

Answers

1) B

IIT-Bombay, recently released its Urban Quality of Life Index. It has various categories of comparisons including water, power, electricity, literacy rate, gender parity, employment rate among others. The study found that Jaipur has the highest crime rate against women, Chennai has the lowest.

The gap in literacy rate between men and women is the widest in Jaipur (13.2%) and lowest in Kolkata (5.4%). Literacy was the highest in Pune (91%) and, surprisingly, the lowest in Hyderabad (83%).

According to the index, Chennai has shown the least gender discrimination and differences and safe city for women, where Patna has high gender discrimination.

The unemployment rate for women is the highest in Patna at 346, it is more than four times the urban average of 73.

2) A

The Hayabasu2 mission was launched in December 2014, by Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). The spacecraft was sent on a six-year-long voyage to study the asteroid Ryugu and collect samples that it is now bringing back to the Earth.

The mission is similar to NASA's OSIRIS-REX mission that brought back samples from asteroid Bennu. This is the first time that a probe has visited a celestial body that is under 100 metres in diameter.

Hayabasu2's predecessor, the Hayabusa mission brought back samples from the asteroid Itokawa in 2010. Ryugu is classified as a potentially hazardous asteroids (PHAs).

3) C

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has declared 'Invest India' as winner of the 2020 United Nations Investment Promotion Award.

The Award recognizes and celebrates the outstanding achievements of the World's best-practice investment promotion agencies. The evaluation was based on UNCTAD's assessment of work undertaken by 180 national Investment Promotion Agencies across the world. IPAs

response to the pandemic became the basis for the evaluation of the 2020 United Nations Investment Promotion Award.

4) A

Under the Drug and Cosmetics Act, the regulation of manufacture, sale and distribution of Drugs is primarily the concern of the State authorities while the Central Authorities are responsible for approval of New Drugs, Clinical Trials in the country, laying down the standards for Drugs, control over the quality of imported Drugs, coordination of the activities of State Drug Control Organisations and providing expert advice with a view of bring about the uniformity in the enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Drug Controller General of India is responsible for approval of licenses of specified categories of Drugs such as blood and blood products, I. V. Fluids, Vaccine and Sera.

5) C

A recent study on the Giant African Snail (*Achatina fulica*) in Asia and Africa has found that the dangerous pest species had multiple episodes of invasion in India, particularly Kerala, and that new snail populations continue to arrive in India from snail-infested countries across the world.

The snail population spread rapidly in the State, spurred by two more waves of invasion in the 1970s and in 2005.

Giant African Snail (*Achatina fulica*)

- It is one of the worst invasive species declared by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- It is suspected to spread eosinophilic meningitis, septicaemia and peritonitis in humans.
- IUCN category – LC (Least concern)
- This snail prefers hot and humid tropical climates and is mainly found in swamps, agricultural areas and bushes.
- Like most snails, it can hibernate by digging itself into the ground and can stay in hibernation for up to 18 months.
- They are hermaphrodites though they still require another snail for fertilization and can't self-fertilize.

6) C

In 2016, US diplomats and other employees stationed in Havana reported felt ill after hearing strange sounds and experiencing odd physical sensations in their hotel rooms or homes.

The symptoms included nausea, severe headaches, fatigue, dizziness, sleep problems, and hearing loss, which have since come to be known as “Havana Syndrome”.

USA’s National Academies of Sciences (NAS) has found directed microwave radiation to be the “plausible” cause of the Havana Syndrome.

The NAS report, examined four possibilities to explain the symptoms i.e. Infection, chemicals, psychological factors and microwave energy.

The report concluded that directed pulsed RF energy appears to be the most plausible mechanism in explaining these cases among those that the committee considered.

7) A

The Himachal Pradesh government is trying to obtain GIs (Geographical Indication) for five products from the state namely.

- Karsog Kulth - Kulth (a type of horse gram) grown in the Karsog area of Mandi district is believed to be particularly rich in amino acids.
- Thangi of Pangi - It is a type of hazelnut which grows in Pangi valley known for its unique flavour and sweetness.
- Chamba Metal Crafts - These include items such as metal idols and brass utensils which, historically, were made by skilled artisans in the courts of kings of Chamba.
- Chamba Chukh - It’s a chutney made from green and red chillies grown in Chamba, and prepared in traditional and unique ways
- Rajmah of Bharmour - It’s more specifically called the Kugtal Rajmah, it is rich in proteins and has a unique flavor

8) A

The Tharus live in both India and Nepal. In the Indian terai, they live mostly in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar.

They speak various dialects of Tharu, a language of the Indo-Aryan subgroup, and variants of Hindi, Urdu, and Awadhi. In central Nepal, they speak a variant of Bhojpuri, while in eastern Nepal, they speak a variant of Maithili.

The state government is working to connect Tharu villages in the districts of Balrampur, Bahraich, Lakhimpur and Pilibhit bordering Nepal, with the home stay scheme of the UP Forest Department.

9) D

10) C

11) A

The National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID- 19 (NEGVAC) has also been formed in last August to aid and provide guidance on i) prioritization of population groups, ii) procurement and inventory management, iii) vaccine selection, and iv) vaccine delivery and tracking mechanism.

The NEGVAC is chaired by Dr. V.K.Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog and co-chaired by the Health Secretary.

12) D

Recently the Foreign Ministers of Nepal and China jointly certified the elevation of Mount Everest at 8,848.86 meters above sea level — 86 cm higher than what was recognized since 1954.

The elevation of 8,848 m was determined by Survey of India in 1954. In 1999, a US team put the elevation at 29,035 feet (nearly 8,850 m). This survey was sponsored by the National Geographic Society, US.

13) A

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for the proposal of DoT for setting up of Public Wi-Fi Networks by Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs) to provide public Wi-Fi service through Public Data Offices (PDOs) spread across length and breadth of the country to accelerate proliferation of Broadband Internet services through Public Wi-Fi network in the country. This Public Wi-Fi Access Network Interface will be known as PM-WANI. PM-WANI eco-system will be operated by different players

Public Data Office (PDO): It will establish, maintain, and operate only WANI compliant Wi-Fi Access Points and deliver broadband services to subscribers

Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA): It will be an aggregator of PDOs and perform the functions relating to Authorization and Accounting

App Provider: It will develop an App to register users and discover WANI compliant Wi-Fi hotspots in the nearby area and display the same within the App for accessing the internet service.

Central Registry: It will maintain the details of App Providers, PDOAs, and PDOs. To begin with, the Central Registry will be maintained by C-DoT. Statement 2 is incorrect. There shall be no license fee for providing Broadband Internet through these public Wi-Fi networks.

14) C

15) A

16) A

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), in partnership with Skylotech India to introduce world's first, satellite-based NB-IoT (Narrow Band-Internet of Things) network in India. This new 'Made in India' Solution, which is indigenously developed by Skylo, will connect with BSNL's satellite-ground infrastructure and provide PAN-India coverage, including Indian seas.

The coverage will be so vast that it will not leave any dark patch within the boundary of India, from Kashmir & Ladakh to Kanyakumari, and from Gujarat to the North East, including the Indian seas. With this solution, India will now have access to a ubiquitous fabric of connectivity for millions of yet unconnected machines, sensors and industrial IoT devices.

17) C

The mRNA vaccines do not use the conventional model to produce immune response. Instead, they carry the molecular instructions to make the protein in the body through a synthetic RNA of the virus.

mRNA-based vaccines are scientifically the ideal choice to address a pandemic because of their rapid developmental timeline. The mRNA vaccine is considered safe as is non-infectious, non-integrating in nature, and degraded by standard cellular mechanisms.

India's first indigenous mRNA vaccine candidate has received approval from Indian Drug regulators to initiate Phase one and two human clinical trials. The novel mRNA vaccine candidate, HGC019 has been developed by Gennova, Pune and supported with seed grant under the Ind-CEPI mission of the Department of Biotechnology.

18) A

A new species of Indian grasses known for their ecological and economic importance, such as fodder, have been spotted by scientists in Goa in the Western Ghats, one of the four global biodiversity hotspots of India. The species has adapted to survive harsh conditions, low nutrient availability, and blossoms every monsoon.

Globally 85 species are known from *Ischaemum*, of which 61 species are exclusively found in India. The Western Ghats have 40 species with the highest concentration of the genus.

The species was named *Ischaemum janarthanami* in honor of Prof. M. K. Janarthanam, Professor of Botany, Goa University, for his contribution to the Indian grass taxonomy and documentation of the floristic diversity of Goa state.

19) D

Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS) is the Integrated Mountain Initiative's flagship annual conclave. Each year 3-5 salient themes engaging the immediate attention of and relevant to the mountains and hills are identified for threadbare discussion and debate. Conclusions and recommendations emerging from this exercise would be pursued by IMI subsequently.

The 9th edition of SMDS, being hosted by Sustainable Development Forum Uttarakhand (SDFU), will focus on the overall objective of building pathways toward a resilient and sustainable mountain economy in the IHR in the context of a post COVID-19 scenario and Climate Change.

20) C

The first Trilateral Working Group Meeting between India, Iran and Uzbekistan on joint use of Chabahar Port will be held virtually on December 14, 2020.

India has welcomed the interest of Uzbekistan to use the Chabahar port as a transit port. This would open up economic opportunities for the traders and business community of the region. Besides Uzbekistan, other Central Asian countries have also shown interest in using the port.

India is participating in the development of the first phase of the Shahid Beheshti Port in Chabahar in cooperation with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

An Indian company, India Ports Global Limited, has taken over port operations of Shahid Beheshti Port in Chabahar in December 2018.