients and also whole genome sequences of patients from India, the USA and analyzed by TCGA-HNSCC project. It allows a reasonable extent of statistical and bio-informatics analysis to be carried out online.

The repository will be updated annually with variation data from new oral cancer patients from different regions of India and Southeast Asia.

### **National Institute of Biomedical Genomics**

The DBT-National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG), Kalyani (West Bengal) has been established as an autonomous institution by the Government of India. It is funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology. It is the first institution in India explicitly devoted to research, training, translation & service and capacity-building in Biomedical Genomics.

### **12) C**

- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) institute has developed an anti-methanogenic feed supplement 'Harit Dhara'.
- Harit Dhara is prepared using condensed and hydrolysable tannin-rich plant-based sources abundantly available in the country.
- Tropical plants containing tannins (bitter and astringent chemical compounds) are known to suppress or remove protozoa from the rumen.
- Harit Dhara acts by decreasing the population of protozoa microbes in the rumen. Which is responsible for hydrogen production and making it available to the archaea for reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> to methane.

### **13) A**

#### **Special Purpose Acquisition Companies (SPACs)**

SPACs don't have business operation of their own and raise capital through an IPO. SPACs are currently not allowed to raise capital through IPO in India. These are also called blank cheque companies as SPAC investors have no idea about where and how their capital will be utilised

### **14) C**

#### **Gamma Ray Burst**

Gamma rays can have over a billion times the energy of the type of light visible to our eyes. They are known to occur at huge distances from Earth towards the limits of the observable universe. On Earth, gamma rays are generated by nuclear explosions, lightning, and the less dramatic activity of radioactive decay.

The gamma rays possess high energy they can pass right through any lens or mirror, making it very difficult to focus them in a visible-light telescope.



**15) B****Indrajaal Weapon**

Indrajaal is an autonomous defence weapon system that uses technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, cyber security and robotics to identify and counter threats. It is India's first 100 percent indigenous unified, distributed and wide-area Autonomous Drone Defense Dome.

Each system is capable of protecting a large area of 1000 to 2000 sq. km against threats from Unmanned Aerial Vehicles or UAVs and incoming weapons. Indrajaal is a paradigm shift in the drone warfare system including Low Radar cross-section (RCS) threat warfare.

**16) B****Maize Cultivation in India**

India is the seventh largest producer worldwide, it is used both as food and fodder. It is predominantly a Kharif crop with 85 per cent of the area under cultivation in the season.

It is sown during June-July and harvested during September-October. Maize is the third most important cereal crop in India after rice and wheat. Top Maize Producing States are Karnataka > Maharashtra > Madhya Pradesh > Tamil Nadu > Telangana

**17) A**

The Press Council of India was first set up in the year 1966 by the Parliament on the recommendations of the First Press Commission.

To preserve the freedom of the press and maintain and improve the standards of the press in India. The present Council functions under the Press Council Act, 1978. It is a statutory, quasi-judicial authority functioning as a watchdog of the press, for the press and by the press.

**Limitations of PCI**

- They cannot penalize newspapers, news agencies, editors and journalists for violation of the guidelines.
- The PCI only overviews the functioning of print media. It can enforce standards upon newspapers, journals, magazines and other forms of print media.
- It does not have the power to review the functioning of electronic media like radio, television and internet media.



**18) B**

The Cassini-Huygens mission is a collaboration between NASA, ESA (European Space Agency), and the Italian Space Agency.

Cassini-Huygens was a mission of firsts. First to orbit Saturn. First landing in the outer solar system. Also, first to sample an extraterrestrial ocean. the European Huygens probe—the first human-made object to land on a world in the distant outer solar system.

**19) C**

In 2015 did the Indian government declare the heatwave a natural disaster under the National Disaster Management Act of 2005.

IMD declares a heatwave based on temperature. A heatwave is proclaimed when the highest temperature at a station surpasses 45°C; if it exceeds 47°C, it is referred to as a severe heatwave. Heatwaves in coastal and hilly locations are declared using similar criteria.

The human body reacts to a combination of heat and humidity known as the 'wet-bulb temperature'. Only a few humans can tolerate a wet-bulb temperature exceeding 35°C because their bodies can no longer cool themselves.

Many regions of India now experience wet-bulb temperatures exceeding 32°C during certain parts of the year. However, we are not declaring such days to be heatwaves, endangering the lives of people engaged in manual labour.

**20) A**

