

ANALOG IAS ACADEMY



DECEMBER MONTH

**CURRENT AFFAIRS – KEY AND
EXPLANATION**

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1. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The NITI Aayog has released a first-of-its-kind Sustainable Development Goals index released on 21st December 2018. The aim of the index is to promote healthy competition among States by evaluating their progress in social, economic and environmental terms that will help India in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by 2030.

Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are at bottom ranking. Goa, Kerala, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland were the front runners on the Zero hunger sub index.

2. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

These awardees have been selected among the workers of Departmental Undertakings & Central and State Government PSUs and Private Sector companies having 500 and workers.

The Union Government has announced to confer the Prime Minister's Shram Awards 2017 to 40 workers across country.

3. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Lok Sabha passed Consumer Protection Bill 2018, it will replace Consumer Protection Act 1986. Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission is setup at District, State and National level. District commission will hear complaints worth 1 crore rupees, State commission will hear complains 1 crore to 15 crores, above 15 crore settled by National Commission. It also has provision to protect consumer who use new digital Technology like e-commerce and online shopping.

4. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry released the first ever States' Startup Ranking 2018.

The states have been ranked across various categories in the ranking which includes categories like Start-up policy leaders, incubation hubs, seeding innovation, scaling innovation, regulatory change champions, procurement leaders, communication champions, North-Eastern leader, and hill state leader.

5. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The "Asiatic Lion Conservation Project" has been launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). The project will be funded under the 'Development of Wildlife Habitat (CSS-DWH)' scheme which is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. The cost will be borne in the 60:40 ratio by the Central and State government.

6. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

CDSCO along with state regulators is jointly responsible for grant of licenses of certain specialized categories of critical Drugs such as blood and blood products, I. V. Fluids, Vaccine and Sera.

7. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has issued an order authorising ten security and intelligence agencies of the country to access any information

stored in any computer for the purpose of monitoring, decrypting and interception.

The order mandates for a subscriber or service provider or any person in charge of the computer resource to extend technical assistance to the agencies.

The 10 agencies include Intelligence Bureau, Narcotics Control Bureau, Enforcement Directorate, Central Board of Direct Taxes, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence; Central Bureau of Investigation, National Investigation Agency Cabinet Secretariat (RAW), Directorate of Signal Intelligence (For service areas of Jammu & Kashmir, North-East and Assam only), and Commissioner of Police, Delhi.

8. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The RBI said it was all set to revise guidelines entailing Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) plan required to be mandatorily set in motion by ailing banks. The PCA is triggered when banks breach certain regulatory requirements like minimum capital, return on asset and quantum of non-performing assets. It will cover all bank of India including foreign bank but Regional Rural bank is not included in it.

9. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The ATAGS is a 155mm, 52 caliber gun being developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation on two parallel tracks: one prototype is being built in partnership with Tata Power (Strategic Engineering Division), and the other is in collaboration with Bharat Forge. There is a sanction for production of 10 guns as part of the development process.

10. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Khushi scheme of Odisha aims to provide good menstrual hygiene care to women of the state. The initiative aims to promote health and hygiene among school going adolescent girls leading to higher retention in school and greater empowerment of women.

11. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The oil marketing companies have launched Ujjwala Sanitary Napkin Initiative, as part of their corporate social responsibility (CSR) in Odisha.

12. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

India has submitted its sixth national report (NR6) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) highlighting the progress it has made in achieving the 12 National Biodiversity Targets (NBT) set under the convention process.

13. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The government of Uttar Pradesh has initiated One District, One Product scheme to encourage indigenous and specialized products and crafts of the state. The scheme aims to capitalize the rich heritage of the Uttar Pradesh by reviving them through modernization and publicisation to enhance the reach of these products.

14. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Recently Prime Ministry has inaugurated the International Rice Research Institute South Asia Regional Centre (IRRI SARC) in Varanasi.

The education and training arm of IRRI SARC will educate scientists and agriculture leaders about the latest technologies and innovations for sustainable farming.

15. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The Union government has declared inclusion of 17 new minor forest produce (MFP) under the government's minimum support price scheme. The new MFP under the scheme includes Mahua flowers (dried), Tejpatta (dried) and Kokum (dry).

The Pricing Cell, constituted by the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd (TRIFED), recommended inclusion of new MFPs under the scheme, given their importance to the economy of local communities.

16. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), the programme initiated by the United Nations in 2005 to mitigate climate change through enhanced forest management in developing countries, has largely failed to achieve its objectives. It creates a financial value for the carbon stored in forests by offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development.

Developing countries would receive results-based payments for results-based actions. REDD+ goes beyond simply deforestation and forest degradation and includes the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

17. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

World's largest science meet 'Indian Science Congress (ISC)-2019' will be held from 3rd to 7th January 2019, in Jalandhar, Punjab.

18. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

A Mahila Police Volunteer could be any woman who is socially and voluntarily committed towards empowerment of women and girls, willing to raise her voice against gender-based violence and support the police in creating a gender just society free from violence.

Haryana was the first state to adopt the initiative of Mahila Police Volunteer at Karnal and Mahendergarh District on a pilot basis under the Nirbhaya Fund during the financial year 2016-2017.

19. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion recently issued a clarification to the existing rules pertaining to Foreign Direct Investment in e-commerce companies.

Vendors that have any stake owned by an e-commerce company cannot sell their products on that e-commerce company's portal. E-commerce companies can operate under two different models in India. The first is the marketplace model where the e-commerce firm simply acts as a platform that connects buyers and sellers. FDI is allowed in e-commerce companies in this model.

The second model is inventory-based where the inventory of goods sold on the portal is owned or controlled by the e-commerce company. FDI is not allowed under this model.

20. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

According to a recently conducted study, rise in salinity in the water system that makes the Indian Sunderbans has resulted in the decrease of population of the Ganges River Dolphins (GRDs) in the region.

21. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The government recently handed over a Memorandum of Understanding to Resbird Technologies under the 'Adopt a Heritage' project for the development of a mobile audio guide application for five iconic sites.

The five iconic sites are as follows:

Rajasthan – Amer Fort.

Assam – Kaziranga.

Goa – Colva Beach.

Kerala – Kumarakom.

Bihar – Mahabodhi Temple.

22. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

26th National Children's Science Congress (NCSC) is being held in Odisha.

It is a forum child of the age-group of 10-17 years, both from formal school system as well as from out of school, to exhibit their creativity and innovativeness and more particularly their ability to solve a societal problem experienced locally using by method of science.

23. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Under its customized training is being provided to identify sportspersons at the state-of-the-art sports institutes/academies within the country and abroad. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) through Sports Authority of India (SAI) has implemented this scheme.

24. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Dwijing Festival is an annual river festival celebrated in the Bodoland Territorial Area Districts (BTAD) region of Assam. The festival provides a platform of earning for the people in the region by putting in to focus the business activities for the better economy generation through rural tourism. The festival also aims to provide help to the flood victim families through charity generation and distribution.

25. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Niti Aayog has released the Second Delta Ranking of the Aspirational Districts Programme. The ranking details the incremental progress achieved by the districts during June to October this year across six key development sectors.

26. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Online Learning Management System: Ministry of Tourism launched an Online Learning Management System for creating skilled manpower to work as tourist facilitators. Objective – to enable the youth living in remotest part to skill themselves and facilitate tourists on Pan India basis.

27. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The IUCN status of the Indian Pangolin is Endangered.

Indian pangolin, thick-tailed pangolin, or scaly anteater is a pangolin found on the Indian subcontinent. It is not common anywhere in its range. Like other pangolins, it has large, overlapping scales on its body which act as

armor. It can also curl itself into a ball as self-defense against predators such as the tiger. The colour of its scales varies depending on the colour of the earth in its surroundings.

28. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

'Thanka Anki' is the sacred golden for the Mandalapuja at the Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala.

29. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The Nagari script is an early form of the Devanagari script. The Nagari script was first appeared around the 8th century CE as an eastern variant of the Gupta script. Inscriptions in Nagari script have been discovered at Lalitgiri in Odisha.

30. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Genetic drift is the change in the frequency of an existing gene variant in a population due to random sampling of organisms. Typically, genetic drift occurs in small populations, where infrequently-occurring alleles face a greater chance of being lost. Once it begins, genetic drift will continue until the involved allele is either lost by a population or is the only allele present at a particular gene locus within a population.

Genetic Drift: Populations of organisms are constantly changing and adapting to their environment. Drastic changes in environmental conditions can sometimes cause drastic changes

to the gene pool of the population. Genetic drift is when chance events cause changes in frequencies of alleles in a population.

31. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

False declarations by candidates are not an Electoral offence yet, under the Indian Penal code. Conviction in an Electoral Offence is a ground for disqualification of a candidate.

32. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Wheat is a temperature-sensitive crop and needs cold conditions to thrive. Wheat is sown from late October till December, while the harvesting of the crop starts from April onwards.

33. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The UNNATI programme, named as UNNATI (UNISpace Nanosatellite Assembly & Training by ISRO), will be conducted by ISRO's U.R. Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) at Bengaluru every year for next 3 years, starting from January 2019.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) of Department of Space (DOS), Government of India, through UNNATI programme, has offered to conduct capacity building programme on nano satellite development for the participants from other countries who are interested in developing their space programme. It is recognized as one of the UNISPACE+50 initiatives. The programme provides an excellent opportunity for the participant countries to strengthen their capabilities in assembling, integrating and testing Nano satellites.

34. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Bogibeel Bridge is a rail-cum-road bridge. The Bridge is the first fully welded steel bridge of the Railways. The Bogibeel bridge has been constructed on the river Brahmaputra.

35. Answer: (d)**Explanation:**

Lasya (the gentle form of dance), associated with the creation of the world. The Tandava (the violent and dangerous dance), associated with the destruction of weary worldviews - weary perspectives & lifestyles.

The Lasya and the Tandava are just two aspects of Shiva's nature; for he destroys in order to create, tearing down to build again.

36. Answer: (d)**Explanation:**

Panchaloha is traditionally described as an alloy of gold (Au), silver (Ag), copper (Cu), zinc (Zn) and iron (Fe) as the major constituents. Also, in some cases tin (Sn) or lead (Pb) is used instead of zinc.

37. Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

Alien species bring in traits that native species lack. ATAGS is being developed for the Indian Army. Alien species have an advantage as they have evolved in a context where competition for resources is stronger and where other threats are more prominent.

38. Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

Stem Cells are very young cells that can develop into specialised cells, like blood cells, bone cells and brain cells. Stem cells are being studied as a potential way to treat many diseases. Blood stem cells used to be taken mainly from bone marrow, where they develop. Nowadays it is also possible

to filter stem cells directly out of the bloodstream. The first method is called a bone marrow transplant, and the second method is called a peripheral blood stem cell transplant. They can also be harvested from umbilical cord blood.

39. Answer: (d)**Explanation:**

Attracting and Retaining Youth in Agriculture (ARYA) scheme aims to make agriculture more attractive to rural educated youth. READY (Rural Entrepreneurship Awareness Development Yojana) programme has also been initiated to reorient graduates of agriculture and allied subjects for ensuring and assuring employability and developing entrepreneurs.

40. Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) announced results of the first ever States' Start-up Ranking 2018 at an event in New Delhi today. DIPP began this exercise from January 2016. Gujarat has been ranked as the 'Best Performer' in the States' Start-up.

41. Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India is the ex-officio President of the Governing Council of the BIS. In the twilight years of British rule in India, when the country was faced with the gigantic task of building up the industrial infrastructure, it was the Institution of Engineers (India), which prepared the first draft of the Constitution of an Institution which could take up the task of formulation of National Standards. This led to the Department of Industries and Supplies issuing a memorandum on 03 September 1946, formally announcing the setting of an organization called the "Indian Standards Institution". The Indian

Standards Institution (ISI) came into being on the 06 January 1947 and in June 1947 Dr. Lal C. Verman took over as its first Director.

42. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh launched the iGOT (Integrated Government Online Training Programme) developed by Department of Personnel and Training, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, here today. It will augment the existing training mechanism with online module-based training coupled with certification. This will make training inputs available to government servant on site and on flextime basis. The initiative aims at “Competent Civil Services for Good Governance”.

43. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography (ITCOcean) Complex has been established by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

The International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography (ITCOcean) Complex has been established at Hyderabad.

44. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

GSLV- F11 is of Mk-2 version. It is fitted with indigenous cryogenic stage propellant. GSLV-F11 has been used for launching the GSAT-7A satellite.

45. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Kerala will have, first time in India, DNA-based genetic ID for elephants.

46. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The Ahom community belongs to the state of Assam. Chaolong Siuka-pha was the founder of the Ahom community, 600 years ago.

47. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

‘Far-out’ is a nickname given to the most distant body ever observed in the solar system, by the scientists. It is located over 100 times farther than Earth is from the Sun.

48. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The software has been developed by Centre for Railway Information System.

The software will provide punctuality information and freight & passenger earnings to the Railways.

49. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) is the flagship placement linked skill-training programme under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).

50. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The NITI Aayog today unveiled its comprehensive national Strategy for New India, which defines clear objectives for 2022-23. It is a detailed exposition across forty-one crucial areas, that recognizes the progress already made, identifies binding constraints, and suggests the way forward for achieving the clearly stated objectives.

The Strategy for New India @75 put together by NITI Aayog is an attempt to bring innovation, technology, enterprise and efficient management together, at the core of policy formulation and implementation. It will encourage discussion and debate and invite feedback for further refining our policy approach. We believe that economic transformation cannot happen without public participation. Development must become a Jan Andolan.”

51. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

DHARMA is web-based inventory management software for Dams.

52. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The programme has been launched by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. The NAQUIM programme has been launched for mapping of water bearing aquifers. The programme aims to enhance the capacity of states in Ground Water Management and Development.

53. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Bio-jet fuel is produced from Jatropa oil. India is among the few countries which has developed, tested and certified the process of conversion of non-edible oil to biofuel for military use.

54. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Ujjwala Yojna aims to provide deposit free LPG connections to the poor.

Following the Cabinet decision, poor people will be able to opt for the scheme even if they so far were not eligible, after furnishing the required identification documents and an affidavit saying that they do not have an existing LPG connection.

55. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The IPCC is a United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change.

The IPCC is an organization of governments that are members of the United Nations or WMO.

56. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Paperless Assembly or e-Assembly is a concept involving of electronic means to facilitate the work of Assembly. It enables automation of entire law-making process, tracking of decisions and documents, sharing of information. NeVA aims to bring all the legislatures of the country together, in one platform thereby creating a massive data depository without having the complexity of multiple applications. NeVA will eliminate the process of sending out a notice/request for collection of data. Through the cloud technology (Meghraj), data deployed can be accessed anywhere at any time. Further, live webcasting of Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TVs is also available on this application. Doordarshan has already been enabled with provision to incorporate similar facility in respect of State Legislatures.

57. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

International Civil Aviation Organisation(ICAO) is a specialized agency of the UN. International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) rating is provided by the Federal Aviation Administration of the USA.

58. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

CSIR has launched a Mission Mode Project on "Innovative Processes and Technologies for Indian Pharmaceuticals and Agrochemical Sector Industries (INPROTICS-Pharma and Agro)". The project aims to develop cost effective, profitable processes for key drugs and agrochemicals. In

case of pharmaceuticals, new or non-infringing processes that are free to operate shall be developed. Thus, this proposal wishes to serve the country with its contributions to 'Make in India' program and toward better health and food security for all Indians.

59. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Households headed by widows or terminally ill persons/disabled persons/ persons aged 60 years or more with no assured means of subsistence or societal support; All primitive tribal households. All eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families of HIV positive persons.

60. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Maharashtra employs the highest number of people in the Tourism sector.

Maharashtra is the most visited state by foreign tourists. Tamil Nadu is the most visited state by domestic tourists.

61. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Information Fusion Centre (IFC) will be inaugurated by the Indian Navy for the Indian Ocean Region

Through this Centre, information on "white shipping", or commercial shipping, will be exchanged with countries in the region to improve maritime domain awareness in the Indian Ocean.

62. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

GSAT-7 has been designed specifically for Military purposes.

It is built to provide communication capability to users in the Ku band.

63. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

As per the National Tiger Conservation authority, Maharashtra recorded the highest number of Tiger deaths in 2018.

64. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

This is the superb scheme which provides the creating platform for the TB's treatment. The main aim of the scheme was to monitor patients and offers them associate for the cure the TB easily.

In this scheme, the main benefit is this the central government is made one database in this they take necessary steps record data to all the patients which are under this scheme.

65. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Plea bargaining is a judicial process which offers speedy justice to the victim and lesser punishment for the under-trial prisoners.

The fourth Global Forum of Medical Devices was held in India, at Vishakhapatnam. If an accused voluntarily admits his guilt, he/she could be released on probation or awarded lesser punishment by invoking plea bargaining.

66. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The Markermeer lake is a fresh water lake in Netherlands.

67. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Project 'Mausam' is the initiative of Ministry of Culture to be implemented by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) as the nodal agency with research support of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and National Museum as associate bodies

This project aims to explore the multi-faceted Indian Ocean 'world' – collating archaeological and historical research in order to document the diversity of cultural, commercial and religious interactions in the Indian Ocean. The main objective of the project is to inscribe places and sites identified under Project Mausam as trans-national nomination for inscription on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

68. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Kanchenjunga Landscape is a trans-boundary region spread across India, Nepal and Bhutan. In India, the regions from states of Sikkim and West Bengal come in the Landscape.

69. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The Jaitapur Nuclear project is in the state of Maharashtra.

India will complete this project with the help of France.

70. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

As per geophysicists, Deep Earth is a region between 2km and 3km below the ocean floor.

The Deep Earth ecology constitutes all three domains of life, bacteria, Archean and eukaryote.

71. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Global Forum of Medical Devices is organised by the WHO. The fourth Global Forum of Medical Devices was held in India, at Vishakhapatnam.

72. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Graphene is a form of carbon

Graphene, a form of carbon and a super-strong, ultra-light material discovered in 2004, enables flexible electronic components, enhances solar cell capacity, and promises to revolutionise batteries. Graphene consists of a single layer of carbon atoms arranged in a hexagonal lattice, each atom bound to its neighbours by chemical bonds. The elasticity of these bonds produces resonant vibrations known as phonons.

73. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had set up an 8 - member pane under the chairmanship of P.J.Nayak to evaluate governance of board of banks and examine 'fit and proper' criteria for directors, as well as their term.

74. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Punganur cattle is among the world's smallest humped cattle breeds. These cattle originated from the Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh.

75. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Land Border Crossing agreement has been signed between India and Myanmar. The agreement will facilitate movement of people based on valid passports and visas which will enhance economic and social interaction between the two countries.

76. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Under an EPC contract, the contractor designs the installation, procures the necessary materials and builds the project. The 12th Five Year Plan envisages construction of 20,000 km of 2-lane National Highways projects through EPC mode.

77. Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

Hojagiri is a folk dance, performed in the state of Tripura, India by the Bru(Reang) people. It is performed by women and young girls, about 4 to 6 members in a team, singing, balancing on an earthen pitcher and managing other props such as a bottle on the head and earthen lamp on the hand.

78. Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

Giving a further fillip to India's energy conservation efforts, Ministry of Power has launched the ECO Niwas Samhita 2018, an Energy Conservation Building Code for Residential Buildings (ECBC-R).

79. Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

The Automatic Teller Machine in India is either deployed by the banks or White Label ATM Operators. The cards used in ATMs by bank and that by White Label ATM Operators, are interoperable.

80. Answer: (d)**Explanation:**

The Direct tax to GDP ratio increased from the financial year 2016-17 to 2017-18.

The Indirect tax to GDP ratio decreased for the financial year 2016-17 to 2017-18.

81. Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

The practice of ferrying Haj pilgrims between Mumbai and Jeddah by waterways was stopped from 1995. In the year 2018, for the first time about 1300 Muslim women from India went to Haj without "Mehram". Haj 2018 has been made 100 per cent digital/online.

82. Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

The National Mission on GeM (NMG) was launched on 5th September 2018 till 17th October 2018. The objective of the Mission was to accelerate the adoption and use of Procurement by Major Central Ministries, States and UTs and their agencies (including CPSUs/PSUs, Local Bodies) on the GeM platform.

83. Answer: (b)**Explanation:**

TReDS (Trade Receivables Discounting System) is an institutional setup for flow of finance to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) through multiple financiers at a competitive rate.

84. Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

Dhrupad is the most ancient style of Hindustani classical music that has survived until today in its original form. The Dhrupad tradition is a major tradition of Indian culture.

The nature of Dhrupad music is spiritual. Seeking not to entertain, but to induce feelings of peace and contemplation in the listener. The word Dhrupad is derived from DHRUVA the steadfast evening star that moves through our galaxy and PADA meaning poetry. It is a form of devotional music that traces its origin to the ancient text of Sam Veda. The SAM VEDA was chanted with the help of melody and rhythm called Samgana. Gradually this developed into other vocal style

called 'Chhanda' and 'Prabandha' with introduction of verse and meter. The fusion of these two elements led to the emergence of Dhrupad. Tansen was a Dhrupad vocalist.

85. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Sattriya dance form was introduced in the 15th century A.D by the great Vaishnava saint and reformer of Assam, Mahapurusha Sankaradeva.

Sattriya was introduced as a powerful medium for propagation of the Vaishnava faith.

86. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge is being constructed over the river Brahmaputra

The project is being funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

87. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

For promotion of electric vehicles, Government has notified for retro-fitment of hybrid electric system or electric kit to vehicles and has specified the type approval procedure of electric hybrid vehicles. The Government has notified that the registration mark for Battery Operated Vehicles to be in Yellow colour on Green background for the transport vehicles and for all other cases, in White colour on Green background

The Government vide S.O. 5333(E) dated 18th October 2018 has also granted exemption to the Battery-Operated Transport Vehicles and Transport Vehicles running on Ethanol and Methanol fuels from requirement of permit.

88. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The International Monetary Fund said that global debt has reached an all-time high of 184 trillion US dollars with the United States, China and Japan accounting for more than half of it.

According to the IMF report, the amount in nominal terms, is the equivalent of 225 per cent of the world GDP in 2017. On average, the world's debt now exceeds 86,000 dollars per person, which is more than two and half times the average income per-capita. IMF said it is striking that the most indebted economies in the world are also the richer ones. Since the beginning of the millennium, China's share in global debt has gone up from less than three per cent to over 15 per cent.

89. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has notified a water conservation fee (WCF) will need to be paid on groundwater extraction starting from June 2019. The agriculture sector — the largest consumer of groundwater in the country — will be exempt from the fees.

Individual households that draw groundwater using a delivery pipe of a greater than 1" diameter, too, would need to pay a WCF.

90. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The Mundle Expert panel was set up to prepare back series data of GDP with revised method.

91. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Bail can be granted even in cases of Non-Bailable offences under the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

The arrested person must make an application for bail before a magistrate or court in case of Non-bailable warrant.

92. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Currently, Indian Navy operates five different classes of submarines.

Not all submarines operated by India are indigenously developed.

93. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The FAME-India scheme is related to development of Hybrid & Electric Vehicles in India. The Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, is the implementing agency of FAME-India scheme.

94. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

ISRO and ROSCOSMOS have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 5th October 2018 on 'Joint Activities in the field of Human Spaceflight Programme'.

Specific missions to International Space Station on Soyuz have not been included in the MoU.

95. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

It is proposed to undertake manned mission to space before 75th Anniversary of Indian Independence. The manned mission will be accomplished using ISRO's launch vehicle GSLV MkIII. The manned mission will launch Indian astronauts from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota into an approximately 400 Km Low Earth Orbit. The maximum mission planned is of 7 days duration.

96. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) System has been inducted at the Naval Dockyard

in Mumbai. The DSRV can be operated at a depth of 650 meters and can hold around 15 people.

The DSRV can be operated in very rough conditions with wave height of 4 to 6 metres.

97. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Agni-5 is the most advanced missile in the country. It is a nuclear capable long-range ballistic missile with a strike range of 5,000 kilometers. It is also a fire and forget missile, which once fired cannot be stopped, except by interceptor missile which only US, Russia and Israel have. It carries Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicles (MIRV) payloads.

98. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The Governor and Deputy Governors hold office for periods not exceeding five years. The term of the governor may be fixed by the government at the time of his appointment.

Government can remove the RBI governor anytime. There is no fixed procedure.

99. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Kaiga Generating Station is a nuclear power generating station situated at Kaiga, near the river Kali, in Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka, India. The plant has been in operation since March 2000 and is operated by the Nuclear Power Corporation of India.

It has created a world record for longest uninterrupted operation for 941 days beating United Kingdom.

100. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Konark Sun Temple is a 13th-century sun temple at Konark on the coastline of Odisha. The name

Konark derives from the combination of the Sanskrit words Kona (corner or angle) and Arka (the sun).

The temple is attributed to king Narasimhadeva I of the Eastern Ganga Dynasty

Dedicated to the Hindu god Surya, what remains of the temple complex has the appearance of a 100-foot (30 m) high chariot with immense wheels and horses, all carved from stone.

Also called the Surya Devalaya, it is a classic illustration of the Odisha style of Hindu temple architecture.

This temple was called the "Black Pagoda" in European sailor accounts as early as 1676 because its great tower appeared black.

101. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Hand in Hand exercise is recently resumed between India and China. The exercise was last held in 2016; it was suspended in 2017 amid heightened tensions between the two countries following the disengagement of a standoff between their armed forces on the Doklam plateau. It is being held in Chendu, China.

102. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is a United Nations body whose mission is to promote and protect human rights around the world. The UNHRC was established by the UN General Assembly on March 15, 2006 to replace the UN Commission on Human Rights.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a historic document that was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its third session on 10 December 1948.

103. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The 'AI 4 All Global Hackathon' has been launched by the NITI Aayog.

NITI Aayog is now partnering with Perlin – a Singapore-based AI start up - to launch the 'AI 4 All Global Hackathon', and is inviting developers, students, start-ups and companies to develop AI applications to make significant positive social and economic impact for India.

104. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is a specialized agency of the United Nations

The Food Price Index is released by the FAO.'

105. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The report of quantum of population online now, has been released by the UN agency for Information and Communication Technologies, ITU Statement 2 is correct: The report said that nearly the entire world population, at 96 per cent, now lives within reach of a mobile cellular network, and 90 per cent of people can access the Internet through a 3G or higher speed network.

106. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport mission, i.e. InSight mission, has been launched by NASA.

Statement 2 is incorrect: NASA's InSight lander, which touched down on Mars last month, has provided the first-ever "sounds" of Martian wind on the Red Planet. InSight sensors captured a haunting low rumble caused by vibrations from the wind, estimated to be blowing between 10 to 15 miles per hour on December 1, NASA said.

107. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The 'Yellow vests protest' are going on currently in France. Protesters wearing yellow vests have been holding demonstrations in France since November over soaring fuel prices.

108. Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India has been conferred the Skoch Award for National Significance at an event held recently in New Delhi. The award was received by Secretary, Ministry of New Renewable Energy Shri Anand Kumar.

The award has been conferred on the Ministry considering its purpose and critical role played in installing about 73 GW renewable energy capacity in the country. With 21 per cent of total installed capacity, within the year renewable energy grossed a magic figure of providing one billion units of electricity in the country.

109. Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

It contains two distinct processes for resolution of individuals, namely- "Fresh Start" and "Insolvency Resolution".

The NCLT will be the forum where firm insolvency will be heard and DRTs (Debt Recovery Tribunal) will be the forum where individual insolvencies will be heard.

110. Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

India is not a member of the OPEC. The current OPEC members are the following: Algeria, Angola, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq,

Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, the Republic of the Congo, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela. Indonesia is a former member, and Qatar will no longer be the member of OPEC from 1 January 2019. Qatar will no longer be a member of the OPEC from January 1, 2019. OPEC and its partners, together account for around half of global output Petroleum.

111. Answer: (d)**Explanation:**

The Kalpita music means the 'music as learnt'. The Kalpana music means the 'creative music'.

112. Answer: (c)**Explanation:**

The Policy aims to double agricultural exports from present ~US\$ 30+ Billion to ~US\$ 60+ Billion by 2022 and reach US\$ 100 Billion in the next few years thereafter, with a stable trade policy regime.

The policy also aims to

To diversify our export basket, destinations and boost high value- and value-added agricultural exports including focus on perishables.

To promote novel, indigenous, organic, ethnic, traditional and non-traditional Agri products exports.

To provide an institutional mechanism for pursuing market access, tackling barriers and deal with sanitary and phyto-sanitary issues.

To strive to double India's share in world agri exports by integrating with global value chain at the earliest.

Enable farmers to get benefit of export opportunities in overseas market.

113. Answer: (a)**Explanation:**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today has approved the launching of National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) to be implemented by Department of Science & Technology at a total outlay of Rs. 3660 crore for a period of five years.

NM-ICPS is a Pan India Mission and covers entire gamut of India that includes Central Ministries, State Governments, Industry and Academia.

114. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

As per the report, India is home to the highest number of stunted and wasted children in the world

As per the report, Districts in Central and Northern India have the highest number of stunted children.

115. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

In a bid to ensure greater transparency, Reserve Bank has proposed that floating interest rates on personal, home, auto and MSMEs loans be linked to external benchmarks like repo rate or treasury yields. In a statement issued from Mumbai yesterday, RBI said that the final guidelines to link the interest rate to external benchmarks will be issued by the end of this month. Currently, banks follow system of internal benchmarks, including Prime Lending Rate, Benchmark Prime Lending Rate, Base rate and Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rate. The new system is likely to become operational by 1st April 2019.

RBI has said that the banks should decide the benchmark rate system to be followed right at the inception of the loan and it should remain unchanged through the life of the loan. It added that adoption of multiple benchmarks by the

same bank will not be allowed within a loan category.

116. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

As per the study, Air pollution causes 1 in 8 death in India

As per the study, 26% of global premature death and diseases burden by air pollution occurs in India. Over half of the deaths due to air pollution were in persons less than 70 years of age.

117. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The three day 80th Session of the Policy Commission Meeting of the WCO is being organised by the Central Board of Customs and Indirect Taxes (CBIC), Government of India in Mumbai, India, from 3rd to 5th December 2018.

118. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS) is the nodal agency for it.

The object behind is to highlight the contribution and efforts proposed by 76 Ministries/Departments of Govt. of India. Progress in implementation of Swachhta Acton Plan can be tracked and monitored by MDWS, the Committee of Secretaries, Cabinet Secretary and the Prime Minister's Office. Presently the portal is being accessed by all 76 Ministries/Departments to upload their SAP with budget, activities, photographs, reports.

119. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Soil holds three times as much carbon as the atmosphere

and can help meet the challenges of a changing climate.

The Soil Health Card launched by Indian government is helpful in checking the declining fertility of agriculture land.

120. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Ku and Ka bands refer to the radio frequencies used to and from the satellite.

The Ka band enables smart coverage of places with multiple and reusable spot beams.

121. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Arsenic poisoning occurs in human beings mainly through groundwater pollution.

In India, the states of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Chhattisgarh are reported to be most affected by arsenic poisoning.

122. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The witness Protection scheme has been brought in by the Supreme Court and will be the law of the land, till Parliament enacts suitable legislation.

The scheme will include protection limit from simple police escort to courtroom to extraordinary measures like safe house and new identity to the witness.

123. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The Bharat Net project was earlier called as the National Optical Fibre Network.

It aims to provide 2.5 lakh village panchayats with e-banking, e-education, e-health and e-governance etc. through reliable Broadband connectivity.

The GSAT-11 satellite will be able to meet the requirements of the Bharat Net Project.

124. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

India is expected to commission a major hydropower project in Bhutan in the coming weeks. The Mangdechhu project was bagged by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) and it will be implemented on a bilateral basis. The Foreign Secretary said India-Bhutan ties had adapted to the changing times. Bhutan's latest democratic election had firmed up its position as a leading democracy in the region.

125. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The Admiral Cup Sailing Regatta 2018 is being conducted by the Indian navy. As many as 31 countries are participating in the event. The foreign teams are from Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nigeria, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Vietnam.

126. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Happiness curriculum is an initiative of the Delhi government in schools for students from nursery to class 8th.

The 'Happiness Curriculum' includes meditation, value education, and mental exercises, and it was designed and prepared by a team of 40 Delhi government teachers, educators and volunteers over a period of six months. Each class will begin with a five minute meditation practice. For

nursery and KG students, the classes based on 'Happiness Curriculum' will be held twice a week.

127. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Currency Swap is such a pact between two countries that allows trading in their own currency and payments to import and export trade at pre-determined exchange rate without bringing in a third benchmark currency like the US dollars.

Statement 2 is incorrect: India has signed Currency Swap agreements with many countries like Japan, Sri Lanka, UAE etc.

128. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The World Intellectual Property indicators report 2018 has been published by UN's World Intellectual Property Organisation. As per the report, Patents granted by India in the year 2017 increased by almost 50%.

129. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

GSAT-11 is the heaviest and most-advanced high throughput communication satellite of ISRO

GSAT-11 will provide high data rate connectivity to users of Indian mainland and islands through 32 user beams in Ku-band and 8 hub beams in Ka-band.

130. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The international conference on bears has been Hosted by Wildlife SOS in collaboration with Bear Care Group from the US and Canada

The international conference on bears is being held in Agra.
