

# **ANALOG IAS ACADEMY**



**MAY MONTH, 2019**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS – KEY AND EXPLANATION**

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**1. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

The Orbiter and Lander modules will be interfaced mechanically and stacked together as an integrated module and accommodated inside the GSLV MK-III launch vehicle.

The Rover is housed inside the Lander. After launch into earth bound orbit by GSLV MK-III, the integrated module will reach Moon orbit using Orbiter propulsion module. Subsequently, Lander will separate from the Orbiter and soft land at the predetermined site close to lunar South Pole. Further, the Rover will roll out for carrying out scientific experiments on the lunar surface. Instruments are also mounted on Lander and Orbiter for carrying out scientific experiments.

**2. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

The first part of the Indo-French joint naval exercise, Varuna 19.1 will be conducted off the Goa coast from 1st to 10th May 19.

The upcoming 17th edition includes participation of the French Navy's aircraft carrier FNS Charles de Gaulle, two destroyers, FNS Forbin and FNS Provence, the frigate FNS Latouche-Treville, the tanker FNS Marne and a nuclear submarine. From the Indian side, the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, destroyer INS Mumbai, the Teg-class frigate, INS Tarkash, the Shishumar- class submarine, INS Shankul, and the Deepak- class fleet tanker, INS Deepak, will be participating in this exercise.

**3. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

State Bank of India (SBI) has been authorized to issue and encash Electoral Bonds through its 29 Authorized Branches (as per list enclosed) in the month of May 2019.

The Electoral Bonds shall be valid for fifteen calendar days from the date of issue and no payment

shall be made to any payee Political Party if the Electoral Bond is deposited after expiry of the validity period. The Electoral Bond deposited by an eligible Political Party in its account shall be credited on the same day.

**4. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

The automotive industry is the sunshine industry in India contributing to over 7.5% to country's GDP. Government of India has huge focus to facilitate and grow this industry. Creation of new automotive test centres in the country under NATRIP project, is an important step forward by the Government to support the need of the automotive industry in the backdrop of tightening regulatory framework and technology shift driven by market forces. ICAT is an important element of the automotive sector, with its world-class infrastructure and domain expertise providing services in development, testing, validation and homologation.

**5. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

SDRF is located in the 'Public Account' under 'Reserve Fund'. (But direct expenditures are not made from Public Account.)

State Government has to pay interest on a half yearly basis to the funds in SDRF, at the rate applicable to overdrafts.

The aggregate size of the SDRF for each state, for each year, is as per the recommendations of the Finance Commission.

**6. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

The Labour Day was observed across the world on May 1 of every year and the day is also known as

International Worker's Day and May Day. The Labour Day is celebrated to commemorate the happenings of May 4, 1886, the Haymarket affair (Haymarket Massacre) in the Chicago.

**7. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

The Prize recognizes individuals for sustained and significant efforts to protect and enhance the natural environment, often at great personal risk.

The heroes are nonmined from the world's six inhabited continental regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, Islands & Island Nations, North America, and South & Central America.

**8. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

In India contempt of court is of two types:

Civil contempt: Under Section 2(b) of the Contempt of Courts Act of 1971, civil contempt has been defined as wilful disobedience to any judgment, decree, direction, order, writ or other process of a court or wilful breach of an undertaking given to a court.

Criminal contempt: Under Section 2(c) of the Contempt of Courts Act of 1971, criminal contempt has been defined as the publication (whether by words, spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise) of any matter or the doing of any other act whatsoever which:

Scandalises or tends to scandalise, or lowers or tends to lower the authority of, any court, or Prejudices, or interferes or tends to interfere with the due course of any judicial proceeding, or

Interferes or tends to interfere with, or obstructs or tends to obstruct, the administration of justice in any other manner.

**9. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

It comprises of all 15 members of UNSC and makes its decision secretly by consensus i.e. even if single member opposes there is no consensus. Therefore, China opposition to India's bid was not allowing UNSC

to designate Masood Azhar as an international terrorist.

**10. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

Is a currently strengthening tropical cyclone that is threatening India and Bangladesh as an extremely severe cyclonic storm. The second named storm, the first storm named by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), and the first severe cyclonic storm of the 2019 North Indian Ocean cyclone season, Fani originated from a tropical depression that formed near west of Sumatra in the Indian Ocean on 26 April.

Fani slowly drifted westward, finding itself in an area conducive for strengthening. The system intensified and two days after being named, it became Cyclone Fani, the second named storm of the season. Fani moved northward, struggling to intensify as moderate vertical wind shear hampered its progress. After moving away from the wind shear, Fani began to rapidly intensify, and became an extremely severe cyclonic storm on 30 April 2019, the first severe cyclonic storm of the season.

**11. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) Manesar is a division of NATRIP Implementation Society (NATIS) under the Department of Heavy Industries, India. It provides services for testing, validation, design and homologation of all categories of vehicles.

**12. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

The Sanctions Committee of the UN Nations Security Council was established under Resolution 1267 in 1999, which imposed limited sanctions on the Taliban. Over time, the sanctions regime has evolved to include a lot of measures against designated individuals and entities.

The sanctions committee also oversees the implementation of the sanctions measures and reports annually to the Security Council on the implementation of these measures.

**13. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) North Eastern Region (NER) has installed two geological display boards at two important geological sites in Meghalaya- Mawmluh cave and Therriaghat, Sobhar in East Khasi Hill District.

**14. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

It is the state animal of Jammu & Kashmir. It is restricted to the Dachigam National Park some 15 km north-west of Jammu & Kashmir's summer capital Srinagar.

A massive decline in the population of Kashmir's iconic wildlife species, the Hangul (*Cervus hangluhanglu*), also known as the Kashmir stag, continues to be a big concern.

**15. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

The Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 provides for a Legislative Assembly of Pondicherry (as Puducherry was then called), with a Council of Ministers to govern the "Union Territory of Pondicherry". The same Act says that the UT will be administered by the President of India through an Administrator (LG).

Section 44 of the Act, which deals with the Council of Ministers and its working, says the Council of Ministers headed by a Chief Minister will "aid and advise the Administrator in the exercise of his functions in relation to matters with respect to which the Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory has power to make laws".

**16. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

India conducted its first successful anti-satellite (ASAT) test, dubbed "Mission Shakti," on March 27, 2019. Using a so-called PDV Mark II missile, a modified version of India's Prithvi Defense Vehicle (PDV) anti-ballistic-missile interceptor, India's Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) destroyed the Microsat-r satellite orbiting at 285 kilometers in altitude. Microsat-r (COSPAR designation 2019-006A) was a 740 kilogram satellite launched by India two months earlier to serve as a target for the test.

**17. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

For effective implementation of relief measures in the wake of natural calamities, the Government of India has set up a Standing National Crisis Management Committee with Cabinet Secretary as Chairman.

**18. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

The waste to wealth mission project has been approved under the recently constituted Prime Minister's Science Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC), which is an overarching body for assessment, creation and implementation of major scientific, technology and innovation interventions for India. The partnership will provide an effective platform for stakeholders to bring together integrated approaches for effective recycle, reuse and resource recovery of waste.

**19. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

"Sovereign internet" bill which will allow Russian authorities to isolate the country's internet. The move expands Government Control of Internet, is being publicly denounced by all rights groups in country.

**20. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

According to the report India continues to remain a Tier II country and it is in same list since 2009. Tier II countries are those in which during 2018 'violations engaged in or tolerated by government are serious and characterized by at least one of the elements of systematic, ongoing, and egregious (horrible)'.

**21. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

The RISAT, which was first deployed in orbit on April 20, 2009 as the RISAT-2, uses synthetic aperture radars (SAR) to provide Indian forces with all-weather surveillance and observation, which are crucial to notice any potential threat or malicious activity around the nation's borders.

Following the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, the launch of RISAT-2 was prioritised over RISAT- 1, as its C-band SAR radar was not yet ready and RISAT -2 carried an Israeli-built X-band radar.

**22. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

Every year bilateral border trade between two countries is organised four days a week for period of six months, between May 1 and November 30.

The three open trading border posts between India and China are:

Nathu La in Sikkim.

Shipkila in Himachal Pradesh.

Lipulekh (or Lipulech) in Uttarakhand.

**23. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

Each Tropical Cyclone basin in the world has its own rotating list of names. The first cyclone after the list was adopted was given the name in the first row of the first column — Onil, proposed by Bangladesh. Subsequent cyclones are being named sequentially, column-wise, with each cyclone given the name immediately below that of the previous cyclone.

Once the bottom of the column is reached, the sequence moves to the top of the next column. So far, the first seven columns have been exhausted, and Fani (again proposed by Bangladesh) is the top name in the last column. The next cyclone will be named Vayu. The lists will wind up with Cyclone Amphan, whenever it comes.

**24. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

It is a premier organization of Govt. of India attached to Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It is charge with collection, compilation and publishing or dissemination of India's trade statistics and commercial information.

**25. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

India is world's third largest importer of crude oil after China and USA.

**26. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

It is being jointly organized by UNESCO, African Union Commission and Government of Ethiopia.

**27. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

SEBI has barred the NSE from accessing the securities market for six months as its actions.

**28. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

A postage stamp has been released to commemorate 750th birth anniversary of Sri Vedanta Desikan. Sri Vedanta Desikan was a Sri Vaishnava guru/philosopher and one of the most brilliant stalwarts of Sri Vaishnavism in the post-Ramanuja period.

**29. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR or AR) is the ability of a microbe to resist the effects of medication that once could successfully treat the microbe. The term antibiotic resistance (AR or ABR) is a subset of AMR, as it applies only to bacteria becoming resistant to antibiotics. Resistant microbes are more difficult to treat, requiring alternative medications or higher doses of antimicrobials. These approaches may be more expensive, more toxic or both. Microbes resistant to multiple antimicrobials are called multidrug resistant (MDR). Those considered extensively drug resistant (XDR) or totally drug-resistant (TDR) are sometimes called "superbugs".

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

"Loya Jirga" Peace Summit is a centuries-old tradition in Afghanistan that is usually organized at times of national crisis or to settle national issues. It is organized to discuss war and efforts of United States to forge a peace deal with Taliban.

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

The U.S. should not terminate the GSP programme with India after the expiry of the 60-day notice period, a group of 25 influential American lawmakers urged the U.S. Trade Representative, warning that companies seeking to expand their exports to India could be hit.

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

In a significant judgment, the Supreme Court has upheld provisions in the anti-pre-natal sex determination law which 'criminalises' non-maintenance of medical records by obstetricians and gynaecologists and suspend their medical licence indefinitely.

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

It's been a decade since the National Policy on Safety, Health and Environment at the Workplace (NPSHEW)

was announced. It called for a legislation on safety, health and environment at workplaces. Yet, only the manufacturing, mining, ports and construction sectors are covered by existing laws on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH).

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

The food and beverage multinational recently sued farmers in Gujarat for cultivating their proprietary FC5 variety of potatoes that are used to make Lay's chips. This variety is designed to have less moisture and sugar content than other spuds.

PepsiCo had also proposed to settle in the last court hearing on April 26. The corporate giant's offer had two terms. One, farmers should stop growing the registered potato variety and surrender their existing stocks. And if they wished to continue, they must enter PepsiCo's collaborative farming programme where they buy seeds from the company and sell the produce back to it.

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

It is an international military and political alliance based on North Atlantic Treaty (also known as Washington Treaty) signed in 4 April 1949. It is also known as North Atlantic Alliance. It involves of 29 independent member countries across North America and Europe.

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

It is a military helicopter manufactured by 'JSC Kamov' (a Russian rotorcraft manufacturing company) and development started in 1987 for Soviet Navy. It is currently in service in Russia, China and India in Naval role. These are Airborne Early Warning and Control helicopters based on Ka-27 (Ka-28) design.

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

CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CSIR-CFTRI), is one of the constituent laboratories

under the aegis of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). It was opened on 21 October 1950 in Mysore, Karnataka. C.F.T.R.I. also has its resource centers in Hyderabad, Lucknow and Mumbai, rendering technical assistance to numerous entrepreneurs.

**38. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

INS Ranjit, Indian Navy's frontline missile destroyer of Russian origin, will be decommissioned on Monday after 36 years of service.

It is the first of the five Rajput class destroyer to go out of service ending one of the finest chapters in Indian naval history.

Ranjit is originally a Kashin class destroyer and will carry the naval ensign for the last time at naval dockyard Vishakhapatnam in a ceremony to be presided over by former Navy Chief Admiral Devendra Kumar Joshi, who is now Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar.

**39. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

Prepaid payment instruments are methods that facilitate purchase of goods and services against the value stored on such instruments. The value stored on such instruments represents the value paid for by the holder, by cash, by debit to a bank account, or by credit card. The prepaid instruments can be issued as smart cards, magnetic stripe cards, internet accounts, online wallets, mobile accounts, mobile wallets, paper vouchers and any such instruments used to access the prepaid amount.

**40. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

It is independent of UN, but it reports to both United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and to UN Security Council (UNSC).

**41. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

It is the pilot project of the Delhi High Court. It is one of its kind projects in India aimed to study the life cycles of cases to come up with optimal timelines for cases.

The primary goal of the project was to study the flow of cases in the absence of backlog.

The aim of project is to provide information on the judicial time required to dispose of a case together with the gathering stage wise details in each case.

**42. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

Prepaid payment instruments are methods that facilitate purchase of goods and services against the value stored on such instruments. The value stored on such instruments represents the value paid for by the holder, by cash, by debit to a bank account, or by credit card. The prepaid instruments can be issued as smart cards, magnetic stripe cards, internet accounts, online wallets, mobile accounts, mobile wallets, paper vouchers and any such instruments used to access the prepaid amount.

These payment instruments are licensed and regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.

There are three types of PPIs—closed system PPIs, semi-closed system PPIs and open system PPIs.

**43. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

Lagrangian points are the locations in space where the combined gravitational pull of two large masses roughly balance each other. Any small mass placed at that location will remain at constant distances relative

to the large masses. There are five such points in Sun-Earth system and they are denoted as L1, L2, L3, L4 and L5.

**44. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

It is India's first solar mission. It will study the sun's outer most layers, the corona and the chromospheres. Aditya- L1 satellite will be placed in the halo orbit around the Lagrangian point 1 (L1) of the sun-earth system.

**45. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

Sanjay Gandhi National Park is in Maharashtra. It is located in Mumbai. It has a protected archaeological site called Kanheri caves.

**46. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

'Gujarat Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2019' came into force from May 1.

It allows that shops, commercial establishments and businesses running in state can now remain open round the clock (24X7).

It replaces 'Gujarat Shops and Establishments Act of 1948' which prohibited shops and other businesses from remaining open between 12 am to 6 am.

**47. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

First reported in India last year, the Fall Armyworm (FAW) or *Spodoptera frugiperda* has become a major problem for farmers this year, with the pest hitting the production of the crop.

**48. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

Northeast India, one of the wettest places on the Earth has been experiencing rapid drying, especially in the last 30 years. The decreasing monsoon rainfall is

associated with natural changes in the Pacific decadal oscillation (PDO).

**49. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

The first-ever Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services by Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has been released.

**50. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is an independent intergovernmental body, established by member States in 2012. The objective of IPBES is to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development.

**51. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

The Tenth Schedule was inserted in the Constitution in 1985 by the 52nd Amendment Act. It lays down the process by which legislators may be disqualified on grounds of defection by the Presiding Officer of a legislature based on a petition by any other member of the House.

Legislators may change their party without the risk of disqualification in certain circumstances. The law allows a party to merge with or into another party provided that at least two-thirds of its legislators are in favour of the merger.

**52. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) is a formal process used to predict the environmental consequences of any development project. Environment Impact Assessment in India is statutory backed by the Environment Protection Act in 1986, which contains various provisions on EIA methodology and process.

**53. Answer: (a)**



**Explanation:**

It is bordered by Japan, Korea (North and South) and Russia.

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

In India it is found in patches of riparian forest along Kaveri River and in hill forests of southern states- Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

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

Their conservation status is endangered as per International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The odd-looking species is endemic to Western Ghats. The purple frog should rightly be called 'living fossil' as it is believed that they have co-existed with dinosaurs.

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

It is nodal implementation agency of Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) at national level only.

PMEGP is a major credit-linked subsidy programme being implemented by MSME Ministry since 2008-09 and will Continue till 2019-20. It aims to generate employment in India's rural and urban areas.

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

Under this mission the Practical training about examination of honeybee colonies is being done. KVIC would provide loans for setting up processing units, packaging units and labelling units for honey.

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

It functions under the control of the Ministry of Defence since 2015. Currently, the organisation maintains operations in twenty-one states, one UT (Andaman and Nicobar Islands), and neighbouring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka. The construction of the Delaram-Zaranj Highway in Afghanistan in 2008 and the Farkhor and

Ayni air bases of Tajikistan were also restored and repaired by the BRO.

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

The decisions, recommendations or guidelines of the Arctic Council are non-enforceable and strictly the prerogative of the individual state.

At 11th Arctic Council ministerial meeting held at Rovaniemi in Finland; India was re-elected as an observer to intergovernmental forum Arctic Council.

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

The Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CCMB) is a premier research organization which conducts high quality basic research and trainings in frontier areas of modern biology and promotes centralized national facilities for new and modern techniques in the interdisciplinary areas of biology.

It was set up initially as a semi-autonomous Centre on April 1, 1977 with the Biochemistry Division of the then Regional Research Laboratory (presently, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, IICT) Hyderabad.

It is in Hyderabad and operates under the aegis of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

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

With this slip, the voter can verify his casted vote.

This VVPAT slip is displayed for 7 seconds before it's automatically cut.

The slip, once viewed, is cut and dropped into the drop box in the VVPAT machine and a beep will be heard.

The VVPAT machines can only be accessed by the election officers in the rarest of rare cases.

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

Iran nuclear deal or Iran deal, is an agreement on the Iranian nuclear program reached in Vienna on July 14, 2015 between Iran, the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States—plus Germany) and the European Union.

**63. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

The theme for 2019 was “Universal access to quality thalassaemia healthcare services: Building bridges with and for patient”.

**64. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

It is a list maintained by Indian Embassies in different countries and posts abroad.

It contains list of Indian-origin people who have taken asylum (i.e. right to international protection in this other country) abroad under plea of alleged persecution in India. These asylum seekers in list are predominantly Sikhs.

Those who are in list are denied visa services by Indian missions and posts in respective country.

**65. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

Char Dham Expressway National Highway is a proposed two-lane (in each direction) express National Highway with a minimum width of 10 metres in the state of Uttarakhand. The proposed highway will complement the under-development Char Dham Railway by connecting the four holy places in Uttarakhand states includes Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri, the project includes 900 km national highways will connect whole of Uttarakhand state.

**66. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

The Double Asteroid Redirection Test, or DART, is a spacecraft designed to determine whether an asteroid can be redirected with a high-speed collision. SpaceX will launch the spacecraft toward an asteroid named Didymo's about 4 million miles from Earth. It then will ram into the asteroid's small moon at about 13,000 miles per hour.

**67. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

It does not address the movement of radioactive waste. The Convention is also intended to minimize the amount and toxicity of wastes generated, to ensure their environmentally sound management and to assist LDCs in environmentally sound management of the hazardous and other wastes they generate.

**68. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

Trans fatty acids (TFAs) or Trans fats are the most harmful type of fats. Artificial TFAs are formed when hydrogen is made to react with the oil to produce fats resembling pure ghee/butter. WHO has recommends that trans-fat intake be limited to less than 1% of total energy intake and has also called for the total elimination of TFAs in global food supply by 2023. FSSAI has proposed to limit TFA limit in foods to 2% and eliminate trans fats from foods by 2022.

**69. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

World Red Cross Day 2019 theme is “#love”. The theme will mainly focus on asking people on what they love about Red Cross and Red Crescent. ... The day is celebrated on this day because it marks the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant, founder of the Red Cross and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

**70. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), under Ministry of Finance is organising a meeting of Regional Heads of Customs Administration of Asia Pacific Region of World Customs Organisation (WCO) in Kochi (in Kerala).

**71. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

MODIS (or Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer) is a key instrument aboard the Terra (originally known as EOS AM-1) and Aqua (originally known as EOS PM-1) satellites. Terra's orbit around the Earth is timed so that it passes from north to south across the equator in the morning, while Aqua passes south to north over the equator in the afternoon. Terra MODIS and Aqua MODIS are viewing the entire Earth's surface every 1 to 2 days, acquiring data in 36 spectral bands, or groups of wavelengths.

**72. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

Sand consumption globally has been increasing and we are extracting it at rates exceeding natural replenishment rates.

Sand and gravel are the second largest natural resources extracted and traded by volume after water, but among the least regulated.

**73. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

The Bengal tiger is a Panthera Tigris population in the Indian subcontinent.[3] It is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List since 2008. The Bengal tiger ranks among the biggest wild cats alive today. It is considered to belong to the world's charismatic megafauna. It is the national animal of both India and Bangladesh. It is also known as the Royal Bengal tiger.

**74. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

It is Indo-China Protocol for Export Of Indian Chilli Meal. This was 4th protocol signed between India and China from 2018 that allows export of farm commodities from India.

**75. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

It acts as an organizing union mainly for ethnic Indians in fields of job recruitment, and also performs outsourcing functions for businesses like employment background screening.

**76. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

In May 2018, WHO released 'REPLACE' strategy which provides six strategic actions to ensure the quick and complete elimination of industrially-produced trans fats from the food supply by 2023.

**77. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

Organized By: The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the African-Eurasian Water bird Agreement (AEWA) together with Environment for the Americas (EFTA).

**78. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

The barn owl is found almost everywhere in the world except polar and desert regions, in Asia north of the Himalayas, most of Indonesia, and some Pacific islands.

**79. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

The Institute has been developed in collaboration with the Government of India, United Nations, the Commonwealth and inter-governmental organisations like Sweden based International Institute of Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA).

**80. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

The programme will involve gaining better biological insights through physiological and molecular mapping, develop disease models through predictive computing and have a wholistic analysis and finally drug discovery.

**81. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

On May 11, 1998, India detonated three nuclear bombs in the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range. Dr APJ Abdul Kalam lead the Indian team of scientists to successfully test-fire the Shakti-1 nuclear missile at Rajasthan's Pokhran test range.

**82. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

DRDO recently conducted the flight test of ABHYAS – High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) from a test range in Odisha.

The configuration of ABHYAS is designed on an in-line small gas turbine engine and it uses indigenously developed MEMS based navigation system.

**83. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

Despite rising CPI inflation, analysts expect the Reserve Bank of India to cut repo rate – the rate at which it lends short-term funds to banks – as inflation remains within the RBI's target of 4 per cent even as growth of the Indian economy has been slowing down.

**84. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

The only home of Asiatic lion is Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat. Asiatic Lion's IUCN Red List Status: Endangered.

**85. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

This law is aimed at effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India.

Its main objective is to make powers available for dealing with activities directed against the integrity and sovereignty of India.

The Act makes it a crime to support any secessionist movement or to support claims by a foreign power to what India claims as its territory.

The UAPA, framed in 1967, has been amended twice since: first in 2008 and then in 2012.

**86. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

This project was launched by Nabventures, an auxiliary unit of NABARD.

NABARD proposed amount of Rs 500 crore with an option to retain over-subscriptions of Rs 200 crore. NABARD has given an anchor commitment for the fund, which will be investing across startups engaged in agriculture, food and rural development space.

**87. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently sold its entire stakes in the National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) and National Housing Bank. The decision to divest its entire stake was taken based on the recommendations of the second Narasimham Committee. The government now holds a 100 per cent stake in both NHB and NABARD.

**88. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

The Act permits only NGOs having a definite cultural, economic, educational, religious or social programme to accept foreign contribution, that too after such NGOs either obtain a certificate of registration or prior permission under the Act.

**89. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

It was co-organized by Singapore and South Korea as both nations currently holds co-chairmanship of ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Maritime Security.

Participants: The ADMM-Plus comprises total 18 nation participants which include ten Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries and other 8 includes the United States, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Japan, Russia, China, and India.

**90. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

It is the waterway separates Iran and Oman, linking the Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. The Strait is 21 miles (33 km) wide at its narrowest point, but the shipping lane is just two miles (three km) wide in either direction.

**91. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

It is a global partnership that helps developing countries better understand and reduce their vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change.

It is a grant-funding mechanism, managed by the World Bank that supports disaster risk management projects worldwide.

**92. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

The Framework is for 15-year. It is a voluntary and non-binding agreement which recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders.

The new Framework is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.

**93. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

The World Reconstruction Conference is a global forum that provides a platform to collect, assess, and share disaster reconstruction and recovery experiences and take forward the policy dialogue for an effective international disaster recovery and reconstruction framework.

**94. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

Launched by Indian Space Research Organisation. It is a special programme for School Children, in tune with the Government's vision "Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan". The Program is primarily aimed at imparting basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger ones with the intent of arousing their interest in the emerging areas of Space activities.

**95. Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

India can benefit immensely from becoming a CTBTO Observer as the organisation setting has changed a lot over the years. India will have access to the data available which was traditionally not made available.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is the Treaty banning all nuclear explosions – everywhere, by everyone. The Treaty was negotiated at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva and adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. It opened for signature on 24 September 1996.

**96. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

It is a type of orchid that was recently discovered in Assam. This is the first time it is discovered in India.

The orchid species is already known in Japan, Taiwan, and Laos.

It is one of two known types of parasitic plants which have abandoned photosynthesis.

**97. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

The 7th Economic Census -2019 is being conducted by MoSPI to provide disaggregated information on various operational and structural aspects of all establishments in the country.

Implementing agency: MoSPI has partnered with Common Service Centres, CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle under the MEITY as the implementing agency.

**98. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

NTA will be chaired by an eminent educationist appointed by MHRD.

The CEO will be the Director General to be appointed by the Government.

There will be a Board of Governors comprising members from user institutions.

The Director General will be assisted by 9 verticals headed by academicians/ experts.

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