

ANALOG IAS ACADEMY



MARCH MONTH

CURRENT AFFAIRS – KEY AND EXPLANATION

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1. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

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.

2. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Common Services Centers (CSCs) are a strategic cornerstone of the Digital India programme. They are the access points for delivery of various electronic services to villages in India, thereby contributing to a digitally and financially inclusive society.

3. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Based on the assessment of CSC scheme, the Government launched the CSC 2.0 scheme in 2015 to expand the outreach of CSCs to all Gram Panchayats across the country. Under CSC 2.0 scheme, at least one CSC will be set up in each of the 2.5 lakh GPs across the country by 2019. CSCs functioning under the existing scheme will also be strengthened and integrated with additional 1.5 lakh CSCs across the country.

4. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

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.

For the purpose of the calculation of the benefit, the Centre has defined a small and marginal landholder family as the one comprising of husband, wife and minor children up to 18 years of age, who collectively own cultivable land up to

two hectare as per the land records of the concerned states.

5. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

International Energy Agency's Technology Collaboration Programme on Bioenergy (IEA Bioenergy TCP) is an international platform for co-operation among countries with the aim of improving cooperation and information exchange between countries that have national programmes in bioenergy research, development and deployment. IEA Bioenergy TCP works under the framework of International Energy Agency (IEA) to which India has "Association" status since 30th March, 2017.

6. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The New National Mineral Policy will ensure more effective regulation.

It will lead to sustainable mining sector development in future while addressing the issues of project affected persons especially those residing in tribal areas.

7. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

It is an apex agency established to operate as a principal agency to promote housing finance institutions both at local and regional levels and to provide financial and other support incidental to such institutions and for matters connected therewith.

8. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

FAME India is a part of the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan. Main thrust of FAME is to encourage electric vehicles by providing subsidies. Vehicles in most segments – two wheelers, three wheelers, electric and hybrid cars and electric buses obtained the subsidy benefit of

the scheme. FAME focuses on 4 areas i.e. Technology development, Demand Creation, Pilot Projects and Charging Infrastructure.

9. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The scheme provides financial support to Integrated Bioethanol Projects using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstock. The scheme focuses to incentivise 2G Ethanol sector and support this nascent industry by creating a suitable ecosystem for setting up commercial projects and increasing Research & Development in this area.

10. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Arun-3 Hydro Electric project (900 MW) is located on Arun River in Sankhuwasabha District of Eastern Nepal. The power from the project shall be exported from Dhalkebar in Nepal to Muzaffarpur in India.

11. Answer : (c)

Explanation:

This Scheme is to provide financial assistance to voluntary organizations to make available the whole range of services necessary for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. It is to encourage voluntary action for ensuring effective implementation of the People with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities and Protection of Rights) Act of 1995.

12. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

RCEP is proposed between the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (Brunei, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) and

the six states with which ASEAN has existing FTAs (Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand).

Aim: RCEP aims to boost goods trade by eliminating most tariff and non-tariff barriers — a move that is expected to provide the region's consumers greater choice of quality products at affordable rates. It also seeks to liberalise investment norms and do away with services trade restrictions.

13. Answer: (d)

Explanation: In a bid to promote digital transactions, the Indian Rail Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has launched its much awaited payment aggregator system 'IRCTC iPay'. The exclusive digital payment gateway will provide better digital experience and improved online digital payment convenience to rail passengers availing online travel-related services through the website.

With the launch of IRCTC iPay, the passengers will not need any third-party platforms.

14. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

EASE index is prepared by the Indian Banking Association (IBA) and Boston Consulting Group. It is commissioned by the Finance Ministry. It is a framework that was adopted last year to strengthen public sector banks, and rank them on metrics such as responsible banking, financial inclusion, credit offtake and digitisation.

15. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Scientists used NASA's ARTEMIS mission and suggest that the solar wind and the Moon's crustal magnetic fields work together to give the Moon a distinctive pattern of darker and lighter swirls.

16. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

It is the apex level conference of the Indian Navy, organised by the National Maritime Foundation as the Navy's Knowledge Partner.

The permanent theme of this annual dialogue is a review of India's opportunities and challenges in the Indo-Pacific region. The aim is to focus attention on the Indo-Pacific, as a maritime geographical-entity. The second edition of Indo - Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) – 2019 will be held in New Delhi.

17. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Smart India Hackathon 2019 is a nationwide initiative to provide students a platform to solve some of pressing problems we face in our daily lives, and thus inculcate a culture of product innovation and a mindset of problem solving. It is an initiative by Ministry of HRD, AICTE, Persistent Systems, i4c and Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini.

18. Answer: (c)

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.

19. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) and Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) will be taking the lead with the support of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in hosting this event.

20. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Kanyashree is a conditional cash transfer scheme aiming at improving the status and wellbeing of the girl child by incentivising schooling of teenage girls and delaying their marriages until the age of 18. It received the United Nations Public Service Award last year.

Performance of the scheme: Through the initiative, cash was deposited into the bank account of girls for every year they remained in school and were unmarried. This initiative led to a "drastic reduction in child marriage, increase in female education and female empowerment."

21. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

PrayagrajKumbh Mela 2019 has been placed in the Guinness World Records in three sectors. It includes:

- Largest traffic and crowd management plan.
- The biggest painting exercises of public sites under paint my city scheme.
- Biggest sanitation and waste disposal mechanism.

The Mela was included in the list of "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity" by UNESCO in 2017.

22. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

A 'Centre for Disability Sports' will be set up at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh. The proposal regarding setting up of it has been approved by the Government.

It will be registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, which is to function under the name of Centre for Disability Sports, Gwalior.

23. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The Mission Coordinator for SBM is Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS) with two Sub-Missions, the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) and the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban). Together, they aim to achieve Swachh Bharat by 2019, as a fitting tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th Birth Anniversary.

The aim of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) is to achieve a clean and Open Defecation Free (ODF) India by 2nd October, 2019.

24. 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.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently launched a pension scheme called Pradhan Mantri Shram-Yogi Maandhan Yojana (PM-SYM). The scheme was announced in the Union Budget in February this year.

25. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The report, based on a study of 3000 cities, said that 64 percent of the cities exceeded the World Health Organisation's annual exposure guideline for PM 2.5. In South Asia itself, 99 percent of the cities exceeded the WHO's safe standard exposure of 10 micrograms/cubic metre annually.

26. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Exercise Al Nagah III, third in the series of bilateral joint exercise between India and Oman is scheduled to be held from 12 to 25 March 2019 at Jabel Al Akhdar Mountains in Oman.

27. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is the implementing agency of PMBJP. BPPI (Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India) has been established under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. of India, with the support of all the CPSUs.

28. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The prices of generic medicines are much cheaper than their branded equivalent. Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMBJK) has been set up to provide generic drugs.

29. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

NABL launches Quality Assurance Scheme for Basic Composite Medical Laboratories. The laboratories performing only basic routine tests like blood glucose, blood counts, and rapid tests for common infections, liver & kidney function tests and routine tests of urine will be eligible to apply under this scheme.

30. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

NABL is a constituent board of Quality Council of India (QCI) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

NABL is Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) signatory to International bodies like International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation (ILAC) and Asia Pacific Accreditation Co-operation (APAC) for accreditation of Testing including Medical and Calibration laboratories.

31. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Solid plastic waste has been prohibited from import into the country including in Special Economic Zones (SEZ) and by Export Oriented Units (EOU).

Exporters of silk waste have now been given exemption from requiring permission from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

32. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Campaign has been launched by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. The Ministry aims to recognize the fortitude of Indian women stalwarts from across the globes that have used the power of social media to run positive & niche campaigns to steer a change in society.

33. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

While the global trend of purchasing drugs over the internet, particularly on darknet trading platforms using cryptocurrencies has already spread across South Asia, it is particularly rampant in India.

34. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Project BOLD-QIT (Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique) under CIBMS (Comprehensive Integrated Border Management system) has been inaugurated on India-Bangladesh border in Dhubri District of Assam.

BOLD-QIT is the project to install technical systems under the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS), which

enables BSF to equip Indo-Bangla borders with different kind of sensors in unfenced riverine area of Brahmaputra and its tributaries.

35. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

World Wildlife Day was celebrated on March 3rd. Theme: 'Life below Water: for People and Planet'. The theme aligns with goal 14 of UN Sustainable Development Goals.

36. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

National CITES management authorities may issue permits once scientific authorities show non-detriment findings. In other words, scientific evidence must demonstrate that species sustainability will not be adversely affected by trade. Where data is lacking, the precautionary principle applies.

CITES is legally binding on state parties to the convention, which are obliged to adopt their own domestic legislation to implement its goals.

37. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8 every year. It is a day when the world comes together to appreciate womanhood and their importance in society. The day also celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.

38. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The project for compilation of "Dictionary of Martyrs" of India's Freedom Struggle was

commissioned by the Ministry of Culture, to the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) to commemorate the 150th anniversary of uprising of 1857.

39. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Scheme "FMBAP" has been framed by merging the components of two continuing XII Plan schemes titled "Flood Management Programme (FMP)" and "River Management Activities and Works related to Border Areas (RMBA)".

The aim of the Scheme is to assist the State Governments to provide reasonable degree of protection against floods in critical areas by adopting optimum combination of structural and non-structural measures and enhancing capabilities of State/ Central Government officials in related fields.

40. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Monster Salary Index survey has been released. The survey is titled 'Women of India Inc'. It was prepared by Monster India in collaboration with Paycheck.in with IIM-Ahmedabad as a research partner.

41. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Government has also introduced the injectable Inactivated Polio Vaccine into its routine immunization program. The programme aims to protect children from the polio disease by conducting two nationwide mass polio vaccination campaigns and two to three sub-national campaigns each year.

More than 17 crore children of less than five years across the country will be given polio drops as part of the drive.

42. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The project envisions a massive makeover of the holy shrine and its surrounding areas. This massive makeover is the first after the 1780 AD when the Maratha queen Ahilyabai Holkar of Indore renovated the temple and the area surrounding it.

The proposed 50-foot corridor will directly connect Ganga's Manikarnika and Lalita Ghat to the Kashi Vishwanath Jyotirlinga Temple.

43. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

India has launched its third IT corridor in China. The corridor will facilitate partnerships between Indian and Chinese companies.

The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) entered into a partnership with China's Xuzhou city from Jiangsu Province in China to help develop the IT corridor.

The primary aim of this IT corridor will be to facilitate partnerships between Indian and Chinese companies.

44. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Ministry of Power has announced that two more electrical appliances microwave ovens and washing machines will now be assigned star ratings based on their energy efficiency metrics.

The programme of star rating of Microwave Ovens and Washing Machines will be implemented on a voluntary basis and will be valid up to December 31, 2020.

45. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

It is a platform that uses data from different sources to enable analysis and visualization over a geospatial platform. Such platforms churn out interesting analyses and visualizations by collating massive datasets.

The concept of Urban Observatories was formally initiated at the UN Habitat-II Conference in 1997 in Istanbul.

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

The Sundarbans comprises hundreds of islands and a network of rivers, tributaries and creeks in the delta of the Ganga and the Brahmaputra at the mouth of the Bay of Bengal in India and Bangladesh. Located on the southwestern part of the delta, the Indian Sundarban constitutes over 60% of the country's total mangrove forest area.

It is the 27th Ramsar Site in India, and with an area of 4,23,000 hectares is now the largest protected wetland in the country.

The Indian Sundarban, also a UNESCO world heritage site, is home to the Royal Bengal Tiger. It is also home to a large number of "rare and globally threatened species, such as the critically endangered northern river terrapin (Batagurbaska), the endangered Irrawaddy dolphin (Orcaellabrevirostris), and the vulnerable fishing cat (Prionailurusviverrinus)."

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

In order to sustain polio eradication drive from the country, government has launched Pulse Polio programme for 2019.

The programme aims to protect children from the polio disease by conducting two nationwide mass polio vaccination campaigns and two to three sub-national campaigns each year.

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

NKN is a multi-gigabit pan-India network which facilitates the development of India's communications infrastructure, stimulates research and creates next generation applications and services.

Aim: With its multi-gigabit capability, NKN aims to connect all universities, research institutions, libraries, laboratories, healthcare and agricultural institutions across the country to address such paradigm shift.

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

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has released the Trends in International Arms Transfers 2018 Report. The assessment was done for a five-year period (2014-2018).

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

The World Gold Council is an association whose members comprise the world's leading gold mining companies. It helps to support its members to mine in a responsible way and developed the Conflict Free Gold Standard.

Headquartered in the UK, they have offices in India, China, Singapore, Japan and the United States.

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

ASTROSAT is India's first dedicated multi wavelength space observatory. This scientific satellite mission endeavours for a more detailed understanding of our universe.

52. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The indigenously developed Pinaka Guided Weapons System was successfully test fired at Pokhran desert in Rajasthan.

Pinaka rocket systems are developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The rocket system was named after Pinaka, the bow of Lord Shiva.

53. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

A species of wood snake that wasn't seen for 140 years has resurfaced in a survey conducted by scientists in the Meghamalai Wildlife Sanctuary. The species is endemic to the Meghamalai forests and the Periyar Tiger Reserve landscape.

54. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Functions of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority:

To implement and enforce the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order in accordance with the powers delegated to it.

To deal with all legal matters arising out of the decisions of the Authority.

To monitor the availability of drugs, identify shortages, if any, and to take remedial steps.

To collect/ maintain data on production, exports and imports, market share of individual companies, profitability of companies etc, for bulk drugs and formulations.

To undertake and/ or sponsor relevant studies in respect of pricing of drugs/ pharmaceuticals.

To recruit/ appoint the officers and other staff members of the Authority, as per rules and procedures laid down by the Government.

To render advice to the Central Government on changes/ revisions in the drug policy.

55. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

It is cultivated in Yellapura, Siddapura and Sirsi taluks. Totgars' Cooperative Sale Society Ltd., Sirsi, is the registered proprietor of the GI.

56. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Starry dwarf frog- a thumbnail-sized species was recently discovered in India's Western Ghats, one of the world's "hottest" biodiversity hotspots.

57. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The GEO is often referred to as UN Environment's flagship environmental assessment.

The first publication was in 1997 and was originally requested by Member States.

It is a flagship report because it fulfills the core functions of the organization, which date back to the UN General Assembly resolution that established the UNEP in 1972.

58. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The first shipment under the United Nations Transports Internationaux Routiers' (TIR) convention arrived in India from Afghanistan through Iran's Chabahar Port.

The Customs Convention on International Transport of Goods under cover of TIR Carnets, 1975 (TIR Convention), is an international transit system under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) to facilitate the seamless movement of goods within and amongst the Parties to the Convention.

59. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

It is a cloud seeding project flagged off by the Karnataka government to enhance the amount of precipitation from the clouds to generate more rain. Special aircraft will disperse the chemical silver iodide as they fly through rain-bearing clouds that will trigger and enhance the precipitation.

60. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

IEMF has been envisaged as a pan-stakeholder platform for debating ideas, scenario-planning & discussing the India's energy future. It aims to improve cooperation and coordination between modeling teams, the Government of India, knowledge partners and think-tanks, build capacity of Indian institutions.

61. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a member of the flavivirus genus and belongs to the Japanese encephalitis antigenic complex of the family Flaviviridae.

West Nile Virus (WNV) can cause neurological disease and death in people. WNV is commonly found in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, North America and West Asia.

WNV is maintained in nature in a cycle involving transmission between birds and mosquitoes. Humans, horses and other mammals can be infected.

62. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

In a major boost for Army, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully

test fired indigenously developed, low weight, fire and forget Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM).

63. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

India adopted the Consumer Protection Act, later in 1986, thus providing a legal face to the Indian consumers. One of the strongest campaigns for protection of consumer rights in India, is "JagoGrahakJago" which literally translates into, "wake up consumers"! This multimedia campaign from Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Government of India is aimed at creating an aware consumer.

64. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) has developed a national strategy document- UNNATEE (Unlocking NATional Energy Efficiency potential)- for accelerating energy efficiency in India.

65. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship is being held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. FINE is an initiative being organised by Rashtrapati Bhavan in association with the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India and the National Innovation Foundation-India.

66. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The assessment has been done jointly by experts from Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) at Guwahati and Mandi, in collaboration with Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore with support from the Department of Science and Technology and the Swiss Development Corporation (SDC) which is implementing the

Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Program (IHCAP).

67. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Electoral bonds have been introduced to promote transparency in funding and donation received by political parties. The scheme envisages building a transparent system of acquiring bonds with validated KYC and an audit trail. A limited window and a very short maturity period would make misuse improbable. The electoral bonds will prompt donors to take the banking route to donate, with their identity captured by the issuing authority. This will ensure transparency and accountability and is a big step towards electoral reform.

68. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

It is a Joint Field Training Exercise between the Indian Army and 16 African nations. The 2019 edition will be conducted in Pune from March 18 to 27.

Contingents from Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, South Africa, Tanzania, Namibia, Mozambique, Uganda, Niger & Zambia are part of the joint exercise together with officers from Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Madagascar as Observers.

The joint exercise will also focus on achieving interoperability, learning each other's methodologies and tactics through synchronised operational level planning and tactical level training.

69. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

IIT Kharagpur has signed an MoU with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) to set up a 1.3 Petaflop high-performance computing facility and data center funded under the National Supercomputing Mission.

70. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

D-SIB means that the bank is too big to fail. According to the RBI, some banks become systemically important due to their size, cross-jurisdictional activities, complexity and lack of substitute and interconnection. Banks whose assets exceed 2% of GDP are considered part of this group.

71. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

To implement various developmental and welfare projects/programs in mining affected areas that complement the existing ongoing schemes/projects of State and Central Government.

To minimize/mitigate the adverse impacts, during and after mining, on the environment, health and socio-economics of people in mining districts.

To ensure long-term sustainable livelihoods for the affected people in mining areas.

72. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

A powerful bomb cyclone has impacted several part of the US causing heavy floods.

Deep drops in barometric pressure occur when a region of warm air meets one of cold air. The air starts to move, and the rotation of the earth creates a cyclonic effect. The direction is counterclockwise in the Northern hemisphere leading to winds that come out of the northeast.

73. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

This slender and long tailed bird is found in the dry semi-desert region of northern Africa, Arabia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and western India. They fly in flocks and forage mainly on fruits, migrating south in winter.

Because the species has a large range, and because it does not meet the population size and decline criteria of the IUCN Red List, the conservation status is evaluated as being of "least concern".

74. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The Assembly is the governing body of the UN Environment Programme (UN Environment) and the successor of its Governing Council, which was composed of 58 member States. The UN Environment Assembly, with a universal membership, is now composed of 193 Member States.

75. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The Income Tax Act requires Indian subsidiaries of multinational companies to provide details of key financial statements from other jurisdictions where they operate. This provides the IT department with better operational view of such companies, primarily with regards to revenue and income tax paid.

The provision was a part of the base erosion and profit shifting action plan, and later incorporated in IT Act also.

76. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

It is expected to open up sea routes and promote economic development in the North-eastern states, and also add value to the economic,

commercial and strategic ties between India and Myanmar. This project will reduce distance from Kolkata to Sittwe by approximately 1328 km and will reduce the need to transport good through the narrow Siliguri corridor, also known as Chicken's Neck.

77. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

The State Bank of India has launched the YONO Cash service for its customers which will allow them to withdraw cash from ATMs without their debit cards.

You Only Need One (YONO) is the cardless cash withdrawal service. The initiative will address concern of using debit card at the ATMs for cash withdrawals by eliminating possible risk associated with it.

78. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The exercise generally commences at the beginning of each year and lasts a month.

The exercise is designed to test the combat readiness of the Indian naval units, as well as the Indian Air Force, Indian Army and the Indian Coast Guard.

79. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), created in December 1999, is the successor to the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. It was established to ensure the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. It is part of the United Nations Secretariat and its functions span the social, economic, environmental as well as humanitarian fields.

Functions: UNISDR supports the implementation, follow-up and review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction adopted by the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction on 18 March 2015 in Sendai, Japan.

80. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030” was adopted during the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan in March, 2015.

81. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

Fishing and coral reef degradation threaten parrotfish in Andaman. New study says presence of a protected area, live coral and algal cover, significantly influences distribution and abundance of the specie.

82. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

According to the article, GST Council will be a joint forum for the Centre and the States. It consists of the following members:

The Union Finance Minister will be the Chairperson.

Member – the Union Minister of State in charge of Revenue or Finance.

The Minister in charge of finance or taxation or any other Minister nominated by each State government, as members.

83. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The idea behind artificial glaciers is to freeze and hold the water that keeps flowing and wasting

away down the streams and into the rivers throughout the winter. Instead, this ice will melt in the springtime, just when the fields need watering.

The idea of the Ice Stupa project was conceptualised by HIAL founder Sonam Wangchuk to reduce problems of Ladakhi farmers in spring.

84. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Exercise MITRA SHAKTI is conducted annually as part of military diplomacy and interaction between armies of India & Sri Lanka.

85. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Unsurprisingly, the cheapest cities to live in were largely made up of those experiencing well-documented political or economic disruption (or both in some cases).

Caracas, Venezuela’s capital was at the very bottom of the list this year, a position previously occupied by war-torn Syria in Damascus for obvious reasons.

Deteriorating economic conditions in Venezuela and hyperinflation are at the root of its downward-trending position down the list.

86. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

The membership will allow SpiceJet to explore and grow its collaborations with international member airlines of the IATA grouping through interlining and code shares.

It will also enable the low cost carrier in seamlessly expanding its network options for its passengers in future.

87. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

It is released by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network for the United Nations by the UN General Assembly. The list is topped by Finland for the second year in a row. India has witnessed a sustained drop with a 140th place this year compared with the 133rd place in 2018.

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

They are collective investment vehicles that operate and manage property portfolios and give returns to investors. Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) mandated that all REITS be listed on exchanges and make an initial public offer to raise money.

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

In the year 1992, March 22 was first officially added in the schedule 21 of United Nations Conference on Environment and Development as World Water Day in the Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The celebrations to mark world water day started from the year 1993. The aim of the day is to increase awareness among people about the importance, need and conservation of water.

The World Water Development Report is also released by the UN every year around World Water Day.

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

Stubble burning is a common practice followed by farmers in the neighboring states Haryana and Punjab to prepare fields for sowing of wheat in November as there is little time left between the harvesting of paddy and sowing of wheat.

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

The Mission will have an Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee chaired by Chief Executive Officer (CEO), NITI Aayog to promote clean, connected, shared, sustainable and holistic mobility initiatives.

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

BRI consisting of the land-based belt, 'Silk Road Economic Belt', and 'Maritime Silk Road', aims to connect the East Asian economic region with the European economic circle and runs across the continents of Asia, Europe and Africa.

BRI is China's ambitious project announced in 2013. It covers about 65% of the world population, 60% of the world GDP and over 70 countries in six economic corridors.

93. Answer: (c)**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.

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

Langkawi International Maritime Aero Expo (LIMA-2019) is being held in Langkawi, Malaysia.

Indian Air Force is participating in the Maritime Aero Expo for the first time, during which it will showcase its indigenously developed LCA fighter aircraft.

95. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Superstats, a new metrics to analyse the game of cricket, has been launched by ESPNcricinfo in partnership with Indian Institute of Technology Madras.

96. Answer: (a)

Explanation:

The implementation of IndAS for public sector banks requires an amendment to the Banking Regulation Act. The schedule in BR Act relating to financial statement disclosures needs to be changed to the IndAS format.

Section 29 of the BR Act deals with the accounts and balance sheets of public sector banks. Private sector banks are covered by the Companies Act, which is based on the new accounting standards.

97. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the food assistance branch of the United Nations and the world's largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger and promoting food security.

The WFP strives to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, with the ultimate goal in mind of eliminating the need for food aid itself.

It is a member of the United Nations Development Group and part of its Executive Committee.

98. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The GRAPES-3 experiment (or Gamma Ray Astronomy PeVEnergieS phase-3) located at Ooty in India started as a collaboration of the Indian Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and the Japanese Osaka City University, and now also includes the Japanese Nagoya Women's University.

GRAPES-3 is designed to study cosmic rays with an array of air shower detectors and a large area muon detector.

99. Answer: (b)

Explanation:

Transmission to humans may occur after a tick bite or contact with an infected animal, most importantly a sick or recently dead monkey. No person-to-person transmission has been described.

The disease as of now is stated to be transmitted through monkeys. Large animals such as goats, cows, and sheep may become infected with KFD but play a limited role in the transmission of the disease.

100. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The famous Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore introduced Basant Utsav or Spring festival in Santiniketan, Birbhum to recreate the magic of Holi. The joyous festival is now an integral part of the Bengali culture.

Also known as 'DolJatra' or the 'Dol Utsav', the fiesta enjoys the repute as the "RabindrikBasanta Utsav".

101. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

ISRO has launched a special programme for school children called YuvaVigyaniKaryakram or Young Scientist Programme.

102. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), in its 47th mission (PSLV-C45), will launch EMISAT, the primary satellite and 28 international customer satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota.

103. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

Pakistan has given its green signal for Sharda Peeth corridor. The Sharda Peeth corridor, when opened, will be the second religious tract after Kartarpur corridor in Pakistan-controlled territory that will connect the two neighbouring nations.

104. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Hambantota is right in the middle of vital energy supply lines in the Indian Ocean, connecting the Middle East and East Asia

Hambantota is the main town in Hambantota District, Southern Province, Sri Lanka. This number of major development projects including the construction of a new sea port and international airport.

105. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

World Economic Forum has released its global Energy Transition index. The annual list ranks 115 economies on their ability to balance energy

security and access with environmental sustainability and affordability.

The index considers both the current state of the countries' energy system and their structural readiness to adapt to future energy needs.

106. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Every year, on March 23, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) commemorates its founding by observing World Meteorological Day. This year, the organisation is celebrating its 69th anniversary.

Theme: "The Sun, the Earth and the weather". This year's theme also sits in perfectly with the next cycle of the Sun's activity starting in 2020, also known as the Solar Cycle 25.

107. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The nuclear training facility will help Indian Navy in providing realistic simulation of Nuclear, Chemical and Biological warfare to its personnel during their NBC damage control training, which was till now largely limited to theoretical training.

108. Answer: (c)

Explanation:

The report, covering 105 countries, dedicates a chapter to India because of this remarkable progress. However, India still had 364 million poor in 2015-16, the largest for any country, although it is down from 635 million in 2005-06.

109. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

A note verbale is a diplomatic communication from one government to another, delivered through each other's diplomatic representatives. Like many other diplomatic terms, note verbale is French, and literally means a verbal note,

because it was meant to be delivered orally to the recipient. In modern times, it is a written note.

Notes verbale are the commonest method of formal diplomatic communication. They are used to convey information or requests of all kinds.

110. Answer: (d)

Explanation:

Swine flu is contagious, and it spreads in the same way as the seasonal flu. When people who have it cough or sneeze, they spray tiny drops of the virus into the air. If a person comes in contact with these drops or touch a surface that an infected person has recently touched, the person can catch H1N1 swine flu.

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