

**48. Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

The UNFCCC has announced the launch of a platform for the Santiago Network that will assist countries and organizations to identify opportunities to mobilize technical assistance and generate initiatives to avert, minimize, and address loss and damage resulting from climate change.

The Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage Associated with Climate Change Impacts was established at the 19th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 19) in 2013. It was mandated to enhance knowledge, strengthen dialogue and coordination, and enhance action to address loss and damage associated with the impacts of climate change in vulnerable developing countries.

**49. Answer: (c)**

**Explanation:**

North India came under the rule of a new political power from 170 BC to early 2<sup>nd</sup> century. The Kushans were nomadic people who started migrating from the Tarim basin in Central Asia and very soon they founded an empire in northwestern India.

They had contact with Greeks and Romans. Their culture was the combination of nomadic, Indian and Greco-Roman elements. It was under Kanishka around the year 78 CE, the Kushans emerged as a powerful empire. He adopted Buddhism and made Buddhism the state religion. **He followed the footsteps of Asoka and made great efforts to spread Buddhism along the Silk Route, a land route that connected Greece to China.**

Kanishka was responsible for propagating the new branch of Buddhism known as Mahayana.

He held several councils to consolidate and spread Buddhism. One of his major contributions is introducing the image of Buddha.

Before Kanishka, Buddha was worshiped in the stupas in the form of symbols. Kanishka issued a golden coin where for the first time the figure of Buddha appears.

After that, Kanishka sponsored the sculptors of Greco-Roman origin to create the image of Buddha and the narrative sculptures associated with the life of Buddha. He also got his images done in large sizes.

**50. Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

The Powering Past Coal Alliance (PPCA) is a coalition of national and subnational governments, businesses and organisations working to advance the transition from unabated coal power generation to clean energy.

Singapore is the first country in Asia to join the PPCA and, as a leading financial centre, it has committed to catalysing green finance for the continent's transition towards greater sustainability.

The PPCA aims to:

- secure commitments from governments and the private sector to phase out existing unabated coal power;
- encourage a global moratorium on the construction of new unabated coal-fired power plants;
- shift investment from coal to clean energy, including by working to restrict financing for coal-fired projects;
- achieve coal phase-out in a sustainable and economically inclusive way, including appropriate support for workers and communities.

The PPCA encourages all members to endorse the PPCA Declaration - including a commitment to phase out coal by 2030 in the OECD and EU, and by no later than 2050 in the rest of the world.

Since its launch by the UK and Canadian governments at COP23 in 2017, the PPCA has been increasing its reach and influence. It currently has over 100 members who are playing a pivotal role in driving global coal phase-out efforts. One third of the OECD's total coal capacity has now been scheduled to close by 2030 through retirement commitments and phase-out policies - PPCA members are driving this shift.