

## Answers

### 1) B

Political parties are entitled to nominate “Star Campaigners” during General Elections. A recognized National or State party can have a maximum of 40 “Star campaigners” and a registered un-recognised party can nominate a maximum of 20 ‘Star Campaigners’. The travel expenses of star campaigners are not to be accounted for in the election expense accounts of candidates of their party.

Recognised ‘State’ and ‘National’ parties need only one proposer for filing the nomination and are also entitled for two sets of electoral rolls free of cost and broadcast/telecast facilities over Akashvani/Doordarshan during general elections.

Considering the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Election Commission of India, in consultation with Prasar Bharti Corporation has decided to double the broadcast/telecast time allotted to each National Party and recognized State Party of Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu & West Bengal on Doordarshan and All India Radio during the ongoing General Election to the Legislative Assemblies.

### 2) A

India and Japan signed logistics support agreement is known as Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) in 2020. India and Australia in 2020 signed a historic agreement, called ‘Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA)’.

Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) was the first ‘foundational agreement’ signed by India and the US in 2016.

Malabar Exercise is a multilateral naval exercise among Indian, US and Japanese naval forces. It started in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between the Indian and US navies. Japan joined in 2015. Australia participated in 2007 and 2020 Malabar exercise editions.

### 3) D

An outlay of INR 1.97 lakh crore has been announced in Union Budget 2021-22 for PLI schemes for 13 key sectors for a period of 5 years starting from fiscal year (FY) 2021- 22.

These 13 sectors include already existing 3 sectors named (i) Mobile Manufacturing and Specified Electronic Components, (ii) Critical Key Starting materials/Drug Intermediaries &

Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients, and (iii) Manufacturing of Medical Devices and 10 new key sectors which have been approved by the Union Cabinet recently in November 2020. These 10 key sectors are:

(i) Automobiles and Auto Components, (ii) Pharmaceuticals Drugs, (iii) Specialty Steel, (iv) Telecom & Networking Products, (v) Electronic/Technology Products, (vi) White Goods (ACs and LEDs), (vii) Food Products, (viii) Textile Products: MMF segment and technical textiles, (ix) High efficiency solar PV modules, and (x) Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery.

# The PLI schemes will be implemented by the concerned Ministries/ Departments and will be within the overall financial limits prescribed.

#### **4) D**

India's Prime Minister participated, along with Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison and Prime Minister of Japan Yoshihide Suga and President of U.S.A. Joseph R. Biden, in the first Leaders' Summit of the Quadrilateral Framework, held virtually on 12th March 2021.

The Leaders will discussed regional and global issues of shared interest, and exchange views on practical areas of cooperation towards maintaining a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region.

Japan also has territorial disputes with China. The Senkaku Islands dispute, or Diaoyu Islands dispute, concerns a territorial dispute over a group of uninhabited islands in East China sea.

#### **5) B**

The Institution of Satra is a unique feature of Vaishnavism in Assam, founded by Sankardeva, the father of Assamese culture. The satras are not just monasteries, but centers of traditional performing arts.

The satras consist of a large prayer hall facing a simple shrine, surrounded by dormitories and bathing tanks for monks. The satras also offer guest accommodation where devotees and visitors not only take part in worship of Vishnu and Krishna, but also watch traditional bhaona performances.

Srimanta Sankardev (1449–1568) was a 15th–16th century Assamese saint, scholar, poet, and social-religious reformer. He propagated a form of Bhakti philosophy called Eka Sarana naam Dharma. The philosophy had an influence on two medieval kingdoms—Koch and the Ahom kingdoms.

**6) B**

To assess the abundance and distribution of water in the lunar polar region, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), have planned the lunar polar exploration mission (LUPEX).

Both agencies are already working on a joint lunar polar exploration (LUPEX) mission and the two space agencies have been working on the mission that aims to send a lander and rover to the Moon's south pole around 2024.

**7) B**

**8) A**

Bulk drugs are the active chemical substances in powder form, the main ingredient in pharmaceuticals – chemicals having therapeutic value, used for the production of pharmaceutical formulations.

Brand name drugs are the innovator drugs patented by MNC pharmaceutical companies to prevent them from being copied or reverse engineered by other companies.

Generic drugs are the copies of off-patent brand-name drugs that come in the same dosage, safety, strength, and quality and for the same intended use. These drugs are then sold under their chemical names as both over the counter and prescription forms.

#The Indian pharmaceutical industry is the 3rd largest in the world by volume. However, the country is significantly dependent on the import of basic raw materials, viz., Bulk Drugs that are used to produce medicines. In some specific bulk drugs, the import dependence is 80 to 100%.

With an objective to attain self-reliance and reduce import dependence in these critical Bulk Drugs – Key Starting Materials (KSMs)/ Drug Intermediates and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) in the country, the Department of Pharmaceuticals had launched a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for promotion of their domestic manufacturing.

**9) D**

Recognizing the dangers faced by Whale Shark, Ganges Shark and Speartooth Shark are protected under Schedule I, Part II A of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972.

IUCN Red List status: Whale Shark (*Rhincodon typus*) is listed as Endangered, Ganges Shark (*Glyphis gangeticus*) and Speartooth Shark (*Glyphis glyphis*) are listed as Critically Endangered species.

India is one of the world's largest shark fishing nations and Maharashtra and Gujarat together contribute more than 50% of the harvest.

# Sharks are the most important predators found in oceans across the world. Sharks are also found in freshwater habitats in some countries. There are six species of river sharks found in the world, out of which the Ganges shark (*Glyphis gangeticus*) is endemic to India.

#### **10) C**

The characteristics of the north bank tributaries are different than that of the south bank tributaries of the Brahmaputra, which may be summarized as below:

The North Bank Tributaries:

Have very steep slopes and shallow braided channels for a considerable distance from the foot hills and in some cases right up to the outfall. Have boulder, pebble and coarse sandy beds and carry a heavy silt charge. Generally, north bank has flashy floods.

The South bank Tributaries: Have comparatively flatter grades and deep meandering channels almost from the foot hills. Have comparatively low silt charge.

#### **11) B**

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat program aims to enhance interaction & promote mutual understanding between people of different states/UTs through the concept of state/UT pairing.

The Ministry of Tourism launched the Swadesh Darshan Scheme for Integrated Development of theme-based Tourist Circuits for development of tourism infrastructure including last mile connectivity in the country.

The scheme was completely funded by the central government of India. Projects under the scheme are under the following identified themes; Eco-tourism, Wildlife, Buddhist, Desert, Spiritual, Ramayana, Krishna, Coastal, Northeast, Rural, Himalayan, Tribal and Heritage.

#### **12) A**

**13) A**

The Water Technology Initiative (WTI) aims to promote R&D activities aimed at providing safe drinking water at affordable cost and in adequate quantity using appropriate Science and Technology interventions evolved through indigenous efforts.

Since quality is the main consideration of safe drinking water, processes which imply nano-material and filtration technologies have been focused. The initiative also includes the pilot testing of credible number of products and referencing of selected technologies to the social context of the application region.

The Water Technology Initiative is under the Department of Science & Technology.

# An efficient, low-cost, nano-filtration-based technology by The Centre for Technological Excellence in Water Purification (CTEWP) housed in IIT Kharagpur has ensured access to safe and clean drinking water free of heavy metals for 25,000 people in three different locations in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

The prototype of the highly compact vertical modular nano filtration membrane system designed for removal of heavy metals from the groundwater was developed by the Membrane Separations Laboratory, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), with support from the Department of Science and Technology (DST) Water Technology Initiative (WTI).

**14) A**

The Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate was intended to facilitate a candid dialogue among major developed and developing economies, help generate the political leadership necessary to achieve a successful outcome at the 2009 December UN climate change conference in Copenhagen, and advance the exploration of concrete initiatives and joint ventures that increase the supply of clean energy while cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

The MEF ran nearly a decade under Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama, but languished during the Trump administration.

The 17 major economies participating in the Major Economies Forum are: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

# US President Joe Biden announced in a Jan. 27 executive order that he was resurrecting the forum to pursue a “green” economic recovery and more clean energy, as well as progress on “sectoral decarbonization.”

**15) A**

This scheme aims to ensure all beneficiaries, especially migrants get ration (wheat, rice and other food grains) across the nation from any Public Distribution System (PDS) shop of their own choice.

In view of the resource requirement to meet multiple challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of India had on 17th May, 2020 enhanced the borrowing limit of the States by 2 percent of their GSDP. Half of this special dispensation i.e. 1 percent of GSDP was linked to undertaking citizen centric reforms by the States.

The four citizen centric areas for reforms identified by the Department of Expenditure were (a) Implementation of One Nation One Ration Card System, (b) Ease of doing business reform, (c) Urban Local body/ utility reforms and (d) Power Sector reforms.

States completing One Nation One Ration Card system reform are eligible for additional borrowing of 0.25 percent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

# Seventeen (17) States have successfully operationalised “One Nation One Ration Card system” with Uttarakhand being the latest State to complete the reform.

**16) B**

Strait of Hormuz is one of the world’s most important shipping routes. It is about 96 miles long and only 21 miles wide at its narrowest point, with shipping lanes in each direction just two miles wide.

Bounded to the north by Iran and to the south by Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf (west) with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea (southeast).

**17) C**

A ramjet is a form of air-breathing jet engine that uses the vehicle’s forward motion to compress incoming air for combustion without a rotating compressor. Fuel is injected in the combustion chamber where it mixes with the hot compressed air and ignites. A ramjet-

powered vehicle requires an assisted take-off like a rocket assist to accelerate it to a speed where it begins to produce thrust.

A scramjet engine is an improvement over the ramjet engine as it efficiently operates at hypersonic speeds and allows supersonic combustion. Thus, it is known as Supersonic Combustion Ramjet, or Scramjet.

# Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) recently successfully flight-tested Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology.

### **18) C**

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated, along with Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison and Prime Minister of Japan Yoshihide Suga and President of U.S.A. Joseph R. Biden, in the first Leaders' Summit of the Quadrilateral Framework, held virtually on 12th March 2021.

The Quad Leaders' Joint Statement: "The Spirit of the Quad" was released following the summit:

Cooperation on the critical technologies of the future to ensure that innovation is consistent with a free, open, inclusive, and resilient Indo-Pacific.

Quad will continue to prioritize the role of international law in the maritime domain, particularly as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and facilitate collaboration, including in maritime security, to meet challenges to the rules-based maritime order in the East and South China Seas.

Quad experts and senior officials will continue to meet regularly; Foreign Ministers will converse often and meet at least once a year. At the leader level, Quad will hold an in-person summit by the end of 2021.

Quad will collaborate to strengthen equitable vaccine access for the Indo-Pacific, with close coordination with multilateral organizations including the World Health Organization and COVAX. It called for transparent and results-oriented reform at the World Health Organization.

### **19) D**

PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme intends to facilitate collateral free working capital loans of up to INR10,000/- of one-year tenure, to approximately 50 lakh



street vendors, to help resume their businesses in the urban areas, including surrounding peri-urban/rural areas.

Under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojna (ABRY), the Government of India is bearing for a period of two years, both the employees' share (12% of wages) and employers' share (12% of wages) of contribution payable or only the employees' share, depending on employment strength of the EPFO registered establishments.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) has been initiated by Government inter alia, for facilitating self-employment. Under PMMY collateral free loans upto Rs. 10 lakh, are extended to micro/small business enterprises and to individuals

## **20) D**

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), has been recently conferred with the prestigious International King Bhumibol World Soil Day Award by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome, for its commitment to raising awareness of the importance of healthy soils.

World Soil Day (WSD) is held annually on 5 December as a means to focus attention on the importance of healthy soil and to advocate for the sustainable management of soil resources. An international day to celebrate Soil was recommended by the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) in 2002.

# The award, sponsored by the Kingdom of Thailand, is named after King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand for his lifelong commitment to raising awareness of the importance of sustainable soil management and rehabilitation for food security, poverty alleviation and more.

The date of 5 December is birthday of the late H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand, who was one of the main proponents of this initiative.

