

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

2nd Week Dec, 2023

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

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Environmental Pollution & Issues

Q.1) Which of the following is/are primary pollutant/s?

1. DDT (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane)
2. Plastic
3. Peroxyacetyl Nitrate

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: B

Explanation: Primary pollutants: These persist in the form in which they are added to the environment e.g. DDT, plastic.

- Secondary Pollutants: These are formed by interaction among the primary pollutants.
- For example, peroxyacetyl nitrate (PAN) is formed by the interaction of nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.2) Which of the following pollutant/s is/are manmade?

1. Fungicides
2. Herbicides
3. DDT (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane)

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Qualitative Pollutants: These do not occur in nature and are man-made. E.g. fungicides, herbicides and DDT etc.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.3) Which of the following is/are cause/s of pollution?

1. Controlled growth in human population
2. Rapid industrialization
3. Urbanization

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: B

Explanation: Causes of pollution:

- Uncontrolled growth in human population
- Rapid industrialization
- Urbanization
- Uncontrolled exploitation of nature and
- Forest fires, radioactivity, volcanic eruptions, strong winds.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.4) Which of the following is/are source/s of carbon monoxide pollution?

1. Incomplete burning of carbon-based fuels.
2. Combustion of synthetic products
3. Incomplete burning of wood

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Carbon monoxide (CO): It is a colorless, odorless gas that is produced by the incomplete burning of carbon-based fuels including petrol, diesel, and wood.

It is also produced from the combustion of natural and synthetic products such as cigarettes.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.5) In which of the following products lead is present?

1. Petrol
2. Paints
3. Hair dye

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Lead is present in petrol, diesel, lead batteries, paints, hair dye products, etc. Lead affects children in particular.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “ozone”:

1. It occurs naturally in the troposphere of the atmosphere.
2. Vehicles and industries are the major source of ground level ozone emissions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: B

Explanation: Ozone occurs naturally in the upper layers (Stratosphere) of the atmosphere.

- This important gas shields the earth from the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun.
- However, at the ground level, it is a pollutant with highly toxic effects.
- Vehicles and industries are the major source of groundlevel ozone emissions.
- Ozone makes our eyes itch, burn, and water. It lowers our resistance to cold and pneumonia.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.7) Which of the following is/are suspended particulate matter (SPM)?

1. Smoke
2. Dust
3. Vapor

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Suspended particulate matter (SPM) consists of solids in the air in the form of smoke, dust, and vapor that can remain suspended for extended periods and is also the main source of haze which reduces visibility.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.8) Which of the following is/are effect/s of smog?

1. It hampers visibility and harms the environment.
2. Deaths relating to bronchial diseases.
3. Respiratory problems.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The effects of smog:

- It hampers visibility and harms the environment.
- Respiratory problems

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- Deaths relating to bronchial diseases.
- Heavy smog greatly decreases ultraviolet radiation.
- Heavy smog results in the decrease of natural vitamin D production leading to a rise in the cases of rickets.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.9) Which of the following is/are advantage/s of fly ash?

1. Fly ash bricks are light in weight and offer high strength and durability.
2. Fly ash is a better fill material for road embankments and in concrete roads.
3. Fly ash can be used in reclamation of wastelands.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Fly ash is one such residue which rises with the gases into the atmosphere.

- Fly ash is a very fine powder and tends to travel far in the air. The ash which does not rise is termed as bottom ash.
- Cement can be replaced by fly ash up to 35%, thus reducing the cost of construction, making roads, etc.
- Fly ash bricks are light in weight and offer high strength and durability.
- Fly ash is a better fill material for road embankments and in concrete roads. Fly ash can be used in reclamation of wastelands.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.10) The “Nanda Devi National Park” is recently seen in news located at?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Karnataka
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Sikkim

ANS: C

Explanation: The Nanda Devi National Park or Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve, established in 1982 is a national park situated around the peak of Nanda Devi in Chamoli Garhwal district of Uttarakhand, in northern India. The entire park lies at an elevation of more than 3,500 m above mean sea level.

Source: FORUMIAS

Environment Pollution & Issues

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Smog has been coined from a combination of the words fog and smoke.
2. Smog is a condition of fog that had soot or smoke in it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: Smog term was first used (1905) by Dr H A Des Voeux.

- Smog has been coined from a combination of the words fog and smoke.
- Smog is a condition of fog that had soot or smoke in it.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.2) Which of the following pollutant/s is/are included in National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)?

1. Sulfur Dioxide
2. Nitrogen Dioxide
3. Mercury

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: B

Explanation: National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) were notified in the year 1982, duly revised in 1994 based on health criteria and land uses.

The NAAQS have been revisited and revised in November 2009 for 12 pollutants, which include

1. Sulfur dioxide (SO₂),
2. Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂),
3. Particulate matter having size less than 10 micron (PM₁₀),
4. Particulate matter having size less than 2.5 micron (PM_{2.5}),
5. Ozone,
6. Lead,
7. Carbon monoxide (CO),
8. Arsenic,
9. Nickel,
10. Benzene,
11. Ammonia, and
12. Benzopyrene.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)”:

1. It was established on 1st July 1916.
2. It has been declared as the designated repository for the National Zoological Collection.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) was established on 1st July 1916 to promote the survey, exploration, research and documentation leading to the advancement in our knowledge on various aspects of animal taxonomy of the Indian subcontinent.

- ZSI is a premier institution on animal taxonomy in India under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- ZSI has been declared as the designated repository for the National Zoological Collection as per Section 39 of the National Biodiversity Act, 2002.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.4) The term “putrescibility” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Solar energy
- b) Black carbon
- c) Fly ash
- d) Decomposition

ANS: D

Explanation: Putrescibility is the process of decomposition of organic matter present in water by microorganisms using oxygen.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. Water pollution by organic wastes is measured in terms of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD).
2. BOD is the amount of dissolved oxygen needed by bacteria in decomposing the organic wastes present in water.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: Water pollution by organic wastes is measured in terms of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD).

- BOD is the amount of dissolved oxygen needed by bacteria in decomposing the organic wastes present in water.
- It is expressed in milligrams of oxygen per liters of water.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.6) The “Minamata disease” is caused by which of the following compound?

- a) Nitrate
- b) Mercury
- c) Lead
- d) Cadmium

ANS: B

Explanation: A crippling deformity called Minamata disease due to consumption of fish captured from mercury contaminated Minamata Bay in Japan was detected in 1952.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.7) The term “methaemoglobinemia” is associated with which of the following?

- a) Mercury
- b) Nitrate
- c) Cadmium
- d) Phosphate

ANS: B

Explanation: Excess nitrate in drinking water reacts with hemoglobin to form non-functional methaemoglobin, and impairs oxygen transport.

This condition is called methaemoglobinemia or blue baby syndrome.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.8) Which of the following health problem/s is/are faced by humans due to excess fluoride consumption?

- 1. Neuro-muscular disorders
- 2. Gastro-intestinal problems
- 3. Teeth deformity

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Excess fluoride in drinking water causes neuro-muscular disorders, gastro-intestinal problems, teeth deformity, hardening of bones and stiff and painful joints (skeletal fluorosis).

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.9) The “Pangti village” - Amur falcon capital is located at?

- a) Sikkim
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Nagaland
- d) Rajasthan

ANS: C

Explanation: Amur Falcons, which come to roost every year at Doyanglake during their flight from Mongolia to South Africa.

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- Amur falcons are the longest travelling raptors in the world.
- World has recognized Pangti village in Nagaland as the world's Amur Falcon capital, as more than one million birds can be seen in just 30 minutes.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.10) The "Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary" is recently seen in news located at?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Kerala
- c) Goa
- d) Andhra Pradesh

ANS: B

Explanation: Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary is a 285 km² Protected area in Chittur taluk in Palakkad district of Kerala state, South India.

Established in 1973, it is in the Sungam range of hills between the Anaimalai Hills and Nelliampathy Hills.

Source: FORUMIAS

Environmental Conventions

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding conference of parties (CoP) of UNFCCC:

1. It is the apex decision-making body of the United Nations Climate Change Framework Convention (UNFCCC).
2. It meets for every two years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: A

Explanation: The Conference of Parties (COP) – It is the apex decision-making body of the United Nations Climate Change Framework Convention (UNFCCC).

The COP meets every year, unless the Parties decide otherwise.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) The "Global Goal on Adaptation" is often seen in news related to?

- a) UNFCCC
- b) WEF
- c) World Bank
- d) IMF

ANS: A

Explanation: The Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) was established under the Paris Agreement to enhance climate change adaptation by increasing awareness of and funding towards countries' adaptation needs in the context of the 1.5/2°C goal of the Paris Agreement.

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- However, unlike the clear 1.5°C target for global mitigation, adaptation is primarily a local activity and as such, a global target has been challenging to establish.
- At COP26, Parties established the 2022-2023 Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh (GlaSS) Work Programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation to define the key elements of the goal, including the methodologies, indicators, metrics, and data sources to support the assessment of overall adaptation progress.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) The “Global Shield Financing Facility” is often seen in news related to?

- a) World Bank
- b) IMF
- c) ADB
- d) AIIB

ANS: A

Explanation: The World Bank Group has announced a Global Shield Financing Facility to help developing countries access more financing for recovery from natural disasters and climate shocks.

This facility will support the Global Shield against Climate Risks, a joint initiative launched today at COP27 by the G7 and V20 to better protect poor and vulnerable people from disasters by pre-arranging more financing before disasters strike.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Consider the following statements:

1. India is the third largest greenhouse gas emitter in the world.
2. The concept of Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) was introduced by India at UNFCCC - COP26 Glasgow in 2021.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) - The concept of Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) was introduced by Indian PM during UNFCCC - COP26 at Glasgow in 2021

India is the third largest greenhouse gas emitter in the world.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “Mangrove Alliance for Climate”:

1. It is an intergovernmental alliance that works on a voluntary basis for planting, conserving and restoring mangroves.
2. It is led by USA, Mexico and other G7 countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: A

Explanation: Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC) – It is an intergovernmental alliance that works on a voluntary basis for planting, conserving and restoring mangroves.

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- MAC is led by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Indonesia and includes India, Sri Lanka, Australia, Japan, and Spain.
- Its aim is to educate and spread awareness worldwide on the role of mangroves in curbing global warming and its potential as a solution for climate change.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Which of the following convention/s is/are outcome of “earth summit”?

1. UNFCCC
2. UNCCD
3. UNCBD

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The UNCBD that came into force in 1993 was an outcome of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, along with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) The “Kunming Declaration” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Biodiversity
- b) Ozone protection
- c) Solar energy
- d) Hydrogen fuels

ANS: A

Explanation: Kunming Declaration - In 2021, the Kunming Declaration was signed by more than 100 countries to ensure the development, adoption, and implementation of an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) The “Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Montreal protocol
- b) Nagoya protocol
- c) Vienna convention
- d) Berne convention

ANS: B

Explanation: The Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House (ABS Clearing-House) is a platform for exchanging information on access and benefit-sharing established by Article 14 of the Protocol, as part of the Clearing-House of the Convention established under Article 18, paragraph 3 of the Convention.

- The ABS Clearing-House is a key tool for facilitating the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, by enhancing legal certainty and transparency on procedures for access and benefit-sharing, and for

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monitoring the utilization of genetic resources along the value chain, including through the internationally recognized certificate of compliance.

- By hosting relevant information regarding ABS, the ABS Clearing-House will offer opportunities for connecting users and providers of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Which of the following country supported Sweden to host Stockholm+50 conference?

- a) Germany
- b) Norway
- c) Kenya
- d) Ethiopia

ANS: C

Explanation: Stockholm+50 is an international meeting convened by the UN General Assembly. Sweden hosted Stockholm+50, with the support of Kenya.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The "Rajaji Tiger Reserve" is often seen in news located at?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Uttarakhand

ANS: D

Explanation: In 1983 the intent notification of Rajaji National Park was issued after merging the three wildlife sanctuaries of Uttarakhand – Rajaji, Motichur and Chilla.

- It was named after the famous freedom fighter C.Rajgopalachari popularly known as "Rajaji". Rajaji National Park is spread over an area of 820.42 sq km.
- Subsequently in 2015, 255.63 sq km area of adjacent reserve forest was added to the area of Rajaji National Park as buffer zone and whole area of 1075 sq km was declared as Rajaji Tiger Reserve under the provision of Wild Life Protection Act 1972.
- The tiger reserve provides fresh & clear air and serves as the lungs of the three major cities of Uttarakhand – Capital city Dehradun, Sacred city Haridwar and Yoga City Rishikesh.

Source: FORUMIAS

Environmental Conventions

Q.1) The "Kyoto Protocol" is often seen in news related to?

- a) Green house gas emission targets
- b) Child rights
- c) Human rights
- d) Hybrid vehicles

ANS: A

Explanation: Kyoto Protocol sets binding emission reduction targets for 37 industrialized countries and the European community in its first commitment period.

It only binds developed countries because it recognizes that they are largely responsible for the current high levels of GHG emissions in the atmosphere, which are the result of more than 150 years of industrial activity.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.2) Which of the following is related to “joint implementation and clean development mechanism”?

- a) Kyoto Protocol
- b) Montreal Protocol
- c) Nagoya Protocol
- d) Cartagena Protocol

ANS: A

Explanation: The Kyoto Flexible Market Protocol mechanisms:

- Joint Implementation (JI)
- The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)
- Emission Trading

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “clean development mechanism”:

1. It allows a developed country with an emission-reduction commitment in developing countries.
2. It is the first global, environmental investment and credit scheme of its kind.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) allows a country with an emission-reduction or emission-limitation commitment under the Kyoto Protocol (Annex B Party) to implement an emission-reduction project in developing countries.

It is the first global, environmental investment and credit scheme of its kind, providing standardized emissions offset instrument, CERs.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “Rock Python of India”:

1. It is an endangered species.
2. It can raise their body temperature above the ambient level, through muscular contractions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: One of the unique features of the Rock pythons of India is that they can raise their body temperature above the ambient level, through muscular contractions.

- Rock python of India is an endangered species.

- The reason for this is that it is killed for its fine skin, meat and even for medicinal purposes.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.5) The “Green Climate Fund” is often seen in news established through which of the following summit?

- a) Cancun
- b) Mexico
- c) Vienna
- d) Stockholm

ANS: A

Explanation: The Cancun Agreements (COP 16) include decisions under both the Convention and Kyoto protocol negotiating tracks.

Three mechanisms that are outcome of CoP 16 are:

- Technology mechanism
- Green climate fund
- Adaptation fund

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.6) Which of the following climate finance mechanism is/are administered by World Bank?

1. Bio-carbon Fund
2. Clean Technology Fund
3. Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The World Bank’s Climate Change Fund Management Unit is home to climate finance initiatives that deliver innovative and scalable climate and environmental action. With more than \$5 billion in capital these initiatives:

- The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and the Bio-Carbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes (ISFL) focus on sustainable forest and land use. These funds guide readiness and implementation of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+), including testing purchase of REDD+ credits and incentivizing the development and implementation of sustainable land use activities.
- The Transformative Carbon Asset Facility (TCAF) works with national policy makers to help shape environmental, energy, and climate change policy to reach meaningful scale and create a lasting, transformative social impact.
- The Carbon Initiative for Development has a portfolio of programs that supporting similar emissions reduction projects, often small-scale at the household level. It has developed the Standardized Crediting Framework—a new approach to crediting emission reductions in the post-Kyoto era.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.7) Which of the following institution/s is/are associated to form “UN-REDD Programme”?

1. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
2. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
3. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: Three UN Agencies – United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) – have collaborated in the establishment of the UN-REDD programme, a multi-donor trust fund that allows donors to pool resources and provide funding with the aim of significantly reducing global emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.8) Which of the following organization/convention promoting the “blue deal”?

- a) UNFCCC
- b) UNCTAD
- c) UNEP
- d) UNDP

ANS: B

Explanation: The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is promoting a “blue deal” to enable the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth at the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference.

- In 2021, the UNCTAD proposed a ‘Blue Deal’ for global trade, investment and innovation for the post-COVID19 economy.
- According to the UNCTAD, the ‘Blue Deal’ includes global trade, investment and innovation as a means to create a sustainable and resilient ocean economy.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.9) The “Living Lands Charter” is recently seen in news associated with?

- a) CHOGM
- b) UNEP
- c) World Bank
- d) UNCED

ANS: A

Explanation: At the 2022 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Kigali, all 54 Commonwealth members have officially adopted the Living Lands Charter: A Commonwealth Call to action on Living Lands (CALL).

- All Commonwealth members have agreed to voluntarily dedicate a ‘living land’ in their respective countries to future generations.

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- The Charter is in line with the strategy set for United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030).

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.10) The “Betla National Park” is often seen in news located at?

- a) Chhattisgarh
- b) Jharkhand
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Uttar Pradesh

ANS: B

Explanation: Betla National Park falls in Latehar district of Jharkhand. It is the only National Park of the State. It spreads in 226.33 sq.km. and was notified in 1986. Betla National Park is part of core area of Palamau Tiger Reserve.

Source: FORUMIAS

National Missions & Organizations on Environment

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)”:

1. It was constituted on February 2009 under the water pollution prevention act, 1974.
2. The NGRBA is a planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating body of the centre and the states.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: B

Explanation: NGRBA was constituted on February 2009 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

- The NGRBA is a planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating body of the centre and the states.
- The objective of the NGRBA is to ensure effective abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga by adopting a river basin approach for comprehensive planning and management.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.2) Which of the following is/are formed after the conclusion of “Earth Summit”?

1. Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
2. Agenda 21
3. Forest Principles

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: The Earth Summit resulted in the following documents:

- Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
- Agenda 21
- Forest Principles

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.3) Which of the following is/are legally binding instrument/s under the “earth summit”?

1. Convention on Biological Diversity
2. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
3. Nagoya protocol

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: B

Explanation: The two important legally binding agreements of earth summit are:

- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.4) The “Montreux Record” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Wetlands
- b) River streams
- c) Ice caps
- d) Fjords

ANS: A

Explanation: The Montreux Record: Adopted by the Conference of the Contracting Parties in Brisbane, 1996, accompanying the Guidelines for Operation of the Montreux Record.

- The Montreux Record is a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference.
- It is the principal tool of the Convention and is maintained as part of the Ramsar List.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding the “TRAFFIC: The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network”:

1. It is a joint conservation programme of WWF and IUCN.
2. It was established in 1976 by the Species Survival Commission of IUCN.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: TRAFFIC is a joint conservation programme of WWF and IUCN.

It was established in 1976 by the Species Survival Commission of IUCN, principally as a response to the entry into force during the previous year of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.6) The “Bonn convention” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Migratory Species
- b) Intellectual property
- c) Chemical weapons
- d) Biological weapons

ANS: A

Explanation: The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (also known as CMS or Bonn Convention) aims to conserve terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.7) Which of the following is/are priority area/s of IUCN?

1. Biodiversity
2. Climate change
3. Human wellbeing

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

ANS: C

Explanation: IUCN was founded in October 1948 as the International Union for the Protection of Nature (or IUPN) following an international conference in Fontainebleau, France.

Priority Areas of IUCN:

- Biodiversity
- Climate change
- Sustainable energy
- Human well-being

- Green economy

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.8) The “Basel Convention” is often seen in news related to?

- Hazardous waste
- Thermal energy
- Renewable energy
- Natural farming

ANS: A

Explanation: The Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted on 22 March 1989 by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Basel, Switzerland, in response to a public outcry following the discovery, in the 1980s, in Africa and other parts of the developing world of deposits of toxic wastes imported from abroad.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.9) Which of the following organization launched the “Green Fins Hub”?

- UNEP
- WEF
- UNDP
- GEF

ANS: A

Explanation: The UN Environmental Programme (UNEP), along with the Reef-World Foundation, launched the Green Fins Hub.

- The Green Fins Hub is the first-ever global marine tourism industry platform for diving and snorkeling operators worldwide.
- It was developed by The Reef-World Foundation in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding “plant or seed treaty”:

1. It was adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.
2. It is a legally-binding international instrument.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) is known as Plant Treaty or Seed Treaty.

- The Plant Treaty was adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in 2001 and entered into force in 2004.
- The Plant Treaty is a legally-binding international instrument.

Source: Shankar IAS

National Missions & Organizations on Environment

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “Rotterdam Convention”:

1. It was adopted in 1998 by a Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Rotterdam.
2. It covers pesticides and industrial chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted for health or environmental reasons.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: Rotterdam Convention was adopted in 1998 by a Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Rotterdam, the Netherlands and entered into force on 24 February 2004.

- The Convention creates legally binding obligations for the implementation of the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure.
- It built on the voluntary PIC procedure, initiated by UNEP and FAO in 1989 and ceased on 24 February 2006.
- The Convention covers pesticides and industrial chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted for health or environmental reasons.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the “United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)”:

1. It is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.
2. It is committed to a bottom-up approach, encouraging the participation of local people in combating desertification and land degradation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: UNCCD: Established in 1994, UNCCD is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.

- The UNCCD is particularly committed to a bottom-up approach, encouraging the participation of local people in combating desertification and land degradation.
- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) is one of the Rio Conventions that focuses on desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD).

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.3) The “Vienna Convention” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Prisoners of War
- b) Chlorofluorocarbons
- c) Climate fund
- d) Ocean plastic

ANS: B

Explanation: Vienna convention adopted in the year 1985 and entered into force in 1988.

It acts as a framework for the international efforts to protect the ozone layer however it does not include legally binding reduction goals for the use of CFCs.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “Hydro-fluorocarbons (HFCs)”:

1. HFCs were introduced in the 1990s as an alternative to replace chemicals that had been found to erode the ozone layer.
2. HFCs are dealt with under the Paris Agreement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: A

Explanation: Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer held in Kigali, Rwanda amended the 1987 Montreal Protocol to phase out Hydro-fluorocarbons (HFCs).

- Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) were discontinued under the Montreal Protocol when scientists realized they were destroying the ozone layer.
- HFCs were introduced in the 1990s as an alternative to replace chemicals that had been found to erode the ozone layer, but turned out to be catastrophic for global warming.
- HFCs - though they are greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide - are not dealt with under the Paris Agreement but under the Montreal Protocol.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.5) The “Minamata convention” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Mercury
- b) Nitrate
- c) Cadmium
- d) Uranium

ANS: A

Explanation: The Minamata Convention on Mercury is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds. It was adopted in 2013 in Kumamoto, Japan.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.6) The “Knock-Knee syndrome” is related to which of the following?

- a) Cadmium
- b) Fluorine
- c) Arsenic
- d) Lead

ANS: B

Explanation: Fluorine occurs in nature as fluoride, in air, soil and water. Fluorosis is a common problem in several states of the country due to intake of high fluoride content water.

- Fluorides cause dental fluorosis, stiffness of joints (particularly spinal cord) causing humped back.
- Pain in bones and joint and outward bending of legs from the knees is called Knock-Knee syndrome.
- In cattle, fluoride intake causes staining, mottling and abrasion of teeth, lameness and decrease in milk production.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Transfats”:

1. They are formed during the process of addition of hydrogen atoms to oils.
2. The health ministry in 2008 came out with a notification for labeling food including Transfats.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: Transfats are formed during the process of addition of hydrogen atoms to oils, a process which industry prefers as it keeps the oil from turning rancid and ensures a longer shelf life. (E.g trans-fatty acid in vanaspati).

- Transfats are associated with a host of serious health problems ranging from diabetes to heart disease to cancer.
- The health ministry in 2008 came out with a notification for labeling food including trans fats.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.8) The “Emphysema” disease caused due to which of the following?

- a) Nitrate
- b) Cigarette smoke
- c) Cadmium
- d) Uranium

ANS: B

Explanation: The breaking down of sensitive tissue of lungs due to air pollution and smoke of cigarette is called as Emphysema. Once this disease happens, the lungs cannot expand and contract properly.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.9) Which of the following is associated with “Itai-itai disease”?

- a) Cadmium
- b) Arsenic
- c) Fluorine
- d) Uranium

ANS: A

Explanation: Itai-itai disease was the documented case of mass cadmium poisoning in Toyama Prefecture, Japan, starting around 1912.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.10) The “Sri Venkateswara National Park” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Karnataka
- d) Kerala

ANS: B

Explanation: Sri Venkateswara National Park is a national park and biosphere reserve in Tirupati of Andhra Pradesh, India.

The total area of the park is 353 km². The park is known for its many waterfalls, including the Talakona, Gundalakona and Gunjana.

Source: FORUMIAS

Revision

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “Ivory Trade in India”:

1. India illegalized trade in ivory from Asian elephants in 1986 by amending the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.
2. The Asian elephant is listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: India illegalized trade in ivory from Asian elephants in 1986 by amending the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 and including a ‘Chapter VA’.

- The 1992 amendment included ivory imported into India as illegalized trade in ivory.
- The Asian elephant is listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “ethanol blending”:

1. India has achieved the target of blending 10% ethanol was achieved in June 2022.
2. 10% ethanol blending had resulted in savings of about ₹50,000 crores of foreign exchange.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: India has achieved the target of blending 10% ethanol was achieved in June 2022 ahead of the original schedule of November 2022.

- Ethanol is produced from molasses, a by-product of the sugar industry.
- 10% ethanol blending had resulted in savings of about ₹50,000 crores of foreign exchange.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana”:

1. It aims to provide financial support to Integrated Bioethanol Projects using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstock.
2. It is implemented by Centre for High Technology (CHT).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana aims to provide financial support to Integrated Bioethanol Projects using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstock.

Implementation agency - Centre for High Technology (CHT), a technical body under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG).

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.4) The “Community Forest Resource rights” are provided under which of the following act?

- a) Indian forests act, 1927
- b) Forest conservation act, 1980
- c) Biological diversity act, 2002
- d) Forest rights act, 2006

ANS: D

Explanation: Community Forest Resource rights – They are provided under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act.

It provides for recognition of the right to “protect, regenerate or conserve or manage” the community forest resource.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “Green India Mission (GIM)”:

1. It was launched in 2014.
2. It is one of the eight Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: National Mission for Green India or the commonly called Green India Mission (GIM) was launched in 2014.

It is one of the eight Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.6) The famous “Hathi Mitras” is often seen in news associated with?

- a) Chhattisgarh
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Assam

ANS: A

Explanation: Hathi Mitras or ‘friends of elephants’ are the village residents of Chhattisgarh who track pachyderm movements to help prevent casualties and crop loss.

The residents of villages affected by human-elephant conflict are engaged by the state forest department.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.7) The “Operation Rakth Chandran” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Elephants
- b) Tigers
- c) Rhinos
- d) Red sanders

ANS: D

Explanation: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized 14.63 metric tonnes of red sanders in the international market from a consignment kept in an Inland Container Depot (ICD) in Gujarat.

The DRI seized 840 logs of red sandalwood under the Operation Rakth Chandran.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Flue Gas”:

1. It is the gas that emanates from combustion plants.
2. It contains the reaction products of fuel and combustion air and residual substances such as particulate matter (dust), sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, and carbon monoxide.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANS: C

Explanation: The Indian government extended a deadline for coal-fired power plants to install equipment to cut sulfur emissions by two years to 2025.

- Flue Gas - Flue gas (exhaust gas or stack gas) is the gas that emanates from combustion plants.
- It contains the reaction products of fuel and combustion air and residual substances such as particulate matter (dust), sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, and carbon monoxide.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.9) The “Miyawaki method” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Renewable energy
- b) Bio-fuels
- c) Urban forests
- d) Fishing technique

ANS: C

Explanation: Miyawaki – It is an afforestation technique to create urban forests in the 1980s. Developed by Japanese botanist and ecologist Dr Akira Miyawaki.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.10) The “Methane Alert and Response System (MARS)” is set up by which of the following?

- a) UNEP
- b) UNDP
- c) WEF
- d) ISA

ANS: A

Explanation: The United Nations to launch satellite based detection system to track global methane emissions.

- Methane Alert and Response System (MARS) – It is a data-to-action platform set up as part of the UNEP International Methane Emissions Observatory (IMEO) strategy.
- MARS aims to get policy-relevant data into the right hands for emissions mitigation.

Source: Shankar IAS