

## Weekly Quiz Answers (21<sup>st</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> Aug)

Ans1. B

### Explanation:

It was decided to complete the third phase of universalisation of distribution of fortified rice ahead of its earlier target of March 2024.

- A scheme for the distribution of fortified rice, containing prescribed micronutrients (Iron, Folic Acid, and Vitamin B12) was launched in October 2021 in a phased manner in order to address the problem of anaemia in children and women.
- In April 2022, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the supply of fortified rice throughout the Public Distribution System (PDS), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman-PM POSHAN and other welfare schemes in all states and Union Territories by 2024 in a phased manner.
- The entire cost of rice fortification, which is around Rs 2,700 crore per annum, would be borne by the Centre as part of the food subsidy till its full implementation up to June 2024.

It is said that Ministry was on track to achieve the target of 100% distribution of fortified rice across all rice-consuming districts in the country.

- The third phase of the programme was in progress and the entire public distribution system would be covered with fortified rice.
- The scheme will be universalised within some months, adding that of the 250 lakh tonnes with the Food Corporation of India, only 12 lakh tonnes was non-fortified rice.
- The Ministry organised a national seminar on the efficacy of rice fortification.
- The scheme is an evidence-based programme and fortified rice was safe even for those with thalassemia and sickle cell anaemia.
  - It would not cause any toxicity.
  - Five kilograms of fortified rice would be supplied to a person every month, which is 160 grams of fortified rice per day containing 7 mg of iron.

Ans2. A

### Explanation:

**Context:** Artists breathe new life into Seethakali folk art; all set to perform outside Kerala.

- Over the years, the staging became sporadic and around three decades ago, the folk art started fading away from public domain.

### Food for thought

Fortification of eatables is aimed at fighting malnutrition

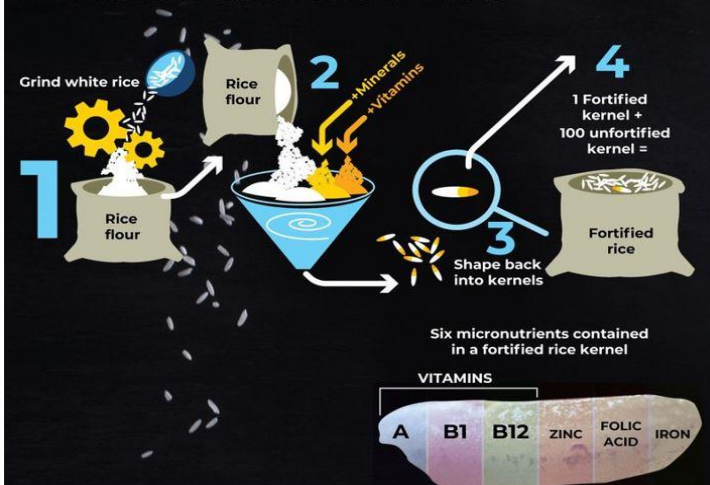
#### What it means

Fortification is the addition of key vitamins and minerals, such as iron, iodine, zinc, Vitamins A & D, to staple foods such as rice, milk and salt to improve their nutritional content



- The nutrients may or may not have been originally present in the food before processing
- It is a simple, proven, cost-effective and complementary strategy in use across the globe
- The draft Food Safety and Standards Regulations, 2016, prescribe the standards for fortification of salt, oil, milk, and rice

### Process of rice fortification



- A group of folk art aficionados cutting across caste and communal barriers could successfully salvage it in 2017. The Perinad Seethakali Sangham currently has artists from all walks of life and the 20-member group is all set to perform outside Kerala for the first time.
- Since the Seethakali songs were orally passed on from one generation to the next, the tradition came to a standstill at one point.

### About Seethakali Folk Art

- Seethakali is a dance drama primarily performed by Dalit artists belonging to the Veda and Pulaya communities.
- It presents minuscule episodes of the Ramayana at every homestead.
- Seethakali was a part of Onam festivities in the past and it's a Dravidian dance form portraying the portions from vanayatra (exile to the forest) to Sita's andardhanam (descend into the earth).
- Key characters include Sita, Ram, Lakshman, Ravan, and Hanuman.
- It's a blend of songs, storytelling and fast movements.
- Instruments used are ganjira, manikatta, chiratta and kaimani.
- Stories are conveyed through folk-style songs influenced by Vallappaattu Kuthirappaattu, and Rakshasappattu.

Ans3. B

### Explanation:

The Northern Sea Route (NSR), the shortest shipping route for freight transportation between Europe and countries of the Asia-Pacific region, straddles four seas of the Arctic Ocean.

- Running to 5,600 km, the route begins at the boundary between the Barents and the Kara seas (Kara Strait) and ends in the Bering Strait (Provideniya Bay).
- A paper published on the website of the Arctic Institute in September 2011 states that "in theory, distance savings along the NSR can be as high as 50% compared to the currently used shipping lanes via Suez or Panama."
- The 2021 blockage of the Suez Canal, which forms part of the widely-used maritime route involving Europe and Asia, has led to greater attention on the NSR.



Ans4. C

**Explanation:**

The ICSSR plans to develop “Indianised research methodology tools” to study the country’s social and economic changes.

- The schemes and policy initiatives for empirical research include

PM Ujjwala Yojana	PM Awas Yojana	Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana	PM Krishi Sinchai Yojana
PM Fasal Bima Yojana	PM Kisan Samman Nidhi	Year of Millet 2023	Ayushman Bharat
Jan Aushadhi Yojana	Swachh Bharat Abhiyan	Make-in-India	PM Gati Shakti
New Education Policy 2020	Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets)	Imposition of Tax Act, 2015	Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016

Under the scheme, we have two types of studies.

- Collaborative studies with institutions [₹30 lakh for six months] and
- Individual studies [₹6 lakh for six months] by encouraging researchers from peripheral areas and underprivileged institutions.
- About 500 proposals will be selected by an expert committee.

When the country moves ahead towards the goal of becoming a developed country in 2047, social science has a crucial role to play.

- ✓ It is in that context that we decided to study public policy initiatives.
- ✓ We have to have an equitable and sustainable development of the people.
- ✓ The specific research outcome is to recommend the government about the direction in which these schemes are moving and to inform the people about these policies.

Ans5. B

**Explanation:**

**Context:** The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has rolled out an indigenous star-rating system for crash testing cars under which vehicles will be assigned between one to five stars indicating their safety in a collision. Called the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (NCAP), the rating system will be voluntary and will come into effect from October 1, 2023.

**Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP)**

- The Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) is modelled on the Global New Car Assessment Programme (Global NCAP), a project of the Towards Zero Foundation, which is a U.K.-registered charity that promotes the universal adoption of the United Nation's motor vehicle safety standards worldwide.
- The new programme will be applicable to passenger vehicles with not more than eight seats in addition to the driver's seat with a gross vehicle weight not exceeding 3,500 kg.
- It will be based on the soon-to-be published Automotive Industry Standard 197, which lays down testing protocols.
- Officials of the Union Road Transport and Highways Ministry said manufacturers had offered 30 models for testing.
- A rating between one to five stars will be assigned to a vehicle after an evaluation of three parameters — adult occupant protection, child occupant protection, and safety assist technologies present in the car.
  - The first two parameters will be calculated with the help of three tests, which include a frontal offset test in which a vehicle is driven at 64 kmph and with 40% overlap into a deformable barrier which represents an oncoming vehicle. This replicates a crash between two cars of the same weight.
  - The other tests are side impact test at 50 kmph and pole-side impact test (where a car is crashed into a rigid pole sideways) at 29 kmph.
- An original equipment manufacturer must nominate a vehicle model for testing.
- Bharat NCAP representatives will visit the manufacturing facility or a dealer outlet to select the base variant of the model through random sampling and send it to a testing centre, in coordination with the Central Institute of Road Transport (CIRT).
- The test results will be approved by the Bharat NCAP Standing Committee and published on its website. The CIRT will issue a certificate.
- The programme is voluntary except in certain cases such as a base variant of a popular vehicle variant with a minimum clocked sale of 30,000 units, or when the Ministry recommends a model for testing based on market feedback or for public safety.

### Objective of the Programme

The **objective of the programme** is to help consumers make an informed decision before purchasing a car, thereby spurring demand for safer cars.

- ✓ India sees nearly 1.5 lakh road fatalities in a year, accounting for 10% of deaths due to road crashes globally with only 1% of the world's vehicles.
- ✓ According to a World Bank study, road crashes are estimated to cost the Indian economy between 5 to 7% of GDP a year.

Ans6. A

### **Explanation:**

**Context:** The NCF was released by NCERT & Union Education Minister. Students of Classes 11 and 12 to study two languages, including one Indian tongue, while students of Classes 9 and 10 to study three; NCF follows the lead of NEP, 2020, and will form the basis for formulating new textbooks from Classes 3 to 12.

### **Key Highlights**



- Currently, students in Classes 9 and 10 study two languages, and students in Class 11 and 12 learn one. The NCF expects students to achieve a **“literary level” of linguistic capacity** in at least one of these Indian languages.
- The NCF has said that all students will be allowed to take **Board exams at least two times in a school year**, with only the best score being retained.
- The NCF, drafted by the National Steering Committee headed by former Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) K. Kasturirangan, follows the lead of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, and forms the basis for formulating textbooks from Classes 3 to 12 under the Central Board of Secondary Education.
- Textbooks for Classes 1 and 2 have already been released by the NCERT.
- So far, students from Classes 9 to 12 studied five mandatory subjects, with an option of adding one more. Now, the **number of mandatory subjects** for Classes 9 and 10 is **seven**, and it is **six** for Classes 11 and 12.
- **Optional subjects** have been grouped in three parts in the NCF.
  - The **first** includes art education, emphasising both visual and performing arts, with equal emphasis on making, thinking about, and appreciating works of art. It also includes physical education and vocational education.
  - The **second group** includes social science, the Humanities, and interdisciplinary areas. The third group includes science, mathematics, and computational thinking.

### Term-Based Systems

- The NCF has recommended that in the long term, all Boards should change to semester or term-based systems, where students can be tested in a subject as soon as they have completed the subject, which would reduce the content load being tested in any one examination.
- For Classes 6 to 8, the NCF states that 20% content would be from the local level for the social science curriculum, 30% content from the regional level, 30% from the national level, and 20% content would be global.
- The “secondary stage” has been significantly redesigned to offer more flexibility and choice for students.
- There is no hard separation between academic and vocational subjects, or between Science, Social Science, Art, and Physical Education. Students can choose interesting combinations of subjects for receiving their school leaving certificates.
- Environmental education is given emphasis across all stages of schooling, culminating in a separate area of study in the secondary stage.
- The textbooks for Classes 3 to 12 are to be aligned with 21st century requirements, making them rooted and futuristic.

Ans7. A

### Explanation:

- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), while EG.5 (Eris) has been reported from over 50 countries, the BA.2.86 (Pirola) variant has been reported from four countries.
- It was also noted that, globally, a total of 2,96,219 new cases of COVID-19 had been reported in the past seven days.

- India, which makes up nearly 17% of the global population, has reported only 223 cases (0.075% of global new cases) in the past week.

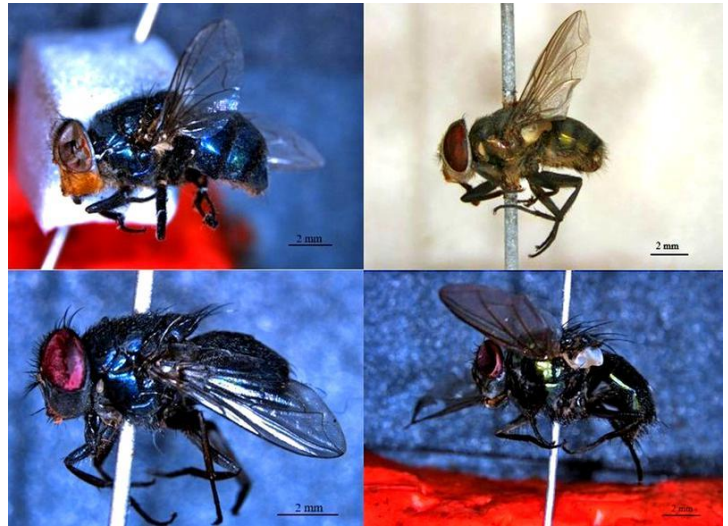
Ans8. B

### Explanation:

**Context:** Study on life cycle of different blow flies helps to estimate post-mortem interval. **About The Blow Flies**

### Key Highlights

- The flies belonging to the Calliphoridae family in the order Diptera are the first visitors to inhabit and colonise a dead body.
- Commonly known as blow flies, these flies have significant importance in the accurate assessment of post-mortem interval (PMI), the time that has elapsed since one's death.
- However, studies reveal significant differences in the developmental rate of these flies according to seasonal changes.
  - These changes may be due to changes in humidity, rainfall, temperature in the area, and genetic variations of blow flies.
- A study conducted, has recorded 17 blow fly species belonging to four subfamilies and eight genera from central Kerala.
- The study covers four forensically significant blow flies, *Chrysomya megacephala*, *Chrysomya rufifacies*, *Chrysomya chani*, and *Hemipyrellia ligurriens*, that have been identified based on their morphological and molecular characteristics.
- Effect of temperature and humidity on the life cycle of blow flies was investigated and it showed that the pre-oviposition period was significantly higher in winter in all the four species.
- Length and weight larval instars were significantly higher in monsoon for *C. megacephala* and *C. rufifacies*."
- The **regression equation method** developed in this study emerged as the best suitable method for the estimation of PMI using life history of blow flies.



Ans9. D

### Explanation:

After the first WHO Centre for Global Traditional Medicine, to be set up in Gujarat, India is now all set to open a climate change and health hub in New Delhi in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The World Health Organization (WHO) outpost in Jamnagar will aim to provide leadership on global health matters pertaining to

- Traditional medicine
- Ensure the quality, Safety, and Efficacy
- Accessibility, and rational use of traditional medicine
- Develop norms, standards, and guidelines in relevant technical areas

- Develop tools and methodologies for data collection and analytics

Ans10. D

**Explanation:**

On August 8, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the 'State of Elementary Education in Rural India' report which shows that schoolchildren spend most of their screen time playing games, watching movies or listening to songs. Accessing study materials and online tutorials featured way down the order.

Ans11. D

**Explanation:**

Instruments used in Seethakali folk art are ganjira, manikatta, chiratta and kaimani.

Ans12. C

**Explanation:**

- A scheme for the distribution of fortified rice, containing prescribed micronutrients (Iron, Folic Acid, and Vitamin B12) was launched in October 2021 in a phased manner in order to address the problem of anaemia in children and women.
- In April 2022, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the supply of fortified rice throughout the Public Distribution System (PDS), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman-PM POSHAN and other welfare schemes in all states and Union Territories by 2024 in a phased manner.
- The entire cost of rice fortification, which is around Rs 2,700 crore per annum, would be borne by the Centre as part of the food subsidy till its full implementation up to June 2024.

Ans13. C

**Explanation:**

On August 11, Roscosmos, the Russian space agency, launched its Luna 25 spacecraft onboard a Soyuz 2 rocket.

- Luna 25 consisted of a lander and its mission was to soft-land near the moon's south pole and study the properties of lunar soil and the atmosphere.
- But on August 20, Roscosmos stated that Luna 25 had suffered a glitch and crashed on the moon's surface the previous day, ending the mission in a failure.

**Why Did Russia Launch Luna 25?**

- The Luna 25 mission has been in the works for more than two decades.
- It was initially called Luna-Glob and the name was later changed to make the mission a part of the Luna series, the last edition of which was launched in 1976.
- In its statement, Roscosmos said one of the mission's purposes was to "ensure Russia's guaranteed access to the moon's surface" — an allusion to the growing importance of the moon as a spaceflight destination.
- While Russia and China are together leading the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS), versus the U.S.-led Artemis Accords, Russia has not executed a successful interplanetary mission in 34 years now.

- Some experts have also said that Russia intended Luna 25 as President Vladimir Putin's demonstration that the country's economy — including the spaceflight sector — hasn't buckled under the weight of international sanctions following Mr. Putin's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

Ans14. C

**Explanation:**

**The Moon's 'Near', 'Far Sides' And 'Dark' Side**

- The **near side** refers to the portion of the moon — about 60% — that is visible to us.
  - It is always the same side that is visible from Earth because the moon takes the same time to rotate about its axis as it does to circle around the Earth.
  - However this doesn't imply that the half the moon is in perpetual darkness.
- The 'new moon' or when the moon is invisible from Earth is the time when the other '**far side**' of the moon is bathed in sunlight and continues to receive light for nearly a fortnight.
  - Astronauts aboard the Apollo 8 mission of 1968 were the first humans to see the far side of the moon.
- The '**dark side**' is thus dark only in the sense that it was mysterious and its various topographical features hidden until the Soviet spacecraft Luna 3 in 1959 photographed it and the Soviet Academy of Sciences released an atlas of these images.

**Is The Dark Side Very Different From The Near Side?**

The major difference between the two sides is that the near side is relatively smoother and has many more 'maria' or large volcanic plains compared to the far side. On the far side however, there are huge craters, thousands of kilometres wide, which have likely resulted from collisions with asteroids.

- While both sides of the moon in its formative phase were similarly bombarded, the crust on the near side is thinner because of which, over millions of years, the volcanic lava in the lunar crust has flowed more extensively into the thinner side and filled up its craters.
- The resulting plains that have thus formed are far more conducive to space missions because they provide a relatively flat terrain for landers and rovers.

Ans15. D

**Explanation:**

**Bharat- NCAP Norms to Benefit Consumers**

- Auto and auto-component makers have responded positively to the Bharat-NCAP norms.
- In addition to empowering consumers, this will also help bring about greater awareness and further transparency by allowing them to know comparative safety aspects of various products on offer.
- This effort will raise safety standards, empower consumers with vital information and make Indian roads safer for all.
- This initiative will not only bolster the auto component industry's value chain but will also stimulate the production of cutting-edge components.