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ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT-KEY
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Q1. Answer: B)

Explanation: Permafrost is ground, including rock or (cryotic) soil, at or below the freezing point of water 0 °C (32 °F) for two or more years. Most permafrost is located in high latitudes (in and around the Arctic and Antarctic regions), but at lower latitudes alpine permafrost occurs at higher elevations. It contains carbon-rich organic material, such as leaves, that froze without decaying.

Q2. Answer: C)

Explanation: The Naitwar Mori Project with a generation potential of 60 MW is located on River Tons, a major tributary of River Yamuna on the Ganga basin, in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand state in North India.

Q3. Answer: D)

Explanation: New Delhi has become the first city in India to deploy Bharat Stage 6 Fuel for both petrol and diesel. Two years ahead of the rest of the county. The proposed Bharat Stage (BS) VI regulation for on-road vehicles in India includes contains both emission standards for new vehicles as well as specifications for reference and commercial gasoline and diesel fuels.

Q4. Answer: B)

Explanation: Kerala’s Thiruvananthapuram district administration launched project C5 (Change for Change Climate Change) that aims at a sustainable lifestyle to mitigate the effects of climate change is a critical step towards protecting the future of the next generation.

Q5. Answer: B)
Explanation: The steps were underway to bring Panchanadikulam Wetland and the unsurveyed Salt Swamp located between Point Calimere Wildlife Sanctuary and Muthupet Mangroves within the ambit of the Ramsar Convention of 1971 by the Tamil Nadu Government. The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 stipulate setting up of a State Wetlands Authority in each State and union territories that will be headed by the State’s environment minister and include a range of government officials.

Q6. Answer: B)

Explanation:
- UTTAM App for Coal Quality Monitoring. UTTAM stands for – Unlocking Transparency by Third Party Assessment of Mined Coal (uttam.coalindia.in).
- The Ministry of Coal and Coal India Limited (CIL) developed UTTAM, aims to provide an App for all citizens and coal consumers to monitor the process of Third Party Sampling of coal across CIL subsidiaries.
- UTTAM App ensures accountability, transparency, effectiveness, and efficiency in coal ecosystem.

Q7. Answer: B)

Explanation: The Ministry of Tribal affairs has approved establishment of the first multipurpose “Van Dhan Vikas Kendra” on pilot basis for establishment in Bijapur District of Chhattisgarh State for providing skill upgradation and capacity building training and setting up of primary processing and value addition facility.

Q8. Answer: C)

Explanation: Diu is India’s first solar-powered island. Along with solar, Diu is also exploring wind energy. Energy from solar parks is supplemented by rooftop solar.

Q9. Answer: C)
Explanation:
- NFP, 2018 talks about climate change mitigation through sustainable forest management.
- To address the issue of climate change, NFP, 2018 contributes to the forestry-related Nationally Determined Contribution Targets and by integrating, “climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in forest management through the mechanism of REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation plus) so that the impacts of the climate change is minimised”.
- The draft policy document also talks about degraded land and how it can be improved by undertaking afforestation activities using public private partnership models.

Q10. Answer: C)

Explanation:
- Providing LPG connections to BPL households will ensure universal coverage of cooking gas in the country. This measure will empower women and protect their health.
- Under the scheme, five crore LPG connections are to be provided to BPL households.
- The identification of eligible BPL families will be made in consultation with the State Governments and the Union Territories.

Q11. Answer: D)

Explanation: The Thottara organic rice brand harvested from Thottara Puncha, a vast expanse of paddy field spread over Amballoor and Edakkattuvayal in Ernakulam district of Kerala.
Q12. Answer: D)
Explanation: All are correct.

Q13. Answer: A)
Explanation: A consortium of India’s three state-run Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) signed an agreement with Saudi Aramco, the world’s largest producer of crude oil, to set up the world’s largest greenfield integrated oil refinery on the west coast of India.

Q14. Answer: A)
Explanation: A consortium of India’s three state-run Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) signed an agreement with Saudi Aramco, the world’s largest producer of crude oil, to set up the world’s largest greenfield integrated oil refinery on the west coast of India.

Q15. Answer: B)
Explanation: NASA is conducting a study of the world’s largest phytoplankton bloom in the North Atlantic to see how the tiny sea algae influence the climate every season.

Q16. Answer: D)
Explanation: The Rushikulya rookery coast in Ganjam district of Odisha is a famous mass nesting site of Olive ridleys.

Q17. Answer: C)
Explanation:
• The uniform licence will enable the contractor to explore conventional as well as unconventional oil and gas resources including CBM, shale gas/oil, tight gas and gas hydrates under a single license.
• The policy is also aimed at enhancing transparency and reducing administrative discretion.
• The concept of Open Acreage Policy will enable E&P companies choose the blocks from the designated area.

Q18. Answer: B)
Explanation: NASA is conducting a study of the world’s largest phytoplankton bloom in the North Atlantic to see how the tiny sea algae influence the climate every season.

Q19. Answer: D)
Explanation: Pilicode panchayat in Kasaragod district of Kerala became the first village panchayat in the country that has completely abandoned filament bulbs.

Q20. Answer: D)
Explanation: Ethylene is formed naturally in plants in amounts sufficient to bring about regulatory effects. Role of ethylene is:
- Breaking dormancy induce ripening of fruits abscission of leaves inhibit elongated and lateral bud growth learning
- Ripening is the process by which fruits attain their desirable flavour, quality, colour and other textural qualities

Q21. Answer: C)
Explanation: Greenhouse technology is the technique of providing favorable Environment condition to the plants. It is rather used to protect the plants from the adverse climatic conditions. It is also of vital importance to create an ideal microclimate around the plants.

Q22. Answer: C)
Explanation:
Chinese scientists have developed a new device of 3D hollow-cone structure that can greatly increase the solar-thermal conversion efficiency.

The device, named ‘Artificial Transpiration’ is inspired by the transpiration process of trees.

The device can enhance the solar-thermal conversion rate to 85 per cent, which is much higher than the 40 per cent rate of common devices.

The cone structure, based on a graphene film, can collect more sunlight throughout the day when compared with a flat device, as about 10 per cent to 50 per cent of sunlight is diffusive.

Q23. Answer: B)
Explanation:
- Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is an intergovernmental organization of 14 nations founded in 1960 in Baghdad by the first five members (Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela).
- It is headquartered since 1965 in Vienna, Austria.

Q24. Answer: C
- The Paris Agreement/Paris climate accord/Paris climate agreement is an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) dealing with greenhouse gas emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance starting in the year 2020.
- The Agreement aims to respond to the global climate change threat by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Q25. Answer: B)
Explanation: Asian Premium is the extra amount charged by OPEC countries while selling crude oil to Asian countries in comparison to Western countries. India, China and other Asian countries are coming together to raise their voice against the Asian Premium.
Q26. Ans: D
Explanation:
The NCAP aspires to overcome the deficits of the ongoing government initiatives targeted towards air pollution control. It lays down a comprehensive strategy framework for enhanced management of air quality. Augmentation of existing air quality monitoring network by increasing number of existing manual and continuous monitoring stations, introducing rural monitoring stations, identifying alternative technology for real-time monitoring network and augmenting capabilities of existing monitoring stations to measure PM2.5 concentration, are integral components of the strategy framework.

Q27. Answer: C)
Explanation:
- The Draft forest policy 2018 meant for replacing the 1988 national forest policy with the new one, syncing it with the country’s forestry-related climate action targets under the Paris Agreement.
- The draft policy seeks to introduce a community forest management (CFM) mission as an offshoot of participatory forest management such as joint forest management (JFM), Van Suraksha Samitis etc.
- It proposes involvement of private parties in regeneration of forests

Q28. Answer: B)
Explanation:
- The Sundarbans is a vast forest in the coastal region of the Bay of Bengal and considered one of the natural wonders of the world.
- The Sundarbans contain the world’s largest coastal mangrove forest
- Located in the delta region of Padma, Meghna and Brahmaputra river basins

Q29. Answer: B)
Explanation:
- A Ramsar Site is a wetland site designated of international importance under the Ramsar Convention
- It provides for national action and international cooperation regarding the conservation of wetlands, and wise sustainable use of their resources
There are currently 26 sites in India recognised as Ramsar wetland sites of international importance

Q30. Answer: A)
Explanation:
- The total forest and tree cover in India, according to the current assessment is 8,02,088 sq km, which is 24.39 per cent of the country's geographic area.
- The present assessment shows that 15 states/UTs have above 33 per cent of the geographical area under forest cover.
- Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover (77,414 sq km) in the country, followed by Arunachal Pradesh (66,964 sq km), Chhattisgarh (55,547 sq km), Odisha (51,345 sq km) and Maharashtra (50,682 sq km).

Q31. Answer: B)
Explanation: Mahanadi, the sixth largest river in India, originates from Chhattisgarh and enters the Bay of Bengal travelling 851 km, of which 357 km lies in Chhattisgarh and 494 km in Odisha

Q32. Answer: D)
Explanation: The Diu Smart City has become the first city in India that runs on 100 per cent renewable energy during the daytime.

Q33. Answer: C)
Explanation: Earth Day Network, the organization that leads Earth Day worldwide, has chosen as the theme for 2018 to End Plastic Pollution

Q34. Answer: D)
Explanation: All of the above are correct

Q35. Answer: D)
Explanation:
The National AQI is published for every month by CPCB along with a numerical value and a colour code which helps in comparing air pollution levels in cities. It is determined on the basis of concentration of 8 pollutants, including Particulate Matter (PM 2.5, PM 10), sulphur dioxide (SO2), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O3), ammonia (NH3) and lead (Pb).

Q36. Answer: D)
Explanation:
- Swedish-Swiss multinational giant ABB announced it has commissioned India’s first industrial solar microgrid at its Vadodara manufacturing facility in Gujarat.
- The facility’s carbon footprint is expected to be reduced by around 1,400 tons of carbon dioxide per year.

Q37. Answer: B)
Explanation: Akademik Lomonosov, the world’s first “floating” nuclear power plant (FNPP) for installation in remote areas, has headed out on its first sea voyage from this Baltic shipyard in Russia.

Q38. Answer: B)
Explanation:
- India already has four LNG import terminals (Petronet’s Dahej and Kochi LNG terminals, Shell’s Hazira plant and the Dabhol terminal operated by Ratnagiri Gas and Power) and imports around 20 million tons of LNG a year, about 6.5 percent of its energy needs.
- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) is commissioning Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) import terminal at Ennore by October 2018.
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