

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

3rd Week August, 2025

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

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PROTECTED AREA NETWORK

1. With reference to **National Parks (NPs) in India**, consider the following statements:

1. A National Park can be declared by both the Central Government and the State Governments.
2. The boundaries of a National Park can be altered only by a resolution passed in the State Legislature.
3. Grazing of livestock and private land rights are permitted in National Parks, subject to regulation by the Chief Wildlife Warden.
4. A National Park can be downgraded to the status of a Wildlife Sanctuary with the approval of the State Government.

How many of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

- (a) One only
(b) Two only
(c) Three only
(d) All four

Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, **both the Central and State Governments** have the power to declare an area as a National Park.
- Once the boundaries of a National Park are fixed, they **cannot be altered except by a resolution passed by the State Legislature**.
- **No grazing of livestock or private tenurial rights** are allowed in National Parks. These are strictly prohibited, unlike in some Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- A National Park **cannot be downgraded** to the status of a Sanctuary.

Source: Environment (N.C.E.R.T)

2. With reference to **Wildlife Sanctuaries (WLS) in India**, consider the following statements:

1. Wildlife Sanctuaries can be established by the State Government under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. Certain human activities, such as timber harvesting and the collection of minor forest produce, may be permitted inside Wildlife Sanctuaries.
3. The boundaries of Wildlife Sanctuaries are well-defined and cannot be altered without a resolution passed by the State Legislature.

Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Wildlife Sanctuaries are indeed declared by the **State Government** under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Certain activities like **grazing, timber harvesting, and minor forest produce collection** may be allowed if they do not adversely affect the wildlife.
- Unlike National Parks, the **boundaries of Wildlife Sanctuaries are not rigidly fixed**, and controlled biotic interference is allowed.

Source: Environment (N.C.E.R.T)

3. With reference to **Biosphere Reserves (BRs)**, consider the following statements:

1. Biosphere Reserves are part of UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme, launched in 1971.
2. They are designated directly by UNESCO without any role of national governments.

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

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- Biosphere Reserves are indeed part of UNESCO's **Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme** initiated in 1971.
- National Governments **nominate** sites; UNESCO only recognises them, it does not unilaterally declare them.

Source: Environment (N.C.E.R.T)

4. With reference to **Conservation Reserves** in India, consider the following statements:

1. Conservation Reserves are areas adjacent to National Parks or Wildlife Sanctuaries, created to protect landscapes and habitats.
2. They were introduced under the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2002.
3. The declaration of a Conservation Reserve requires prior consultation with local communities.
4. They are managed by the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL).

Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Conservation Reserves act as buffer or connector zones **adjacent to National Parks or Sanctuaries**, protecting landscapes, seascapes, and habitats.
- They were indeed created under the **Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2002**.
- State Governments must **consult local communities** before declaring an area as a Conservation Reserve.
- They are **managed by a Conservation Reserve Management Committee (CRMC)**, not by the NBWL.

Source: Environment (N.C.E.R.T)

5. With reference to **Community Reserves** in India, consider the following statements:

1. They were introduced under the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act of 2002.
2. Any private land or community land can be notified as a Community Reserve, with the consent of the concerned individuals or community.
3. A Community Reserve is managed through a Community Reserve Management Committee.
4. Change in land use pattern within a Community Reserve can be made at the sole discretion of the State Government.

How many of the above statements are **correct**?

- (a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Answer: (c) Only three

Explanation:

- Community Reserves were indeed created under the **Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2002**.
- Notification can be done for **private or community land**, provided the community or individuals agree.
- They are managed by a **Community Reserve Management Committee**.
- Land use changes require **resolution of the Committee + approval of the State Government**, not a unilateral decision of the State Government.

Source: Environment (N.C.E.R.T)

6. With reference to **Community Reserves** in India, consider the following statements:

1. Community Reserves are declared on private or community land with the consent of the concerned individuals or community.
2. They were introduced under the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2002.
3. Any change in land use pattern within a Community Reserve requires a resolution passed by the Community Reserve Management Committee and approval of the State Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- Private or community land can be declared as a Community Reserve, but only with the consent of the community/owners.
- They were indeed introduced under the **Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2002**.
- Land use changes are strictly regulated — requiring **both community resolution + state approval**.

Source: Environment (N.C.E.R.T)

7. With reference to the *World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)*, consider the following statements:

1. Biosphere Reserves are admitted into the World Network by the International Coordinating Council (ICC) of UNESCO's Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme on the request of the concerned country.
2. Once included, a Biosphere Reserve cannot be delisted from the World Network.
3. The World Network of Biosphere Reserves was created in 1977 as the primary achievement of the MAB Programme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Admission is by ICC of the MAB Programme on request of the participating country, subject to the criteria.
- Delisting *is possible* (though exceptional) if obligations for conservation and sustainable development are violated.
- The **World Network of Biosphere Reserves was established in 1977**, and remains the major achievement of UNESCO's MAB Programme.

Source: Environment (N.C.E.R.T)

8. With reference to *Biodiversity Hotspots*, consider the following statements:

1. To qualify as a biodiversity hotspot, a region must have at least 1,500 species of vascular plants as endemics and must have lost at least 70% of its original habitat.
2. There are 36 biodiversity hotspots in the world.
3. Among the world's "hottest hotspots", Indo-Burma and Western Ghats/Sri Lanka are included.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- A biodiversity hotspot must meet **two criteria** — $\geq 1,500$ vascular plant species as endemics **and** $\geq 70\%$ habitat loss.
- There are **36 biodiversity hotspots worldwide**, covering only about 2.4% of Earth's land surface, yet they harbour more than half of all endemic plant species and nearly 43% of endemic bird, mammal, reptile, and amphibian species.
- Among the **8 "hottest hotspots"** identified globally, **Indo-Burma** and **Western Ghats/Sri Lanka** are included, along with Madagascar, the Philippines, Sundaland, Brazil's Atlantic Forest, the Caribbean, and the Eastern Arc/Coastal Forests of Tanzania-Kenya.

Source: Environment (N.C.E.R.T)

9. With reference to the **UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme**, consider the following statements:

1. The MAB Programme was launched in the early 1970s to improve the relationship between people and their environment through an interdisciplinary approach.
2. Its governing body is the International Coordinating Council, which works in collaboration with the larger MAB community.
3. The implementation of MAB's agenda on the ground is carried out exclusively by national governments through their respective environment ministries.

Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- MAB was launched in the **early 1970s**, with an interdisciplinary agenda combining natural sciences, social sciences, economics, and education.
- The **International Coordinating Council (ICC)** defines the programme's agenda in consultation with the broader MAB community.
- Implementation is not **exclusively by national governments**; it relies on the **World Network of Biosphere Reserves**, thematic networks, partnerships, and participatory decision-making involving communities, researchers, and institutions.

Source: Environment (N.C.E.R.T)

10. With reference to the **structure and zoning of Biosphere Reserves (BRs)**, consider the following statements:

1. The **Core Zone** of a Biosphere Reserve is strictly protected, free from human pressures, and only non-intrusive research and monitoring activities are permitted.
2. The **Buffer Zone** surrounds the core and allows activities such as limited tourism, grazing, fishing, and value addition to resources, provided they do not adversely affect the core zone.
3. The **Transition Zone** is the innermost part of a Biosphere Reserve, where settlements and croplands are located, and conservation is strictly enforced.

Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- The **Core Zone** is strictly protected and free from human pressures. Only minimal research and monitoring that do not disturb ecological processes are permitted.

- The **Buffer Zone** surrounds the core and acts as a cushion. Activities like **tourism, fishing, grazing, restoration, and value addition** are permitted in regulated forms.
- The **Transition Zone** is the **outermost part**, not the innermost. It includes **settlements, croplands, managed forests, and economic activities**, where humans and nature coexist.

Source: Environment (N.C.E.R.T)

Environmental laws and legislation

1. Which of the following is a key feature of the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2022?

- a) The Bill completely removes all schedules for specially protected animals.
- b) The Bill reduces the total number of schedules from six to four.
- c) The Bill allows unrestricted trade of invasive alien species.
- d) The Bill prohibits the central government from designating a Management Authority under CITES.

Answer: b) The Bill reduces the total number of schedules from six to four.

Explanation:

- The Bill seeks to reduce the total number of schedules from six to four by rationalizing the protection categories.
- This includes reducing the number of schedules for specially protected animals and removing the schedule for vermin species.
- Additionally, a new schedule is inserted for specimens listed under CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).

Source: Environment (Forum IAS factly)

2. Under the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2022, which of the following is TRUE regarding invasive alien species?

- a) The Bill empowers the central government to regulate or prohibit the import, trade, possession, or proliferation of invasive alien species.
- b) The Bill allows for the unrestricted introduction of invasive alien species if they do not threaten biodiversity.
- c) The Bill excludes the regulation of invasive species introduced before 2022.
- d) The Bill places no responsibilities on the central government concerning invasive alien species.

Answer: a) The Bill empowers the central government to regulate or prohibit the import, trade, possession, or proliferation of invasive alien species.

Explanation:

- The Bill gives the central government the authority to regulate or prohibit the import, trade, possession, or proliferation of invasive alien species, which are species not native to India and whose introduction could harm wildlife or their habitats.

Source: Environment (Forum IAS factly)

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:

1. The Environment (Protection) Act of 1986 was enacted in response to the Bhopal Gas Tragedy and focuses on minimizing pollution and safeguarding the environment.
2. The Act grants the state governments the power to set emission standards for industries and control pollution from all sources.

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

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, was indeed enacted after the Bhopal Gas Tragedy, with the primary objective of controlling and reducing pollution from all sources and protecting the environment.
- While the Act does grant the **central** government the authority to control pollution and set standards for emissions and discharges, it does not provide this power to the state governments.
- The central government has the overarching authority in regulating pollution under this Act.

Source: Environment (Forum IAS factly)

4. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Forest Act, 1927:

1. The Indian Forest Act, 1927, categorizes forests into Reserved Forest, Protected Forest, and Village Forest, and lays down specific guidelines for their conservation.
2. The Act allows for unrestricted access to forests for local communities and does not impose penalties for the unauthorized use of forest resources.
3. The Act defines forest offenses and prescribes penalties for violations, particularly for activities in Reserved Forests to ensure environmental protection.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 1 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- The Indian Forest Act, 1927, categorizes forests into three types and lays down guidelines for their protection and management.
- The Act restricts access to forests, especially Reserved Forests, and imposes penalties for unauthorized activities such as cutting trees or grazing animals without permission.
- The Act defines forest offenses and imposes penalties, particularly in Reserved Forests, to ensure the conservation of forest resources and prevent exploitation.

Source: Environment (Forum IAS factly)

5. Consider the following statements regarding The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006:

1. The Act grants legal recognition to the rights of traditional forest-dwelling communities, including those living in National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
2. The Act provides "Title Rights," which grant up to 4 acres of forest land to traditional forest-dwelling communities, but no new land can be granted.
3. The recognition process involves the Gram Sabha passing a resolution, which is then screened and approved by screening committees at the sub-division and district levels.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) One only
(b) Two only
(c) All Three
(d) None

Answer: (c) All three

Explanation:

- The Act grants legal recognition to the rights of Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest-dwelling communities, **including those in National Parks, Sanctuaries, Reserve Forests, and Protected Forests**, for the purpose of preserving the environment and ensuring their rights.
- "Title Rights" allow these communities to hold legal title to forest land (up to 4 acres) they have been cultivating, but no new lands are granted.

- The recognition process involves the Gram Sabha recommending the rights to be recognized, followed by screening and approval at the sub-division and district levels by screening committees. These committees also hear appeals.

Source: Environment (Forum IAS factly)

6. Consider the following statements regarding The Biological Diversity Act, 2002:

1. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002, was enacted to conserve biological resources, promote sustainable use, and ensure fair sharing of benefits with local communities.
2. The Act prohibits the transfer of research results or claims of intellectual property rights on inventions based on biological resources obtained from India without prior approval from the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA).
3. The Act establishes a two-tier structure for regulating access to biological resources.
4. The Act mandates that any grievances related to benefit sharing or orders by the NBA or State Biodiversity Boards be taken to the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1, 2, and 4 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1, 2, and 3 only

(d) 1, 2, 3, and 4

Answer: (a) 1, 2, and 4 only

Explanation:

- The Act aims to conserve biological resources, promote their sustainable use, and ensure that the benefits arising from their use are fairly shared with local communities.
- The Act prohibits the transfer of research results and claims of intellectual property rights on inventions based on biological resources from India without the approval of the NBA.
- The Act establishes a **three-tier structure**, not a two-tier one, which includes the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs), and Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at the local level.
- Grievances related to benefit sharing or orders issued by the NBA or State Biodiversity Boards can be taken to the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

Source: Environment (Forum IAS factly)

7. Consider the following statements regarding the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Rules, 2019:

1. The CRZ Rules, 2019, were mandated under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
2. The CRZ Rules allow permanent construction for tourism facilities in the No Development Zone (NDZ) in CRZ-III areas, with the exception of temporary facilities for tourism purposes.

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

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- The CRZ Rules, 2019, indeed set different NDZs for CRZ-III areas based on population density, with CRZ-III(A) having a reduced NDZ of 50 meters and CRZ-III(B) having an NDZ of 200 meters.
- The CRZ Rules permit **temporary** tourism facilities in the No Development Zone (NDZ) of CRZ-III areas, not permanent constructions.

Source: Environment (Forum IAS factly)

8. Consider the following statements regarding the Bio-Medical Waste Rules, 2016:

1. The Bio-Medical Waste Rules, 2016, require pre-treatment of laboratory waste, blood samples, and microbiological waste through disinfection at the healthcare site.

2. The Rules mandate that all healthcare workers undergo regular immunization and training to handle bio-medical waste appropriately.

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

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- The Bio-Medical Waste Rules, 2016, require pre-treatment of laboratory waste, blood samples, and microbiological waste on-site, using disinfection methods as per WHO or NACO guidelines.
- The Rules emphasize regular training and immunization for all healthcare workers to ensure they can safely handle and dispose of bio-medical waste.

Source: Environment (Forum IAS factly)

9. Consider the following statements regarding the National Green Tribunal (NGT) Act, 2010:

1. The NGT Act aims to provide effective and expeditious disposal of environmental cases, with a specific time frame of six months for appeals.
2. The NGT has jurisdiction over civil cases related to environmental issues, but its orders can only be challenged in the High Courts, not the Supreme Court.
3. The NGT has a Principal Bench in New Delhi, and its chairperson is a retired judge of the Supreme Court of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2, and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- The NGT Act, 2010, was formulated to ensure effective and expeditious disposal of environmental cases, with appeals being disposed of within six months.
- The NGT's orders can be challenged in the Supreme Court within 90 days, not the High Courts.
- The NGT has a Principal Bench in New Delhi, and its chairperson is a retired judge of the Supreme Court of India.

Source: Environment (Forum IAS factly)

10. Consider the following statements regarding the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act (CAMPA Act), 2016:

1. The CAMPA Act, 2016, establishes both a National and State Compensatory Afforestation Fund, with the National Fund receiving 90% and the State Fund receiving 10% of the total funds collected for afforestation.
2. The funds under the CAMPA Act are utilized for afforestation, wildlife protection, and the development of forest infrastructure, aiming to regenerate the forest ecosystem.

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

Answer: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

- The National Fund receives 10%, while the State Fund gets 90% of the funds collected for compensatory afforestation.

- The funds collected under the CAMPA Act are utilized for afforestation, forest regeneration, wildlife protection, and the development of infrastructure for the forest ecosystem.

Source: Environment (Forum IAS factly)

Environmental laws and legislation

1. With reference to **Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) in India**, consider the following:

1. They play a central role in achieving the objectives of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing.
2. Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) are empowered to regulate access to biological resources within their jurisdiction.

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

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation

- The **Nagoya Protocol (2010)** under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) deals with **Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits (ABS)**.
- In India, the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002** operationalizes this through a **three-tier structure**:
 - **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)**
 - **State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs)**
 - **Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)** at the local body level.
- **BMCs** are the grassroot institutions that prepare **People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs)**, maintain records of local biological resources, and ensure **equitable benefit-sharing with local communities**.
- As per **Section 41 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002**, every local body must constitute a **Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC)**.
- Functions include:
 - Documenting local biodiversity (People's Biodiversity Register).
 - Regulating access to local biological resources for commercial purposes.
 - Levying **collection fees/charges** for access to these resources.
- The **2014 ABS Guidelines** explicitly empower BMCs to collect **benefit-sharing fees** from companies or individuals accessing local resources.

Source: Environment (Forum Factly)

2. Under the provisions of Indian wildlife protection laws, consider the following assertions:

1. Ownership of all wild animals vests solely with the Government.
2. Once a species is notified as protected, it enjoys the same degree of legal protection whether it is inside a protected area or outside it.
3. Mere fear that a protected wild animal might endanger human life is a legally valid reason for its capture or killing.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 only
(c) 1 and 3
(d) 3 only

Answer: (a) 1 and 2

Explanation

- Under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, all wild animals specified in the Schedules are considered the **property of the State (Government)**.
- Even if a wild animal enters private land, it is not the property of the landowner.

- Legal protection to a species under the Schedules of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** applies **throughout the territory of India**, irrespective of whether the animal is in a **protected area (like National Parks, Sanctuaries, Tiger Reserves)** or outside (e.g., in villages, farms, cities).
- The Act permits **capture or killing** of a wild animal only when it has become a "danger to human life" (i.e., an actual threat, not just apprehension).
- Example: A man-eating tiger or a rogue elephant may be declared as such by the Chief Wildlife Warden and then killed or captured. Mere fear is not enough.

Source: Environment (Forum Factly)

3. With reference to the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2024, consider the following statements:

1. Local bodies are now mandated to conduct annual assessments of plastic waste, including waste in dumpsites, and project future generation for the next five years.
2. The amended rules provide for a centralized online portal for registration of Producers, Importers, Brand Owners, and manufacturers of compostable or biodegradable plastics.
3. Under the new provisions, Producers and Brand Owners are solely responsible for setting up plastic waste collection and disposal infrastructure in their jurisdiction.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Local bodies have been given this new mandate in the PWM Rules 2024.
- A **centralized online portal** has been introduced for registration, with **"default registration" if not processed within 30 days**.
- Responsibility for infrastructure now rests with **local bodies**, not producers. Producers/importers/brand owners only have EPR obligations, and they may engage with local bodies voluntarily.

Source: Environment (Forum Factly)

4. With reference to the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary Movement) Amendment Rules, 2019, consider the following statements:

1. Import of solid plastic waste has been completely prohibited, including in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and Export Oriented Units (EOUs).
2. Defective electrical and electronic assemblies manufactured in India and exported abroad can now be re-imported within one year without prior permission from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

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

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- The 2019 amendment made it clear that **solid plastic waste cannot be imported into India**.
- Earlier, some relaxation was available in **Special Economic Zones (SEZs)** and **Export Oriented Units (EOUs)**, but the amendment **removed these exemptions**.
- This was done to reduce plastic pollution and align with the principles of sustainable development.
- The 2019 rules allowed **Indian exporters of electrical/electronic assemblies** to bring back defective goods (within **1 year of export**) **without seeking fresh permission** from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

- This was introduced as an **ease of doing business measure** to support Indian manufacturers and exporters, ensuring they could repair/reprocess items without cumbersome approvals.

Source: Environment (Forum Factly)

5. Under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, which of the following bodies was constituted for regulating and controlling groundwater development and management in India?

- (a) Central Water Commission
- (b) Central Ground Water Board
- (c) Central Ground Water Authority
- (d) National Water Development Agency

Answer: (c) Central Ground Water Authority

Explanation

- The **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** empowers the Central Government to take necessary measures for protecting and improving environmental quality.
- Using **Section 3(3)** of the Act, the Government constituted the **Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA)** in **1997** through a Gazette Notification.
- **Role of CGWA:**
 - Regulates and controls groundwater development and management in India.
 - Issues guidelines for extraction of groundwater by industries, infrastructure projects, and domestic users.
 - Has the power to issue directions, regulate drilling, and take punitive actions against illegal extraction.

Source: Environment (Forum Factly)

6. With reference to the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, consider the following statements:

1. The Rules decentralize wetland management by mandating the establishment of a State Wetlands Authority (SWA) in every State and Union Territory.
2. The National Wetland Committee (NWC), headed by the Secretary of MoEFCC, replaced the earlier Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority.
3. The Rules permit industrial development and waste disposal activities in notified wetlands, provided that such activities are approved by the State Wetlands Authority under the principle of “wise use.”

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only

Explanation

- The **2017 Rules decentralised wetland management** from a central authority to **State Wetland Authorities (SWAs)** in each State/UT, chaired by the State Environment Minister.
- **SWAs** are responsible for preparing wetland inventories, regulating activities, and applying the principle of “wise use.”
- The **Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority** (under the 2010 Rules) was **replaced** by the **National Wetland Committee (NWC)**.
- The NWC, headed by the Secretary, MoEFCC, serves mainly as an **advisory body** to review Ramsar sites management and support SWAs.
- The Rules explicitly **prohibit activities** such as:
 - encroachment,
 - setting up/expansion of industries,
 - waste disposal,
 - discharge of untreated effluents.
- These cannot be permitted even under “wise use.”

Source: Environment (Forum Factly)

7. Under the **Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016** in India, which of the following statements is correct?

- (a) Waste generators must segregate waste into five categories.
- (b) The Rules apply only to notified urban local bodies, notified towns, and industrial townships.
- (c) The Rules provide detailed criteria for the identification of landfill and waste processing sites.
- (d) Waste generated in one district cannot be transported to another district.

Answer: (c) The Rules provide detailed criteria for the identification of landfill and waste processing sites.

Explanation:

- The **Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016** (notified under the Environment Protection Act, 1986), brought major changes in waste management in India. Let's analyse the options:
- Waste generators are required to segregate waste into **three categories: Biodegradable, Non-biodegradable and Domestic hazardous waste** (Not five categories).
- The Rules are **much wider in scope**. They apply not only to urban local bodies and industrial townships, but also to **villages, census towns, special economic zones, places of pilgrimage, airports, railway stations, defence establishments, and every waste generator**.
- The Rules indeed prescribe **exact and elaborate criteria** for selecting landfill sites and waste processing facilities. They emphasise scientific principles to minimise environmental damage and public health risks.
- There is **no prohibition** on transporting waste from one district to another. In fact, regional facilities for waste processing and disposal are encouraged for efficiency.

Source: Environment (Forum Factly)

8. With reference to India's legal framework, consider the following Central Acts:

- 1. Import and Export (Control) Act, 1947
- 2. Mining and Mineral Development (Regulation) Act, 1957
- 3. Customs Act, 1962
- 4. Indian Forest Act, 1927

Which of the above Acts have a significant role in **biodiversity conservation and protection of natural resources**?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Explanation:

- **Import and Export (Control) Act, 1947:** Relevant because it controls the trade in endangered species of flora and fauna. For example, restrictions on export of sandalwood, ivory, rare medicinal plants, etc.
- **Mining and Mineral Development (Regulation) Act, 1957:** Regulates mining activities, which directly impact ecosystems, forests, and biodiversity. It provides for restrictions in ecologically sensitive areas. It ensures that mining is subject to environmental safeguards.
- **Customs Act, 1962:** Direct role in biodiversity conservation by empowering authorities to check illegal import/export of wildlife species, ivory, exotic animals, plants, skins, etc. It works in harmony with CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species).
- **Indian Forest Act, 1927:** Core legislation for declaring reserved forests, protected forests, and regulating forest produce. Central to biodiversity conservation as it governs protection, use, and management of forests.

Source: Environment (Forum Factly)

9. With reference to **Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs)** in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. Eco-Sensitive Zones are notified under the provisions of the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**, not under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

2. The purpose of declaring ESZs is to regulate certain human activities around Protected Areas, not to impose a blanket ban; activities like agriculture and allied practices are usually permitted.

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

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- ESZs are **not** declared under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- They are **notified under Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**, with guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- The purpose of ESZs is **not to completely prohibit** human activities.
- Instead, they aim to **regulate and restrict** activities that may have adverse impacts on the Protected Area.
- Agriculture, horticulture, rainwater harvesting, organic farming, and other traditional activities are **permitted**.
- Mining, polluting industries, construction, hydroelectric projects, and other high-impact activities are **prohibited/restricted**.

Source: Environment (Forum Factly)

10. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, **all offences are cognizable and non-bailable**, and appeals relating to benefit sharing must be taken to the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)**.
- 2. The Act establishes a **three-tier institutional mechanism** to regulate access to biological resources and ensure equitable benefit sharing.
- 3. The Act **completely prohibits** the use of Indian biological resources for research, commercial utilisation, or intellectual property claims, with no exemptions provided.

How many statements above is/ are correct?

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

Answer: (B) (Only two)

Explanation:

- All offences under the Act are cognizable and non-bailable.
- Appeals related to benefit sharing or NBA/SBB orders go to the **NGT**, which also deals with Water Act, Air Act, Forest (Conservation) Act, Environment Protection Act, etc.
- The Act provides a **three-tier structure**: **NBA** (national level), **SBBs** (state level) and **BMCs** (local level)
- These ensure conservation, sustainable use, and equitable benefit sharing.
- The Act does not *completely prohibit* access. It **regulates access with prior approval**, but exempts:
 - Commodities normally traded,
 - Traditional uses,
 - Farmers, livestock keepers, vaid, hakims,
 - Approved collaborative research projects.

Source: Environment (Forum Factly)

Environment Conventions and Protocols

1. With reference to the **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**, consider the following statements:

1. The Ramsar Convention is the only global treaty that focuses exclusively on the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.
2. It was signed in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971.
3. Under the Convention, only natural ecosystems like mangroves, estuaries, and coral reefs are recognized as wetlands, while human-made water bodies are excluded.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- Ramsar is the **only international treaty** that deals specifically with wetlands.
- It was signed in **1971 at Ramsar (Iran)**.
- February 2 is celebrated as **World Wetlands Day**.
- The Convention includes **both natural and human-made wetlands** – e.g., mangroves, estuaries, coral reefs **and** rice paddies, fishponds, and reservoirs.

Source: Environment (Factly Forum IAS)

2. Consider the following statements regarding the Stockholm Convention:

1. The Convention aims to eliminate or restrict the production and use of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) worldwide.
2. Under the Convention, Parties are legally bound not to produce or use the chemicals listed in its annexes, which currently include pesticides, industrial chemicals, and unintentional by-products.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- The Stockholm Convention entered into force in 2004 and its main objective is to reduce/eliminate Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) globally.
- Parties must not produce/use chemicals listed in the Annexes. Currently 34 POPs are listed (17 pesticides, 15 industrial chemicals, 7 unintentional by-products).

Source: Environment (Factly Forum IAS)

3. With reference to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), consider the following statements:

1. CITES was adopted in 1973.
2. Appendix I species under CITES are those not threatened with extinction but may become so without trade controls.
3. The CITES Secretariat is administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- CITES was adopted in 1973, enforced in 1975, and has 184 members.
- Appendix I = species threatened with extinction (highest protection, no commercial trade).
- The Secretariat is under UNEP and located in Geneva, Switzerland.

Source: Environment (Factly Forum IAS)

4. With reference to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), consider the following statements:

1. The CMS is the only global UN-based intergovernmental treaty dedicated exclusively to the conservation of migratory species and their habitats.
2. Under CMS, Appendix I lists species with an 'unfavourable conservation status' while Appendix II lists endangered migratory species that require strict prohibitions on their take.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

Options:

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

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation

- CMS (1979, Bonn) is the only UN-based global treaty focused exclusively on terrestrial, aquatic, and avian migratory species.
- The order of Appendices is as:
 - Appendix I → Endangered migratory species (strict protection, prohibition of take).
 - Appendix II → Species with unfavourable conservation status, needing range-wide conservation agreements.

Source: Environment (Factly Forum IAS)

5. Consider the following:

1. Vienna Convention
2. Montreal Protocol
3. Stockholm Convention
4. Rotterdam Convention

How many of the above conventions is/ are related to the protection of the Ozone Layer?

- a) One only
- b) Two Only
- c) Three only
- d) All four

Answer: B (1 and 2 only)

Explanation:

- **Vienna Convention (1985):** Framework treaty for protecting the ozone layer, under which the Montreal Protocol was later adopted.
- **Montreal Protocol (1987):** International agreement under the Vienna Convention to phase out ozone-depleting substances (ODS) like CFCs, halons, etc.
- **Stockholm Convention (2004):** Concerned with Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) – toxic chemicals harmful to human health and environment, not directly about ozone.
- **Rotterdam Convention (1998):** Focuses on Prior Informed Consent (PIC) for trade in hazardous chemicals and pesticides, not ozone protection.

Source: Environment (Factly Forum IAS)

6. With reference to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), consider the following statements:

1. The UNCCD is a legally binding agreement adopted in 1994 that specifically focuses on arid, semi-arid, and dry sub-humid areas.
2. It is one of the three Rio Conventions, along with the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
3. The permanent Secretariat of the UNCCD is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation

- UNCCD was adopted in 1994, effective in 1996, and focuses on drylands (arid, semi-arid, dry sub-humid).
- It is one of the three Rio Conventions, along with UNCBD & UNFCCC.
- Its secretariat is in Bonn, Germany, not Nairobi (that's for UNEP).

Source: Environment (Factly Forum IAS)

7. With reference to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), consider the following statements:

1. The CBD is a legally binding treaty with objectives that include conservation, sustainable use, and equitable benefit-sharing of genetic resources.
2. The CBD Secretariat is headquartered in Montreal, Canada, and functions under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

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

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation

- CBD entered into force in 1993, with 3 objectives – conservation, sustainable use, and equitable benefit-sharing.
- Its secretariat is in Montreal, Canada, and operates under UNEP.

Source: Environment (Factly Forum IAS)

8. With reference to the Basel Convention, consider the following statements:

1. The Basel Convention, adopted in 1989 and enforced in 1992.
2. The Convention primarily focuses on promoting the transfer of hazardous waste from developed to developing countries for recycling purposes.

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

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation

- It was adopted in 1989 (Basel, Switzerland); entered into force in 1992.
- The objective is to regulate and reduce the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes.
- The Convention's focus is on preventing hazardous waste transfer (especially from developed to less developed), not promoting it.

Source: Environment (Factly Forum IAS)

9. With reference to the initiative called The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), consider the following statements:

1. It is hosted by UNEP, IMF, and the World Economic Forum.
2. It is a global initiative that highlights the economic value of biodiversity.
3. It provides approaches that help decision-makers recognize, demonstrate, and capture the value of ecosystems and biodiversity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c) 2 and 3 only

Explanation

- TEEB is hosted by UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme), not by IMF or World Economic Forum.
- It is a global initiative to draw attention to the economic benefits of biodiversity.
- TEEB presents an approach for decision-makers to recognize, demonstrate, and capture the value of ecosystems.

Source: Environment (Factly Forum IAS)

10. With reference to the Global Tiger Forum (GTF), consider the following statements:

1. It is the only intergovernmental international body dedicated exclusively to tiger conservation.
2. It was established in 1993 following recommendations from an international symposium on Tiger Conservation held in New Delhi.
3. The headquarters of the GTF is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) One Only
- (b) Two Only
- (c) Three Only
- (d) None

Answer: (b) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- GTF is the **only intergovernmental body** for **global tiger conservation**.
- It was **formed in 1993**, based on recommendations from the New Delhi Tiger Conservation Symposium.
- Its **headquarters are in New Delhi, India, not Geneva**.

Source: Environment (Factly Forum IAS)

Environment Conventions and Protocols

1. Global Environment Outlook is published by

- a) UNEP
- b) UNCCC
- c) WWF
- d) UN-REDD

Answer: a) UNEP

Explanation:

- **The following important Reports are published by UNEP:**
 - Emission Gap Report,
 - Global Environment Outlook,
 - Frontiers,
 - Invest into Healthy Planet

Source: Environment (Forum IAS Factly)

2. Consider the following statements with respect to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets:

1. They were adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at Nagoya in 2010.

2. They provided a 10-year strategic plan (2011–2020) with 20 global biodiversity targets.
3. The targets included measurable and legally binding commitments on countries to reduce biodiversity loss.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A (1 and 2 only)

Explanation:

- The Aichi Targets were indeed adopted under the CBD at Nagoya in 2010.
- They laid out a 10-year Strategic Plan (2011–2020) with 20 biodiversity targets grouped under five strategic goals.
- The targets were aspirational in nature, with no legally binding commitments.

Source: Environment (Forum IAS Factly)

3. With reference to the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking (CAWT), consider the following statements:

1. It is a voluntary public–private coalition of governments, NGOs, and corporations working together to eliminate illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.
2. Conservation International, WildAid, and the Wildlife Conservation Society are among the organizations that have joined CAWT.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C. Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- CAWT is a unique voluntary public–private coalition seeking to abolish wildlife trafficking, with membership open to governments, NGOs, and corporations.
- Several global organizations, including Conservation International, Save the Tiger Fund, Smithsonian Institution, Traffic International, WildAid, Wildlife Conservation Society, and American Forest & Paper Association, are part of the coalition.

Source: Environment (Forum IAS Factly)

4. With reference to the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) and its governing body, consider the following statements:

1. The International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) is the governing body of ITTO.
2. ITTO was established under the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) 1992.
3. India is a member of ITTO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C. 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- ITTC is indeed the governing body and meets annually.
- ITTO was established under **ITTA 1983**, negotiated under **UNCTAD**, not ITTA 1992/UNEP.
- ITTO members collectively manage ~80% of the world's tropical forests and 90% of global tropical timber trade; India is also a member.

Source: Environment (Forum IAS Factly)

5. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: TRAFFIC is a leading NGO established in 1976 to monitor wildlife trade and ensure that it does not pose a threat to conservation of nature.

Statement II: It is a joint programme of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), with headquarters in Cambridge, United Kingdom.

Which one of the following is correct?

- A. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.
- B. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I.
- C. Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
- D. Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

Answer: A. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.

Explanation:

- TRAFFIC is a global NGO working on wildlife trade since 1976 to reduce threats to biodiversity.
- TRAFFIC is a joint WWF-IUCN initiative headquartered at Cambridge.

Source: Environment (Forum IAS Factly)

6. With reference to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), consider the following statements:

- 1. The UNFF was established in 2000 by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to promote sustainable forest management and conservation.
- 2. The forum alternates between technical discussions in even years and policy-level dialogues in odd years.
- 3. UNFF has universal membership, including all UN Member States and specialised forest-related agencies.
- 4. India is not a member of the UNFF.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 2 and 4 only

Answer: C. 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- The UNFF was indeed established in 2000 by ECOSOC.
- The forum alternates between technical discussions in odd years and policy-level dialogues in even years.
- Membership is universal, covering all UN Member States and specialised forest-related bodies.
- India is not only a member but also a **founding member** and plays an active role.

Source: Environment (Forum IAS Factly)

7. The UN-REDD+ Programme, if properly designed and effectively implemented, can significantly contribute to which of the following?

- 1. Protection of biodiversity
- 2. Enhancing resilience of forest ecosystems
- 3. sustainable employment

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D. 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation, plus conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks) primarily aims at climate mitigation through forest management.
- **Biodiversity protection** and **ecosystem resilience** are natural co-benefits of REDD+.
- Its implementation provides livelihood opportunities, sustainable employment, and better resource security, thus indirectly contributing to poverty alleviation and SDGs.

Source: Environment (Forum IAS Factly)

8. With reference to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, consider the following statements:

1. It is a legally binding agreement adopted in 2010 under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
2. The Protocol provides a legal framework to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.
3. It entered into force in 2014.
4. The Protocol applies to all genetic resources, including those outside the scope of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

How many of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. One only
- B. Two only
- C. Three only
- D. All Four

Answer: A. 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- The Nagoya Protocol is legally binding and was adopted at Nagoya, Japan in 2010 under CBD.
- It provides a transparent legal framework for access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge, ensuring fair and equitable benefit-sharing.
- It came into force on **12 October 2014**, after the 50th ratification.
- It applies only to genetic resources and traditional knowledge **covered under CBD**, not beyond its scope.

Source: Environment (Forum IAS Factly)

9. Consider the following statements:

Statement I: The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is the most comprehensive binding international agreement in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

Statement II: The CBD was opened for signature at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and currently has 196 contracting parties.

Which one of the following is correct?

- A. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.
- B. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, but Statement II is not the correct explanation of Statement I.
- C. Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect.
- D. Statement I is incorrect, but Statement II is correct.

Answer: A. Both Statement I and Statement II are correct, and Statement II is the correct explanation of Statement I.

Explanation:

- CBD is the most comprehensive legally binding agreement on biodiversity, covering ecosystems, species, and genetic resources.
- It was opened for signature at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, and 196 countries are currently parties to it.
- Since the historical origin (Rio Summit) explains why it is the most comprehensive global agreement, Statement II provides the **correct explanation** of Statement I.

Source: Environment (Forum IAS Factly)

10. Consider the following statements about the initiative “The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)”:

1. It is a global initiative hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. It seeks to highlight the economic value of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
3. It provides tools and approaches to help policymakers recognize, demonstrate, and capture the value of biodiversity in decision-making.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- TEEB is hosted by UNEP alone, not IMF or World Economic Forum.
- It is a global initiative drawing attention to the economic benefits of biodiversity.
- It equips policymakers with approaches to recognize, demonstrate, and capture ecosystem and biodiversity value in policy and planning.

Source: Environment (Forum IAS Factly)

International laws and the Convention-III

1. Consider the following statements about the *International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)*:

1. It was adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Conference in 2001.
2. Its core objective is to ensure access and benefit sharing of plant genetic materials among farmers, scientists, and breeders.
3. India is not a signatory to it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- The ITPGRFA (also called the “Seed Treaty”) was adopted in 2001 under the FAO to conserve and sustainably use plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.
- **Objectives of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA):**
 - **Recognition of Farmers’ Role:** Acknowledges the invaluable contribution of farmers in conserving and enriching crop diversity.
 - **Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS):** Establishes a global framework to provide equitable access to plant genetic resources for farmers, plant breeders, and scientists, while ensuring fair sharing of benefits arising from their use.
 - **Conservation and Sustainability:** Aims to conserve and promote the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, in harmony with the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- **India is a contracting party to this treaty.**

Source: Environment (Factly Forum IAS)

2. With reference to the **International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN)** and the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**, consider the following statements:

1. IUCN is an organ of the United Nations, whereas CITES is an international agreement between governments.
2. IUCN runs thousands of field projects across the world for better management of natural environments.
3. CITES is legally binding on its member states, but it does not substitute or override national laws.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation

- IUCN is **not an organ of the United Nations**. It is an **independent international organization**, headquartered in Gland, Switzerland.
- While it works closely with the UN and other multilateral organizations, it is not part of the UN system. On the other hand, **CITES** is indeed an **international agreement between governments**, adopted in 1973 and effective since 1975.
- IUCN is well known for its **field projects worldwide** that focus on biodiversity conservation, protected areas, species monitoring, and ecosystem management. It also manages the **IUCN Red List of Threatened Species**.
- CITES is a **legally binding treaty** on its member countries, but it does **not replace national laws**. Instead, it requires parties to enact their own domestic legislation to regulate wildlife trade in accordance with the convention.

Source: Environment (Factly Forum IAS)

3. With reference to the **Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer**, consider the following statements:

1. The Convention entered into force in 1988.
2. It does not impose legally binding reduction targets for ozone-depleting substances.
3. The legally binding commitments regarding reduction of CFCs were later provided under the Montreal Protocol.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d) 1, 2 and 3

Explanation:

- The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer was **adopted in 1985** and came into force in **1988**.
- Today, it has **universal ratification with 197 parties**, making it one of the most widely ratified environmental treaties.
- The Convention provides the **framework for international cooperation** to protect the ozone layer. However, it is **not legally binding in terms of specific reduction targets**.
- It sets out principles and obligations for research, monitoring, and information exchange, but leaves concrete commitments to subsequent agreements.
- The **Montreal Protocol (1987)** was adopted as a **protocol to the Vienna Convention**. Unlike the Convention, the Montreal Protocol sets **legally binding reduction and phase-out targets** for ozone-depleting substances like **CFCs, halons, and other chemicals**.

Source: Environment (Factly Forum IAS)

4. Consider the following statements about the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA):

1. It is a coalition launched by India in 2023
2. It aims to conserve seven species of big cats, including Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah.
3. The Depository of the IBCA Framework Agreement is the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
4. India hosts the Secretariat of the IBCA.

Which of the above statements is/are **correct**?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 4 only

Explanation:

- The IBCA was launched in 2023 during the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger. It covers **seven big cats**: Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah.
- Its governance model is **inspired by the ISA**, with an Assembly, Standing Committee, and Secretariat. A Director-General is appointed by MoEFCC.
- The **Depository of the Framework Agreement** is the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**, not MoEFCC.
- India hosts the **Secretariat** of IBCA, making it the permanent headquarters.

Source: Environment (Factly Forum IAS)

5. With reference to *Agenda 21*, consider the following statements:

1. It is a comprehensive global action plan adopted for achieving sustainable development.
2. It was launched at the *Earth Summit* (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development) held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

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

Answer: (c) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

- *Agenda 21* is a **non-binding global action plan for sustainable development**, adopted by 178 countries. It emphasizes integrating environment and development concerns to ensure sustainability in the 21st century (hence the name *Agenda 21*).
- It originated at the **Earth Summit (UNCED)** held in **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992**, not at the Johannesburg Summit of 2002 (that summit was the *World Summit on Sustainable Development*, which reviewed the progress of Agenda 21).

Source: Environment (Factly Forum IAS)

6. With reference to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, consider the following statements:

1. It bans the opening of new mercury mines and calls for the phase-out of existing ones.
2. It regulates emissions and releases of mercury to water only.
3. It addresses health issues and the disposal of mercury waste.
4. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) serves as part of its financial mechanism.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
(b) 2 and 3 only

- (c) 1, 3 and 4
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer: (c) 1, 3 and 4

Explanation:

- The Convention bans **new mercury mines** and requires **phase-out of existing ones**.
- It provides **control measures on emissions** to air and **releases to land and water**.
- It addresses **health issues, waste disposal, and contaminated sites**.
- The **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**, along with the **Specific International Programme**, is part of the **financial mechanism**.

Source: Environment (Factly Forum IAS)

7. With reference to the Rotterdam Convention, consider the following statements:

1. It establishes legally binding obligations on Parties to implement the **Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure** in international trade of certain hazardous chemicals.
2. It was originally based on a **voluntary PIC procedure** initiated by UNEP and FAO in 1989.
3. The Convention covers all hazardous chemicals including radioactive substances and ozone-depleting substances.

Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- The Rotterdam Convention creates **legally binding obligations** for implementing the PIC procedure to regulate trade in banned or severely restricted pesticides and industrial chemicals.
- It was **built on the voluntary PIC procedure** jointly run by UNEP and FAO since 1989 (which ended in 2006).
- The Convention does **not** cover *all* hazardous chemicals. It is limited to pesticides and industrial chemicals that have been banned or severely restricted for health/environmental reasons.
- **Radioactive substances and ozone-depleting substances are not covered** (they are dealt with under other treaties like IAEA conventions and the Montreal Protocol).

Source: Environment (Factly Forum IAS)

8. With reference to the outcomes of COP29 of the UNFCCC, consider the following statements:

1. The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on Climate Finance aims to provide USD 300 billion annually to developing countries by 2035, with developed countries taking the lead.
2. India endorsed the COP29 Declaration on Reducing Methane from Organic Waste, which targets methane emissions from the waste sector.

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

Answer: (a) 1 only

Explanation:

- COP29 adopted the **NCQG on Climate Finance**, tripling the earlier \$100 billion goal to **\$300 billion per year by 2035**, led by developed countries.
- While over 30 countries endorsed the **COP29 Declaration on Reducing Methane from Organic Waste**, **India did not sign it** (India is also not part of the Global Methane Pledge).

Source: Environment (Factly Forum IAS)

9. **With reference to the International Whaling Commission (IWC), consider the following statements:**

1. The IWC was established under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, 1946.
2. The IWC regulates three types of whaling: commercial, aboriginal subsistence, and special permit (scientific) whaling.
3. The governance of special permit (scientific) whaling falls exclusively under the Commission, and all countries are legally bound to follow its decisions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- The IWC was set up in **1946** under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling with the aim of regulating whaling and conserving whale stocks.
- Whaling is categorized into **three types** under the Convention: commercial, aboriginal subsistence, and special permit (scientific).
- Special permit whaling is governed by **national governments**, not the Commission. Currently, no governments are engaged in this type of whaling.

Source: Environment (Factly Forum IAS)

10. **With reference to the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA), consider the following statements:**

1. It is an initiative of the European Union.
2. It provides technical and financial assistance to developing countries for integrating climate change into their development policies and budgets.
3. It is coordinated jointly by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- The *Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA)* is indeed an **initiative of the European Union (EU)** launched in 2007.
- It aims to support **vulnerable developing countries**, particularly Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), by providing **technical and financial assistance** to mainstream climate change into their policies and budgets.
- The GCCA is **not coordinated by WRI or WBCSD**. It is managed by the **European Commission**, not external organizations.

Source: Environment (Factly Forum IAS)

