EXPLANATION

1. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

About the Index for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

First launched in December 2018, the index has become the primary tool for monitoring progress on the SDGs in India. It has also fostered competition among the states and UTs by ranking them on the global goals. The index is developed in collaboration with the United Nations in India. It tracks the progress of all states and UTs on 115 indicators aligned with the National Indicator Framework (NIF) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. How are states and UTs ranked?

The SDG India Index scores range between 0–100, higher the score of a State/UT, the greater the distance to target achieved.

States and UTs are classified in four categories based on Index score:

Aspirant: 0–49.

Performer: 50–64.

Front-runner: 65–99.

Achiever: 100.

Currently, there are no states in the aspirant and achiever category.

What are its latest findings?

Country's overall SDG score improved by 6 points — from 60 in 2019 to 66 in 2020-21. This improvement is on accounts of improvement in performance in providing facilities including clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy among others. Kerala retained its rank as the top with a score of 75, Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu both took the second spot with a score of 74. Bihar, Jharkhand and Assam were the worst performing states in this year's India index. Chandigarh maintained its top spot among the UTs with a score of 79, followed by Delhi (68).

2. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

India along with Govt. of United Kingdom launched new workstream to promote industrial energy efficiency under the Clean Energy Ministerial's (CEM) – Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative (IDDI) at the 12th Chief Energy Ministerial (CEM).

What is Industrial Deep Decarbonization Initiative (IDDI)?

It is a global coalition of public and private organisations who are working to stimulate demand for low

carbon industrial materials. In collaboration with national governments, IDDI works to standardise carbon assessments, establish ambitious public and private sector procurement targets, incentivise investment into low-carbon product development and design industry guidelines. Coordinated by United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Members: The IDDI is co-led by the UK and India and current members include Germany and Canada.

About Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM):

Establishment:

It was established in December 2009 at the UN's Framework Convention on Climate Change conference of parties in Copenhagen. CEM is a high-level global forum to promote policies and programs that advance clean energy technology, to share lessons learned and best practices, and to encourage the transition to a global clean energy economy. 29 countries are part of CEM including India.

3. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

Raimona forest reserve in western Assam's Kokrajhar district was notified as Assam's sixth national park on the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5, 2021.

4. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

India has launched the Mission Innovation CleanTech Exchange, to create a network of incubators across member countries. The network will provide access to the expertise and market insights needed to support new technologies to access new markets globally.

5. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

On the occasion of World Environment Day 2021 on 5 June 2021, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration has been officially launched, which will run from 2021 to 2030. United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration will be co-led by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO).

6. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

The Lt Governor of Ladakh, RK Mathur launched a scheme called 'YounTab' on June 04, 2021, under which 12,300 tablets would be distributed among the students in the Union Territory.

7. Ans) (a)

Explanation:

NASA has sent glow-in-the-dark baby squids and about 5,000 tardigrades, also called water bears, to the International Space Station. They were part of the 22nd SpaceX cargo resupply mission.

Objectives of these new experiments:

To help scientists design improved protective measures for astronauts going on long-duration space travel. To understand how beneficial microbes interact with animals, potentially leading to breakthroughs in improving human health on Earth.

Why send microbes?

Microbes play a crucial role in the normal development of animal tissues and in maintaining human health, and the research will allow scientists to have a better understanding of how beneficial microbes interact with animals when there is a lack of gravity.

In the human body, microorganisms contribute to a variety of functions, including digestion, developing the immune system and detoxifying harmful chemicals. A disruption in our relationship with these microbes can lead to disease.

What is the International Space Station?

A space station is essentially a large spacecraft that remains in low-earth orbit for extended periods of time. The ISS has been in space since 1998. It is a result of cooperation between the five participating space agencies that run it: NASA (United States), Roscosmos (Russia), JAXA (Japan), ESA (Europe), and CSA (Canada). The ISS circles the Earth in roughly 93 minutes, completing 15.5 orbits per day.

8. Ans) (c)

Explanation:

A Model Panchayat Citizens Charter was recently released .

Ministry: Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Prepared by: Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) in collaboration with National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR).

About the Model Panchayat Citizens Charter

It is a framework for delivery of the services across the 29 sectors, aligning actions with localised Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

What is its aim?

To Provide Services to the People in a Time Bound Manner

Redressing Their Grievances

Improving Their Lives.

The Panchayats will utilise this framework to draw up a Citizens Charter and adopt it through a resolution of the Gram Sabha by 15th August, 2021.

Panchayats are responsible for delivery of basic services as enshrined under article 243G of the

Constitution of India, specifically in the areas of Health & Sanitation, Education, Nutrition, Drinking Water.

Important value additions

National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR)

It is an autonomous organisation under the Union Ministry of Rural Development.

It is a premier national centre of excellence in rural development and Panchayati Raj.

It builds capacities of rural development functionaries, elected representatives of PRIs, bankers, NGOs and other stakeholders.

It is recognized internationally as one of the UN-ESCAP Centres of Excellence.

The Institute is located in Hyderabad, Telangana.

It also has North-Eastern Regional Centre (NERC) at Guwahati, Assam to meet the NE-regional needs.

9. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The world Bank had recently conducted a research study on impact of Black Carbon over the Himalaya, Karakoram and Hindu Kush (HKHK) mountain ranges, where glaciers are melting faster than the global average ice mass. The report is titled "Glaciers of the Himalayas, Climate Change, Black Carbon and Regional Resilience".

About Black Carbon:

BC is a short-lived pollutant that is the second-largest contributor to warming the planet behind carbon dioxide (CO_2). Unlike other greenhouse gas emissions, BC is quickly washed out and can be eliminated from the atmosphere if emissions stop. Unlike historical carbon emissions, it is also a localised source with greater local impact. It is formed through the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels, biofuel, and biomass, and is emitted in both anthropogenic and naturally occurring soot.

Sources of black carbon in HKHK regions:

Industry [primarily brick kilns] and residential burning of solid fuel together account for 45–66% of regional anthropogenic [man-made] BC deposition, followed by on-road diesel fuels (7–18%) and open burning (less than 3% in all seasons)" in the region.

10. Ans) (d)

Explanation:

The Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, launched the SAGE (Seniorcare Aging Growth Engine) initiative and SAGE portal to support India's elderly persons. The portal will be a "one-stop access" of elderly care products and services by credible start-ups. The start-ups selected under SAGE will be those which will provide new innovative products and services to elderly persons in various areas like health, travel, finance, legal ,housing, food among others. The Ministry of Social Justice &

Empowerment will act as a facilitator for this scheme. A fund of uptoRs.1 crore as one-time equity will be granted to each selected start-up.