

ANALOG IAS ACADEMY



FEBRUARY MONTH

CURRENT AFFAIRS – KEY AND EXPLANATION

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1. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) and is conducted by U.S. Naval Forces Africa. The aim of the exercise: To improve law enforcement capacity, promote regional security and progress inter-operability between the armed forces of the participating nations.

2. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

GeM is a state-of-the-art national public procurement platform of Ministry of Commerce and Industries. It facilitates online procurement of common use Goods & Services required by various Government Departments / Organisations / PSUs. Recently Government e Marketplace (GeM) and Competition Commission of India (CCI) entered into a MoU to enable a fair and competitive environment in the e-Marketplace.

3. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested the second indigenously developed 'Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)' propulsion based missile system. Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR): It is a missile propulsion technology jointly developed by India and Russia.

4. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

India has been a Party to the CMS since 1983. The Conference of Parties (COP) is the decision-making organ of this convention. The 13th

Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (CMS) is going to be hosted by India during 15th to 22nd February, 2020 at Gandhinagar in Gujarat.

5. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) is conducting its eighth round of National Deworming Day (NDD). NDD is observed bi-annually on 10th February and 10th August in all states and UTs followed by mop-up activities. This year the NDD is being conducted on 8th February and mop up day on the 14th February.

6. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Centre, in a notification, has said that medical devices that is all implantable devices, CT Scan, PET and MRI equipment, defibrillators, dialysis machines and bone marrow separators will be treated as drugs for human beings with effect from April 1, 2020.

DTAB is highest statutory decision-making body on technical matters related to drugs in the country. It is constituted as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. It is part of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

7. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The administration of the tribal areas in four Northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. The governor is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts.

8. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The government of Assam has announced a new scheme called Arundhati to provide gold at free of cost to the brides. The scheme is limited for economically weaker sections, whose annual income is below Rs 5 lakh.

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

The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is a U.S. trade program designed to promote economic growth in the developing world by providing preferential duty-free entry for up to 4,800 products from 129 designated beneficiary countries and territories.

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

The International IP Index 2019 has been released by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC). Among major global economies, most substantial movement can be seen from India, as it is placed at rank 36th this year.

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

The Centre and the Gujarat government have announced a Rs. 97.85 crore Asiatic Lion Conservation Project. The Kuno-Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh was identified to be the most suitable for reintroducing the species, according to a Supreme Court-appointed technical expert committee, but there has been no progress on the proposal.

There is a committee of experts from both States examining the suitability of Madhya Pradesh as a potential lion reserve.

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

With this, there shall be three administrative units of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh in the State.

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently laid the foundation stone for the strategically important Sela Tunnel Project in Arunachal Pradesh. The project, costing Rs 687 crore, is being constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and would be completed in the next three years.

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

To give a major boost to the food processing sector by adding value and reducing food wastage at each stage of the supply chain with particular focus on perishables, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing Mega Food Park Scheme in the country.

India's first mega food park 'Srini Mega Food Park', sprawling 147-acre space, was opened in Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh in 2012.

Recently Cremica Food Park is the first mega food park of Himachal Pradesh. The Park is located at Village Singhain Una District of Himachal Pradesh. It is set up at a cost of Rs 107.34 crore.

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

The OALP, a critical part of the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy, provides uniform licences for exploration and production of all forms of hydrocarbons.

NDR has been created to provide explorers' data on the country's repositories.

16. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The scheme announced by RBI is a one-time scheme wherein a loan tenor and interest rate can be revised without classifying the asset as a NPA.

17. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Act grants legal recognition to the rights of traditional forest dwelling communities, partially correcting the injustice caused by the forest laws. The Act provides that the gram sabha, or village assembly, will initially pass a resolution recommending those rights to which resources should be recognised.

18. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

It is a mobile application launched by the Ministry of Textiles for quality certification in silkworm seed sector. E app will help quality certification in silk worm sector. It will be used by the Seed Analysts and Seed Officers nominated under Central Seed Act for system and product certification through real time reporting.

19. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Recently India test-fired its helicopter-launched version of one of the most-advanced anti-tank weapons. It was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and it is one of the most-advanced anti-tank weapons in the world till now.

20. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Give it Up' scheme encourages well-to-do households to voluntarily give up their liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) subsidy so that it could be targeted to the poor who remain reliant on polluting cooking fuels such as wood, dung, crop residues and coal.

The money surrendered under this movement will be utilised for poor to get LPG connection in rural as well as in urban areas who are still using firewood for cooking.

21. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to launch the 'India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative'.

Both the sides will jointly collaborate for sustainable use of ocean resources and growth in the blue economy. This initiative will seek to support local governments in implementing sustainable waste management practices.

22. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

It was launched by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs. It will select six sites across the country for constructing the Lighthouse projects under GHTC-India. The selected sites for lighthouse projects will be used as an 'open laboratory' for live demonstration.

23. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The Framework to Fund Defence Innovation Hubs under iDEX, approved by the Board of

Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) prescribes the following minimum criterion for setting up Defence Innovation Hubs:

Any Central Government recognized Incubator including but not limited to:

- i. Department of Science and Technology (DST) recognized Incubators.
- ii. Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog created Atal Incubation Centers (AICs) and Established Incubation Centers (EICs).
- iii. Ministry of MSME recognized incubators.
- iv. Any other incubator recognized or funded through any Central government scheme.
- v. The incubator located in districts mentioned in the list of SME clusters hosted by the Ministry of MSME in collaboration with UNIDO.
- vi. Incubator / Hub promoted by local industry associations.

24. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

National Productivity Council (NPC), an autonomous registered society under Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, NPC is celebrating its 61st Foundation Day on 12th February with the theme "Circular Economy for Productivity & Sustainability".

25. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Funded by International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), Akshaya Patra is a Bengaluru-based not-for-profit organisation that works with the government on mid-day meal schemes. It has a state-of-the-art kitchen in Vrindavan.

26. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The National Gas Grid providing gas connections to households and will also provide better infrastructure for automobiles using gas. It will also aid in renewing of the fertilizer sector and also give a boost to the Power and Automotive sector.

27. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

It is a regional association of lawyers, judges, jurists and legal organisations and it advocates for the interests and concerns of the Asia Pacific legal profession.

It provides a platform to promote the cross-jurisdictional exchange of legal knowledge; as a voice of the legal profession; and as a conduit for encouraging adherence to mutually-held principles of the rule of law, professional integrity and the protection of human rights.

28. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has launched 'Dare to Dream', a contest to encourage startups and individuals to come up with innovative defence and aerospace technologies. Applicants are invited to send innovative, workable proposals that can impact various related domains. The winning entries, which should specify the plan of executing it into a prototype, stand to get one of five prizes ranging from ₹3 lakh to ₹10 lakh in two categories.

The military R&D organisation has asked for solutions in the areas of Artificial Intelligence, Autonomous Systems, Cybersecurity, Hypersonic Technologies, Smart Materials, Quantum Computing, and Soldier as a System.

29. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Uttar Pradesh has launched 'Sarathi Sandesh Vahini' mission. Under this campaign, vehicles will provide family planning information to the viewers through various documentaries and films.

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

NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Adobe have signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) for creative skills and spreading digital literacy across all Atal Tinkering Labs in India. Atal Tinkering Labs have evolved as epicenters for imparting these 'skills of the future' through practical applications based on self-learning.

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

Vat Cau is the main draw of a three-day annual festival held during Vietnam's much celebrated Tet Lunar New Year. Dating back to the 11th century, the game was invented by a revered general to teach his recruits about the importance of teamwork, intelligence and strength when fighting against foreign invaders.

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

It is a dedicated 24x7 Satellite channel for Arunachal Pradesh launched recently. It is the 24th satellite channel operated by Doordarshan. DD Arunprabha is the Doordarshan's second channel for the northeastern region; DD Northeast was the first one. The channel will familiarise people across India with the beauty and the culture of the State.

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

The 5th International Dam Safety Conference-2019 is being held in Bhubaneswar as a joint initiative of the Government of India, Government of Odisha and the World Bank under aegis of the ongoing World Bank assisted Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) as a part of institutional strengthening.

The project development objectives of DRIP are: (i) to improve the safety and performance of selected existing dams and associated appurtenances in a sustainable manner, and (ii) to strengthen the dam safety institutional setup in participating states as well as at central level.

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

Solarization of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps to make farmers independent of grid supply and also sell surplus solar power generated to Discom and get extra income.

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

The Bill seeks to amend provisions of Cinematograph Act, 1952, in order to tackle film piracy by including penal provisions for unauthorized camcording and duplication of films.

It aims to check piracy, particularly the release of pirated versions of films on the internet that causes huge losses to the film industry and the exchequer.

The bill proposes to make film piracy offences punishable with imprisonment of up to three years and fines that may extend to ₹10 lakh or both.

36. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The Swachh Shakti Programme is a national event which aims to bring in to focus the leadership role played by rural women in Swachh Bharat Mission. The programme is attended by women panchs and sarpanchs from across the country.

The first edition of Swachh Shakti programme was launched from Gandhinagar, Gujarat by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on International Women's Day 2017. The second edition was launched from Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

37. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The World Government Summit is a global platform dedicated to shaping the future of government worldwide. Each year, the Summit sets the agenda for the next generation of governments with a focus on how they can harness innovation and technology to solve universal challenges facing humanity.

38. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Special rights enjoyed by religious minority institutions are:

Under Art 30(1)(a), such institutions enjoy right to education as a Fundamental Right. In case the property is taken over by state, due compensation to be provided to establish institutions elsewhere.

Under Article 15(5), they are not considered for reservation.

Under Right to Education Act, they are not required to provide admission to children in the age group of 6-14 years upto 25% of enrolment

reserved for economically backward section of society.

39. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Fish is a highly perishable commodity. If it isn't maintained at the proper temperature of 5 degree Celsius, it gets spoilt. To avoid that and increase its shelf life, the sellers now use chemicals such as formalin and ammonia.

If the point of sale is far from the place of catch, formalin is used as a preservative. Meanwhile, ammonia is mixed with the water that is frozen to keep fish fresh.

40. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The initiative aims to promote MFPS-centric livelihood development of tribal gatherers and artisans. It mainstreams the tribal community by promoting primary level value addition to MFP at grassroots level. Through this initiative, the share of tribals in the value chain of Non-Timber Forest Produce is expected to rise from the present 20% to around 60%.

41. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The name might sound melancholic but the discovery of the Crying Keelback snake or the Hebiuslacrima in Arunachal Pradesh's Lepa-Rada district is the cause of much cheer in the oft-ignored field of herpetology in the Northeast.

42. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Amendment of the legal framework to act as a deterrent to the erring NRI spouses and creating more accountability and offer protection against

exploitation of Indian Citizens, especially women married to NRIs.

Registration: Under the new bill, a marriage between an NRI and an Indian citizen will have to be registered in India or Indian missions and posts abroad within 30 days from the date of marriage. If the marriage isn't registered within 30 days, the passport of the NRI will be revoked, summons and warrant be issued.

Section 86A: After the bill's passing, the necessary changes would be carried out in the Passports Act, 1967 and Code of Criminal Procedure 1973 by insertion of Section 86A.

The bill would amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, solving a major problem of serving judicial summons for court proceedings in India.

43. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Parliament has passed the Personal Laws (Amendment Bill), 2018 that seeks to remove leprosy as a ground for divorce. Leprosy is being removed as a ground for divorce as it is now a curable disease as against the earlier notion of it being incurable.

44. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Ministry of State (IC) for AYUSH, launched the e-AUSHADHI portal, for online licensing of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs and related matters.

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46. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

It is a "Statutory Organization" constituted under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. No alternation of boundaries in national parks and wildlife sanctuaries can be done without approval of the NBWL. It has power to review all wildlife-related matters and approve projects in and around national parks and sanctuaries.

47. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

WHO recommends that trans-fat intake be limited to less than 1% of total energy intake and has 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.

48. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

It is an annual exercise held by Indian Army to showcase its artillery firepower, aviation and surveillance capabilities. The latest edition was held at Deolali Camp near Nashik.

49. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The United States and Thailand are hosting the multi-nation Cobra military exercise this year. The exercise is taking place in the northern Thai province of Phitsanulok. This is the 38th edition of this exercise.

50. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Government has launched a Mobile App to Allow Beneficiaries to Capture & Upload Photographs of Completed Houses under PMAY- U.

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Programme launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MoHUPA), in Mission mode envisions provision of Housing for All by 2022, when the Nation completes 75 years of its Independence.

51. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), Government of India, with assistance from the World Bank, is implementing the DAM REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (DRIP), which would be a six-year project.

52. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

PM-SYM is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme that will engage as many as 42 crore workers in the unorganised sector.

The unorganised sector workers, with income of less than Rs 15,000 per month and who belong to the entry age group of 18-40 years, will be eligible for the scheme.

Those workers should not be covered under New Pension Scheme (NPS), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) scheme or Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). He or she should not be an income tax payer.

53. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Annual Dolphin census was recently carried out in Odisha by the state's forest and environment department.

The census covered important aquatic ecosystems in the state including the Chilika lake, India's largest brackish water lagoon, spread over the Puri, Khurda and Ganjam districts, the Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary and its nearby areas within the Bhitarkanika National Park in Kendrapara district, Balasore district and the mouth of the Rushukulya River in Ganjam district.

54. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) have issued a new international standard for the manufacture and use of musical devices. The aim behind the move is to prevent young people from going deaf.

55. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Oxytocin has also been dubbed the hug hormone, cuddle chemical, moral molecule, and the bliss hormone due to its effects on behavior, including its role in love and in female reproductive biological functions in reproduction.

Oxytocin is a hormone that is made in the brain, in the hypothalamus. It is transported to, and secreted by, the pituitary gland, which is located at the base of the brain.

It acts both as a hormone and as a brain neurotransmitter.

The release of oxytocin by the pituitary gland acts to regulate two female reproductive functions: Childbirth and Breast-feeding.

56. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The World Sustainable Development Summit is the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).

World Sustainable Development Summit is the sole Summit on global issues taking place in the developing world.

It provides a platform for global leaders and practitioners to discuss and deliberate over climatic issues of universal importance.

57. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Scientists have found that nanoparticles of selenium, an essential micronutrient and can be used as an antibacterial agent. Selenium is found naturally in wheat, eggs, cheese, nuts and sea food. It is an antioxidant and immunity booster.

58. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

It is to facilitate the day to day operations of inland vessels plying on National Waterways and to avoid any hindrance in service and operation. The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has launched a new portal LADIS – Least Available Depth Information System.

59. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The Dhasan River is a right bank tributary of the Betwa River. The river originates in Madhya Pradesh.

60. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

It is India's first indigenously built engineless semi-high-speed train. Earlier, it was known by the name Train 18.

It runs between Delhi and Varanasi at a maximum speed of 160 kmph.

It has been built by the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai, in a record time of 20 months.

The train is a 100% 'Make in India' project and is claimed to be built at half the cost of a similar train set that is imported.

It is energy-efficient as its coaches will be fitted with LED lights. Coaches will have automatic doors and retractable footsteps.

61. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The e-tourist visa, introduced in September 2014 with 46 countries, has now been made applicable for 166 countries. Recently, government made series of amendments in the e-visa regime, liberalising it further and making it more tourist friendly.

62. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The bill aims to address various deficiencies in the management of the National Memorial and to ensure that the Trust is an apolitical entity. It clarifies that when there is no Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, the leader of the single largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha will be the Trustee.

63. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Members can give developing countries special and differential treatment like greater market access. This special concession is in different forms like reduced tariff rates from developing country imports, concessions that allows developing countries to give subsidies to their production sectors etc.

64. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

For the overall empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangajan), a “Regional Conference on Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)” is being organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India at Kolkata, West Bengal.

65. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Development of Eco Circuit: Pathanamthitta – Gavi – Vagamon – Thekkady’ under the Swadesh Darshan scheme of Ministry of Tourism was recently inaugurated.

Eco Circuit is one of the fifteen thematic circuits identified for development under Swadesh Darshan Scheme- Integrated development of theme- based tourist circuits in the country.

66. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Tourism Ministry had launched ‘Swadesh Darshan’ scheme with an objective to develop theme-based tourist circuits in the country. These tourist circuits will be developed on the principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner.

67. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Finance Commission is appointed by the President under Article 280 of the Constitution. The recommendations relating to distribution of Union Taxes and Duties and Grants-in-aid fall in this category.

68. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

It is a sea in Eastern Europe. To the south it is linked by the narrow (about 4 km or 2.5 mi) Strait of Kerch to the Black Sea, and it is sometimes regarded as a northern extension of the Black Sea.

The sea is bounded in the north and in the west by Ukraine, in the east by Russia.

The Don and Kuban are the major rivers that flow into it.

The Sea of Azov is the shallowest sea in the world, with the depth varying between 0.9 and 14 metres.

69. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial body of the UN. Established in 1946 to replace the Permanent Court of International Justice, the ICJ mainly operates under the statute of its predecessor, which is included in the UN Charter.

It has two primary functions: to settle legal disputes submitted by States in accordance with established international laws, and to act as an advisory board on issues submitted to it by authorized international organizations.

70. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

EXERCISE VAYU SHAKTI-2019 was held recently in Rajasthan.

Vayu Shakti is held by Indian Airforce.

It demonstrates the IAF’s ability to strike targets on the ground such as enemy convoys and tanks, radar stations, railway yards and military headquarters.

71. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The blackbuck is an antelope indigenous to the India plains. Also found in India, Nepal and Pakistan. The Females are generally hornless.

72. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The survey was conducted by the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry in collaboration with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). For effective coordination with foreign countries, India has signed 37 Bilateral Agreements/Memoranda of Understanding.

73. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

It has been established for the purpose of advising Centre on matters pertaining to working of the State Wakf Boards and proper administration of the Wakfs in the country. It is a permanent dedication of movable or immovable properties for religious, pious or charitable purposes as recognized by Muslim Law, given by philanthropists.

74. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The Conference has been organized by Directorate General Factory Advice and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), Ministry of Labour and Employment, German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV), Germany in association with Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay and International Social Security Association – Manufacturing, Construction and Mining.

The concept of Vision Zero is based on four fundamental principles viz. life is non-negotiable, humans are fallible, tolerable limits are defined by human physical resistance, and people are entitled to safe transport and safe workplaces.

The Vision is based on principles of Controlling Risks, Ensuring Safety and Health in Machines, Equipment and Workplaces and Skill Upgradation of Workforce.

75. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Argentina is the 72nd country to sign the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance. The agreement of the International Solar Alliance was opened for signature during the COP22 at Marrakech on November 15, 2016. The signatories of the agreement include India, France, Australia, UAE, UK, Japan amongst others.

76. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The objective of the conference is to deliberate on issues related to assuring maritime safety in the India-ASEAN sub region.

The inaugural edition is being organised by the National Maritime Foundation (NMF) in coordination with the Ministry of Shipping and the Ministry of External Affairs.

77. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet has given its approval to the National Policy on Electronics 2019 (NPE 2019), proposed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

The Policy envisions positioning India as a global hub for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing – (ESDM) by encouraging and driving capabilities in the country for developing core components, including chipsets, and creating an enabling environment for the industry to compete globally.

78. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

India had taken part in Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) in 2009 and bagged the 72nd rank among 74 participating countries. Then UPA government had boycotted PISA, blaming “out of context” questions for India’s dismal performance.

Later, the HRD Ministry, under the NDA-II government, revisited this decision in 2016 and the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) had set up a committee to review the matter and submitted its report in December 2016. The report recommended for participation in test in 2018. However, India missed the application deadline for the 2018 cycle.

79. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet has approved the Implementation of an Externally Aided Project namely National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP) under the DeendayalAntyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) through loan assistance (IBRD Credit) from World Bank.

80. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

RozgarYukta Gaon (RYG) aims at introducing an ‘Enterprise-led Business Model’ in place of ‘Subsidy-led model’ through partnership among 3 stakeholders- KRDP-assisted Khadi Institution, Artisans and Business Partner.

81. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Rooftop solar installations — as opposed to large-scale solar power generation plants — can be installed on the roofs of buildings. The

Programmes will have substantial environmental impact in terms of savings of CO2 emission. This programmes is under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

82. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved launch of KisanUrja Suraksha evamUtthaanMahabhiyan with the objective of providing financial and water security to farmers. The proposed scheme consists of three components:

Component-A: 10,000 MW of Decentralized Ground Mounted Grid Connected Renewable Power Plants.

Component-B: Installation of 17.50 lakh standalone Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps.

Component-C: Solarisation of 10 Lakh Grid-connected Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps.

All three components combined, the scheme aims to add a solar capacity of 25,750 MW by 2022. The total central financial support provided under the scheme would be Rs. 34,422 crore.

83. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

It is an initiative to promote Start-ups, Women and Youth Advantage Through eTransactions on Government e Marketplace (GeM). This will bring together the key stakeholders within the Indian entrepreneurial ecosystem to Government e-Marketplace, the national procurement portal.

84. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The sundari or sundri is a double reed wind instrument. It has 7 to 9 holes and is made of shisam on lathe. The method of playing the sundari is like that of playing the shehnai. It is played in medium and fast tempo; slow tempo pieces are not possible in sundari because it is a very short and tiny instrument.

85. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The Kumbh Mela has been enlisted in the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. As per mythology, Prayag is the first place where the nectar drops fell from the Kumbh of nectar of immortality. Kumbh Mela is held every 6 years called Ardh Kumbha and 12 years called Kumbha.

86. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Prayagwals are the pilgrim priests in Kumbh. The Nishads are the boatmen at the Kumbh.

87. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The 'Denisovans' are the group of pre-historic community. The discovery of this community has been made from the Denisova Cave in Siberia.

88. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Delhi will be the first city in India to launch Hydrogen enriched CNG buses.

89. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Polar Vortex is a band of wind around the Poles that keeps cold air locked around Arctic. The Polar vortex exists due to large temperature

difference between Poles and the warmer inhabited areas.

90. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Union Human Resource Development Ministry has launched Operation Digital Board to leverage technology in order to boost quality education in the country.

ODB aims at converting a class room into a digital class room and provide e-resources at any time and at any place to students.

The digital board will be introduced all over the country in government and government aided schools from class 9th onwards as well as in higher education institutions.

The Operation Digital Board (ODB) will be implemented in the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

91. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Sikaria Mega Food Park is the 1st Mega Food Park of Tripura. Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing Mega Food Park Scheme in the country.

92. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The main goal of the Space Force is to secure and extend American dominance of the space domain. Space Force will organize, train, and equip military space forces. The Space Force would initially reside within the Department of the Air Force, much as the Marine Corps is part of the U.S. Navy.

93. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

VIVID-Vision Insight and Voices as India goes Digital”- the District Informatics Officer (DIO) meet, is being organised by National Informatics Centre (NIC).

The meet is held as an initiative to interact with the DIO’s and to share their experiences as well as contribution, as digital change-makers at the grass-root level in the States.

94. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

14th Agricultural Science Congress is being held at New Delhi. Organized by: The NAAS in collaboration with the ICAR and Indian Agricultural Research Institute.

Theme: “Innovations for Agricultural Transformation”.

95. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The RRTS is a first-of-its-kind, rail-based, high-speed regional transit system to be implemented in India.

Once operational, it will be the fastest, most comfortable and safest mode of commuter transport in the National Capital Region (NCR).

The RRTS aims to streamline the urban transportation system, which is stressed due to intensive developments, and increase in the number of private vehicles.

The project is meant to ensure ‘Universal Access’ by being sensitive to the needs of women, children and vulnerable sections of the society.

96. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The Shisht Bharat campaign, launched by a NGO, aims to strengthen the moral character of Indian citizens by sensitizing them about values of morality, civic sense, politeness, decorum and dignity.

Launched initially in Delhi NCR, the campaign brings together policy-makers, media personalities, parents, RWAs, Delhi traffic police, NGOs, corporate houses and multinationals together for the promotion of the cause.

97. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

NavratnaDefence PSU Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has unveiled its new product, the Atmospheric Water Generator (AWG), an innovative solution to meet the ever-increasing need for drinking water worldwide, today at Aero India 2019.

The Atmospheric Water Generator is being manufactured by BEL in collaboration with CSIR-IICT and MAITHRI, a start-up company based in Hyderabad.

98. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

It is an online platform for smooth and secure registration which provides a self-explanatory questionnaire to be filled by the HCO/SHCOs. The revamped certification process is driven through a new portal called HOPE – Healthcare Organizations’ Platform for Entry-Level-Certification.

99. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

GIM is one of the eight missions launched under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).

The objective of the mission is to increase green cover to the extent of 5 million hectares (mha) and

improve quality of existing green cover on another 5 mha, improve eco-system services like carbon sequestration, hydrological services and biodiversity and provisioning services like fuel, fodder, and timber and non-timber forest produces (NTFPs). It also must increase forest-based livelihood income for about 3 million households.

100. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

It was organized by Ministry of Defence.

Aim: to encourage the UAV industry to connect with potential buyers and business partners in the country and also provide an opportunity to the Armed Forces to assess the capabilities of UAVs.

Significance of drones: The role of drones is ever-increasing in the defence sectors, making them the ideal platform for intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, electronic warfare and strike missions.

101. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Climate change induced by human beings has claimed its first victim in 'Class Mammalia' of the 'Animal Kingdom': The Bramble Cay melomys — a 'little brown rat' found in Australia.

102. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The World Bank, the Small Industries Development Bank (Sidbi) and the UN Women, along with 10 wealth management firms and leading corporates has announced the launch of Women Livelihood Bond- a new social impact bond to offer credit to rural women entrepreneurs.

103. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Mudahalli Elephant Corridor is an inter-state corridor between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. A fundraiser has been planned in a joint venture of WTI, IUCN-NL, several NGOs and World Land trust to fund the projects to secure elephant corridors in India.

104. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

It is an income support scheme for small and marginal farmers. Unique Identification Aadhaar number is not mandatory for availing the scheme only for the first instalment. Henceforth, Aadhaar has been made mandatory.

105. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Kerala is the first state in the country to set up a drug price monitor. The setting up of the drug price monitor is under the Drug Price Control Order.

106. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The 'angel tax' is the tax on the excess capital raised by an unlisted company through the issue of shares over and above the fair market value of those shares.

107. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The Hindu-Kush Himalayan region is also known as the world's 'third pole'.

108. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) has launched its Super-Efficient Air Conditioning Programme for residential and institutional consumers in the BSES area.

109. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 on the initiative of the G7. It is a “policy-making body” which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in various areas. The FATF Secretariat is housed at the OECD headquarters in Paris.

The objectives of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

110. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Dehradun-based Indian Institute of Petroleum has successfully finished a pilot test to convert used cooking oil into bio-aviation turbine fuel (Bio-ATF), which can be blended with conventional ATF and used as aircraft fuel.

111. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The World Health Organization (WHO) has released a new report on global health expenditure. The Global Health Expenditure Database (GHED) provides internationally comparable data on health spending for close to 194 countries, since 2000.

Health spending consists of government expenditure, out-of-pocket payments (people paying for their own care), and sources such as voluntary health insurance, employer-provided

health programmes, as well as activities by non-profits.

112. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

To provide an assured income support to the small and marginal farmers, the Government has unveiled the Pradhan Mantri KisanSamman Nidhi (PM-KISAN).

Under this programme, vulnerable landholding farmer families, having cultivable land upto 2 hectares, will be provided direct income support at the rate of Rs. 6,000 per year.

This income support will be transferred directly into the bank accounts of beneficiary farmers, in three equal installments of Rs. 2,000 each.

The complete expenditure of Rs 75000 crore for the scheme will borne by the Union Government in 2019-20.

113. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The government of Gujarat has launched the second edition of the water conservation scheme SujalamSufalam Jal Sanchay Abhiyan.

114. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The National Youth Parliament Festival will encourage the youth to engage with public issues, understand the common man’s point of view, form their opinion and express these in an articulate manner. Relevant and effective voices on the vision of New India would be captured and documented to make these available to policy makers and implementers to take it forward.

115. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Global Digital Health Partnership (GDHP) is an international collaboration of governments, government agencies and multinational organisations dedicated to improving the health and well-being of their citizens through the best use of evidence-based digital technologies.

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

The Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM), Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, in collaboration with ASSOCHAM and ERICSSON India, has launched the second edition of 'IPrism', an Intellectual Property (IP) competition for students of schools, polytechnic institutes, colleges and universities.

Aiming to foster a culture of innovation and creativity in the younger generation, the competition will provide young creators an opportunity to see their creations recognized on a national platform.

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

India has successfully test-fired two indigenously developed Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air missiles (QRSAM) from a test range off the Odisha coast. It has been developed to replace the 'Akash' missile defence system, and has 360-degree coverage.

It uses solid fuel propellant and has a strike range of 25-30 km with capability of hitting multiple targets.

It is capable of hitting the low flying objects.

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

Under it Banks are not allowed to renew or access costly deposits or take steps to increase their fee-based income.

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

The ICAR-NRRI 'ricexpert' App provides information to farmers in real time on insect pests, nutrients, weeds, nematodes and disease-related problems, rice varieties for different ecologies, farm implements for different field and post-harvest operations.

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

Exercise Sampriti-2019 is an important bilateral defence cooperation endeavour between India and Bangladesh and this will be the eighth edition of the exercise which is hosted alternately by both countries.

The exercise is aimed to strengthen and broaden the aspects of interoperability and cooperation between the Indian and Bangladesh Armies. The exercise will involve tactical level operations in a counter insurgency and counter terrorism environment under the UN mandate.

ANALOG IAS