

ANALOG IAS ACADEMY



OCTOBER MONTH

CURRENT AFFAIRS – KEY AND EXPLANATION

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1. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

As part of this agreement, Temasek will join Government of India (GoI), Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), HDFC Group, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance and Axis Bank as investor in NIIF's Master Fund and as shareholder in National Investment and Infrastructure Limited (NIIFTL), investment management company of NIIF. It will invest in core infrastructure sectors in India with focus on energy, transportation and urban and infrastructure. It aims to maximize economic growth of country mainly through infrastructure development in commercially viable project in Greenfield and Brownfield.

2. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Chabahar port located on the Gulf of Oman and is the only oceanic port of the Iran. It is the key gateway to the International North-South Transport Corridor that has sea, rail and road routes between India, Russia, Iran, Europe and Central Asia.

3. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is a multilateral treaty that bans all nuclear explosions, for both civilian and military purposes, in all environments.

4. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

India's Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. will conduct preliminary engineering-cum-traffic

survey of this new rail line in consultation with Government of Nepal. India and Nepal have signed MoU to build strategic railway line connecting Raxaul city in Bihar, India to Kathmandu, capital of Nepal. Besides, there are also three other railway projects in pipeline between both countries viz. Nautanwa-Bhairahawa, New Jalpaiguri-Kakarbhitta and Nepalgunj Road-Nepalgunj.

5. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Foreign ministers of BIMSTEC member countries had signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on establishment of BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection. The theme of the fourth BIMSTEC summit is 'Towards a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Bay of Bengal region'. Technological and economic cooperation among South Asian and Southeast Asian countries along the coast of the Bay of Bengal is its main objective.

6. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

"India Post Payments Bank" will focus on providing banking and financial services to people in rural areas and governed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

7. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Recently Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has made public 13 standardised state-of-the-art ship designs suitable for large barge haulage on river Ganga (National Waterway-1). It

will serve as an enabler for domestic shipbuilding industry working on inland vessels and open huge possibilities for cargo and passenger movement on National Waterway-1. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is the statutory authority in charge of the waterways in India. Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system from Allahabad to Haldia was declared as National Waterway No.1.

8. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Krishna Kutir is special home for 1000 widows set under Swadhar Greh scheme and is the largest ever facility of its kind created by government organization.

9. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Swadhar scheme was launched by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2002 for rehabilitation of women in difficult circumstances.

The scheme provides shelter, food, clothing and care to the marginalized women/girls who are in need.

10. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Under the treaty, control over six north Indian rivers were divided between the two countries. India got control over the rivers Beas, Ravi and Sutlej whereas Pakistan got control over Indus, Chenab and Jhelum. The Indus river basin spans parts of 4 countries (Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and China) in an area that is more than 30% arid. The treaty allocates 80% of water from the six-river Indus water system to Pakistan. India and Pakistan have agreed to undertake Indus

Waters Treaty 1960 mandated tours by their water commissioners in Indus basin on both sides to resolve issues on various hydroelectric projects in Jammu and Kashmir.

11. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

“MOVE: Global Mobility Summit is the first of its kind summit to be organized by NITI Aayog, in collaboration with various ministries and industry partners to promote new cleaner, accessible modes of transport.

12. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

There is six priority areas of regional cooperation within the framework of the EAS. These are – Environment and Energy, Education, Finance, Global Health Issues and Pandemic Diseases, Natural Disaster Management, and ASEAN Connectivity. India endorses regional collaboration in all six priority areas.

13. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Commerce & Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu attended the 6th East Asia Summit- Economic Ministers’ Meeting (EAS-EMM) and 15th India-ASEAN Economic Ministers’ Meeting (AEM) in Singapore today. Singapore is currently holding the Chair of ASEAN.

14. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

It was also announced in the Singapore meeting that the next ASEAN-India Business Summit will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in November 2018 with the theme “Towards Building Strategic

Partnership between ASEAN and India in the Era of the 4th IR and Digital Economy.

15. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The e-pharmacy cannot advertise any drug on radio or television or internet or print or any other media for any purpose.

16. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Recently, RBI Deputy Governor Viral Acharya made a case for setting up a Public Credit Registry (PCR), incorporating unique identifiers: Aadhaar for individual borrowers and Corporate Identification Number for firms. The corporate debtors will not be able to borrow across banks without disclosing existing debt.

17. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Environment Ministry set up the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel under Gadgil. The panel was asked to make an assessment of the ecology and biodiversity of the Western Ghats and suggest measures to conserve protect and rejuvenate the entire range that stretches to over 1500 km along the coast, with its footprints in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.

18. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Gujarat Government's Industries and Mines Department has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) to strengthen trade, industrial relations. KOTRA is

national trade and investment promotion organisation operated by South Korea Government.

19. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Under this scheme Universities will be free to decide their fee for domestic and foreign students and can have flexible course duration and structure. It includes 3 Institutions from Public Sector and 3 from Private Sector. They were selected by Empowered Expert Committee headed by former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) N Gopalaswami.

20. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data, Mauritius was top source of foreign direct investment (FDI) into India in 2017-18 followed by Singapore.

21. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Fourth International Ayurveda Congress (IAvC) was held in Leiden, Netherlands from September 1 to 2, 2018. It was inaugurated by Minister of State, (IC), for AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik.

22. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

MANRS will provide simple and concrete steps for network operators that enable dramatically improved Internet security and reliability. It is global initiative to implement crucial fixes needed to reduce common threats to internet's routing system and safeguard enterprises and government from cyber threats.

23. Answer: (b)

Explanation: US-based nonprofit The Internet Society and Internet Service Providers Association of India (ISPAI) have signed MoU to make Internet safe and secure in India by securing routers which is vital for healthy internet infrastructure.

24. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

FOCAC is an official forum between China and all states in Africa excluding Eswatini.

25. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste are the member of "WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia".

26. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Banking ombudsman is a quasi judicial authority, created to resolve customer complaints against banks relating to certain services provided by them. The Ombudsman is a senior official, who has been appointed by the Reserve Bank of India to address grievances and complaints from customers, pertaining deficiencies in banking services. It covers all kinds of banks including public sector banks, Private Banks, Rural banks as well as co-operative banks.

27. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

UAE has started its preparations for the upcoming Mars Mission named- HOPE. The

Emirates Mars Mission project will answer scientific questions that have long puzzled scientists. These are questions about the Red Planet, which scientists have not been able to explain before because of the lack of data and information.

28. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Rapid Trident logoRapid Trident is an annual, multinational exercise that serves as the validation for Ukraine's Ministry of Defence unit. Exercise Rapid Trident 2018 is being held in Ukraine, involving approximately 2,270 personnel from 14 nations.

29. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

In this exercises, Hyderabad based Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) will be nodal participating agency.

30. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have released draft Charter of Patients' Rights prepared by National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). There is no consolidated uniform document on patients' rights that can be followed by all states uniformly. The draft charter is inspired by international charters and is guided by national level provisions with objective of consolidating comprehensive on patients' rights in India.

31. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Union Territory of Puducherry has bagged top position in National Clean School Award after seven schools from Puducherry were awarded for cleanliness.

32. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The programme is an initiative of Ministry of Women and Child Development and NITI Aayog is supported by 18 line Ministries / Departments / Government Organizations.

33. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The summit has been jointly organised by the Airports Authority of India, Ministry of Civil Aviation and International Air Transport Association (IATA).

34. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

NABARD has partly funded the Pilot project and it is digital mobile extension services for coffee stakeholders. The mobile app Coffee Connect has also been developed to ease the work of field functionaries and to improve the work efficiency in the field of coffee.

35. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

A Japanese team has developed a space elevator and will conduct a first trial this month, blasting off a miniature version on satellites to test the technology.

36. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

“Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)” aims to improve the governance, management, institutional capacity, decision-making processes of its Member States with respect to marine resources and climate variability. IOC coordinates ocean observation and monitoring through the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and aims to develop a unified network providing information on the oceans.

37. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The 2018 edition will be held in Otar region, Kazakhstan. This is the third joint military exercise between the two countries which have a history of extensive cooperation in the defence arena. The second edition of the exercise was held in India last year.

38. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The Summit 2018 was held in Kathmandu, capital of Nepal with the theme of Equality begins with Economic Empowerment”. It was organised by the South Asian Women Development Forum.

39. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

SAWDF is an autonomous, nonprofit organization based in Kathmandu, Nepal. It was granted the status of SAARC Recognized Body by 36th Session of SAARC Council Ministers at 18th SAARC Summit held in Kathmandu in 2014.

40. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Cyient Solutions & Systems Pvt. Ltd has bagged order from Indian Army to supply SpyLite mini UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) systems for high altitude aerial surveillance. Cyient Solutions & Systems Pvt. Ltd is joint venture between IT firm Cyient and BlueBird Aero Systems of Israel.

41. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Recently State-run Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has bagged order worth for supply of seven Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) systems to Indian Navy. LRSAM has long-range engagement capability to penetrate deep water and land to intercept all types of aerial targets like subsonic and supersonic missiles.

42. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Ministry of Tourism sanctioned Malanad Malabar Cruise Tourism Project under Swadesh Darshan Scheme for development of rural circuit in Kerala. Under this project, Ministry of Tourism will be developing three cruises,

43. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Minor survivors of rape or sexual assault will get compensation on par with women victims. National Legal Services Authority's (NALSA) compensation scheme for women rape and sexual assault survivors shall be extended to minor children.

44. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an informal process of dialogue and cooperation bringing

together the 28 European Union member states, 2 other European countries, and the European Union with 21 Asian countries and the ASEAN Secretariat.

45. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The National Mission will cover all central government departments, states and public sector undertakings in a mission mode. It also aims to promote inclusiveness by empowering various categories of sellers and service providers such as MSMEs, start-ups, domestic manufacturers, women entrepreneurs, and Self-Help Groups.

46. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

It is an online marketplace to facilitate procurement of goods and services by various Ministries and agencies of the Government. The platform offers online, end to end solution for procurement of commonly used goods and services for all central government departments and state governments, public sector units and affiliated bodies. It aims to enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement of goods and services and eliminate corruption.

47. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Umbrella Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-IDWH) beyond the 12th Plan period from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

48. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

It was jointly organised by PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association with Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME). The objective of expo was to enable nation become self-reliant in Home Land Security (HLS) and defence sector there by making India stronger economy.

49. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

India, Sri Lanka joint naval exercise SLINEX-2018 was held at Trincomalee, Sri Lanka. SLINEX exercise is continuation of ongoing operational interaction between both navies wherein regular ships visits are being undertaken between the two countries.

50. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Mobilise Your City (MYC) is part of an international initiative which is supported by the French and the German Governments and was launched at 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) meeting in December, 2015. Based on a proposal made by AFD in 2015, the European Union has agreed to provide funds of Euro 3.5 million through the AFD to contribute to specific investments and technical assistance components within the Mobilise Your City (MYC) programme in India. The MYC aims at supporting three pilot cities viz. Nagpur, Kochi and Ahmedabad in their efforts to reduce their Green House Gas (GHG) emissions related to urban transport by implementing urban mobility plans at local level and to help India at national level to improve their sustainable transport policy.

51. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

France, UK, Canada, United States, Australia and Brazil have de-criminalised homosexuality. India currently stands with a host of countries such as Nigeria, Ghana, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Mauritania, Qatar and Pakistan which criminalises homosexuality. In June 2015, the US Supreme Court ruled that same sex marriages were legal. Near home, Nepal legalised homosexuality in 2007 and the new Constitution of the country too gives many rights to the LGBT community.

52. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) is an international assessment that measures 15-year-old students' reading, mathematics, and science literacy every three years. First conducted in 2000, the major domain of study rotates between reading, mathematics, and science in each cycle. PISA also includes measures of general or cross-curricular competencies, such as collaborative problem solving. By design, PISA emphasizes functional skills that students have acquired as they near the end of compulsory schooling.

53. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

COMCASA stands for Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement and is one of the four foundational agreements that the U.S. signs with allies and close partners to facilitate

interoperability between militaries and sale of high end technology. Recently India and the U.S. have signed the foundational or enabling agreement COMCASA on the side-lines of the inaugural 2+2 dialogue.

54. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

It is a fund-raising initiative by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India on behalf of members of the Indian Armed Forces. It aims to enable willing donors to contribute towards the family of a braveheart who sacrificed his/her life in line of duty. This website is technically supported by National Informatics Centre (NIC) and powered by State Bank of India.

55. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

UN chief Antonio Guterres recently reiterated his appeal to eight nations, including India and the US, to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, saying the failure to bring it into force undermines global efforts to ensure a world free of atomic weapons. Another major concern was Article XIV, the entry-into-force (EIF) clause, which India considered a violation of its right to voluntarily withhold participation in an international treaty. The treaty initially made ratification by states that were to be a part of the CTBT's International Monitoring System (IMS) mandatory for the treaty's EIF.

56. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Cassini-Huygens is an unmanned spacecraft sent to the planet Saturn. Cassini is the fourth space probe to visit Saturn and the first to enter orbit.

Its design includes a Saturn orbiter and a lander for the moon Titan. Recently using data from NASA's Cassini spacecraft, scientists have spotted a surprising feature emerging at Saturn's northern pole as it nears summertime – a warming, high-altitude jet stream with a hexagonal shape.

57. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Recently Bonnethead shark first known omnivorous shark species identified by scientists and it is abundant in the shallow waters of the Western Atlantic, and the Gulf of Mexico. 60% of its diet consists of seagrass and in addition to eating bony fish, crabs, snails and shrimp.

58. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

India and United States will conduct their annual combat exercise "Yudh Abhyas" at Chaubattia in Uttarakhand September, 2018. The exercise will be held soon after both countries hold their inaugural top-level "2+2" dialogue in New Delhi. It will be fourteenth edition of exercise in Yudh Abhyas series which was started in 2004 under US Army Pacific Partnership Program. This will be four times exercise will be conducted at Chaubattia in Uttarakhand. The aim of this exercise will be to enhance interoperability between armies.

59. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

As part of this agreement, Temasek will join Government of India (GoI), Abu Dhabi Investment

Authority (ADIA), HDFC Group, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance and Axis Bank as investor in NIIF's Master Fund and as shareholder in National Investment and Infrastructure Limited (NIIFTL), investment management company of NIIF.

60. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) has made oil and gas discoveries in Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal that may potentially open up two new new sedimentary basins in country. They are category-III basins, having hydrocarbon and are considered geologically prospective for exploration.

61. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

India and France have signed agreement to collaborate for ISRO's first human space mission Gaganyaan to be launched in 2022. It will make India fourth nation in the world after USA, Russia and China to launch a human spaceflight mission. Astronaut will be selected jointly by Indian Air Force (IAF) and ISRO after which they will undergo training for two-three years. GSLV Mk-III launch vehicle, having necessary payload capability will be used to launch Gaganyaan.

62. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Union Finance Ministry has doubled pecuniary limit to Rs. 20 lakh from Rs.10 lakh for filing loan recovery application in Debt Recovery Tribunals by banks and financial institutions. It means that bank or financial institution or consortium of

banks or financial institutions cannot approach DRTs.

63. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The World Hindu Congress (WHC-2018) was held Chicago, United States. The theme of WHC-2018 was "Sumantrite Suvikrante" — thinks collectively, achieve valiantly". WHC serves as a platform to address critical issues impacting Hindus worldwide, including human rights, discrimination, and cultural assaults.

64. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Only Nepal is not participating in the exercise. The withdrawal of the Nepal Army from the event comes in the wake of stringent criticism from the ruling and opposition parties in the country, warning Nepal Prime Minister K P Oli that the move would go against the country's history of following a policy of keeping equal distance from its neighbors, without ever being part of a regional bloc militarily.

65. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

4th World Summit on Accreditation is being held at New Delhi and it is being organized by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) only.

66. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

A meeting of the International Executive Council, the highest decision making body of International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), at Saskatoon in Canada last month has accepted Telangana government's nomination of Sadarmatt anicut across river Godavari in Nirmal district and Pedda Cheruvu in Kamareddy district in the ICID Register of Heritage Irrigation Structures.

67. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

It is a Technical and Voluntary Not-for-profit, International NGO, dedicated to improving water and land management, and the productivity of irrigated and drained lands. ICID has been involved in the global discussions leading to Agenda 21, World Water Vision and World Water Forums etc.

68. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Snow leopard was spotted at height of about 4,000 metres in Lippa-Asra wildlife sanctuary in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh.

69. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Aam Aadmi Party-led Delhi Government has launched scheme for doorstep delivery of 40 essential government services like caste and marriage certificate driving license and new water connections. It is fist home delivery scheme of various essential government services in the country. It will help to deal with corruption in delivery of essential government services and promote transparent governance.

70. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

INDO-MONGOLIA joint exercise Nomadic Elephant-2018 is being held in Ullanbaatar, Mongolia. The exercise will see them improve their tactical and technical skills in joint counter insurgency and counter terrorist operations in rural and urban scenario under United Nations mandate.

71. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Recently Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have issued a notification for bringing the HIV/AIDS Act, 2017 in force from 10th September, 2018. As per the Act, central and state governments are obliged to provide for anti-retroviral therapy (ART) and management of opportunistic infections. It provides for confidentiality of HIV-related information and makes it necessary to get informed consent for undertaking HIV tests, medical treatment and research.

72. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

This portal will allow companies to register their requests for contributing to create amenities at railway stations through their CSR funds. These requests will be processed by Railway officials and based on principle of first come first serve, requests will be shortlisted.

73. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The model centre is aimed at solving major challenges in India with special focus on application-based AI research in healthcare, agriculture and smart mobility.

74. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

First Tribal Circuit Project under Swadesh Darshan Scheme will be inaugurated in Chhattisgarh. This is the second project under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme being inaugurated in the country.

75. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Giving a major boost to the pro-farmer initiatives of the Government and in keeping with its commitment and dedication for the Annadata, the Union Cabinet has approved a new Umbrella Scheme “Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan’ (PM-AASHA). This scheme does not involve any physical procurement of crops as farmers are paid the difference between the MSP price and sale or modal price on disposal in the notified market. The support of the central government for PDPS will be given as per norms.

76. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Capacity Development Scheme has two Sub-schemes, Economic Census and Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS). Under Economic Census, listing of all non-agricultural establishments is undertaken periodically, which forms the basis for conducting detailed socio-economic surveys. The last (61) Economic Census was conducted during January, 2013 to April, 2014 and the Government now aims to conduct the Census once every three years in future. The SSS Sub-scheme is to strengthen State/ Sub-State level statistical systems/ infrastructure to facilitate development of a robust national system. Funds are released to States/ UTs for this purpose after detailed examination of their proposals.

77. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Shri Manoj Jhalani, Additional Secretary & Mission Director (NHM), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, has been conferred with the

prestigious UN Interagency Task Force (UNIATF) Award for his outstanding contribution towards prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and related Sustainable Development Goals. It is in recognition of Government of India’s efforts made in the field of prevention and control of Non-Communicable Diseases. National Programme to control NCDs has been scaled up by more than eight times in the past four years and covers all the 36 States/Union Territories now. The Government has also initiated population level prevention, control, screening and management initiative in almost 200 districts under NHM which will cover people above 30 years of age.

78. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Tamil Nadu Government has issued order banning manufacture, sale and possession of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) or e-Cigarettes with immediate effect in the state.

79. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is organising a ‘National Conference of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres’ at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi on 14th September, 2018. Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, the Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment will be the chief guest on the occasion, the Ministers of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, will also preside over the function.

80. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The 2018 edition of the 'Exporting Corruption Report' has been released by anti-corruption organisation Transparency International. The classification of enforcement is based on the convention countries' enforcement actions in the period 2014-2017. In this 2018 report, China, Hong Kong, India and Singapore – all with 2% or more of world exports, but not parties to the OECD (Anti-Bribery) Convention – are classified for the first time and all fall into the lowest level (little or no enforcement). India is among four countries with “no or little enforcement” mechanism to check foreign bribery. The report asks India to criminalise foreign bribery and introduce effective legislation to protect whistleblowers in the private sector.

81. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

US has granted India the Strategic Trade Authorisation (STA-1) status. The status places India in the inner circle of America's closest allies. India has been seeking entry into the 48-member elite nuclear club, which controls nuclear trade, but China has repeatedly stonewalled its bid.

82. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Recently Cabinet has approved MoU on Collaborative Research on Distributed Ledger and Block Chain Technology in the context of Development of digital economy by Exim Bank under BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism. Blockchains are a new data structure that is

secure, cryptography-based, and distributed across a network. The technology supports cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin, and the transfer of any data or digital asset. Spearheaded by Bitcoin, blockchains achieve consensus among distributed nodes, allowing the transfer of digital goods without the need for centralized authorisation of transactions. The present block chain ecosystem is like the early Internet, a permission less innovation environment in which email, the World Wide Web, Napster, Skype, and Uber were built.

83. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Cabinet approves on Fixation/Revision of ethanol price derived from B heavy molasses / partial sugarcane juice and 100% sugarcane juice under Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme for Ethanol Supply Year 2018-19. This intervention also seeks to reduce import dependency for energy requirements and give boost to agricultural sector.

84. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd (TCIL) has signed agreement for implementation of E-VBAB (e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharat) network project in Africa.

85. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

NABARD has set up the DIDF with a corpus of Rs 8,004 crore to bring more dairy farmers into organised milk marketing through cooperatives. The fund is implemented through National Dairy

Development Board (NDDB) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

86. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The scheme is a conditional cash transfer scheme for pregnant and lactating women of 19 years of age or above for first live birth. It provides partial wage compensation to women for wage-loss during childbirth and childcare and to provide conditions for safe delivery and good nutrition and feeding practices.

87. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

To combat human trafficking, the West Bengal government has rolled out a scheme, Swayangsiddha, in its different districts. Swayangsiddha Groups have been formed in schools and colleges with interested students. These groups were formed with students between the age group of 12 to 21 years.

88. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

In a major shot in the arm for paramilitary and police forces, scientists at Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS) claim to have developed India's first indigenous medical kit that may ensure protection from serious injuries and faster healing of wounds resulting from nuclear warfare or radioactive leakage. The kit has been developed for the armed, paramilitary and police forces only as they are the first ones likely to get exposed to radiation — be it during nuclear, chemical and biomedical (NCB)

warfare or a rescue operation after a nuclear accident.

89. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Ministry of Power, Government of India launched Chiller Star Labelling Program, an ambitious program to encourage the deployment of Energy Efficient chiller systems in the country. This initiative will promote advancement technology for central HVAC (Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) systems and will also facilitate energy efficient solutions for the large commercial and industrial applications.

90. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

India's first underwater robotic drone EyeROV TUNA was recently handed over to Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). It has been designed and developed indigenously by Kochi-based start-up IROV Technologies Pvt Ltd (EyeROV).

It is smart micro-ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) or underwater drone. This underwater drone will be used by NPOL for research and development activities which in turn would result in commercial product for defence purposes.

91. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Rajasthan's first lion safari has been inaugurated at Nahargarh Biological Park.

92. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

'Swachhata Hi Seva' movement has been launched across the country on September 15, 2018. The campaign for a Swachh Bharat or clean India, which began four years ago, was made into a nation-wide movement today. October 2, 2018 will mark the beginning of the 150th year of Mahatma Gandhi's birth, and the government plans to realise his dream of a clean India.

93. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Funds are released in the form of grants in-aid directly to the district authorities. The funds released under the scheme are non-lapsable. The liability of funds not released in a particular year is carried forward to the subsequent years, subject to eligibility. The MPs have a recommendatory role under the scheme. They recommend their choice of works to the concerned district authorities who implement these works by following the established procedures of the concerned state government. The district authority is empowered to examine the eligibility of works sanction funds and select the implementing agencies, priorities works, supervise overall execution, and monitor the scheme at the ground level.

94. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The International Day for Preservation of Ozone Layer (or World Ozone Day) is observed every year on September 16 for the preservation of the Ozone Layer. 2018 Theme: 'Keep Cool and Carry On: The Montreal Protocol'.

95. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently conducted first successful trials

of indigenously developed third generation Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM). Fitted with a high-explosive anti-tank (HEAT) warhead, the MPATGM reportedly boasts a top attack capability and has a maximum engagement range of about 2.5 kilometers. It has been under development by DRDO in partnership with Indian defense contractor VEM Technologies Ltd. since 2015.

96. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

ISRO's PSLV-C42 lifted off for the launch of two satellites from the United Kingdom – NovaSAR and S1-4 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre. The two satellites, owned by Surrey Satellite Technology Ltd (SSTL) were placed in a circular orbit around the poles, 583 km from Earth.

97. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Several of the river's stretches in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are actually far less polluted than many rivers in Maharashtra, Assam and Gujarat. These three States account for 117 of the 351 polluted river stretches.

The most significant stretches of pollution highlighted by the CPCB assessment include the Mithi river from Powai to Dharavi with a BOD (Biochemical Oxygen Demand) of 250 mg/l; the Godavari from Someshwar to Rahed, the Sabarmati Kheroj to Vautha and the Hindon Saharanpur to Ghaziabad.

98. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with other Central Ministries, State Governments and Stakeholders is organizing "Paryatan Parv" across the country. The objective was to drawing focus on the benefits of tourism, showcasing the cultural diversity of the country and reinforcing the principle of "Tourism for All".

99. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Kerala Tourism has won two prestigious gold awards of Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) for its innovative marketing campaigns.

These awards were won by Kerala Tourism's Yalla Kerala print campaign and Live Inspired Posters under PATA's Travel Advertisement Print and Travel Poster categories respectively.

100. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The Centre has proposed the amalgamation of state-owned Bank of Baroda, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank to create India's third largest bank as part of reforms in the public sector banking segment. The proposal will now need the approval of the boards of these individual banks. The banks' boards will shortly meet and take up the decision.

101. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Private Sector engagement is critical to the APG's overall objectives. The APG actively engages with financial and non-financial institutions, NPOs, training centers and universities in the Asia-Pacific to better inform the general public and specialists about global issues relating to money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing.

102. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

MoEFCC has released the draft India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP). ICAP has been prepared by the ministry after extensive deliberations and multi-stakeholders engagement in public domain for receiving comments. India is the first country

in world to develop such a document named as "India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)". Its goal is to provide Training and certification of 100,000 servicing sector technicians by the year 2022-23, in synergy with Skill India Mission.

103. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Montreal Protocol is the only environmental treaty which enjoys universal ratification of 197 UN member countries. The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer has been recognized as the most successful international environment treaty in history. Its implementation has not only led to the phase-out of around 98% of ozone depleting chemicals, but also averted more than 135 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions. Nearly 2 million cases of skin cancer per year have been averted globally.

104. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The ship will be primarily tasked with missile tracking using two sensors, possibly an X-Band AESA primary radar and S-Band AESA secondary radar, ranging. It will also undertake electronic intelligence (ELINT) gathering.

105. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

MHA is the nodal Ministry for security clearances in certain sensitive sectors before issue of licence/permit, permission, contract etc, to companies/ bidders/individuals by the administrative Ministry. The objective of national security clearance is to evaluate potential security

threats, including economic threats, and provide risk assessment before clearing investment and project proposals in key sectors. The aim is to strike a healthy balance between meeting the imperatives of national security and facilitating ease of doing business and promoting investment in the country.

106. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The DAC is responsible to give policy guidelines to acquisitions, based on long-term procurement plans. It also clears all acquisitions, which includes both imported and those produced indigenously or under a foreign license. The DAC is responsible to give policy guidelines to acquisitions, based on long-term procurement plans.

107. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is an agency of the United Nations (UN) whose purpose is to coordinate telecommunication operations and services throughout the world. Originally founded in 1865, as the International Telegraph Union, the ITU is the oldest existing international organization. ITU headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland.

108. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

7th UNWTO Global Summit on Urban Tourism is being held in Seoul, capital of South Korea. The summit provides unique platform to discuss key issues shaping future of urban tourism in the context of the 2030 Urban Agenda. It brings together high-level representatives from National

Tourism Administrations, city authorities and related stakeholders, serving as platform to exchange experiences and expertise.

109. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The other Members of the AEC are appointed on the recommendation of the Chairman, AEC and after approval by the Prime Minister.

110. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The primary beneficiaries are both urban and rural communities dependent on reservoir and downstream communities, who are prone to risk associated with dam failure or operational failure.

111. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

It is an international partnership of 183 countries, international institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector that addresses global environmental issues.

GEF funds are available to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to meet the objectives of the international environmental conventions and agreements.

112. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The country's biggest cyclotron facility that will produce radioisotopes vital for diagnosis and treatment of cancer has become operational. The machine – Cyclone-30 — is housed at the Kolkata-based Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (VECC) under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and will start regular production by mid-next year after supporting nuclear systems are commissioned and regulatory clearances are obtained.

113. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Exercise Aviaindra is an Air Force level exercise between India and the Russian Federation. First Aviaindra was conducted in 2014 and has been planned as a bi-annual exercise. Exercise Aviaindra 18 is being conducted at Lipetsk, Russia. The aim of the exercise is focused towards anti-terrorist operations in a bi-lateral scenario. The exercise would further enhance the co-operation and understanding each other's Concept of Operations.

114. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Launched in January this year, the 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' programme aims to quickly and effectively transform some of the most underdeveloped districts of the country. The broad contours of the programme are Convergence (of Central & State Schemes), Collaboration (of Central, State level 'Prabhari' Officers & District Collectors), and Competition among districts driven by a Mass Movement or a Jan Andolan.

Recently In a bid to understand and address the challenges faced by the district administrations in implementing skill programs and help develop capacities, the government has approved a plan for visits of the senior officers of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurships to the 'Aspirational Districts' between October 2, 2018 and January 26, 2019.

115. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The portal will receive complaints from citizens on objectionable online content related to child pornography, child sexual abuse material, sexually explicit material such as rape and gang rape.

The portal is convenient and user friendly that will enable complainants in reporting cases

without disclosing their identity. This will not only aid the victims/complainants but also help the civil society organizations and responsible citizens to anonymously report complaints pertaining to child pornography, child sexual abuse material or sexually explicit material such as rape and gang rape.

116. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

It aims to financially support those who lost their jobs or rendered jobless for whatsoever reasons due to changing employment pattern. Its beneficiaries will be insured persons covered under Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 for period of two years continuously.

117. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Prahar', developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), is capable of filling the gap between the multi-barrel rocket system 'Pinaka' and medium-range ballistic missile 'Prithvi'. It can also engage multiple targets in different directions. It has length of 7.3 meter, diameter of 420 mm and weighs 1,280 kg. It has operational range of 150 km and flight altitude of 35 km. It is a solid-fuelled short-range missile fitted with inertial navigation system. The missile is equipped with state-of-the-art navigation, guidance and electromechanical actuation systems with advanced on board computer.

It is a quick-reaction, all-weather, all-terrain, highly accurate battlefield support tactical weapon system.

118. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) have released the 2018 Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).

119. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Child Adoption Regulatory Authority (CARA) has allowed individuals in a live-in relationship to adopt children from and within India. The eligibility criteria under Adoption Regulations, 2017, permit single women to adopt a child of any gender, while single men can adopt only boys. Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is a statutory body of Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India. It functions as the nodal body for adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions.

120. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

NASA's polar mesospheric clouds (PMCs) Turbo mission launched a giant balloon on July 8 to study PMCs at a height of 50 miles above the surface. For five days, the balloon floated through the stratosphere from its launch at Esrange, Sweden, across the Arctic to Western Nunavut, Canada. During its flight, cameras on board the balloon captured six million high-resolution images filling up 120 terabytes of data storage — most of which included a variety of PMC displays, revealing the processes leading to turbulence.

121. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Nasa's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, better known as TESS, has discovered "super-Earth" and "hot Earth" planets in solar systems at least 49 light-years away, marking the satellite's first discovery since its April launch.

122. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The India CPF represents the largest country programme of the WBG, reflecting the strong collaboration between India and the Group's institutions — The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA). The WBG expects to deliver \$25-30 billion during this CPF period, ending in FY22.

123. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The Paliyan tribal people living in Tamil Nadu used it as a reference to calculate their age. Nilgiri Hills, which literally means the blue mountains, got their name from the purplish blue flowers of Neelakurinji that blossoms only once in 12 years.

Some Kurinji flowers bloom once every seven years, and then die. Their seeds subsequently sprout and continue the cycle of life and death.

124. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The government recently inaugurated the two-day National Orientation workshop on National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA). The government also launched a new website for NeVA. NeVA is a member-centric, decentralized digital application that makes information available on digital platform about day to day functioning of Legislative Houses covering various businesses of the Houses. The application would host a secure page for each Member of the House for submitting Questions & other Notices.

125. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The new two-stage solid-fueled PDV interceptor is fitted with an Imaging Infrared (IIR) seeker, developed by DRDO, to distinguish between incoming warheads and decoys.

126. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Andhra Pradesh has topped Ease of Living Index rankings under AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation). It is followed by Odisha and Madhya Pradesh.

127. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The SDG Media Compact is inclusive and aims to embrace media companies from all regions and all platforms. Participating organizations will have the opportunity to create content partnerships with the United Nations, whereby the organization will increase its efforts to source and share high-value media content and newsworthy opportunities relating to the SDGs. Regular

monitoring and review meetings will gauge engagement.

128. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Financial Inclusion Index can be used directly as a composite measure in development indicators. The index will be a measure of access and usage of a basket of formal financial products and services that includes savings, remittances, credit, insurance and pension products.

129. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Finance and Corporate Affairs Ministry has launched a web portal which is a transformative initiative in MSME credit space. The web portal psbloansin59minutes.com will enable in principle approval for MSME loans up to Rs. 1 crore within 59 minutes from SIDBI and 5 Public Sector Banks (PSBs).

130. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, under the aegis of Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban has partnered with Google to launch the Loo Review campaign.

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