

Weekly Quiz Answers (25th Sept-1st Oct)

Ans1. A

Explanation:

Toto Shabda Sangraha will help revive Toto, spoken by around 1,600 people in parts of West Bengal bordering Bhutan. Toto is to get a dictionary, thanks to the efforts of a professor at the University of Calcutta. The dictionary is a step in the direction of **preserving the language**, alive so far only orally, by putting its vocabulary in print.

- It is a language spoken by barely 1,600 people living in parts of West Bengal bordering Bhutan.
- Toto is a **Sino-Tibetan language** spoken by the **tribal** Toto people and is written in the **Bengali script**.
- Even though prominent community member **Dhaniram Toto** developed a script as recently as in 2015, most people either write it in Bengali script or write in Bengali language.
- A book by the Padma Shri-decorated Mr. Toto, titled Dhanua Totor Kathamala, was written in Bengali.
- Toto is considered a critically endangered language by UNESCO, with an estimated 1,000 speakers or fewer.
- Despite this endangered status, many families within the Toto community still use the language at home.
- It is often the primary language children learn at home, although they use Bengali when attending school.

Ans2. C

Explanation:

Heat-Tolerant Wheat Varieties

To address these challenges, India has developed approximately 800 climate-resistant wheat varieties. Notable examples include:

HD 3385

- Developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research's Indian Institute of Rice Research.
- Features high-temperature stress tolerance, especially at the end of the crop cycle.
- Designed for terminal heat tolerance.
- Growth cycle of 130 to 160 days when sown in November.
- Yield potential of 75 quintals per hectare.

HI 1636 (Pusa Bakula)

- Released by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- Offers a yield potential of 72 quintals per hectare.

Ans3. D

Explanation:

- The Indian Army has started an initiative, named Project Udbhav, to rediscover the **“profound Indic heritage of statecraft and strategic thoughts”** derived from ancient Indian texts of “statecraft, warcraft, diplomacy and grand strategy” in collaboration with the

- ✓ The project endeavours to explore India's rich historical narratives in the realms of statecraft and strategic thoughts.
- ✓ It focuses on a broad spectrum including indigenous military systems, historical texts, regional texts and kingdoms, thematic studies, and intricate Kautilya Studies.

United Service Institution of India (USI), a defence think-tank.

- In connection with this, USI will conduct a **Military Heritage Festival** on October 21 and 22, to acquaint “future thought leaders with the dynamics of comprehensive national security with special emphasis on India’s strategic culture, military heritage, education, modernisation of security forces and Atmanirbhar Bharat,” according to an Army statement.
- The initiative stands testimony to the Army’s recognition of India’s age-old wisdom in statecraft, strategy, diplomacy, and warfare, the statement said, adding that Project Udbhav seeks to bridge the historical and the contemporary.
- The aim of Project Udbhav is not limited to just rediscovering these narratives, but also to **develop an “indigenous strategic vocabulary”**, which is deeply rooted in India’s “multifaceted philosophical and cultural tapestry”.
- The overall aim is to integrate age-old wisdom with modern military pedagogy, it stated.
- Project Udbhav **aims** to reintroduce classical teachings into contemporary military and strategic domains.
- It seeks to **equip officers** with ancient wisdom for application in modern scenarios.
- Additionally, it **promotes a deeper understanding** of international relations and foreign cultures.

Ans4. C

Explanation:

In its latest report released this March, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) delivers a stark warning: climate change heightens the global risk of infectious diseases.

- The close relationship between climate and disease is being demonstrated every year.
- For instance, the periodicity of mosquito-borne disease outbreaks no longer follows expected patterns. Dengue manifests in two to three peaks throughout the year.
- Variability in **temperature, precipitation, and humidity** disrupt disease transmission cycles. These also alter the distribution of the **vectors and animal reservoirs** that host the parasite.
- **Heat** has been proven to interfere with the genomic structure of pathogens, changing their infectivity and virulence.

Ans5. A

Explanation:

Presenting a visual feast to tourists, balsams (genus Impatiens) are in full bloom in Munnar. Called Kasithumba and Onappovu locally, its small, pink flowers are a major attraction along the Devikulam stretch of the Kochi-Dhanushkodi National Highway.

- Balsams are also known as **‘touch-me-not’** because of the bursting of mature seeds and seed distribution.
- Botanists say the large-scale flowering of balsams indicates that **micro-climate is still active in the Munnar hill station**.
- Of the 220 balsam species in India, 135 are found in the southern Western Ghats.
- Idukki is known for the diversity of balsams, with scientists terming the district a balsam paradise.
- Anamudi, the highest mountain in the Western Ghats, and the surrounding high ranges are known for the diversity of wild balsams.

- New species of balsams are being discovered from these areas. There are balsams endemic to the high ranges.
- There are more than 30 species of balsams in the Periyar Tiger Reserve itself.

Humid Habitats

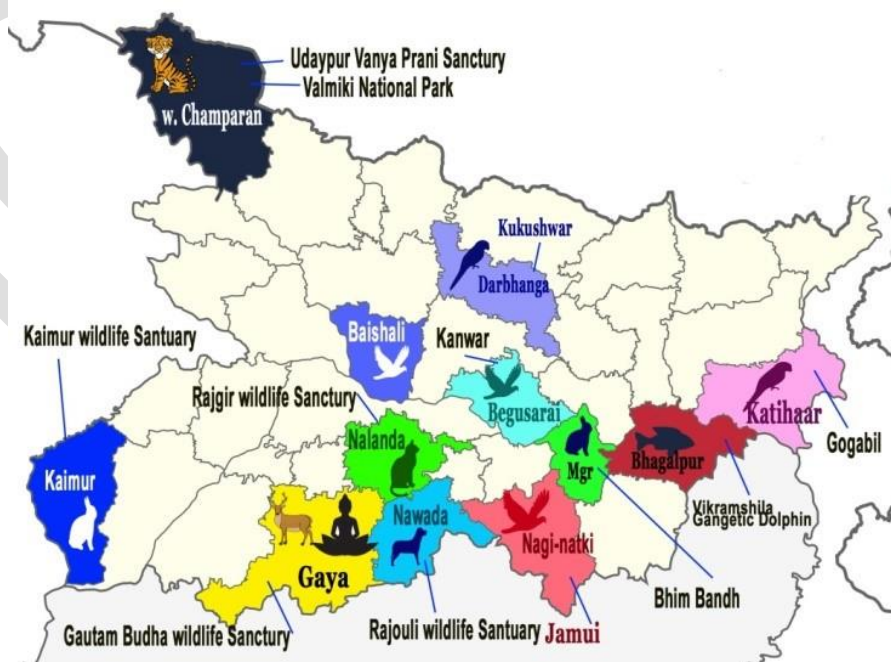
- The normal life cycle of balsams is from **June to December**.
- The plant mainly grows inside pockets of forest areas.
- With the loss of specific habitats, many species have become rare, threatened, or even extinct.
- This fleshy orophytic herb usually **prefers humid habitats and completes the life cycle in the rainy season**.
- Balsams are a major indicator species of climate change. If climate change occurs in any area, it will reflect in the plant population.
- A forest official says 46 balsam species are found in the Munnar landscape, spread from Munnar to Chinnar and Bison Valley.
- Munnar is the major habitat of balsams, and there are over 40 wild species in the Eravikulam National Park.
- 46 species of balsams have been discovered in the altitude of Munnar. No other place in the world has such diversity.

Features: Consisting of both annual and perennial herbs, balsams are succulent plants with high endemism. Because of their bright beautiful flowers, these group of plants are of prized horticultural significance.

Distribution: About 230 species of Balsams are found in India, a majority of them in the eastern Himalayas and the Western Ghats.

Ans6. B

Explanation:
Map of Bihar



Ans7. D

Explanation:

Some Key Features of Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products Scheme

Launch	1st Jan 2021
Affiliated Ministry	Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Tax Refund Range	0.5% to 4.3%
Excluded Department	Steel, Organic, Chemical, and Petrochemical
Target	Employment-oriented sectors such as Maines, Agriculture, Leather, Gems and Jewellery are its prime target.
Total Outlay	12454 Cr
Taxes Intended to compensate to exports in this scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VAT and Excise duty on the fuel used in self-incurred transportation costs• the fuel used in the generation of electricity via power plants or DG Sets• on the fuel used in running machinery/plant• Electricity duty on the purchase of electricity• Mandi Tax/ Municipal Taxes/ Property Taxes• Stamp duty on export documents; etc

Ans8. A

Explanation:

- Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in Kaimur District and Rohtas District of Bihar.
- It is the largest sanctuary in the state and extended in the plateaued landscape of Kaimur Range.
- It was established in 1979.
- The major forest types are Tropical Dry Mixed Deciduous, Dry Sal Forests, Boswellia Forests and Dry Bamboo Brakes.
- It is home to rare and endangered flora and fauna. Rohtasgarh Fort and Shergarh Fort are also located in these forests.
- It also has numerous Megaliths, Rock painting of prehistoric age and stone inscription from a bygone era.
- The Government of Bihar has planned to developed it into Tiger Reserve.
- This Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Rohtas Plateau and Kaimur plateau of Kaimur Range in the south-western part of Bihar.
- In the valley portions there are several waterfalls of which the finest are Karkat Waterfall, Manjhar Kund, Dhua Kund, Tutla Bhawani waterfall, Geeta ghat waterfall, Kashish Waterfall, and Telhar.
- There are several Dams and lakes, including Anupam Lake, Karamchat dam and Kohira Dam.

Ans9. A

Explanation:

RoDTEP Scheme

The Scheme for Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) has emerged as a critical tool in supporting India's exporters.

- It became operational on **1st January 2021** replacing the existing export incentive scheme, Merchandise Exports from India (MEIS).
 - This change was prompted by a World Trade Organization (WTO) ruling that determined the MEIS scheme's violation of WTO regulations due to its provision of export subsidies for a broad spectrum of goods.
- The rebate under the scheme is allowed, based on the allowed percentage of FOB (Freight On Board) value of exports and issued in the form of a transferable duty credit/electronic scrip (e-scrip), the details of which are maintained in a digital ledger by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).
- The RoDTEP Committee operates within the Department of Revenue.
 - Its primary responsibility is to review and recommend ceiling rates for different export sectors under the RoDTEP Scheme.

Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its primary objective is to provide comprehensive support to exporters by remitting duties and taxes incurred during the production and distribution of exported products. • Importantly, RoDTEP covers taxes, duties, and levies at the central, state, and local levels, which are not refunded through any other existing mechanisms.
Financial Allocation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the financial year 2023-24, the Indian Government has allocated a substantial budget of Rs. 15,070 crores to support the RoDTEP Scheme.
Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee recently initiated its activities by engaging with Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) and Chambers of Commerce.

Ans10. D

Explanation:

Recommendations

The panel asked the Union Government and the State Governments to take actions such as

- Earmarking suitable funds for the education of socially and economically disadvantaged groups (sedgs),
- Setting clear targets for higher gross enrolment ratio for sedgs,
- Enhancing gender balance in admissions to heis,
- Providing more financial assistance and scholarships to sedgs in both public and private heis,
- Making admission processes and curriculum more inclusive,
- Increasing employability potential of higher education programmes and for developing more degree courses taught in regional languages and bilingually.
- Specific infrastructural steps to help physically challenged students

- A strict enforcement of all no-discrimination and anti-harassment rules

The Committee appreciated the manner in which the NEP was implemented in Jammu and Kashmir. It said that the Union Territory was among the first in the country to implement NEP from the academic session 2022 in all its higher educational institutions. The panel said it witnessed a paradigm shift in the methods of teaching, leading to lifelong learning opportunities to students.

Ans11. B

Explanation:

Context: The Indian Space Research Organisation has successfully completed the CE20 E13 engine hot test for Gaganyaan qualification and 22-tonne thrust qualification.

- The engine was tested at the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri on September 22.
- The CE20 engine is a vital component, serving as the powerhouse of the Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS) responsible for propelling the upper stage (C25) of the LVM3 vehicle.
- It has demonstrated its capability by successfully operating at a thrust level of 19 tonnes in six successive LVM3 missions and two commercial OneWeb missions.
- To enhance the payload capacity of the LVM3 vehicle, ISRO is upgrading the CE20 engine.
- The upper cryogenic stage is being transformed into the C32 stage with increased propellant loading capacity, and the engine is being modified to operate at a higher thrust level of 22 tonnes.

The Test Vehicle D-1/Crew Escape System mission of Gaganyaan is likely to be conducted in October.

Dimension	Description
Objectives	To launch three crew members (including a women) into low Earth orbit and bring them back safely to Earth. Demonstrate the capability to send humans into space. Develop and test the technologies required for human spaceflight.
Launch Vehicle	Human Rated LVM3 (HLVM3) (GSLV Mk III derived)
Module	The Orbiter Module consists of the Crew Module (CM) (habitable space for the crew) and the Service Module (SM)— powered by two liquid propellant engines
Trial	Three flights will be sent into orbit. There will be two unmanned flights and one human spaceflight.
Launch Site	Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
Duration of Mission	It will circle Earth at a low-earth-orbit at an altitude of 300-400 km from earth for 5-7 days.
Collaborations	Collaboration with Russia's Roscosmos State Corporation for Space Activities. France's CNES (National Centre for Space Studies) is also a partner in the mission
Significance	Once accomplished, India will become the fourth country in the world to launch a human space flight mission after the US, Russia and China.

Ans12. A

Explanation:

Context: The study evaluated 129 health indicators to compare the performance of Scheduled Tribes and non-Scheduled Tribes.

- In a recent study published in ‘The Lancet Regional Health — Southeast Asia,’ researchers provide a detailed analysis of the health, nutrition, and population trends of Scheduled Tribes (STs) from 2016 to 2021.
- Drawing from the National Family Health Surveys from 2016 and 2021, the authors contend that even though there is a noticeable improvement in the health and welfare metrics of STs, there are persistent disparities between the metrics of ST and non-ST populations, which demand urgent and consistent policy efforts.

Key Highlights

- The 2011 Census recorded over 104 million STs spread across 705 recognised ethnic groups. Even with targeted policies in place, STs, who make up 8.6% of India’s population, face health and socioeconomic challenges.
- The study offers an overview of the performance metrics for STs, non-STs, and the overall population based on 129 parameters in 2021.
- It also highlights the contrast in the performance metrics of STs between 2016 and 2021, spotlighting areas of both progress and decline.
- In 2021, the non-ST population outperformed the ST population in 81 out of 129 indicators.
- STs continued to face challenges, particularly concerning women’s status and major public health issues such as child malnutrition, anaemia, insufficient vaccination coverage, and disparities in fertility and mortality rates.
- The **48 indicators** on which STs surpassed non-STs include overall gender balance, gender balance at birth, use of family planning methods, consistent treatment during pregnancy, and adherence to recommended breastfeeding practices.
- Moreover, STs showed a reduced occurrence of diabetes and hypertension compared to non-STs.

The research divided the **129 indicators into 21 themes** to evaluate the comparative performance of STs and non-STs in 2021.

Ans13. D

Explanation:

The initiative stands testimony to the Army’s recognition of India’s age-old wisdom in statecraft, strategy, diplomacy, and warfare, the statement said, adding that Project Udbhav seeks to bridge the historical and the contemporary.

- The aim of Project Udbhav is not limited to just rediscovering these narratives, but also to **develop an “indigenous strategic vocabulary”**, which is deeply rooted in India’s “multifaceted philosophical and cultural tapestry”.
- The overall aim is to integrate age-old wisdom with modern military pedagogy, it stated.
- **Project Udbhav employs a comprehensive exploration methodology, which includes**
 - Rich historical narratives

- A focus on indigenous military systems
- Study of historical texts
- Examination of regional texts and kingdoms
- Thematic studies
- In-depth analysis of Kautilya's strategic contributions

Ans14. C

Explanation:

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Ans15. C

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