

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

3rd week April, 2024

*HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT*

FORUMIAS



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Environmental Pollution

Q.1) Which of the following technology/technologies is/are used at the stage of pre - combustion of thermal power plants?

1. Coal washing
2. Blending
3. Flue-gas desulfurization

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Environmental emission standards for controlling SO₂, NO_x & Mercury emissions from coal-based Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) first introduced in 2015 by MoEFCC.

Pollution Control Technologies (PCTs) at pre - combustion stage is coal washing and blending.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. Environmental emission standards for coal-based Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) were introduced in 2015 under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act of 1981.
2. Coal beneficiation is a process through which combustion attribute of the coal is enhanced by separating the inorganic impurities from raw coal.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Environmental emission standards for controlling SO₂, NO_x & Mercury emissions from coal-based Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) first introduced in 2015 by MoEFCC, under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Coal beneficiation: Process through which combustion attribute of the coal is enhanced by separating the inorganic impurities (volatile matter or ash) from raw coal.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding "Graded Response Action Plan":

1. It is an emergency response mechanism based on Delhi's Air Quality Index level.
2. It was prepared in pursuant to the Supreme Court's order of 2016 in the matter of M. C. Mehta vs Union of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

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ANS: D

Explanation: Graded Response Action Plan is an emergency response mechanism based on Delhi's Air Quality Index level.

- Prepared in pursuant to the Supreme Court's order of 2016 in the matter of M. C. Mehta vs Union of India regarding air quality in the National Capital Region of Delhi.
- First notified under Environment (Protection) Act of 1986 in January 2017 by the MoEFCC.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Which of the following pollutant/s is/are part of National Air Quality Index (NAQI)?

1. Ozone
2. SO₂
3. Lead

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: National Air Quality Index (NAQI) is released by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). It includes 8 pollutants-PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, NO₂, Ozone, SO₂, CO, NH₃ and lead (Pb).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding "Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)":

1. It was established in 1992.
2. It is a statutory organization created under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

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: Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is a statutory organization constituted under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

Later, was entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding "National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP)":

1. It is a nation-wide programme of ambient air quality monitoring administered by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
2. Mercury is not part of regular monitoring of National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP).

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

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ANS: C

Explanation: National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP): It is a nation-wide programme of ambient air quality monitoring administered by CPCB.

Under NAMP, 4 air pollutants identified for regular monitoring at all the locations: Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Oxides of Nitrogen as NO₂, Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM / PM₁₀) and Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) The “PRANA portal” is often seen in news related to?

- National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)
- National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP)
- National Air Quality Index
- Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)

ANS: A

Explanation: Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in Non-Attainment cities (PRANA) portal for monitoring of the implementation of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 131 cities & disseminating information on air quality to the public.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Which of the following is/are cause/s of pollution in India?

- Uncontrolled growth in human population
- Rapid industrialization
- Uncontrolled exploitation of nature

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- Only one
- Only two
- Only three
- None

ANS: C

Explanation: Pollution is defined as ‘an addition or excessive addition of certain materials to the physical environment (water, air and lands), making it less fit or unfit for life’.

Causes of pollution:

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

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.9) Which of the following is/are characteristic/s of carbon monoxide?

1. Colorless gas
2. Odorless gas
3. It can slow our reflexes and make us confused and sleepy.

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) is a colourless, odourless gas that is produced by the incomplete burning of carbon-based fuels including petrol, diesel, and wood.

It lowers the amount of oxygen that enters our blood. It can slow our reflexes and make us confused and sleepy.

Source: Shankar IAS

Q.10) Ozone can be produced through burning which of the following?

1. Petrol
2. Diesel
3. Coal

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Ozone: It occurs naturally in the upper layers of the atmosphere.

- This important gas shields the earth from the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun.
- It causes smog and acid rain. It is produced from burning fuels including petrol, diesel, and coal.

Source: FORUMIAS

Environmental Pollution - II

Q.1) Which of the following pollutant/s is/are released due to stubble burning?

1. Carbon monoxide
2. Methane
3. Volatile Organic Compounds

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Stubble burning emits toxic pollutants in the atmosphere containing harmful gases like Carbon Monoxide (CO), methane (CH₄), carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds (VOC).

Source: <https://www.business-standard.com/about/what-is-stubble-burning>

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Q.2) Which of the following chemical/s is/are used in cloud seeding?

1. Dry Ice
2. Silver Iodide
3. Sodium Chloride

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Cloud Seeding: It is a weather modification technique to enhance precipitation by dispersing substances into the air that help to saturate the clouds.

Chemicals used: Salts such as silver iodide (AgI), potassium iodide, sodium chloride, or dry ice (solid carbon dioxide).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Which of the following city (million plus population) ranks first in “Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2023 (Clean Air Survey) awards”?

- a) Visakhapatnam
- b) Indore
- c) Mysore
- d) Kozhikode

ANS: B

Explanation: Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan is an initiative by the MoEFCC under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

- NCAP launched by MoEFCC as a comprehensive initiative in partnership with various Ministries and States to improve air quality at city, regional and national level.
- Indore (Madhya Pradesh) ranked first in 1st category (million plus population) in 2023.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “ground water scenario in India”:

1. India is second world’s largest user of ground water after china.
2. Water level in more than 60% of wells monitored by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) registered a declining trend in the last one decade.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: GW scenario in India: World’s largest user of groundwater, exceeding the use of the United States and China combined.

Water level in more than 60% of wells monitored by CGWB registered a declining trend in the last one decade.

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “central water commission (CWC)”:

1. It is a premier Technical Organization of India in the field of Water Resources.
2. It is functioning as an attached office of the NITI Aayog.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: CWC: It is a premier Technical Organization of India in the field of Water Resources. It is presently functioning as an attached office of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Which of the following organization released the “2023 Plastic Overshoot Day Report”?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) Global Environment Facility
- c) Centre for Science and Environment
- d) Earth Action

ANS: D

Explanation: The 2023 Plastic Overshoot Day Report was released by Swiss-based research consultancy Earth Action (EA).

Plastic Overshoot Day refers to the day when the amount of plastic waste surpasses the capability of waste management systems to effectively manage.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) The “Glolitter project” was initiated by which of the following?

1. Norway
2. IMO
3. FAO

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Glolitter: Project between the Government of Norway, IMO, and FAO aiming to reduce sea-based marine plastic litter.

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)”:

1. It is only legally binding framework set up to address desertification and effects of drought.
2. European Union is member of UNCCD.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: UN Convention to Combat Desertification: It is only legally binding framework set up to address desertification and effects of drought.

Members: 197 Parties to Convention (196 country including India and European Union).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) The “Sand and Dust Storms (SDS) report” is recently seen in news released by?

- a) WEF
- b) WMO
- c) UNEP
- d) FAO

ANS: D

Explanation: A report titled ‘Sand and Dust Storms (SDS): A Guide to Mitigation, Adaptation, Policy, and Risk Management Measures in Agriculture’ was released by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Source: <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en?details=cc8071en>

Q.10) The famous “Champions of the Earth Award” is announced by?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) announced 2023 Champions of the Earth Award.

Champions of the Earth award honor individuals, groups, and organizations whose actions have transformative impact on environment.

Source: FORUMIAS

International Environmental Conventions

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “International Day of Zero Waste (IDZW)”:

1. It is observed annually on March 5.
2. It is facilitated by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: For the first time, IDZW has been observed to encourage everyone to prevent and minimize waste and promotes a societal shift towards a circular economy (CE).

- 30th March is announced as IDZW by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2022.
- It is jointly facilitated by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Which of the following element is controlled by Minamata Convention?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Minamata Convention on Mercury is adopted in 2013 at Geneva, came into force in 2017. It is 1st global legally binding treaty to protect human health and environment from adverse effects of mercury.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Which of the following is/are objective/s of “UN Global Framework on Chemicals”?

1. Prevention of illegal trade and trafficking of chemicals and waste.
2. Phase out highly hazardous pesticides in agriculture by 2025.
3. Setting up policies and regulations aimed at reducing chemical pollution by 2030 and promoting alternative.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: The objectives of Global Framework on Chemicals:

- Prevention of illegal trade and trafficking of chemicals and waste.
- Phase out highly hazardous pesticides in agriculture by 2025.
- Setting up policies and regulations aimed at reducing chemical pollution by 2030 and promoting alternative.

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.4) The “Waigani Convention” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Radioactive wastes
- b) Organic pollutants
- c) Agro wastes
- d) Space debris

ANS: A

Explanation: Waigani Convention, 1995: Convention to ban the Importation of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes into Forum Island Countries and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Waste within the South Pacific Region.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) The “Incident and Trafficking Database” is recently seen in news associated with?

- a) IAEA
- b) IUCN
- c) CITES
- d) UNEP

ANS: A

Explanation: Latest data from IAEA’s Incident and Trafficking Database (ITDB) found that radioactive contamination is increasingly found in scraps for recycling as per International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) study.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding “Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)”:

1. It was adopted in 2022 at COP 15 to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.
2. It is legally binding framework on member countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) was adopted in 2022 at COP 15 (held in Montreal) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

- It replaced the Aichi Biodiversity Targets that expired in 2020.
- It is not legally binding.

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.7) Which of the following is/are global environment facility agency/agencies?

1. World Bank
2. FAO
3. Conservation International

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: GEF agencies create project proposals and then manage these projects on the ground.

- In so doing, they help eligible governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to develop, implement, and execute their projects.
- Often, the agencies work together on GEF projects, pooling expertise. Not only does this allow a more holistic approach to programming, it also reinforces the individual agency's efforts to mainstream or incorporate global environment concerns into its internal policies, programs, and projects.

Eighteen institutions act as GEF agencies: ADB, FAO, IFAD, World Bank, EBRD and Conservation International etc.

Source: <https://www.thegef.org/partners/gef-agencies>

Q.8) The “Inclusive Conservation Initiative (ICI)” is related to?

- a) UNEP
- b) UNDP
- c) Conservation International
- d) FAO

ANS: C

Explanation: Inclusive Conservation Initiative (ICI) is endorsed in 2022 by Conservation International.

It aims to support ILPC to secure and enhance their stewardship over landscapes, seascapes and territories with high biodiversity and irreplaceable ecosystems.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) The “Tucuxi freshwater dolphin” found in which of the following country?

- a) Brazil
- b) Indonesia
- c) India
- d) Sri Lanka

ANS: A

Explanation: Tucuxi freshwater dolphin species that lives in Amazon River system in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.10) The “Belem Declaration” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Participation of indigenous people
- b) Primary health
- c) Solar energy
- d) Agriculture reforms

ANS: A

Explanation: Member countries of Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) signed the Belém Declaration in the Brazilian city of Belém.

- ACTO is an intergovernmental socio-environmental block formed by signing of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.
- Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela are its members.
- Belém Declaration calls for ensuring the participation of Indigenous Peoples in decision-making.

Source: FORUMIAS

International Environmental Conventions – II

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “Vaquita Porpoise whales”:

- 1. International Whaling Commission (IWC) issued first extinction alert for the Vaquita Porpoise whales.
- 2. These are found only in northern Gulf of California.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: IWC issued its first ‘extinction alert’ for the Vaquita Porpoise whales. These whales are Critically Endangered and found only in northern Gulf of California.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “International Whaling Commission (IWC)”:

- 1. It is an inter-governmental organization under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling.
- 2. India is not a member of IWC.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: IWC: Set up as an inter-governmental organization under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (1946).

It has 88 member countries including India.

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.3) Which of the following state/s is/are have five or more elephant reserves?

1. Tamil Nadu
2. Kerala
3. Assam

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Elephant reserves in India: Declared as an administrative category by the government to demarcate large landscapes that hold elephants and their movements.

- 33 elephant reserves in India (cover a total area of nearly 80,000 sq km).
- Highest number of ERs: Tamil Nadu and Assam (5 each) followed by Kerala (4) and Odisha (3).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Which of the following state has highest number of elephant corridors?

- a) Assam
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Kerala
- d) West Bengal

ANS: D

Explanation: Elephant Corridors of India: West Bengal has the highest number of elephant corridors.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Which of the following statements is/are correct about "Indian elephant (*Elephas maximus indicus*)"?

1. It is socially active animal.
2. It has the ability to feel grief and compassion.
3. It has the longest gestation period of all mammals.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Indian elephant (*Elephas maximus indicus*) characteristics:

- Highly intelligent animals characterized by strong family bonds with sophisticated forms of communication.
- Complex behavior, including the ability to feel grief and compassion.
- Form herds of related females led by the oldest female, the 'matriarch'.
- Have the longest gestation period of all mammals (18 to 22 months).
- Adult male Asian elephants are less social than females.

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding elephant protection measures:

1. AI - based sensor system Gajraj will be deployed to prevent elephant deaths in rail accidents.
2. Elephant Census is carried out at every five-year interval.

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: Measures to protect elephants: AI -based sensor system “Gajraj” will be deployed to prevent elephant deaths in rail accidents.

- Census is carried out at every five-year interval.
- Planting of native species of trees in Assam.
- Species include Amla, Bel, Gamhari, Jamun, Bhumura, Arjun etc.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.7) Which of the following rhinos is/are found in Asia region?

1. Indian rhino
2. Black rhino
3. White rhino

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: 5 species of rhino found on the earth:

- 3 found in Asia: Sumatran rhino, Javan rhino and Great one horned rhino (Indian rhino).
- 2 found in Africa: White rhino and Black rhino.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Intergovernmental Science-policy platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)”:

1. It is an independent intergovernmental body.
2. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides secretariat services to IPBES.

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: About Intergovernmental Science-policy platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES): It is an independent intergovernmental body.

- Committed to strengthening the science-policy interface for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development.
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides secretariat services to IPBES.

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.9) The “Ludwigia peruviana” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Invasive weed
- b) Mangrove species
- c) Drought resistant plant
- d) Water plant

ANS: A

Explanation: Ludwigia peruviana is an invasive weed, threatening elephant habitats and foraging grounds in Tamil Nadu.

Infested the majority of the hill station’s swamps, locally known as vayals.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The Kamlang Tiger Reserve is recently seen in news located at?

- a) Assam
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Nagaland
- d) Tripura

ANS: B

Explanation: Kamlang is located in the southeastern part of Lohit District in Arunachal Pradesh near the border with Myanmar.

Source: FORUMIAS

National Institutions and Environmental organization and National Missions on Environment

Q.1) The “Lemru elephant reserves (LER)” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Chhattisgarh
- d) Tamil Nadu

ANS: C

Explanation: Request of the Chhattisgarh state to de-notify coal mines falling under the Lemru Elephant Corridor has been accepted by Ministry of Coal.

- LER was established to prevent human-animal conflict with elephants moving into Chhattisgarh from Odisha and Jharkhand.
- Lemru Elephant Reserve is part of the Hasdeo Aranya forests (rich in coal deposits) and is known as lungs of Chhattisgarh.

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.2) The “Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary” is often seen in news located at?

- a) Odisha
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Haryana
- d) Uttar Pradesh

ANS: A

Explanation: Debrigarh, a wildlife sanctuary in Odisha’s Bargarh district, has been made completely free from any human settlement following one of the country’s largest ‘peaceful’ relocations of forest-dwellers.

- As many as 400 families have moved out their villages after a series of consultations.
- In a State where permanent human settlements are common even within wildlife sanctuaries, Debrigarh now stands out as an exception alongside Nalabana Bird Sanctuary in Chilika Lake.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR)”:

1. It forms part of the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve.
2. It was established for conservation of Lion Tailed Macaque.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

ANS: D

Explanation: Kalakad TR or Kalakad Mundanthurai TR (KMTR): Forms part of the interstate (Kerala and TN) Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve.

- It was established primarily for conservation of Lion Tailed Macaque.
- River Thamirabarani and 13 other rivers originate from KMTR, popularizing it as River Sanctuary.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding “Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)”:

1. As per National Wildlife Action Plan land within 10 km of boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries are to be notified as ESZ.
2. National Wildlife Action Plan (2002- 2016) provides for establishing ESZ under the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986.

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: Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ) are created as “shock absorbers” for the protected areas.

- National Wildlife Action Plan (2002- 2016) provides for establishing ESZ under the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986.
- As per National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016), land within 10 km of boundaries of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries are to be notified as ESZ.
- In 2022, the Supreme Court mandated that a minimum 1-km ESZ around national parks or wildlife sanctuaries should be there.

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding “Dachigam National Park (DNP)”:

1. It is located at Zabarwan mountain ranges of the Himalayas.
2. It occupies almost half of the catchment zone of the Dal Lake.

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: Dachigam National Park (DNP) is located in Jammu and Kashmir (Zabarwan mountain ranges of the Himalayas).

- It occupies almost half of the catchment zone of the Dal Lake.
- Dachigam nallah coming from Marshar Lake flows through it.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Recently India held a “Country-Led Initiative (CLI)” event related to which of the following?

- a) UNDP
- b) UNEP
- c) UNFF
- d) UNIDO

ANS: C

Explanation: The UNFF Country-Led-Initiative (CLI) by the Government of India in support of the UN Forum on Forests was held successfully in Dehradun, India from 26 to 28 October.

- The meeting brought together over 80 experts from 40 countries and 20 international organisations.
- The CLI was inaugurated by the H.E. Shri Subodh Uniyal, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Labour and Employment of India, Director Generals of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India and the Director of UNFFS.

Source: <https://www.un.org/esa/forests/news/2023/10/india-cli-2023/index.html>

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “United Nation Forum on Forests (UNFF)”:

1. UNEP in 2000 established UNFF as a subsidiary body.
2. All Member States of United Nations and specialized agencies are members of UNFF.

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: United Nation Forum on Forests (UNFF): Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) in 2000 established UNFF as a subsidiary body.

- It promotes the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end.
- Members: All Member States of United Nations (including India which is a founding member) and specialized agencies.

Source: FORUMIAS

Prelims Marathon Compilation April [Third Week] 2024

Q.8) In which of the following place/s is/are a coral reef found in India?

1. Gulf of Mannar
2. Gulf of Kutch
3. Andaman & Nicobar Islands

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Coral reefs are marine invertebrate animals with hard exoskeletons made of calcium carbonate. Made up of colonies of hundreds to thousands of tiny individual corals, called polyps. 45 countries have 75% of world's coral reefs.

Presence in India: Gulf of Kutch, Gulf of Mannar, Andaman & Nicobar, and Lakshadweep Islands.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) The "Bhoj Wetland" is often seen in news related to?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Bhoj Wetland consists of two contiguous human-made reservoirs, the upper and lower lakes located in the city of Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

- The Upper Lake is called Bhojtal (Bada Talaab) and Lower Lake is known as Chhota Talaab. The lakes are very rich in biodiversity, particularly for macrophytes, phytoplankton and zooplankton.
- It has more than 15 kinds of fishes and several vulnerable species including turtles, amphibians and aquatic invertebrates. It is designated as the Ramsar site in 2002.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.10) The "Deepor Beel" wetland is often seen in news located at?

- a) Assam
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Nagaland
- d) Tripura

ANS: A

Explanation: Assam government has expressed intent to allow water sports and tourism-related activities in Deepor Beel.

- It is a permanent freshwater lake and largest Beel (lake) in Brahmaputra valley of Lower Assam.
- It is a wildlife sanctuary, Ramsar site and Important Bird Area site (declared by an NGO Birdlife International).

Source: FORUMIAS

National Institutions and Environmental organization and National Missions on Environment – II

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding “Kolleru Lake”:

1. It is the largest freshwater lake in India.
2. It is fed by Godavari and Krishna rivers.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Kolleru Lake, Andhra Pradesh: It is largest freshwater lake in India.

- It is connected to Krishna and Godavari systems.
- It is fed by seasonal Budameru and Tammileru rivers.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) The “Operation Kachchhap” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Elephants
- b) Turtles
- c) Rhinos
- d) Great Indian Bustards

ANS: B

Explanation: Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) saved 955 live babies of Gangetic turtles in a crackdown on illegal wildlife trade in multicity Operation “Kachchhap”.

India is one of the world's hotspots for turtle diversity, representing 29 species of tortoises and freshwater turtles.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.3) The term “Cryptobiosis” is often seen in news related to?

- a) Permafrost
- b) Agriculture
- c) Liquid oils
- d) Cancer treatment

ANS: A

Explanation: Scientists brought microscopic worms back to life after they were frozen in the Siberian permafrost for 46,000 years by entering in to state called cryptobiosis.

Cryptobiosis is the state of an organism when it shows no visible signs of life and when its metabolic activity becomes hardly measurable or comes reversibly to a standstill.

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.4) According to the First Census of Water bodies, which of the following state/s is/are top three states having water bodies?

1. Tamil Nadu
2. Karnataka
3. Andhra Pradesh

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: A

Explanation: Ministry of Jal Shakti released All India report of the first census of Water Bodies. According to the census, top 3 states with most water bodies: West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) The programme “MISHTI” is often seen in news related to which of the following?

- a) Wetlands
- b) Mangroves
- c) Corals
- d) Estuaries

ANS: B

Explanation: Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) was launched on the World Environment Day (5th June 2023).

Its aim is to “Restoration of mangrove forests” by undertaking mangrove reforestation/ afforestation measures along India’s coast by adopting existing best practices in India and globally.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) The “Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development (REWARD) programme” is recently seen in news assisted by?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development (REWARD) programme: It is a World Bank assisted Watershed development program which is being implemented from 2021 to 2026.

Objective: Strengthen capacities of National and State institutions to adopt improved watershed management in selected watersheds of participating States.

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.7) The “Hydrogen for Heritage scheme” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Railways
- b) Roadways
- c) Waterways
- d) Airways

ANS: A

Explanation: India (Budget 2023 – 2024) proposed to invite global firms to manufacture Hydrogen trains for implementing the Hydrogen for heritage scheme.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding “Flex Fuel Vehicles”:

1. It has an internal combustion engine that can run on more than one type of fuel.
2. It provides more mileage compared to traditional gasoline.

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: FFV: Has internal combustion engine that can run on more than one type of fuel, or even a mixture of fuels such as petrol and ethanol.

- For example: E85 which has 85% ethanol fuel and 15% gasoline or other hydrocarbon by volume.
- Benefits: Lower harmful pollutant emission like Carbon monoxide, sulphur, etc., reduced import dependence on crude oil.
- Drawbacks: Lower mileage compared to traditional gasoline, use of water-intensive crops such as sugarcane for production of ethanol, etc.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Which of the following is/are agency/agencies came together to establish the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)?

1. NTPC Limited
2. Power Finance Corporation Limited
3. POWERGRID Corporation of India Limited

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL): It is a joint venture of 4 Public Sector Undertakings- NTPC Limited, Power Finance Corporation Limited, REC Limited and POWERGRID Corporation of India Limited.

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.10) Which of the following programme/s is/are implemented by “Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)”?

1. Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA)
2. Street Lighting National Programme
3. Smart Meter National Programme

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Flagship Programs of EESL:

- Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA)
- Street Lighting National Programme
- Smart Meter National Programme
- Buildings Energy Efficiency Programme etc.

Source: FORUMIAS

Revision

Q.1) Which of the following organization released the “Energy Transition Index (ETI), 2023”?

- a) WEF
- b) GEF
- c) UNEP
- d) International Solar Alliance

ANS: A

Explanation: World Economic Forum (WEF), in collaboration with Accenture, released the report titled “Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2023” and Energy Transition Index (ETI).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding “organic farming in India”:

1. India has the highest number of organic farmers in the world.
2. Tripura became the world’s first 100% organic state.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

ANS: B

Explanation: Status of Organic Farming in India: Highest number of Organic farmers in the world 44.3 Lakhs (Economic Survey 2022-23) with 59.1 Lakh Ha under Organic cultivation

Sikkim became the world’s first 100% organic state.

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.3) The “Jaivik Bharat logo” is recently seen in news related to?

- a) Organic farming
- b) Shifting cultivation
- c) Primary health
- d) Renewable energy

ANS: A

Explanation: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) have introduced the Jaivik Bharat logo to communicate the adherence to the National organic standards (Both PSG and NPOP).

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.4) Which of the following product/s is/are launched under brand name of “Bharat Organics”?

- 1. Basmati Rice
- 2. Sugar
- 3. Sonamasoori Rice

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Organic food products of National Cooperative Organics Ltd (NCOL) were launched under brand name ‘Bharat Organics’.

Six organic products were launched under the ‘Bharat Organics’ brand - tur dal, chana dal, sugar, rajma, basmati rice, and Sonamasoori rice.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.5) Which of the following is/are pillar/s of “Zero Budget Natural Farming”?

- 1. Bijamrita
- 2. Mulching
- 3. Micro irrigation

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: B

Explanation:



Source: FORUMIAS

Q.6) Which of the following species is/are promoted for agro forestry by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE)?

1. Eucalyptus
2. Teak
3. Mahagony

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

ANS: C

Explanation: Recently, the Centre released a fact sheet to promote agro-forestry prepared by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE).

- Released details of cultivating 36 specific species, including bamboo, that are suitable for agro-forestry systems and home gardens.
- The 36 species include *Leucaena leucocephala*, or subabul, and various varieties of eucalyptus.
- Subabul is considered an invasive species that has been reported as a weed in more than 20 countries, according to an International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) database.
- Eucalyptus is considered highly water-intensive. The list also includes important timber species such as poplar, teak, shisham (Indian rosewood) and mahogany.

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding “Electronic Soil (e-Soil)”:

1. It is a low-power bio-electronic growth substrate, tailored for hydroponic cultivation.
2. It can electrically stimulate the root system and growth environment of plants.

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: Researchers develop 'electronic soil', a low-power bio-electronic growth substrate, tailored for hydroponic cultivation.

E-Soil can electrically stimulate the root system and growth environment of plants.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.8) Which of the following country launched the “Global Bio-fuels Alliance (GBA)”?

- a) France
- b) Spain
- c) India
- d) Singapore

ANS: C

Explanation: Global Bio-fuels Alliance (GBA) is a multi-stake holder alliance of Governments, International Organizations and Industries, an initiative by India as the G20 Chair, bringing together the biggest consumers and producers of bio-fuels to drive development and deployment of bio-fuels.

The initiative aims to position bio-fuels as a key to energy transition and contribute to jobs and economic growth.

Source: FORUMIAS

Q.9) Which of the following country hosted the “14th Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM)”?

- a) India
- b) UAE
- c) Israel
- d) France

ANS: A

Explanation: India hosted 14th Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM14) and 8th Mission Innovation (MI-8) meeting under the theme "Advancing Clean Energy Together".

It is a high-level global forum (India is a member) to advance clean energy technology to encourage transition to a global clean energy economy.

Source: FORUMIAS

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Q.10) Which of the following prohibits the use of all weapons of mass destruction causing destruction of environment?

- a) Geneva convention
- b) Brundtland report
- c) Stockholm Conference
- d) Rio conference

ANS: C

Explanation: Key Initiatives launched to minimize environmental impact of war:

- Geneva Convention (1949): Imposes restrictions on warfare methods aiming to cause widespread, longterm, and severe damage to the natural environment.
- Brundtland Report (1987): The report "Our Common Future" introduced the concept of sustainable development.
- Stockholm Conference (1972): Prohibits the use of all weapons of mass destruction.

Source: FORUMIAS