

Answers

1) C

Himgiri

It is the first of the three Project 17A ships being built at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata.

She made her first contact with the waters of Hoogly River recently.

Project 17 A

Under the Project 17A program, a total of seven ships, four at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and three ships at GRSE are being built with enhanced stealth features, advanced indigenous weapon and sensor fit along with several other improvements.

P17A ships are the first gas turbine propulsion and largest combat platforms ever built at GRSE.

Since its inception, Project 17A has upheld India's vision for Atma-nirbhar Bharat.

2) A

India is not only on track to achieve its Paris Agreement targets, but to exceed them beyond expectations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said during the Climate Ambition Summit 2020 held recently. He also highlights that the country has reduced its emission intensity by 21 percent over 2005 levels. India's solar capacity has grown from 2.63 gigawatts in 2014 to 36 gigawatts in 2020.

Climate Ambition Summit, 2020

The United Nations, United Kingdom and France are co-hosting the Climate Ambition Summit 2020, in partnership with Chile and Italy.

This is a monumental step on the road to the UK-hosted COP26 next November in Glasgow.

It aims to bring leaders together who are ready to make new commitments to tackle climate change and deliver on the Paris Agreement, five years since it was adopted on December 12, 2015. At the Climate Ambition Summit 2020, countries will set out new and ambitious commitments under the three pillars of the Paris Agreement: mitigation, adaptation and finance commitments.

3) D

Myristica Swamp Tree Frog has been recorded for the first time north of the Shencottah gap in the Vazhachal Reserve Forest in Kerala's Thrissur district.

Myristica Swamp Tree Frog

It is a rare arboreal species endemic to the Western Ghats. These frogs are rare and elusive for the reason that they are arboreal and active only for a few weeks during their breeding season.

During this season, there is a large aggregation of males that descend from the high canopy of the trees. The breeding season, unlike for other frogs, starts in the pre-monsoon season (May) and ends before the monsoon becomes fully active in June. Before the end of the breeding season, the female frogs along with their male counterparts descend on the forest floor.

The female digs the mud and lays eggs in shallow burrows in mud. After breeding and egg-laying, they retreat back to the high canopies of the tree and remain elusive till next breeding season.

4) C

NITI Aayog recently released a white paper Vision 2035 – Public Health Surveillance in India. The white paper lays out India's vision for public health surveillance through the integration of the three-tiered public health system into Ayushman Bharat. It also spells out the need for expanded referral networks and enhanced laboratory capacity. The building blocks for this vision are an interdependent federated system of governance between the Centre and states.

5) A

Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga) is a think tank formed under the aegis of NMCG. The Centre is headquartered at IIT Kanpur and has representation from most leading science and technological institutes of the country.

6) C

IN-SPACE is to act as an autonomous body, under Department of Space, as a single window nodal agency for enabling and regulating space activities and usage of ISRO facilities by NGPEs. It will permit and oversee the following activities of Non-Government-Private-Entities (NGPEs).

Space activities including building of launch vehicles and satellites and providing space based services as per the definition of space activities. Sharing of space infrastructure and premises under the control of ISRO with due considerations to on-going activities. Establishment of new space infrastructure and facilities, by NGPEs, in pursuance of space activities based on safety norms and other statutory guidelines and necessary clearances. Initiation of launch campaign and launch, based on readiness of launch vehicle and spacecraft systems, ground and user segment. Building, operation and control of spacecraft for registration as Indian Satellite by NGPEs and all the associated infrastructure for the same.

7) C

The “Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure” is aimed at boosting capital expenditure by the State Governments who are facing difficult financial environment this year due to the shortfall in tax revenue arising from the COVID 19 pandemic. Part-I of the Scheme covers the north-eastern region. Under this part, Rs.200 crores is allocated to 7 north-eastern States (Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura). In view of higher population and geographical area, Assam has been allocated Rs.450 crores under the scheme.

Part-II of the Scheme is, for all other States not included in Part-I. Rs.7,500 has been allocated amongst these States in proportion to their share of central tax as per the interim award of the 15th Finance Commission for the year 2020-21.

Part-III of the Scheme is aimed at pushing various citizen-centric reforms in the States. Under this Part, an amount of Rs.2000 crores is earmarked. This amount will be available only to those States who carry out at least 3 out of the 4 reforms specified by the Ministry of Finance in its letter dated 17th May, 2020 regarding reform linked additional borrowing permissions. The 4 reforms are – One Nation One Ration Card, Ease of doing Business Reform, Urban Local Body/Utility Reform and Power Sector Reform.
All the States except Tamil Nadu have availed benefits of the newly announced scheme for “Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure”.

8) D

It is released by the Cato Institute in the United States and Fraser Institute in Canada.

9) C

The Himalayan serow is a subspecies of the mainland serow (*Capricornis sumatraensis*). It has been recently sighted for the first time in the Himalayan cold desert region in Spiti, Himachal Pradesh.

It's a medium-sized mammal with a large head, thick neck, short limbs, long, mule-like ears, and a coat of dark hair. There are several species of serows, and all of them are found in Asia.

They are known to be found in eastern, central, and western Himalayas, but not in the Trans Himalayan region. It is now been categorised as 'vulnerable' in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

10) C

At the broadest level, spectrum is regulated in two ways, it is either managed through a spectrum licence or it is licence exempt (i.e. unlicensed).

The vast majority of radio spectrum is licensed and encompasses a range of technologies that operate with enough power to allow the services to cover a relatively wide area. Licence holders include commercial organisations, such as TV and radio broadcasters or mobile operators, and non-commercial organisations, such as the emergency services and the military. The frequency band for FM radio is about 88 to 108 MHz.

Unlicensed frequency bands have more limited applications, and are designated for certain specific types of use. There is no need for a licence from the regulator as long as the devices used meet certain technical standards in order to minimise interference.

11) B

12) D

The CDRI was launched by the Prime Minister of India during his speech at the UN Climate Action Summit on 23 September 2019. The Prime Minister had initially announced India's intention to work with partner countries and key stakeholders to form a coalition working towards the goal of improving the disaster resilience of infrastructure at the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) held in November 2016 in New Delhi.

CDRI is a multi-stakeholder global partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programs, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and academic and knowledge institutions. At present, it is not an intergovernmental organization, which are ordinarily treaty-based organizations.

13) C

Union Minister of State (IC) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, has recently inaugurated the 12th GRIHA Virtual Summit in New Delhi.

12th GRIHA Summit

The 12th GRIHA Summit to be held from December 15-16, 2020 has been scheduled as a Virtual Conference.

The summit has been themed around "Rejuvenating Resilient Habitats" and shall serve as a platform to deliberate on innovative technologies and solutions which shall help in creating robust mechanisms for developing sustainable and resilient solutions for the benefit of the entire community.

GRIHA Summit

It is the annual flagship event organized by GRIHA Council in association with key stakeholders in construction industry to discuss and deliberate on furtherance of Sustainable Habitat Development in India.

The first conference, held in January 2010, had 400 participants representing all the key stakeholders in the construction industry

14) C

Hygiene rating is a voluntary scheme applicable to food businesses supplying food directly to consumers either on or off the premises and food businesses are rated on the basis of food hygiene and safety conditions found at the time of inspection. It is an initiative of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

The food establishments are rated based on food hygiene and safety conditions observed at the time of audit. The hygiene rating will be in the form of smileys (1 up to 5) and the certificate should be displayed prominently in the consumer facing area.

The recognized Hygiene Rating Audit Agencies will be responsible for verifying the compliance with food hygiene and safety procedures laid by FSSAI and get Hygiene Rating.

It was launched with an intent of ensuring that consumer make informed choices while eating out and also encouraging food businesses to showcase and improve their food hygiene standards.

15) B

India's communication satellite CMS-01 was successfully launched by PSLV-C50 on Wednesday December 17, 2020 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota.

The CMS-01 is envisaged to provide services in the Extended-C Band of the frequency spectrum whose coverage will include the Indian mainland, Andaman-Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands. The satellite will be the first in a new series of communication satellites by India after the GSAT and INSAT series.

After injection, the solar panels of CMS-01 were automatically deployed and ISRO's Master Control Facility at Hassan has assumed the control of the satellite. In the coming days, orbit raising manoeuvres will be executed to position the satellite in the Geostationary Orbit at its designated location

16) A

Mucormycosis is also called Black Fungus or Zygomycosis and is a serious but rare fungal infection. It is caused by a group of molds called mucormycetes.

It usually occurs in people who have health problems or take medicines that lower the body's ability to fight germs and sickness. It occurs through inhalation, inoculation, or ingestion of spores from the environment.

Mucormycosis does not spread between people or between people and animals. It may lead to loss of vision and brain damage that may lead to death of infected patient.

17) D

18) D

The 'SolarWinds hack', a cyberattack recently discovered in the United States, has emerged as one of the biggest ever targeted against the US government, its agencies and several other private companies.

This is being called a 'Supply Chain' attack: Instead of directly attacking the federal government or a private organisation's network, the hackers target a third-party vendor, which supplies software to them. In this case, the target was an IT management software called Orion, supplied by the Texas-based company SolarWinds.

19) C

20) C

The DRDO Airborne Early Warning & Control System (AEW&C), is a force multiplier system of systems for detecting & tracking of enemy/hostile aircrafts/ UAVs etc. It also enables operators onboard and on ground to identify, assess the threat and take actions to guide our interceptors to those for neutralizing those threats. The jet platform selected for the DRDO AEW&C Netra system is the Embraer EMB-145.

