

Answers

1) D

A zero-coupon bond is a debt security that does not pay interest but instead trades at a deep discount, rendering a profit at maturity, when the bond is redeemed for its full face value. The difference between the purchase price of a zero-coupon bond and the par value indicates the investor's return.

2) B

Recently National Task Force discussed testing, treatment and surveillance strategies for COVID-19 in view of the new virus strain from UK.

As per the recommendation of the NTF, a genomic surveillance consortium, INSACOG, has been formed under the leadership of National Center for Disease Control (NCDC). The consortium is aimed at laboratory and epidemiological surveillance of circulating strains of SARS-CoV-2 in the Country.

3) D

Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) of 1856 route km starts from Sahnewal near Ludhiana (Punjab) and will pass through the states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand to terminate at Dankuni in West Bengal. It is being constructed by Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL), that has been set up as a special purpose vehicle to build and operate Dedicated Freight Corridors. DFCCIL is also constructing the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (1504 route km) that connects Dadri in Uttar Pradesh to Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai and will traverse through the states of UP, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

4) A

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a privacy and security law of the European Union. Though it was drafted and passed by the European Union (EU), it imposes obligations onto organizations anywhere, so long as they target or collect data related to people in the EU. Some of the key privacy and data protection requirements of the GDPR include:

- Requiring the consent of subjects for data processing
- Anonymizing collected data to protect privacy
- Providing data breach notifications

- Safely handling the transfer of data across borders

5) B

In order to promote medicinal plants sector, Government of India set up National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) in 2000. Currently the board is working under the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy).

The primary mandate of NMPB is to develop an appropriate mechanism for coordination between various ministries/ departments/ organization and implementation of support policies/programs for overall (conservation, cultivation, trade and export) growth of medicinal plants sector both at the Central /State and International level. # NMPB has recently launched a Consortia for Medicinal Plants to address/deliberate (not limited to) on Quality Planting Material, Research & Development, Cultivation, Trade of medicinal plants/market linkage etc.

6) C

The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India runs the project.

It is a collaborative effort by the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, Archaeological Survey of India and State/ UTs Government for developing tourism amenities at heritage/ natural/ tourist sites spread across India for making them tourist friendly, in a planned and phased manner.

The project aims to encourage companies from public sector, private sector, trusts, NGOs, individuals and other stakeholders to become 'Monument Mitras' and take up the responsibility of developing and upgrading the basic and advanced tourist amenities at these sites as per their interest and viability in terms of a sustainable investment model under CSR.

They would also look after the Operation & Maintenance of the same.

7) C

Kisan Fasal Rahat Yojana

It is a compensation scheme aimed at providing security cover to Jharkhand farmers in case of crop damage due to natural calamity.

It will cover both land owning and landless farmers.

The Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Co-operative will be the implementing agency and it will work in association with a project management unit, which will be a consultancy firm that will take care of technical requirements. Food safety, crop diversification, rapid development in agriculture and paving the way for competition,” are among the aims of the scheme.

It is not an insurance scheme where premiums are paid. Every year a large amount is paid as premium to the insurance companies whereas the compensation claim settlement was only 16 per cent of the total premium.

The Jharkhand government says that since the state pays half the insurance premium, it would rather use that amount for direct compensation.

8) D

Pneumococcal Disease

- Pneumococcal disease is a significant contributor under-five mortality rate worldwide.
- Lung infection is the most common serious form of pneumococcal disease.
- Recently Serum Institute of India has developed a pneumococcal vaccine, Pneumosil.
- Repairs to traditional water harvesting structures like step-wells and using defunct bore-wells and old wells to put the water back to aquifers

9) A

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan was recently nominated by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) as a board member. Dr Harsh Vardhan will be representing the South East Area Regional Office (SEARO)/Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) constituency on the GAVI Board.

The seat is currently held by Mr MyintHtwe of Myanmar. Dr Harsh Vardhan will be representing India from 1st January 2021 until 31st December 2023.

Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) It is an international organisation that was created in the year 2000 at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos. The GAVI Board normally meets twice a year in June and November or December and holds an annual retreat, normally in March or April.

The GAVI board is responsible for strategic direction and policy-making oversees the operations of the Vaccine Alliance and monitors program implementation.

10) A

Union Minister of Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the web-based application “Digital Ocean developed by INCOIS of Ministry of Earth sciences, during a Virtual Meeting held in New Delhi recently.

The ocean is a storehouse of infinite knowledge and Digital Ocean’ helps to share this knowledge about the ocean with a wide range of users including research institutions, operational agencies, strategic users, academic community, maritime industry and policy makers.

Digital Ocean platform

It is a first of its kind platform for ocean data management. Digital Ocean will serve as a one stop-solution for all the data related needs of a wide range of users.

It includes a set of applications developed to organize and present heterogeneous oceanographic data by adopting rapid advancements in geospatial technology.

11) A

12) B

The Virtual Agri-India Hackathon 2020 is being organised by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation and Farmers’ Welfare in association with IARI, Pusa, New Delhi. The hackathon will accept innovations & ideas on farm mechanization, precision agriculture, supply chain & food technology, waste to wealth, green energy, etc. The 24 best innovations from different focus areas will be awarded a cash prize of INR 1,00,000 each.

13) B

The Centre for Augmenting WAR with COVID-19 Health Crisis (CAWACH) is an initiative by National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB), Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India.

DST has nominated Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE), IIT B to implement Centre for Augmenting WAR with COVID-19 Health Crisis (CAWACH) to source and support startups having solutions to fight pandemic COVID-19 by way of funding. SINE will be supported by Indian STEPs and Business Incubator Association (ISBA) in the implementation of the program.

CAWACH supports innovations in the areas of diagnostics, devices, informatics including bio-informatics & information management systems, any intervention for the control of COVID-19 and/or startup ideas to address/mitigate various challenges faced by country/society due to the severe impact of COVID-19. # India has emerged globally as the second-largest Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) manufacturer [PIB].

14) B

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. Option 2 is correct. 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.

15) A

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India has been implementing Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Urban (PMAY-U) Mission to provide all weather pucca houses to eligible urban households/ beneficiaries by the year 2022. Within the ambit of the overarching PMAY (U) Mission, a Technology Sub Mission (TSM) was set up to facilitate the adoption of innovative, sustainable, eco-friendly and disaster-resilient technologies and building materials for low cost, speedier and quality construction of houses. In this regard, MoHUA launched 'Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC- India)' has been launched' to identify emerging, disaster-resilient, environment friendly, cost effective and speedy construction technologies. The challenge has three components viz. i) Conduct of biennial Expo-cum-Conference named Construction Technology India ii) Identifying Proven Demonstrable Technologies from across the globe to construct Light House projects iii) Promoting Potential Future Technologies (domestic) through Affordable Sustainable Housing Accelerator – India (ASHA India).

16) B

The Arctic Council consists of the eight Arctic States: Canada; Denmark; Finland; Iceland; Norway; Russia; Sweden; United States.

The Arctic states have territories within the Arctic and thus carry the role as stewards of the region. Their national jurisdictions and international law govern the lands surrounding the Arctic Ocean and its waters.

17) D

More than 50 United Nations Member States have never been Members of the Security Council.

A State which is a Member of the United Nations but not of the Security Council may participate, without a vote, in its discussions when the Council considers that country's interests are affected.

India has entered the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member for the eighth time in 2021-22.

India was also elected for the 2011-12 of UNSC membership.

18) C

The International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) has been established on April 27, 2020 under the International Financial Services Centers Authority Act, 2019. The IFSCA is a unified authority for the development and regulation of financial products, financial services and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in India. At present, the GIFT IFSC is the maiden international financial services centre in India.

The International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA) has become an Associate Member of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO). The IOSCO is the international organization that brings together the world's securities regulators, covering more than 95% of the world's securities markets, and is the global standard setter for the securities sector.

19) B

GHTC–India stands for Global Housing Technology Challenge – India, an initiative by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt. of India.

It aims to identify, evaluate and shortlist a basket of proven & potential innovative technologies from across the globe and subsequently mainstream them in Indian construction sector that are sustainable, green, disaster resilient. Such technologies would be cost effective, faster and ensure a higher quality of construction of houses, suiting to diverse geo-climatic conditions of India and desired structural & functional

needs.

Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of Light House Projects (LHPs) under Global Housing Technology Challenge-India (GHTC-India) at six sites across six States on 1st January 2021.

20) c

India is the largest manufacturer, consumer and exporter of Turmeric. Turmeric occupies about 6% of the total area under spices and condiments in India. Curcumin, a substance found in turmeric, in the pharmaceutical for treating critical ailments like cancer, food and cosmetic industries is a major factor driving the growth of the global curcumin market. The rise in demand of curcumin is largely due to the growing awareness among consumers regarding its anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory properties.

Erode's unique slender turmeric has a GI tag for its distinctive fragrance and color.

