



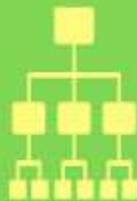
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Q1. Answer: d)

Explanation: The Arctic Council is a high-level intergovernmental forum which addresses issues faced by the Arctic governments and people living in the Arctic region. Six Arctic indigenous communities have the status of Permanent Participants on the Council. Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States. India and China are the observers to the council.

Q2. Answer: a)

Explanation: High-intensity rainfall is a major driver for recharging groundwater in south India. High-intensity rainfall is characterised by rainfall in excess of 35 mm per day. In contrast, hard-rock and basaltic aquifers are seen in south India. Though specific yield of alluvial soil is higher than hard-rock aquifers, alluvial aquifers take longer time to get recharged in response to rainfall

Q3. Answer: d)

Explanation: The Chandrabhaga beach on the Konark coast of Odisha will be the first in Asia to get the Blue Flag certification. It is the tag given to environment-friendly and clean beaches, equipped with amenities of international standards for tourists. To achieve the Blue Flag standards, a beach must be plastic-free and equipped with a waste management system.

Q4. Answer: d)

Explanation: India has begun importing liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Russia as part of its strategy to diversify its supply sources and cater to the rapidly rising local energy needs. Russia is the latest country to begin supplying long-term LNG to India after US, Australia and Qatar.

Q5. Answer: c)

Explanation: The Union Government has announced Rs.1.4 lakh-crore Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahaabhiyan (KUSUM) scheme for promoting solar farming. It will provide extra income to farmers, by giving them an option to sell additional power to grid through solar power projects set up on their barren lands. The surplus electricity generated by farmers will be bought by state electricity distribution companies (discoms).

Q6. Answer: d)

Explanation: The Contributions of Nitrogen emissions in ascending order as follows:

- a. Chemical fertilizers used in Agriculture-70 %
- b. Water Waste-12%
- c. Others-12%
- d. Residential and Commercial activities-6%

Q7. Answer: d)

Explanation: Atal Bhujal Yojana will address the criticality of ground water resources in a major part of the country. The scheme aims to improve ground water management in priority areas in the country through community participation. The scheme is to be implemented over a period of five years from 2018-19 to 2022-23, with World Bank assistance.

Q8 Answer: c)

Explanation: There is widespread uranium contamination in groundwater from aquifers across 16 states in India, much above the WHO provisional standard for the country. The primary source of uranium is geogenic (naturally occurring). The contribution of human factors such as groundwater depletion and nitrate pollution may be aggravating the already present natural uranium contamination to dangerous levels. Many of India's aquifers are composed of clay, silt and gravel carried down from Himalayan weathering by streams or uranium-rich granitic rocks.

Q9. Answer: a)

Explanation: The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has proposed to declare areas around the Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary in Ramanathapuram district and Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary in Ariyalur district of Tamil Nadu as Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ)

Q10. Answer: c)

Explanation: National LED Programme ensures promotion of energy efficiency in the country. It has two components – Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP) and Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP). The project is funded by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a Public Energy Services Company under the administration of the Union Ministry of Power.

Q11. Answer: a)

Explanation: NITI Aayog has come up with the Composite Water Management Index as a useful tool to assess and improve the performance in efficient management of water resources. This index is an attempt to inspire States and UTs towards efficient and optimal utilization of water and recycling

Q12. Answer: d)

Explanation: India discussed with China the possibility of forming an 'oil buyers club' that can negotiate better terms with sellers as well as getting more U.S. crude oil to Asia to cut dominance of the oil block.

Q13. Answer: b)

Explanation: India will host the world's largest International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) fusion energy conference (FEC) at the Institute of Plasma Research (IPR) in Bhat in Ahmedabad.

Q14. Answer: a)

Explanation: Asian Premium is extra charge being collected by OPEC countries from Asian countries when selling oil in comparison to western countries. India is coordinating with China and other Asian countries to raise voice against Asian premium charged by Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Q15. Answer: d)

Explanation: Himachal Pradesh has total identified potential of 27,400 MW of which only 10,519 MW has been generated so far. The difficulties faced by the projects are: inaccessible terrain, tough geographical and climatic conditions, Opposition from local people and green activists, the high altitude regions and are ecologically fragile, The investors reluctant to take up projects etc.,

Q16. Answer: a)

Explanation: The Ken- Betwa river interlink project is India's first river interlinking project that will connect Ken river in Madhya Pradesh with the Betwa in Uttar Pradesh. The Ken- Betwa river interlink project which involves deforesting a portion of the Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.

Q17. Answer: c)

Explanation: All are correct

Q18 Answer: d)

Explanation: Ricin is one of the most dangerous toxins found in nature. It is colorless and odorless. The toxic effect can occur orally, through the skin, the stomach and inhalation. It can be injected, inhaled or swallowed poison prevents the body from producing vital proteins, the central nervous system, kidneys, liver and other organs fail.

Q19. Answer: b)

Explanation: The Kaiga plant which is recently in the news is located in Karwar taluk of Karnataka state. Tata Memorial Centre has found that the number of cancer cases has increased by 200% over a period of three years near Kaiga Atomic Power Station (KAPS).

Q20 Answer: D)

Explanation: Mangroves are found in both eastern and western coastal parts of the country. India is home to some of the best mangroves in the world. West Bengal has the maximum mangrove cover followed by Gujarat and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. However eastern coast host maximum mangroves than western coast. Not all the coastline suitable for mangrove cultivation as mangroves requires an appropriate mix of saline and freshwater among other conditions to be able to grow which is not available everywhere.

Q21. Answer: d)

Explanation: Fracking is an extraction technique for oil and gas wells in which rocks are fractured artificially with the use of pressurized liquid. The process involves drilling down into the earth and injecting a highly pressurized mixture of water, sand and thickening agent, also called “fracking fluid,” into a wellbore to create cracks in rock formations.

Q22. Answer: c)

Explanation: All are correct

The landscape connectivity is crucial for the survival of long ranging species like Indian elephant and tigers, and is being targeted by indiscriminate stone mining/quarrying units, according to a report by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

Q23. Answer: d)

Explanation: The Char Dham project environmental violations are: It falls in a zone that is highly seismic activity and landslide prone, expected to

result in cutting of trees, construction waste from the Char Dham Highway Project in Uttarakhand continues to be dumped in river Mandakini and dumping of debris into the rivers could change their course, causing floods during the monsoon.

Q24. Answer: c)

Explanation: The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was established in December 2005 following a recommendation of the Tiger Task Force constituted by the Prime Minister of India for reorganised management of Project Tiger and the many Tiger Reserves in India. Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate change chairs the body. It approves the tiger conservation plan prepared by the State Government

Q25. Ans: A

Chilika has single largest habitat of Irrawaddy dolphins species in the world.

Q26. Answer: b)

Explanation: The Gujarat government has announced Suryashakti Kisan Yojana (SKY) scheme under which farmers would be encouraged to generate electricity and sell their surplus to power distribution companies.

Q27. Answer: d)

Explanation: The smart meters help to improve the financial condition of power distribution companies, can enable utilities to reduce their Aggregate Transmission and Commercial (AT&C) losses and billing inefficiencies, encourage energy conservation, tackle problems relating to payment of electricity bills, would enable electricity distribution companies to collect real time data on usage.

Q28. Answer: b)

Explanation: Union Petroleum Ministry has launched LPG Panchayat, aimed at encouraging rural communities to turn to clean fuel. It created an interactive platform to discuss safe and sustainable usage of LPG, its benefits and linkages between using clean fuel and empowering women.

Q29. Answer: d)

Explanation: The Caribbean reef (The Mesoamerican Reef) is second largest in the world after the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. It stretches from the tip of Mexico's Yucatan peninsula all the way to Guatemala and

Honduras. It was placed on endangered status in 2009 because of Belize's plans to allow oil exploration nearby and the general lack of laws to protect the site. Recently it has been removed from UNESCO's list of threatened World Heritage Sites

Q30. Answer: a)

Explanation: E-Tarang is the Digital India initiative of Government of India, 'TARANG' (Transmission App for Real Time Monitoring & Growth) Mobile App & Web Portal has been developed by RECTPCL, under the guidance of Ministry of Power. TARANG is a powerful monitoring tool that tracks upcoming transmission projects and monitor the progress of Inter-State & Intra-State transmission systems in the country, being developed through Regulated tariff mechanism as well as Tariff Based Competitive Bidding(TBCB) route

Q31. Answer: a)

Explanation: The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-National Physical Laboratory (NPL) will be the certification agency for air quality measurement instruments in India.

Q32. Answer: a)

Explanation: The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity, also known as the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) is a 2010 supplementary agreement to the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Its aim is the implementation of one of the three objectives of the CBD: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. India is a signatory to the Nagoya Protocol.

Q33. Answer: c)

Explanation: The concept of 'extended producers responsibility' is related to waste management, whereby plastics manufacturers and retail establishments that use plastic are legally bound to introduce a system of collecting back plastic waste.

Extended producer responsibility (EPR) is main feature of the **E-waste**(Management and Handling) Rules, 2011, wherein the producer of electrical and electronic equipment was given the responsibility of managing such equipment after its end of life.

Q34 Answer: b)

Explanation: India will host the world's largest International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) fusion energy conference (FEC) at the Institute of Plasma Research (IPR) in Bhat in Ahmedabad.

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