

ForumIAS

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Prelims Marathon

2nd Week August, 2025

HISTORY
ECONOMICS
POLITY
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY AND ENVIRONMENT

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Environmental Pollution- 3

1. Consider the following statements regarding India's first E-Waste Recycling Park:

1. It will be developed at Holambi Kalan, Delhi.
2. The facility will have a processing capacity of up to 1 lakh metric tonnes of e-waste annually.
3. It aims to create over 1,000 green jobs along with skilling centres for informal recyclers.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- The E-Waste Recycling Park is planned at *Holambi Kalan* in north-west Delhi and will be set up under a **Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** model.
- The annual processing capacity is **51,000 metric tonnes** of e-waste, not 1 lakh metric tonnes.
- The project aims to create **over 1,000 green jobs** and also includes **skilling/training centres** for informal recyclers.

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

2. Match the types of solid waste with their primary sources/examples:

Type of Solid Waste	Primary Source/Example
A. Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)	1. Phones, laptops, appliances
B. Biomedical Waste	2. Household, commercial, market waste
C. Electronic Waste (E-waste)	3. Single-use plastics, packaging material
D. Construction & Demolition Waste	4. Debris, bricks, tiles

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only two
(b) Only three
(c) All four
(d) None

Answer: (b) Only three

Explanation:

- Solid waste refers to **any unwanted or discarded material that is not in a liquid or gaseous state.**
- The solid waste includes a **wide range of materials generated from various sources such as households, industries, commercial establishments, construction sites, and institutions.**
- **Types of Solid Waste:**
 - **Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)** – Household, commercial, market waste.
 - **Biomedical Waste** – Hospitals, clinics (requires special handling).
 - **Electronic Waste (E-waste)** – Phones, laptops, appliances.

- **Construction & Demolition (C&D) Waste** – Debris, bricks, tiles.
- **Industrial Waste** – By-products from factories, often hazardous.
- **Plastic Waste** – Single-use plastics, packaging material.

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

3. R2 Standard, recently in news, is related to:

- (a) International guidelines for reducing carbon emissions from shipping
- (b) A global standard for the safe recycling and refurbishing of electronic waste
- (c) ISO norms for improving energy efficiency in manufacturing industries
- (d) Certification for sustainable packaging in the retail sector

Answer: (b) A global standard for the safe recycling and refurbishing of electronic waste

Explanation:

- The **R2 Standard** (Responsible Recycling) was originally developed to prevent **misuse and improper recycling of e-waste**.
- Defined by SERI as “the premier global environmental, worker health and safety standard” for **electronics refurbishing and recycling**.
- It aims to ensure **safe reuse, refurbishment, and recycling**, prevent illegal landfill dumping and unsafe labor practices, and promote a secondary market for consumer electronics.

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

4. Consider the following statements regarding the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Amendment Rules, 2025:

1. These rules, issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, will come into effect from April 1, 2026.
2. They set a recycling target for non-ferrous metal products, starting at 10% in 2026-27 and increasing to 75% by 2032-33.
3. The validity of an EPR certificate under these rules is five years from the date of its generation.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- The rules are issued under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** and will come into force from **April 1, 2026**.
- Recycling targets for products made of non-ferrous metals will start at **10% in 2026-27** and progressively increase to **75% by 2032-33**.
- The validity of an EPR certificate is **two years** from the end of the financial year in which it was generated, **not five years**.

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

5. Consider the following statements regarding plastic pellets (nurdles):

1. Pellets as small pre-formed masses of moulding material having relatively uniform dimensions within a batch.
2. Nurdles are typically composed of polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene, and polyvinyl chloride.
3. Plastic pellet pollution is primarily caused by littering by citizens.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- The International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) defines pellets as small pre-formed masses of moulding material having relatively uniform dimensions within a batch.
- Nurdles are usually made from **polyethene, polypropylene, polystyrene, and polyvinyl chloride**.
- Pellet pollution mainly comes from leaks during **production, transportation, storage, and recycling, not from citizen littering**.

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

6. Consider the following:

Statement I: PBAT (Polybutylene Adipate Terephthalate) is a biodegradable polymer that decomposes into non-toxic byproducts under industrial composting conditions.

Statement II: PBAT is unsuitable for food packaging because it contains harmful chemical additives.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (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: (c) Statement I is correct, but Statement II is incorrect

Explanation:

- PBAT is **biodegradable** and breaks down into CO₂, water, and biomass under industrial composting conditions.
- PBAT is **chemical-free** and safe for food packaging, making it suitable for eco-friendly applications in the food industry.

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

7. Consider the following statements regarding Carbon Tax:

1. A carbon tax is a type of Pigouvian tax aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
2. The cap-and-trade system is a form of carbon tax where the government sets a limit on emissions and allows trading of permits.

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:

- A carbon tax is indeed a **Pigouvian tax** designed to discourage excessive greenhouse gas emissions by making them financially costly.

- The **cap-and-trade system** is a **market-based mechanism** for controlling emissions, but it is **not** considered a carbon tax. Instead, it's an alternative approach to emission reduction.

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

8. Microbeads, often discussed in the context of environmental pollution, are of concern because:

- (a) They can accumulate in marine ecosystems, causing harm to aquatic life.
- (b) They are widely used as a colouring agent in packaged food products.
- (c) They are known to cause respiratory infections in humans when inhaled.
- (d) They are essential components of synthetic fertilizers.

Answer: (a) They can accumulate in marine ecosystems, causing harm to aquatic life

Explanation:

- Microbeads are tiny plastic particles (less than 5 mm) used in cosmetics, toothpaste, face scrubs, and personal care products.
- When washed down drains, they pass through sewage treatment plants and enter rivers, lakes, and oceans.
- They persist in the environment, are ingested by fish and other marine organisms, and can enter the food chain.
- Main concern: Marine ecosystem damage and potential health impacts due to bioaccumulation of toxins attached to microplastics.

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

9. With reference to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), often called “forever chemicals”, consider the following statements:

1. They can be detected in drinking water, food items, and packaging materials.
2. They degrade rapidly in the natural environment.
3. Continuous exposure to them can result in their accumulation in the tissues of living organisms.

Which of the statements given above 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:

- PFAS are found **widely** in drinking water, food, and packaging due to their extensive use in consumer goods.
- PFAS are **highly persistent** and do **not degrade easily** in the environment, hence called “forever chemicals.”
- Long-term exposure leads to **bioaccumulation** in animal and human tissues, potentially causing health issues.

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

10. Consider the following statements regarding Bioremediation:

1. In-situ bioremediation treats contaminated soil and groundwater directly at the site using methods such as bioventing and biosparging.
2. Ex-situ bioremediation is always preferred over in-situ bioremediation because it avoids excavation and reduces labour costs.

3. Marine oil spill bioremediation often uses indigenous oil-degrading microorganisms such as *Alcanivorax* to break down oil pollutants.
4. Bioremediation can help in the removal of toxic heavy metals like lead, cadmium, and chromium using microorganisms and algae.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only three

Explanation:

- In-situ bioremediation indeed treats pollutants **at the contamination site** using methods like **bioventing** and **biosparging**.
- Ex-situ bioremediation **requires excavation and transport**, so it usually involves more labour and higher costs compared to in-situ.
- Marine oil spill bioremediation uses **indigenous microorganisms** such as *Alcanivorax* to degrade oil.
- Certain microorganisms and algae (e.g., *Pseudomonas putida*, *Chlorella vulgaris*) can remove **toxic heavy metals** through processes like adsorption and detoxification.

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

BIODIVERSITY AND INDIAN BIODIVERSITY DIVERSE LANDSCAPE

1. Consider the following statements regarding the **measurement of biodiversity**:

1. **Alpha diversity** refers to the species richness within a particular ecosystem.
2. **Beta diversity** measures the overall diversity for the different ecosystems within a region.

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:

- Alpha diversity indeed refers to diversity within a specific ecosystem or area, expressed as species richness.
- Beta diversity is a comparison of diversity between ecosystems, usually measured as the change in amount of species between the ecosystems.
- Gamma diversity measures the overall diversity for the different ecosystems within a region.

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

2. With reference to biodiversity conservation, consider the following:

1. National parks
2. Sanctuaries
3. Biosphere reserves

4. Reserved forests
5. Seed banks

How many of the above are examples of **in-situ conservation**?

- A. Only two
- B. Only three
- C. Only four
- D. All five

Answer: C. Only four

Explanation:

- **In-situ conservation:** Protecting species within their natural habitats — includes **National parks, Sanctuaries, Biosphere reserves, Reserved forests, Protected forests.**
- **Ex-situ conservation:** Protecting species outside their natural habitats. Seed banks, botanical, horticultural and recreational gardens are important centres for ex-situ.

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

3. With reference to the **IUCN classification of conservation priority**, consider the following pairs:

IUCN Category	Key Criteria
1. Near Threatened (NT)	Does not qualify for threatened categories now, but likely to in near future.
2. Vulnerable (VU)	Reduction in population > 50% over the last 10 years or < 10,000 mature individuals.
3. Least Concern (LC)	Widespread and abundant taxa.
4. Extinct in the Wild (EW)	Survives only in cultivation, captivity, or naturalized populations outside past range.

How many of the above pairs are **correctly matched**?

- A. Only one
- B. Only two
- C. Only three
- D. All four

Answer: D. All four

Explanation:

- NT is evaluated against criteria but does not yet qualify for threatened categories; close to qualifying in near future.
- VU criteria include >50% population reduction in last 10 years OR <10,000 mature individuals.
- LC covers widespread and abundant species that do not fit threatened categories.
- EW species survive only in cultivation, captivity, or as naturalized populations outside their historical range.

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

4. Consider the following statements regarding **Biodiversity Credits**:

1. They are tradeable financial instruments designed to reward positive biodiversity outcomes and attract private investment in conservation.
2. They are tradeable instruments issued only by government agencies to fund biodiversity conservation projects.

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:

- Biodiversity Credits are verifiable, quantifiable, and tradeable instruments rewarding nature-positive outcomes, functioning as innovative financing tools to draw private investments.
- Issuance is not limited to government agencies — NGOs, landowners, and companies can also generate credits.

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

5. Consider the following statements regarding **biogeographic realms**:

1. A biogeographic realm is a continent or subcontinent-sized area with broadly similar flora and fauna.
2. The entire Indian subcontinent falls under the Malayan Realm.

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:

- Realms are large spatial regions with similar biota, generally continent/subcontinent in size.
- India has **two realms** — the Himalayan region under the **Palearctic Realm** and the rest of the subcontinent under the **Malayan Realm**.

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

6. Consider the following statements regarding **Biodiversity Leakage**:

1. It refers to the displacement of nature-damaging human activities due to the protection or restoration of land areas.
2. It occurs when conservation in one area causes environmental harm in another.
3. It can result from shifting deforestation, agriculture, or industrial activities into unprotected regions.
4. If a forest is protected, logging companies may shift operations to another vulnerable area — this is an example of biodiversity leakage.

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

- A. Only two
B. Only three
C. All four
D. None

Answer: C. All four

Explanation:

- Biodiversity leakage means displacement of nature-damaging activities due to protection/restoration of land.
- It occurs when conservation in one place leads to environmental harm in another.
- Common causes include shifting deforestation, agriculture, or industrial operations into unprotected regions.

- The example of logging companies moving from a protected forest to a vulnerable area is a textbook case of biodiversity leakage.

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

7. With reference to the **biomes of India**, consider the following:

1. Tropical Humid Forests
2. Tropical Dry or Deciduous Forests (including Monsoon Forests)
3. Warm Deserts and Semi-deserts
4. Temperate Grasslands
5. Alpine Meadows

How many of the above are recognised as **biomes of India**?

- A. Only three
- B. Only four
- C. All five
- D. None

Answer: B. Only four

Explanation:

- A biome refers to a major community of plants and animals that inhabit regions with specific climate patterns.
- It encompasses the interactions among animals, vegetation, and soil within that environment. The species found in a biome are adapted to its particular conditions.
- In India, the five main biomes are:
 - Tropical Humid Forests
 - Tropical Dry or Deciduous Forests (including Monsoon Forests)
 - Warm Deserts and Semi-deserts
 - Coniferous Forests
 - Alpine Meadows.
- Temperate Grasslands are not a biome found in India.

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

8. Consider the following pairs regarding Biogeographic Zones of India:

No.	Biogeographic Zone	Description
1.	Trans-Himalayas	Covers high-altitude cold desert in Ladakh & Lahaul-Spiti
2.	Himalayas	Covers the entire Himalayan chain from NW to NE India
3.	Desert	Covers arid region west of Aravalli includes salty desert of Gujarat & sand desert of Rajasthan .
4.	Semi-arid	Covers coastal region along western coastline

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Explanation:

- **Trans-Himalayas-**
 - This zone is an **extension of the Tibetan plateau**, covering **Ladakh (J&K)** and **Lahaul-Spiti (Himachal Pradesh)**.
 - Characterised by **high-altitude cold deserts**, sparse vegetation, and unique fauna like the snow leopard and Tibetan wild ass.
- **Himalayas**
 - Includes the **entire Himalayan mountain chain**, stretching from the north-west to the north-east.
 - Contains **diverse biotic provinces** such as temperate forests, alpine meadows, and snow-covered peaks.
- **Desert-** It refers to the **extremely arid area west of the Aravalli hills**, which includes:
 - The **salty desert** of Gujarat (Rann of Kutch)
 - The **sand desert** of Rajasthan (Thar Desert)
- **Semi-arid**
 - The Semi-arid zone lies **between the desert and the Deccan plateau**, including the **Aravalli hill range**.
 - Vegetation is mostly thorn forests and scrublands.
- **Source: Environment (N.C.E.R.T)**

9. Consider the following statements

Statement I:

Pteridophytes possess vascular bundles and have well-differentiated plant bodies consisting of roots, stems, and leaves.

Statement II:

Pteridophytes are considered vascular cryptogams, including plants such as club mosses, horse-tails, and ferns.

Options:

- (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:

- Pteridophytes have well-differentiated roots, stems, and leaves, and contain vascular bundles.
- They are vascular cryptogams (plants with vascular tissues but without seeds), and this classification includes club mosses, horse-tails, and ferns.
- Statement II explains Statement I because the presence of vascular bundles and differentiated organs is why they are grouped as vascular cryptogams.

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

10. Match the following Himalayan regions with their characteristic flora:

Region

Characteristic flora

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| A. Himalayan foothills | 1. Oaks, magnolias, laurels, birches with moss and ferns; orchids and epiphytes dominant |
| B. Western Himalayas (high altitude) | 2. Sal, silk-cotton trees, giant bamboos, tall grassy meadows |
| C. Eastern Himalayas | 3. Rhododendrons, dwarf hill bamboo, birch mixed with alpine pastures |

How many of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) All the three
(d) None

Answer: (c) All the three

Explanation:

- Foothills have monsoon evergreen/semi-evergreen forests, sal, silk-cotton, giant bamboos, and grassy meadows in the Tarai.
- Western Himalayas (high altitude) have rhododendrons, dwarf hill bamboo, birch, and alpine pastures.
- Eastern Himalayas have oaks, magnolias, laurels, birches with moss, orchids, and other epiphytes due to high humidity and rainfall.

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

ANIMAL DIVERSITY OF INDIA

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:

1. Animals listed in Schedule 1 and Part II of Schedule 2 are given absolute protection, and offences under these attract the highest penalties.
2. Schedule 5 contains animals called “vermin” which can be legally hunted.
3. Plants listed in Schedule 6 can be cultivated and traded freely after registration with the State Forest Department.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- Schedule 1 and Part II of Schedule 2 provide absolute protection and the highest penalties.
- Schedule 5 animals (vermin) like rats, mice, crows, and flying fox can be hunted.
- Schedule 6 plants cannot be cultivated, collected, extracted, or traded — it is prohibited, not permitted after registration.

Source: Environment

2. Consider the following statements regarding **Cheetahs**:

1. The Asiatic Cheetah is found only in Iran.
2. Cheetahs naturally occur in tropical rainforests as well as semi-desert regions.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Both
- (c) None
- (d) Cannot be determined from the information given

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

- The Asiatic Cheetah survives only in Iran.
- Cheetahs are absent in tropical rainforests.
- They are found in open grassy habitats, dry forests, savanna woodlands, and semi-deserts.
- It is **Critically Endangered**.

Source: Environment

3. Consider the following statements about the **Asian Giant Tortoise**:

1. It is the largest tortoise species in mainland Asia.
2. It is listed as Endangered by the IUCN.
3. Its natural habitat includes tropical and subtropical mountainous evergreen forests of Southeast Asia

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- It is indeed the largest tortoise species in mainland Asia.
- It is listed as **Critically Endangered by the IUCN**.
- It inhabits tropical and subtropical mountainous evergreen forests in Southeast Asia, including parts of India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Thailand.

Source: Environment

4. Consider the following statements regarding the **Dugong (Sea Cow)**:

1. In India, Dugongs are found only in the Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Bay region.
2. They are herbivorous marine mammals that feed primarily on seagrass.
3. The conservation status of Dugong is critically endangered.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

Options:

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- In India, Dugongs are found not only in the **Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay** but also around the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.
- Dugongs are **strictly herbivorous**, feeding mainly on seagrass meadows.
- The Dugong is classified as **Vulnerable** on the IUCN Red List.

Source: Environment

5. Consider the following statements about **Kharai camels**:

1. They are the only breed of camel in India that can swim in the sea and feed on mangroves.
2. They are found in the coastal regions of Gujarat and are classified as *Critically Endangered* in the IUCN Red List.
3. Their grazing activity contributes to mangrove forest regeneration through pollination.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Kharai camels are indeed the only breed in India that can swim in seawater and feed on mangroves, thanks to their adaptation to both desert and coastal ecosystems.
- They are **Endangered (not Critically Endangered)** as per the IUCN Red List.
- Their grazing helps pollinate and thus regenerate mangrove forests, playing a key ecological role.

Source: Environment

6. Consider the following statements regarding the *Himalayan Musk Deer*:

1. The Himalayan Musk Deer is endemic to India
2. Males possess a musk gland used in perfumes, medicine, and cosmetics.
3. It is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and classified as *Endangered* by the IUCN.

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: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- The Himalayan Musk Deer is not endemic to India; it is found in Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, China, and multiple Indian states (including Kashmir, Ladakh, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh).
- Males indeed have a musk gland located between the genitals and the umbilicus and possess long, curved canine teeth.
- It is under *Schedule I* of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, and is classified as *Endangered* on the IUCN Red List.

Source: Environment

7. Consider the following statements about the *Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros*:

1. It is the largest of all Asian rhino species and is primarily found in the Terai floodplains of India and Nepal.
2. In India, more than two-thirds of its global population occurs in Kaziranga National Park, Assam.
3. It is listed as Endangered in the IUCN Red List and under Appendix II of CITES.

4. It can swim well and is capable of feeding underwater.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (c) Only three

Explanation:

- It is the largest Asian rhino, found in the Terai floodplains of India & Nepal.
- Over 70% of the global population is in Kaziranga NP.
- IUCN status is **Vulnerable, not Endangered**, and it is under **CITES Appendix I**, not Appendix II.
- They are strong swimmers and can feed underwater.

Source: Environment

8. With reference to the *Golden Langur*, consider the following statements:

1. In India, it is confined to a narrow forest belt in western Assam between the Manas River and the Sankosh River.
2. It inhabits moist evergreen, riverine, dipterocarp, and moist deciduous forests.
3. It is classified as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- The Indian population is indeed restricted to western Assam between the Manas and Sankosh rivers.
- They occupy **moist evergreen, riverine, dipterocarp, and moist deciduous** forests.
- IUCN status is **Endangered, not Vulnerable**.

Source: Environment

9. Consider the following:

1. **National Chambal Sanctuary (NCS)**
2. **Katerniaghat Sanctuary**
3. **Chitwan National Park**
4. **Son River Sanctuary**
5. **Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary**
6. **Sri Lankamalleswara Wildlife Sanctuary**

In how many of the above sanctuaries do Gharial primarily survive?

- a) 2 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 5 only
- d) All 6

Answer: (c) 5 only

Explanation:

- The Gharial primarily survives in five key sanctuaries: **National Chambal Sanctuary (NCS), Katarniaghat Sanctuary, Chitwan National Park, Son River Sanctuary and Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary.**

Source: Environment

10. Consider the following statements about the *White-Winged Duck*:

1. In India, it is found exclusively in Assam's Kaziranga National Park.
2. It is the state bird of Assam
3. It is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) All three
- d) None

Answer: (b) Only 2

Explanation:

- In India, its primary populations are in **Assam's Nameri National Park and Dihing Patkai National Park, with smaller groups in Arunachal Pradesh** — not exclusively in Kaziranga NP.
- This elusive bird is the **state bird of Assam, India.**
- Conservation status under IUCN is **Endangered status**

Source: Environment

Protected areas of India

1. Consider the following pairs:

Sanctuary / Reserve / Park	Key Feature
1. Sharavathi Lion-Tailed Macaque Wildlife Sanctuary	Located in the Karnataka
2. Tsarap Chu Conservation Reserve	Located in Himachal Pradesh
3. Indravati National Park	Located in Chhattisgarh
4. Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve	Located in Maharashtra

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. All 4

Answer: D. All 4

Explanation:

- **Sharavathi Lion-Tailed Macaque Wildlife Sanctuary (Karnataka)** is located in the Western Ghats and is a critical habitat for the endangered Lion-Tailed Macaque.

- **Tsarap Chu Conservation Reserve (Himachal Pradesh)** covers 1,585 sq km, making it India's largest conservation reserve, and supports snow leopard populations.
- **Indravati National Park is located in Chhattisgarh.** It hosts one of the last wild buffalo populations in India.
- **Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve** is both the oldest and largest national park in **Maharashtra**

Source: Environment (Factly)

2. Consider the following statements about Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary:

1. It is located in the Mayurbhanj district of Odisha.
2. It forms part of the Similipal–Kuldiha–Hadgarh Elephant Reserve.
3. Teak (*Tectona grandis*) is the dominant tree species in its forests.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B. 2 only

Explanation:

- Kuldiha is in Balasore district, not Mayurbhanj.
- It is part of the Similipal–Kuldiha–Hadgarh Elephant Reserve.
- Sal, not Teak, is the dominant tree species.

Source: Environment (Factly)

3. Consider the following protected areas:

1. Tadoba-Andhari
2. Phawngpui
3. Kawal
4. Kalakkad – Mundanthurai

Which of the above are declared Tiger Reserves?

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

Answer: (b) 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **The Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary was formed in the year 1986 and was amalgamated with the park in 1995 to establish the present Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve.**
- **Phawngpui National Park is located in Mizoram.** It is named after Phawngpui Mountain, the highest peak in Mizoram, and is also popularly known as Phawngpui Blue Mountain National Park.
- **Kawal Tiger Reserve is situated in Telangana along the Godavari River, forming part of the Deccan Peninsula-Central Highlands. It was declared Tiger Reserve in 2012.**
- **Kalakkad – Mundanthurai is the southernmost Tiger Reserve in India.** It is located in Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts of Tamil Nadu and is part of the Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve. It was declared a Tiger Reserve in 1988.

Source: Environment (Factly)

4. With reference to certain protected areas in India, consider the following pairs of location and associated geographical feature:

1. Nokrek Biosphere Reserve – Garo Hills
2. Loktak Lake – Barail Range
3. Namdapha National Park – Dafla Hills

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

- **Nokrek Biosphere Reserve**- Located in Meghalaya's West Garo Hills, East Garo Hills, and South Garo Hills districts. Known for being a habitat of the red panda and rich biodiversity.
- **Loktak Lake**- Loktak Lake is in Manipur's Bishnupur district, famous for phumdis (floating vegetation). It is not associated with the Barail Range — that range is in parts of Assam and Nagaland.
- **Namdapha National Park** – Namdapha National Park is in Changlang district, Arunachal Pradesh in the Eastern Himalayas and Patkai hills region. The Dafla Hills are located in western Arunachal Pradesh along the Arunachal-Assam border.

Source: Environment (Factly)

5. Consider the following statements about Ranthambore National Park:

1. It is located at the junction of the Aravalli and Vindhya hill ranges in Rajasthan.
2. The park is bounded by the Chambal River to the north and the Banas River to the south.
3. "Dhok" (Anogeissus pendula) is the most prevalent plant species in its forests.

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:

- **Ranthambore lies at the junction of the Aravalli and Vindhya hill ranges in Rajasthan's Sawai Madhopur district.**
- It is bounded by the Banas River to the north and the Chambal River to the south, not the other way around.
- "Dhok" (Anogeissus pendula) is indeed the dominant plant species.

Source: Environment (Factly)

6. Consider the following Pairs:

Protected area	River flowing through it
1. Phawngpui National Park	Koladyne River
2. Sri Lankamalleswara Wildlife Sanctuary	Pennar River
3. Anamudi Shola National Park	Pambar rivers
4. Indravati National Park	Indravati River

How many of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) All four

Answer: (d) All 4

Explanation:

- Phawngpui NP (Mizoram) – Koladyne River
- Sri Lankamalleswara WLS (Andhra Pradesh) – Pennar River
- Anamudi Shola NP (Kerala) – Pambar River
- Indravati NP (Chhattisgarh) – Indravati River

Source: Environment (Factly)

7. In which one of the following National Parks of India can you experience a range of climates from tropical and subtropical to temperate and even arctic conditions?

- (a) Khangchendzonga National Park
- (b) Nanda Devi National Park
- (c) Neora Valley National Park
- (d) Namdapha National Park

Answer: (d) Namdapha National Park

Explanation:

- Namdapha National Park (Arunachal Pradesh) spans altitudes from about 200 metres to over 4,500 metres, creating a unique climate gradient — tropical forests in the lowlands, subtropical and temperate zones in the mid-altitudes, and alpine/arctic conditions at the highest reaches.
- The park lies in the Eastern Himalayas and is known for its incredible biodiversity, including four big cat species — tiger, leopard, snow leopard, and clouded leopard.

Source: Environment (Factly)

8. Consider the following statements about *Kaziranga Tiger Reserve*:

1. It is in the floodplain of the Brahmaputra River in Assam.
2. The Difalu River flows through the core area of the reserve.
3. It connects with Orang and Nameri Tiger Reserves through river island corridors.
4. It has the highest tiger density in the world.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) All four

Answer: (c) 3 only

Explanation:

- Kaziranga lies in the floodplain of the Brahmaputra in Assam.
- The Difalu River, a Brahmaputra tributary, flows through the core tiger habitat.
- It has corridor connectivity via Brahmaputra island systems to Orang and Nameri Tiger Reserves.
- Kaziranga has the third-highest tiger density in the world, not the highest.

Source: Environment (Factly)

9. Consider the following:

It is located in Jharkhand. It is India's first and only wolf sanctuary, dedicated to the conservation of the Indian grey wolf. The sanctuary is home to many species of wild animals including spotted deer, wild boar, hyena, bear and wolf.

The above description is about:

- a) Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary
- b) Betla National Park
- c) Palkot Wildlife Sanctuary
- d) Topchanchi Wildlife Sanctuary

Answer: (a) Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary

Explanation:

- Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary, located in the Latehar district of Jharkhand.
- It was declared a sanctuary in 1976 and is India's first and only sanctuary dedicated to conserving the Indian grey wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*).
- It forms an integral part of the Palamau Tiger Reserve and is home to diverse wildlife, including spotted deer, wild boar, hyena, bear, and wolf.

Source: Environment (Factly)

10. Consider the following statements about Dehing Patkai National Park:

- 1. It is India's largest stretch of lowland rainforest, also known as the "Amazon of the East."
- 2. It was declared a National Park in 2004 and later designated as an Elephant Reserve under Project Elephant in 2021.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A. 1 only

Explanation:

- Dehing Patkai is indeed the largest lowland rainforest in India and is popularly called the "Amazon of the East."
- In 2004, it was declared a *Wildlife Sanctuary*, not a National Park. It was officially notified as a *National Park* in 2021. It was also declared as an *Elephant Reserve* earlier, under Project Elephant, highlighting its importance for elephant conservation.

Source: Environment (Factly)

Protected areas in India (Part 2)

1. With reference to **Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary**, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is located near the Hirakud Dam on the Mahanadi River in Odisha.
- 2. Its predominant vegetation type is tropical evergreen forest.
- 3. Tigers, sloth bears, and spotted deer are found in this sanctuary.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary lies in Bargarh district, Odisha, near the Hirakud Dam on the Mahanadi River.
- Its vegetation is *dry deciduous mixed forest*, not a tropical evergreen.
- The sanctuary's fauna includes tigers, sloth bears, leopards, hyenas, spotted deer, sambar, gaur, nilgai, bison, and langurs.

Source: Environment (Factly)

2. With reference to **Ramadevara Betta Vulture Sanctuary**, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first and only vulture sanctuary, located in Karnataka.
2. It was declared an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) in 2017.
3. Only the Indian Long-Billed Vulture is found here.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Explanation:

- The Ramadevara Betta Vulture Sanctuary, located in the Ramadevara Betta Hill Range, Ramanagara, Karnataka, was established in 2012 and is India's first and only vulture sanctuary.
- It was declared an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) in 2017 to safeguard endangered vultures.
- Apart from the Indian Long-Billed Vulture (*Gyps indicus*), the sanctuary also hosts the Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) and the White-Backed Vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*).

Source: Environment (Factly)

3. With reference to Sagarshwar Wildlife Sanctuary, consider the following statements:

1. It is India's first man-made wildlife sanctuary where most wildlife species have been artificially introduced.
2. It is characterised by southern dry mixed deciduous and southern thorn forest vegetation.

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:

- It was located in Sangli district, Maharashtra, Sagarshwar is India's first man-made wildlife sanctuary, with most wildlife species introduced artificially.
- The vegetation consists of *southern dry mixed deciduous and southern thorn forests*.

Source: Environment (Factly)

4. Consider the following:

It is located in Jagdalpur, within the Bastar District of Chhattisgarh. It is named after a Kolab River that flows centrally through. It is known for Tirathgarh Falls, limestone caves such as Kotumsar, Kailash, and Dandak, and rich biodiversity including the Bastar Hill Myna.

The above description is about:

- (a) Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary
- (b) Indravati National Park
- (c) Kanger Valley National Park
- (d) Achanakmar Tiger Reserve

Answer: (c) Kanger Valley National Park

Explanation:

- Kanger Valley National Park is located in Jagdalpur, Bastar District, Chhattisgarh, and derives its name from the Kanger River. The river, a tributary of the Kolab, ultimately joins the Godavari River.
- The park features varied topography—low flatlands, plateaus, deep gorges, and valleys—and is known for the scenic 150 ft Tirathgarh Falls.
- It houses over 15 limestone caves, including Kotumsar, Kailash, and Dandak.
- The mixed moist deciduous forests here are dominated by sal, teak, and bamboo, and the park supports diverse wildlife, including the state bird of Chhattisgarh, the Bastar Hill Myna.

Source: Environment (Factly)

5. Consider the following statements about **Anamudi Shola National Park**:

1. It is located in the **Idukki district of Kerala** near Munnar and forms part of the **Western Ghats**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
2. It serves as a **critical watershed area** for rivers like the Periyar and Pambar.
3. It is primarily covered by **tropical dry deciduous forests** and is home to species like the Nilgiri tahr and lion-tailed macaque.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- Anamudi Shola National Park is indeed located in the Idukki district of Kerala near Munnar, within the Western Ghats, which are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The park acts as a vital watershed for rivers such as the Periyar and Pambar.
- The park is dominated by **tropical montane forests, shola forests, and grasslands**, not tropical dry deciduous forests. It does host the Nilgiri tahr and lion-tailed macaque.

Source: Environment (Factly)

6. Consider the following pairs:

Sanctuary / Reserve / Park	Location
1. Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 2. Khecheopalri Lake | Sikkim |
| 3. Udhwa Lake Bird Sanctuary | Jharkhand |
| 4. Therthangal Bird Sanctuary | Karnataka |

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. 3 only
D. All 4

Answer: B (2 and 3 only)

Explanation:

- The Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary is situated in the Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu.
- The Therthangal Bird Sanctuary is also located in the **Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu**.
- Khecheopalri Lake is located near Khecheopalri village in West Sikkim.
- The Udhwa Lake Bird Sanctuary is located in the **Sahibganj district of Jharkhand**.

Source: Environment (Factly)

7. Consider the following statements about **Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary**:

1. It is located in **Kerala** and forms part of the **Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve**.
2. The sanctuary is named after a rare tree species, *Chenkurinji* (*Gluta travancorica*), which is endemic to the region.
3. Its vegetation is dominated exclusively by **tropical dry deciduous forests**.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary is in Kollam district, Kerala, and is part of the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve.
- The sanctuary's name comes from the endemic tree species *Chenkurinji* (*Gluta travancorica*).
- The dominant vegetation consists of tropical evergreen, semi-evergreen, and moist deciduous forests, not exclusively tropical dry deciduous forests.

Source: Environment (Factly)

8. With reference to **Ratapani Tiger Reserve**, consider the following statements:

1. It is located in the Vindhyachal Mountain Ranges in Madhya Pradesh.
2. It includes the Bhimbetka rock shelters, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
3. The Narmada River forms its western boundary, while the Kolar River flows along its northern side.

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

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only

- (c) All 3
(d) None

Answer: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

- It is located in the Vindhya Mountain Ranges in Madhya Pradesh.
- It includes Bhimbetka rock shelters, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The sanctuary runs parallel to the Narmada on its **northern** side, and the **Kolar River forms the western boundary**, not the northern boundary.

Source: Environment (Factly)

9. With reference to *Guru Ghasidas–Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve*, consider the following statements:

1. It is part of the Chota Nagpur Plateau and shares a contiguous landscape with Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.
2. Sal is the dominant species in its dry thorn forest vegetation.
3. It is the third-largest tiger reserve in India by area.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- It lies partly in the Chota Nagpur Plateau (and Baghelkhand Plateau) and forms a contiguous landscape with Sanjay Dubri TR.
- While Sal is abundant, the reserve's vegetation is **sub-tropical and deciduous forests**, not dry thorn forest.
- With an area of **2,829.38 sq. km**, it is the **third-largest tiger reserve** in India.

Source: Environment (Factly)

10. Which one of the following National Parks lies entirely within the *temperate alpine* zone?

- (a) Manas National Park
(b) Namdapha National Park
(c) Neora Valley National Park
(d) Valley of Flowers National Park

Answer: (d) Valley of Flowers National Park

Explanation:

- **Valley of Flowers National Park** (Uttarakhand) lies entirely in the **temperate alpine zone** of the Himalayas, at elevations generally above **3,200 m**. This altitude supports alpine meadows, endemic flora, and no tropical/subtropical vegetation.
- **Manas National Park** (Assam) — Mostly tropical and subtropical grasslands/forests.
- **Namdapha National Park** (Arunachal Pradesh) — Has a wide altitudinal range from tropical evergreen forests to alpine meadows, but not entirely in the alpine zone.
- **Neora Valley National Park** (West Bengal) — Contains sub-tropical, temperate, and alpine vegetation, but not fully alpine.

Source: Environment (Factly)

