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UPSC Prelims 2026

Question Bank

Environment & Ecology

153 questions · with full explanations

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS PDF

Priority bucket	Description	Count
T1+focus	Must-know, focus events (highest priority)	84
T2+focus	Important, focus events	52
T2	Important, non-focus events	15
T3	Supporting / background events	2
TOTAL		153

HOW TO USE THIS BANK

Questions are grouped by priority bucket, with most-important (T1+focus) first. Within each bucket they are ordered by event date (newest first). Every question shows the source event, full options with the correct answer marked, a detailed explanation, the topic + concepts tested, and a link back to the original revision note on prepdose.in for deeper study.

About the Publishers



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Tier 1 - Must-Know (Focus Events)

84 questions

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Q1. Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2026 Notified

T1+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2026-03-31

Consider the following statements regarding the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2026:

1. The relaxation allowing producers to carry forward unfulfilled recycled plastic content targets for three consecutive years is strictly limited solely to food contact applications.
2. The amendment defers the levy of Environmental Compensation for shortfalls in the overall collection and end-of-life disposal targets of plastic waste for a three-year transitional period.

- (A) 1 only ✓
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The 2026 amendment introduces a specific transitional mechanism that allows unfulfilled recycled content targets to be carried forward for up to three consecutive years. This relaxation is strictly limited solely to 'food contact applications' due to the high risk of chemical contamination and the need to meet FSSAI norms.

Statement 2 (incorrect): The deferment of Environmental Compensation applies only to the recycled content shortfall for food packaging. The overall Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) targets for the collection, recycling, and end-of-life disposal of plastic waste remain strictly unchanged, and no such deferment applies to them.

Topic: Environment - Pollution

Concepts: Extended Producer Responsibility, Plastic Waste Management, Circular Economy

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Plastic Waste Management \(Amendment\) Rules, 2026 Notified](#)

Q2. Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2026 Notified

T1+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2026-03-31

Consider the following statements:

1. Under the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2026, the carry-forward of unfulfilled recycled plastic content targets is permitted solely for food contact applications.
2. The Environmental Compensation for shortfalls in recycled content for food packaging is deferred, provided the combined targets are met within a three-year window.
3. The amendment introduces new exemptions to the overall Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) targets for the collection and disposal of plastic waste.
4. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is legally mandated to issue standardized audit and verification guidelines within six months of the notification.

- (A) Only one
 (B) Only two
 (C) **Only three** ✓
 (D) All four

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The 2026 amendment explicitly allows unfulfilled recycled content targets to be carried forward for up to three consecutive years specifically and solely for 'food contact applications' due to FSSAI compliance barriers. (This statement uses the extreme word 'solely' but is factually correct).

Statement 2 (correct): For food packaging, the Environmental Compensation (EC) trigger for recycled content shortfall is deferred, provided the PIBO meets the combined targets within the three-year carry-forward window.

Statement 3 (incorrect): The overall EPR targets for the collection, recycling, and end-of-life disposal of plastic waste remain strictly unchanged. The relaxations are strictly limited to the mandate of using 'recycled content' in food contact applications.

Statement 4 (correct): The rules legally mandate the CPCB to issue strict, standardized audit and verification guidelines within six months to curb fraudulent compliance and fake EPR certificates. Therefore, exactly three statements are correct.

Topic: Environment - Pollution & Waste Management

Concepts: Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Plastic Waste Management, Circular Economy

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Plastic Waste Management \(Amendment\) Rules, 2026 Notified](#)

Q3. Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2026 Notified

T1+focus · how_many_correct · HARD · 2026-03-31

Consider the following statements:

1. Under the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2026, Producers, Importers, and Brand Owners (PIBOs) are permitted to carry forward unfulfilled targets for the collection of plastic packaging waste for up to three consecutive years.
2. The immediate levy of Environmental Compensation for shortfalls in mandatory recycled plastic content is deferred solely for food contact applications.
3. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is legally mandated to issue standardized audit guidelines within six months to address fraudulent Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) compliance.
4. The 2026 amendment introduces temporary exemptions to the nationwide ban on specific single-use plastic items to accommodate the shortage of approved food-grade recycling facilities.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (A) Only one
- (B) **Only two** ✓
- (C) Only three
- (D) All four

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The three-year carry-forward relaxation applies strictly to the mandate of using 'recycled content' in food contact applications. The overall EPR targets for the collection, recycling, and end-of-life disposal of plastic waste remain strictly unchanged.

Statement 2 (correct): The rules explicitly carve out food contact applications, deferring the immediate Environmental Compensation trigger for shortfalls in recycled content, provided combined targets are met within the three-year window. The use of 'solely' is factually correct here, as general packaging does not receive this exemption.

Statement 3 (correct): The amendment legally mandates the CPCB to issue strict, standardized audit and verification guidelines within six months to curb widespread allegations of fake EPR certificates.

Statement 4 (incorrect): The nationwide ban on specific single-use plastic (SUP) items, effective since July 2022, continues to be enforced without any new relaxations or exemptions.

Topic: Environment - Pollution

Concepts: Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Circular Economy, Plastic Waste Management

→ [Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Plastic Waste Management \(Amendment\) Rules, 2026 Notified](#)

Q4. Submission of Seventh National Report to CBD

T1+focus · statement_based · HARD · 2026-02-26

With reference to India's Seventh National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity, consider the following statements:

1. Despite tracking 23 National Biodiversity Targets, the report provides clear quantitative projections for actual ecological achievement by 2030 for only two targets.
2. The only targets identified with verifiable numerical trajectories in the report pertain to land and sea-use planning and ecosystem restoration.

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) **Both 1 and 2 ✓**
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Both statements are correct. While the government officially stated that all 23 National Biodiversity Targets are 'on track' through a 'whole-of-government' policy alignment, the foundational challenge of quantifying biodiversity success remains. Independent analysis of the Seventh National Report reveals that only two of the 23 targets have clear quantitative projections proving they will hit the 2030 numerical benchmarks. These specific targets are NBT1 (land/sea-use planning) and NBT2 (ecosystem restoration). For the remaining targets, the framework relies on tracking ongoing policies rather than concrete numerical projections for actual ecological achievement. This question deliberately uses the extreme word 'only' in both statements as a factually correct provision to test deep conceptual clarity over elimination heuristics.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), National Biodiversity Targets, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Submission of Seventh National Report to CBD](#)

Q5. Submission of Seventh National Report to CBD

T1+focus · statement_based · HARD · 2026-02-26

With reference to India's Seventh National Report (NR-7) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), consider the following statements:

1. Only two of the 23 National Biodiversity Targets are clearly identified in the report as having quantitative, verifiable trajectories for 2030.
2. The preparation of the report involved coordinating inputs from exactly 33 different central ministries to integrate biodiversity across various sectors.

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) **Both 1 and 2 ✓**
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): This statement weaponizes the extreme word 'only' to test a misconception. While the government stated all 23 targets are 'on track' through policy alignment, independent analysis of the report reveals that only two targets (NBT1 on land/sea-use planning and NBT2 on ecosystem restoration) have clear quantitative projections proving they will hit the 2030 numerical benchmarks.

Statement 2 (correct): India's NR-7 explicitly emphasizes a 'whole-of-government' approach, coordinating inputs from 33 different central ministries to integrate biodiversity across infrastructure, agriculture, and coastal sector policies, moving beyond the traditional view that environmental protection is solely the domain of the MoEFCC.

Topic: Environment and Ecology

Concepts: Convention on Biological Diversity, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, National Biodiversity Targets

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Submission of Seventh National Report to CBD](#)

Q6. Submission of Seventh National Report to CBD

T1+focus · simple_mcq · HARD · 2026-02-26

Regarding India's Seventh National Report (NR-7) submitted to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which of the following accurately describes the tracking of the 23 National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs)?

- (A) The assessment framework relies solely on broad policy alignment, as none of the targets currently possess verifiable numerical trajectories for 2030.
- (B) Clear quantitative projections for achieving the 2030 numerical benchmarks are restricted solely to the targets concerning land/sea-use planning and ecosystem restoration. ✓**
- (C) The targets are evaluated using 142 national indicators monitored exclusively by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to ensure standardized reporting.
- (D) Progress tracking for all 23 targets relies entirely on the Parivesh 2.0 portal, which compiles data on development proposals in eco-sensitive zones.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Option 2 (correct): Despite the optimistic alignment of policies, a foundational limitation identified in the report is that only two of the 23 targets (NBT1 on land/sea-use planning and NBT2 on ecosystem restoration) have clear quantitative, verifiable trajectories proving they will hit the 2030 numerical benchmarks.

Option 1 (incorrect): because two targets do possess these numerical trajectories.

Option 3 (incorrect): because the report emphasizes a 'whole-of-government' approach that coordinates inputs from 33 different central ministries, rather than relying exclusively on the MoEFCC.

Option 4 (incorrect): because while Parivesh 2.0 is used to track environmental clearances in eco-sensitive zones, the 23 targets are tracked via a dedicated digital data portal compiling 142 specific national indicators.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Convention on Biological Diversity, National Biodiversity Targets, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Submission of Seventh National Report to CBD](#)

Q7. Submission of Seventh National Report to CBD

T1+focus · match_pairs · MEDIUM · 2026-02-26

Match List-I (Parameter in India's Seventh National Report to the CBD) with List-II (Reported Value): List-I A. National indicators compiled in the dedicated digital data portal B. Central ministries coordinating inputs for the 'whole-of-government' approach C. National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs) identified with clear quantitative projections D. Average processing time (in days) under the Parivesh 2.0 system List-II i. 2 ii. 33 iii. 63 iv. 142

- (A) A-iv, B-ii, C-i, D-iii ✓
- (B) A-iv, B-iii, C-i, D-ii
- (C) A-ii, B-iv, C-iii, D-i
- (D) A-iii, B-ii, C-iv, D-i

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Based on India's Seventh National Report (NR-7) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): - A matches iv: The report uses a dedicated digital data portal that compiles exactly 142 specific national indicators. - B matches ii: The NR-7 explicitly emphasizes a 'whole-of-government' approach by coordinating inputs from 33 different central ministries. - C matches i: Despite having 23 National Biodiversity Targets in total, independent analysis reveals that only two targets (NBT1 and NBT2) have clear quantitative projections proving they will hit the 2030 numerical benchmarks. - D matches iii: The single-window system Parivesh 2.0 has reduced the average processing time for development proposals in eco-sensitive zones to around 63 days. Therefore, the correct matching code is A-iv, B-ii, C-i, D-iii.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity Conservation

Concepts: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Submission of Seventh National Report to CBD](#)

Q8. NGT Notice on Detachable Plastic Bottle Caps Pollution

T1+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2026-02-20

Consider the following statements:

1. While beverage bottles are typically classified as Category I plastic (PET), their detachable caps are generally made of Category II plastics such as High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE).
2. The Central Pollution Control Board's existing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) portal tracks compliance for these bottles through a component-specific mechanism that separately accounts for the PET body and the cap.

- (A) 1 only ✓
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): According to the source, beverage bottles are typically made of Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET), which is a Category I plastic, while their caps are generally made of High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) or Polypropylene (PP), which are Category II plastics.

Statement 2 (incorrect): The existing EPR portal tracks compliance based on overall plastic tonnage (mass-based accounting), which fails to track small, discrete components like caps. The NGT has only recently directed the CPCB to evaluate if a sub-category or component-specific tracking mechanism is required, meaning it is not part of the existing portal's tracking mechanism.

Topic: Environment - Pollution & Waste Management

Concepts: Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Plastic Waste Management, Microplastics

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: NGT Notice on Detachable Plastic Bottle Caps Pollution](#)

Q9. NGT Notice on Detachable Plastic Bottle Caps Pollution

T1+focus · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2026-02-20

According to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) notice regarding detachable plastic bottle caps, what specific limitation in the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) tracking mechanism was highlighted as a cause for these caps escaping the formal waste stream?

- (A) **The EPR portal relies on mass-based accounting of overall plastic tonnage, failing to track small, discrete components. ✓**
- (B) The EPR guidelines explicitly differentiate recycling targets between the PET body and the PP/HDPE cap, complicating co-collection.
- (C) The EPR framework classifies bottle caps as an unavoidable leakage in municipal solid waste, legally exempting them from scrutiny.
- (D) The EPR portal tracks bottle caps as Category I plastics, which sink in recycling tanks and are lost during processing.

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): The NGT highlighted that the CPCB's EPR portal tracks compliance based on overall plastic tonnage (mass-based accounting), which fails to track small, discrete components like caps.

Option 2 (incorrect): The source states that recycling targets did NOT explicitly differentiate between the PET body and the cap.

Option 3 (incorrect): While caps were previously treated as unavoidable leakage, the NGT notice means they are now legally scrutinized as a preventable source of pollution under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Option 4 (incorrect): Caps are made of Category II plastics (HDPE/PP) that float, whereas the bottles themselves are Category I (PET) plastics that sink.

Topic: Environment - Pollution

Concepts: Extended Producer Responsibility, Plastic Waste Management, Microplastics

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: NGT Notice on Detachable Plastic Bottle Caps Pollution](#)

Q10. NGT Notice on Detachable Plastic Bottle Caps Pollution

T1+focus · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2026-02-20

Why does the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) portal currently fail to adequately track the end-of-life recovery of plastic bottle caps?

- (A) **It tracks compliance based on overall plastic tonnage, allowing small discrete components to be overlooked within bulk weight targets. ✓**
- (B) It exclusively monitors Category I plastics such as PET, thereby legally exempting the HDPE and PP polymers used for caps.
- (C) It enforces tracking only for items exceeding a specific volumetric threshold, inherently excluding small items like caps and rings.
- (D) It calculates recycling rates based solely on municipal solid waste sorting data rather than the production data of Brand Owners.

Answer: (A)

Explanation

The correct answer is Option 1. According to the source event, the CPCB's EPR portal tracks compliance based on overall plastic tonnage (mass-based accounting). This bulk-weight approach fails to track small, discrete components like caps, which frequently detach and escape the formal waste stream.

Option 2 (incorrect): because the portal tracks overall plastic tonnage across Categories I to IV, not just Category I.

Option 3 (incorrect): because the systemic limitation is mass-based tracking, not a specific volumetric threshold exemption.

Option 4 (incorrect): because the EPR framework mandates Producers, Importers, and Brand Owners (PIBOs) themselves to ensure the recycling of their plastic packaging.

Topic: Environment and Ecology

Concepts: Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Plastic Waste Management, Microplastic Pollution

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: NGT Notice on Detachable Plastic Bottle Caps Pollution](#)

Q11. NGT Notice on Detachable Plastic Bottle Caps Pollution

T1+focus · simple_mcq · HARD · 2026-02-20

Under India's plastic waste management framework and recycling processes, which of the following accurately describes the distinction between standard beverage bottles and their detachable caps?

- (A) Both components are classified as Category I plastics under the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) guidelines, but caps escape the formal waste stream because they float in recycling tanks.
- (B) The bottle consists of Category I Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) which sinks in a recycle tank, while the cap consists of Category II High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) or Polypropylene (PP) which floats. ✓**
- (C) The bottle is made of Category II High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE), while the cap is made of Category I Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET), requiring mandatory tethering under the 2022 EPR guidelines.
- (D) Both components are currently tracked as distinct sub-categories on the CPCB's EPR portal to ensure that their differing polymer structures are separately recycled.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Option 2 (correct): Standard beverage bottles are typically made of PET (Category I plastic) which sinks during the recycling process, whereas the caps are made of HDPE or PP (Category II plastic) which float.

Option 1 (incorrect): because the bottle and cap are not both Category I plastics; caps fall under Category II.

Option 3 (incorrect): because it reverses the materials (bottles are PET, caps are HDPE) and falsely claims tethering is mandatory under the 2022 EPR guidelines, whereas tethering is currently an EU mandate and only under scrutiny by the NGT in India.

Option 4 (incorrect): because the CPCB's EPR portal currently tracks compliance based on overall plastic tonnage (Category I to IV), failing to track small, discrete components like caps as distinct sub-categories.

Topic: Environment - Pollution & Waste Management

Concepts: Plastic Waste Management, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Microplastic Pollution

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: NGT Notice on Detachable Plastic Bottle Caps Pollution](#)

Q12. NGT Upholds Great Nicobar Island Project Clearance

T1+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2026-02-16

Consider the following statements:

1. The High-Powered Committee report evaluating the ecological impact of the Great Nicobar Island project was kept confidential by the NGT and not placed in the public domain.
2. The NGT placed direct compliance responsibility for implementing the shoreline protection plan on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO).

- (A) 1 only ✓
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): Despite widespread demands from environmental and tribal rights groups, the High-Powered Committee (HPC) report was kept confidential and not placed in the public domain by the NGT due to the strategic and defense sensitivities of the project.

Statement 2 (incorrect): While the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO) is the implementing agency for the overall infrastructure project, the NGT placed direct compliance responsibility for the execution plan regarding shoreline protection and safeguarding nesting beaches specifically on the Union Environment Ministry (MoEFCC).

Topic: Environment - Conservation

Concepts: Environmental Impact Assessment, Judicial Review in Environment, Development vs Conservation

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: NGT Upholds Great Nicobar Island Project Clearance](#)

Q13. NGT Upholds Great Nicobar Island Project Clearance

T1+focus · statement_based · EASY · 2026-02-16

Consider the following statements:

1. The National Green Tribunal cancelled the Great Nicobar Island project's environmental clearance because it fell within the strictly prohibited Island Coastal Regulation Zone-IA (ICRZ-IA).
2. The High-Powered Committee (HPC) report on the project's ecological impact was never placed in the public domain by the National Green Tribunal due to strategic sensitivities.

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 only ✓
 (C) Both 1 and 2
 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The NGT upheld the project's environmental clearance, accepting expert reports from the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) that concluded the project area does not actually fall under the strictly prohibited ICRZ-IA category.

Statement 2 (correct): The High-Powered Committee (HPC) report was kept confidential and never placed in the public domain by the NGT due to the strategic and defense sensitivities of the project, despite widespread demands from environmental groups.

Topic: Environment and Ecology

Concepts: Environmental Impact Assessment, Coastal Regulation Zones, Development vs Conservation

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: NGT Upholds Great Nicobar Island Project Clearance](#)

Q14. NGT Upholds Great Nicobar Island Project Clearance

T1+focus · simple_mcq · EASY · 2026-02-16

The 'Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island' project, which received final clearance validation from the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in 2026, is being implemented by which of the following entities?

- (A) NITI Aayog
(B) Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO) ✓
 (C) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
 (D) National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM)

Answer: (B)

Explanation

According to the source event, the 'Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island' project is being implemented by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO). While NITI Aayog conceptualized the project in 2021 (making Option 1 incorrect), ANIIDCO is the implementing agency. The MoEFCC was responsible for granting the Environmental Clearance (

Option 3 (incorrect):), and the NCSCM provided expert reports concluding the project area does not fall under the strictly prohibited ICRZ-IA category (

Option 4 (incorrect):).

Topic: Environment and Ecology

Concepts: Infrastructure Development, Environmental Clearance, Governance and Implementation

[→ Read the full revision note on Prepdose: NGT Upholds Great Nicobar Island Project Clearance](#)

Q15. NGT Upholds Great Nicobar Island Project Clearance

T1+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2026-02-16

Consider the following statements:

1. The mega-infrastructure project was conceptualized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and is being implemented by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Integrated Development Corporation (ANIIDCO).
2. Relying on expert reports, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) concluded that no part of the project area falls under the strictly prohibited Island Coastal Regulation Zone-IA (ICRZ-IA).
3. The NGT placed direct compliance responsibility on the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) to implement the execution plan for shoreline protection and safeguarding nesting beaches.
4. The High-Powered Committee (HPC) report on the project's ecological impact was kept completely confidential and excluded from the public domain due to strategic sensitivities.

- (A) Only one
- (B) **Only two ✓**
- (C) Only three
- (D) All four

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The 'Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island' project was conceptualized by NITI Aayog in 2021, not the MoEFCC, though it is implemented by ANIIDCO. The MoEFCC is the body that granted the Environmental Clearance.

Statement 2 (correct): The NGT accepted the findings of the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), which concluded that no part of the project lies in the restricted ICRZ-IA zone, dismissing petitioners' claims.

Statement 3 (incorrect): The NGT placed direct compliance responsibility for shoreline protection and safeguarding nesting beaches on the Union


Environment Ministry (MoEFCC), not the ZSI. The ZSI's role was related to suggesting 'coral translocation' methods.

Statement 4 (correct): Despite demands from environmental groups, the NGT accepted a plea of strategic confidentiality, keeping the HPC report out of the public domain due to the project's defense and strategic importance. Therefore, exactly two statements (2 and 4) are correct.

Topic: Environment - Environmental Impact Assessment

Concepts: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Coastal Regulation Zones (CRZ), Development vs Conservation, Environmental Governance

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: NGT Upholds Great Nicobar Island Project Clearance](#)



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Q16. Addition of Two New Ramsar Sites in India

T1+focus · simple_mcq · EASY · 2026-02-01

In February 2026, the Patna Bird Sanctuary was added to India's list of Ramsar sites. According to its geographical location, where is this sanctuary situated?

- (A) **In the Jalesar subdivision of Uttar Pradesh ✓**
- (B) Within the capital region of Bihar
- (C) On the edge of the Banni grasslands in Gujarat
- (D) In the arid desert ecosystem of Kutch

Answer: (A)

Explanation

The Patna Bird Sanctuary is located in the Jalesar subdivision of Etah district, Uttar Pradesh.

Option 2 (incorrect): because, despite the name 'Patna' causing geographical confusion with the capital of Bihar, the sanctuary is entirely within Uttar Pradesh. Options 3 and 4 are incorrect as they describe the geographical location of the Chhari-Dhand Wetland, which was the other site designated as a Ramsar wetland on the same date.

Topic: Environment - Protected Areas

Concepts: Ramsar Convention, Wetlands, Protected Areas of India

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Addition of Two New Ramsar Sites in India](#)

Q17. Addition of Two New Ramsar Sites in India

T1+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2026-02-01

Consider the following statements:

1. Patna Bird Sanctuary is the smallest bird sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh and is vulnerable to agricultural runoff.
2. Chhari-Dhand is a permanent freshwater lake located in the arid Kutch ecosystem of Gujarat.
3. The Ramsar designation of Chhari-Dhand curtails the traditional grazing rights of the local Maldhari pastoralist community.
4. With the addition of these two sites in 2026, India's total Ramsar count reached 98, maintaining its top position in Asia.

- (A) Only one
(B) **Only two ✓**
(C) Only three
(D) All four

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): Patna Bird Sanctuary is the smallest bird sanctuary in UP (just over 1 sq km) and is vulnerable to agricultural runoff.

Statement 2 (incorrect): Chhari-Dhand is a seasonal, saline desert wetland on the edge of the Banni grasslands, not a permanent freshwater lake.

Statement 3 (incorrect): Despite the Ramsar tag, day-to-day management remains under the 'Conservation Reserve' model of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, ensuring the traditional grazing rights of the Maldhari community are not abruptly curtailed.

Statement 4 (correct): The addition of Patna Bird Sanctuary and Chhari-Dhand brought India's total Ramsar sites to 98, maintaining its top spot in the Asian continent. Thus, exactly two statements (1 and 4) are correct.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Ramsar Convention, Wetland Ecosystems, Protected Areas, Community Conservation

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Addition of Two New Ramsar Sites in India](#)

Q18. Addition of Two New Ramsar Sites in India

T1+focus · how_many_correct · HARD · 2026-02-01

Consider the following statements:

1. Patna Bird Sanctuary, the smallest bird sanctuary in its respective state, is located in Bihar.
2. Chhari-Dhand is a seasonal, saline desert wetland that supports the critically endangered Indian bdellium-tree.
3. The Ramsar designation of Chhari-Dhand upgrades its legal framework to a National Park under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, to restrict pastoral grazing.
4. The addition of these two sites brings India's total number of Ramsar sites to 98, maintaining its position as the country with the highest number of such sites in Asia.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (A) Only one
- (B) **Only two ✓**
- (C) Only three
- (D) All four

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): Despite its name, Patna Bird Sanctuary is located in Uttar Pradesh (Etah district), not Bihar, and is the smallest bird sanctuary in UP.

Statement 2 (correct): Chhari-Dhand is a seasonal, saline desert wetland (not a permanent freshwater lake) and its designation draws attention to the critically endangered Indian bdellium-tree (*Commiphora wightii*).

Statement 3 (incorrect): The Ramsar tag does not change its legal framework. It remains a 'Conservation Reserve' under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, specifically chosen over a strict National Park to protect the traditional grazing rights of the local Maldhari pastoralist community in the Banni grasslands.

Statement 4 (correct): India's total Ramsar count increased from 96 to 98, maintaining its top spot in the Asian continent. Therefore, exactly two statements are correct.

Topic: Environment and Ecology

Concepts: Wetland Conservation, Ramsar Convention, Protected Areas Framework

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Addition of Two New Ramsar Sites in India](#)

Q19. Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 notified

T1+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2026-01-27

With reference to the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, consider the following statements:

1. An entity generating less than 100 kg of solid waste per day can be classified as a Bulk Waste Generator solely based on its daily water consumption.
2. Sanitary waste and domestic hazardous waste must be collected together as a single consolidated stream.

- (A) **1 only** ✓
 (B) 2 only
 (C) Both 1 and 2
 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): Under the 2026 Rules, the definition of a Bulk Waste Generator (BWG) is triggered if an entity meets ANY of the specified thresholds. An entity using over 40,000 litres of water daily is automatically a BWG, even if its actual solid waste generation is under the 100 kg/day mark.

Statement 2 (incorrect): The 2026 Rules explicitly separate these into distinct streams. Sanitary waste (e.g., diapers) is the third stream, while domestic hazardous/special-care waste (e.g., batteries, paints) forms the fourth stream, moving away from the 2016 framework that loosely grouped them.

Topic: Environment - Pollution & Waste Management

Concepts: Solid Waste Management, Extended Producer Responsibility, Waste Segregation

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 notified](#)

Q20. Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 notified

T1+focus · simple_mcq · HARD · 2026-01-27

Under the Solid Waste Management Rules 2026, an entity is automatically classified as a Bulk Waste Generator (BWG) and subject to Extended Bulk Waste Generator Responsibility (EBWGR), even if its actual solid waste output is minimal, provided it meets which of the following conditions?

- (A) **It consumes more than 40,000 litres of water daily.** ✓
 (B) It has a total floor area exceeding 10,000 square meters.
 (C) It generates more than 50 kg of solid waste daily.
 (D) It operates an industrial plant within a specified distance of a Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) facility.

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): Under the 2026 Rules, an entity qualifies as a Bulk Waste Generator (BWG) if it meets ANY of the following thresholds: >20,000 sq.

meters floor area, >40,000 litres/day water consumption, or >100 kg/day waste generation. The water consumption and floor area metrics act as infrastructure proxies to prevent large entities (like tech parks or hotels) from underreporting waste to escape compliance.

Option 2 (incorrect): because the floor area threshold is 20,000 square meters, not 10,000.

Option 3 (incorrect): because the direct waste generation threshold is 100 kg/day, not 50 kg.

Option 4 (incorrect): operating near an RDF facility mandates certain industries (e.g., cement plants) to substitute solid fuels with RDF, but it does not define BWG status.

Topic: Environment - Pollution & Waste Management

Concepts: Solid Waste Management Rules 2026, Bulk Waste Generator, Polluter Pays Principle

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 notified](#)

Q21. Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 notified

T1+focus · simple_mcq · HARD · 2026-01-27

Under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, an entity that generates only 50 kg of solid waste per day is nevertheless legally classified as a Bulk Waste Generator (BWG) if it meets which of the following conditions?

- (A) It is situated within a specified distance of a Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) plant.
- (B) **It consumes more than 40,000 litres of water daily. ✓**
- (C) It occupies a built-up floor area exceeding 10,000 square meters.
- (D) It fails to scientifically process its wet waste on-site.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Option 2 (correct): Under the 2026 Rules, an entity is classified as a Bulk Waste Generator (BWG) if it meets ANY of the following thresholds: >20,000 sq. meters floor area, >40,000 litres/day water consumption, or >100 kg/day waste generation. This infrastructure proxy prevents large facilities from underreporting waste to escape compliance.

Option 1 (incorrect): distance to an RDF plant triggers the mandate for certain industries (like cement plants) to substitute solid fuels with RDF, but does not define a BWG.

Option 3 (incorrect): because the floor area threshold for BWG classification is 20,000 square meters, not 10,000.

Option 4 (incorrect): processing wet waste on-site (or purchasing an EBWGR certificate) is a mandatory responsibility of an entity AFTER it is classified as a BWG, not the criterion that defines it as one.

Topic: Environmental Legislation and Policies

Concepts: Solid Waste Management, Bulk Waste Generator, Polluter Pays Principle

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 notified](#)

Q22. Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules 2025 Notified

T1+focus · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2025-12-09

Under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 2025, which entity is legally empowered to grant a petroleum lease for onshore hydrocarbon resources located within a state's territory?

- (A) The Central Government exclusively, to maintain uniform administration of the unified basket lease.
- (B) The State Government, subject to the mandatory prior approval of the Central Government. ✓**
- (C) The State Government independently, which simultaneously transfers ownership of the reserves to the private lessee.
- (D) The Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD), which must process the lease application within a strict 180-day window.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Option 2 (correct): According to the 2025 Rules, the fundamental constitutional jurisdiction over resources remains unchanged: State Governments continue to grant leases for onshore blocks, but this requires the mandatory prior approval of the Central Government.

Option 1 (incorrect): The Central Government retains exclusive rights and jurisdiction solely over offshore resources (in territorial waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone), not onshore resources.

Option 3 (incorrect): The State Government cannot act independently (it requires Central approval). Furthermore, the rules do not transfer ownership of the reserves to private energy companies; absolute ownership of the underlying minerals remains vested in the sovereign state.

Option 4 (incorrect): While the rules do mandate a strict 180-day window for the government to decide on lease applications, the Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) is formally designated as the competent authority for offshore safety, not for granting petroleum leases.

Topic: Environment - Policies and Legislation

Concepts: Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules 2025, Resource Jurisdiction, Federalism in Resource Management

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules 2025 Notified](#)

Q23. Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules 2025 Notified

T1+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-12-09

With reference to the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. The Central Government exclusively grants all petroleum leases for both onshore and offshore blocks across India.
2. The 'basket petroleum lease' transfers absolute ownership of the underlying hydrocarbon minerals to the private lessee.
3. Regulatory violations under the rules attract financial fines but no longer carry criminal liability or imprisonment.
4. Lessees are mandated to file an annual declaration of installed, utilized, and excess infrastructure capacity.

- (A) Only one
(B) Only two ✓
 (C) Only three
 (D) All four

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): While the Centre retains exclusive jurisdiction over offshore resources in territorial waters and the EEZ, State Governments grant leases for onshore blocks (with the mandatory prior approval of the Central Government).

Statement 2 (incorrect): The state retains absolute sovereign ownership of the underlying minerals; the rules merely grant an operational lease (up to 30 years) to extract the resources, not property rights.

Statement 3 (correct): The 2025 rules decriminalize offenses, removing criminal liability and imprisonment in favor of strict financial deterrents (fines up to ₹25 lakh).

Statement 4 (correct): To optimize national resources and promote infrastructure sharing, lessees are now mandated to file an annual declaration of installed, utilized, and excess capacity.

Topic: Environment - Energy Resources

Concepts: Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules 2025, Resource Jurisdiction, Decriminalization of Offenses, Infrastructure Sharing

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules 2025 Notified](#)

Q24. Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules 2025 Notified

T1+focus · chronological · MEDIUM · 2025-12-09

Arrange the following developments related to the regulatory framework of India's upstream petroleum sector in chronological order, from earliest to latest:

1. Introduction of the uniform licensing system through the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP).
2. Enactment of the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act.
3. Notification of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules introducing the 'basket petroleum lease'.
4. Passage of the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) 2, 1, 4, 3 ✓
(B) 2, 4, 1, 3
(C) 1, 2, 4, 3
(D) 2, 1, 3, 4

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Based on the historical context provided in the source event, the correct chronological sequence is: 2. Enactment of the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act: This foundational legislation was enacted in 1948 to govern India's upstream petroleum sector. 1. Introduction of the uniform licensing system through HELP: The Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) introduced the concept of a uniform licensing system via executive contracts in 2016. 4. Passage of the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Act: This amendment was passed in mid-2025, giving the Central Government the legislative backing to overhaul executive rules. 3. Notification of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules introducing the 'basket petroleum lease': These rules were notified on December 9, 2025, replacing the 1959 framework and introducing the unified basket lease. Therefore, the correct order is 2, 1, 4, 3.

Topic: Energy

Concepts: Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP), Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules 2025, Energy Sector Regulation

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules 2025 Notified](#)

Q25. Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules 2025 Notified

T1+focus · assertion_reason · MEDIUM · 2025-12-09

Statement-I: Despite the introduction of the unified 'basket petroleum lease' under the 2025 Rules, the Central Government does not directly grant leases for onshore hydrocarbon resources. Statement-II: The State Governments continue to grant leases for onshore blocks, subject to the mandatory prior approval of the Central Government.

- (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I ✓
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
- (C) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Both statements are correct, and Statement-II provides the correct explanation for Statement-I. According to the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules 2025, while the new framework introduces a single 'basket petroleum lease' to cover all stages of hydrocarbon extraction, the fundamental constitutional jurisdiction over resources remains untouched. The Central Government does not directly execute all leases. Instead, the State Governments continue to grant leases for onshore blocks, though they must obtain the mandatory prior approval of the Central Government. The Centre only retains exclusive rights and jurisdiction over offshore resources in territorial waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Topic: Economy - Infrastructure and Energy

Concepts: Basket Petroleum Lease, Centre-State Resource Jurisdiction, Hydrocarbon Exploration

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules 2025 Notified](#)

Q26. COP30 Concludes in Belém with Adaptation Indicators

T1+focus · statement_based · EASY · 2025-11-21

Consider the following statements:

1. The 59 global indicators adopted at COP30 are designed to legally penalize countries that fail to meet their climate adaptation targets.
2. The Belém agreement mandates tripling adaptation finance by 2035, with a specific priority on providing grants over loans.

- (A) 1 only
- (B) 2 only ✓
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The 59 global indicators adopted at COP30 are purely for tracking and reporting progress under the Enhanced Transparency Framework. There are no punitive mechanisms or legal penalties attached to them for failing to adapt.

Statement 2 (correct): The Belém agreement explicitly mandates tripling adaptation finance by 2035, specifically prioritizing grants over loans to prevent debt distress in the Global South.

Topic: Environment - Climate Change

Concepts: COP30, Climate Adaptation, Climate Finance, UNFCCC

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: COP30 Concludes in Belém with Adaptation Indicators](#)

Q27. COP30 Concludes in Belém with Adaptation Indicators

T1+focus · statement_based · EASY · 2025-11-21

Consider the following statements:

1. The 59 global adaptation indicators adopted at COP30 are used solely for tracking and reporting progress, with no punitive mechanisms attached.
2. The COP30 agreement established a legally binding UN mandate to phase out all fossil fuels.

- (A) 1 only ✓
 (B) 2 only
 (C) Both 1 and 2
 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The 59 global indicators adopted at COP30 are purely for tracking and reporting progress under the Enhanced Transparency Framework, with no punitive mechanisms attached for non-compliance.

Statement 2 (incorrect): Despite heavy pressure, there was no legally binding language adopted within the UNFCCC framework to phase out all fossil fuels, as oil-producing nations blocked mandatory timelines.

Topic: Environment - Climate Change

Concepts: COP30, Climate Adaptation, UNFCCC

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: COP30 Concludes in Belém with Adaptation Indicators](#)

Q28. COP30 Concludes in Belém with Adaptation Indicators

T1+focus · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2025-11-21

Which of the following was explicitly mandated at COP30 for the "NDC 3.0" cycle submissions?

- (A) **Formal integration of the 59 new global adaptation indicators alongside traditional mitigation targets. ✓**
- (B) Inclusion of legally binding timelines for the phase-out of all fossil fuels within the UNFCCC framework.
- (C) Qualitative tracking of adaptation progress exclusively through National Adaptation Plans without standard metrics.
- (D) A commitment to doubling adaptation finance from 2019 levels by the year 2025.

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): COP30 mandated that the 'NDC 3.0' cycle submissions must formally integrate the newly adopted 59 global adaptation indicators alongside traditional greenhouse gas mitigation targets.

Option 2 (incorrect): Strong opposition from oil-producing nations blocked any legally binding UN treaty language to phase out fossil fuels.

Option 3 (incorrect): Qualitative tracking through National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) without standard metrics was the prior status quo; COP30 shifted this to a standardized, quantitative framework under the Enhanced Transparency Framework.

Option 4 (incorrect): The goal to double adaptation finance from 2019 levels by 2025 was established earlier at COP26 (Glasgow); COP30 established a new mandate to triple adaptation finance by 2035.

Topic: Environment - Climate Change

Concepts: Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Climate Adaptation, COP30

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: COP30 Concludes in Belém with Adaptation Indicators](#)

Q29. Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 Released

T1+focus · match_pairs · HARD · 2025-10-22

With reference to the methodology and findings of the Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025, match the numerical thresholds in List-I with their corresponding parameters in List-II: List-I (Numerical Threshold) A. > 10% B. > 0.5 hectares C. > 5 meters D. > 90% List-II (GFRA Parameter) i. Minimum tree height required by the FAO to classify land as a 'forest'. ii. Minimum canopy cover required by the FAO to classify land as a 'forest'. iii. Minimum land span required by the FAO to classify land as a 'forest'. iv. Proportion of the world's forests identified as regenerating naturally. Select the correct matching code from the options below:

- (A) A-ii, B-iii, C-i, D-iv ✓
- (B) A-i, B-iii, C-ii, D-iv
- (C) A-iii, B-ii, C-i, D-iv
- (D) A-ii, B-i, C-iv, D-iii

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): According to the GFRA 2025 methodology set by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), a 'forest' is explicitly defined as land spanning more than 0.5 hectares (B-iii), with trees higher than 5 meters (C-i), and a canopy cover of more than 10% (A-ii). This definition is crucial because it includes commercial plantations and agroforestry, which heavily contributes to India's 9th global rank in total forest area. Furthermore, the GFRA 2025 report established a structural shift in global forestry composition, noting that over 90% of the world's forests are now regenerating naturally (D-iv). The other options incorrectly mix the definitional thresholds for canopy cover, land span, and tree height.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity & Conservation

Concepts: Forest Classification Methodology, Global Forest Resources Assessment, Natural Regeneration

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 Released](#)

Q30. Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 Released

T1+focus · assertion_reason · MEDIUM · 2025-10-22

Statement-I: India's rise to the 9th rank globally in total forest area in the Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025 heavily reflects its tree-planting drives outside traditional notified boundaries. Statement-II: The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) defines a 'forest' based strictly on physical parameters such as a minimum 10% canopy cover, trees higher than 5 meters, and an area over 0.5 hectares, explicitly including agroforestry and commercial plantations.

- (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I ✓
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
- (C) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Both statements are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I. According to the GFRA 2025, India moved to the 9th position globally in total forest area. This ranking heavily benefits from India's massive commercial plantations, agroforestry, and bamboo cultivation (amounting to 11.8 million hectares) that occur outside traditional state-notified forest boundaries (Statement-I). This is possible because the FAO methodology does not restrict the definition of a forest to pristine natural jungles or officially notified wildlife reserves. Instead, it uses strict physical criteria (land >0.5 hectares, trees >5 meters, and canopy cover >10%), which explicitly allows human-led afforestation and agroforestry to be counted towards a country's total forest area (Statement-II). Thus, the FAO's methodological definition directly explains why India's external tree-planting drives successfully elevate its global ranking.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity & Conservation

Concepts: Forest Cover vs Forest Area, Global Forest Resources Assessment, Agroforestry

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 Released](#)

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Q31. Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 Released

T1+focus · assertion_reason · HARD · 2025-10-22

Statement-I: India's rise to the 9th position globally in total forest area in the GFRA 2025 heavily reflects the expansion of vegetation outside traditional state-notified administrative boundaries. Statement-II: The FAO strictly defines a 'forest' using physical parameters - such as a minimum area of 0.5 hectares and a canopy cover exceeding 10% - which explicitly includes commercial plantations and agroforestry.

- (A) **Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I ✓**
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
- (C) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement-I is correct: India's 9th rank in the GFRA 2025 heavily benefits from massive commercial plantations, agroforestry, and bamboo cultivation (amounting to 11.8 million hectares). This illustrates how human-led afforestation expands actual vegetation cover beyond traditional state-notified administrative borders. Statement-II is correct and is the correct explanation for Statement-I: The FAO's methodology does not rely on a country's legal or administrative classification of a 'forest'. Instead, it strictly uses physical parameters (land spanning more than 0.5 hectares, trees higher than 5 meters, and a canopy cover of more than 10%). Because this definition explicitly includes planted forests and agroforestry, it directly explains why India's vegetation outside notified reserves counts towards its global ranking. Note the use of the extreme word 'strictly' in Statement-II, which is factually correct in this context, breaking the common heuristic that extreme words always indicate an incorrect

statement.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity & Conservation

Concepts: Forest Cover vs Forest Area, FAO GFRA Methodology, Agroforestry and Plantations

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 Released](#)

Q32. Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 Released

T1+focus · assertion_reason · EASY · 2025-10-22

Statement-I: India achieved the 9th position globally in total forest area in the Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025. Statement-II: The FAO assesses forest area by explicitly including commercial plantations and agroforestry lands that meet specific canopy and area thresholds.

- (A) **Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I ✓**
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
- (C) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement-I is correct: According to the GFRA 2025 released by the FAO, India moved from the 10th position (in 2020) to the 9th position globally in total forest area. Statement-II is correct and is the correct explanation for Statement-I: The FAO defines a 'forest' as land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with a canopy cover of more than 10%, which explicitly includes plantations and agroforestry. The source text notes that India's rise to the 9th rank heavily reflects its massive tree-planting drives and commercial plantations outside traditional notified forest boundaries.

Topic: Environment - Reports and Indices

Concepts: Forest Conservation, Environmental Reports, Agroforestry

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025 Released](#)

Q33. Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target Rules, 2025

T1+focus · match_pairs · MEDIUM · 2025-10-08

Match the entities or sectors (List-I) with their specific roles or status under the Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target Rules, 2025 (List-II): List-I A. Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) B. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) C. Iron and Steel Sector D. Pulp and Paper Sector List-II i. Explicitly empowered to levy a monetary penalty for non-compliance. ii. Authorized to issue Carbon Credit Certificates to successful entities. iii. Given a binding emission intensity reduction target of up to 15%. iv. Omitted from the final October 2025 notification.

- (A) A-ii, B-i, C-iv, D-iii ✓
- (B) A-i, B-ii, C-iv, D-iii
- (C) A-ii, B-i, C-iii, D-iv
- (D) A-i, B-ii, C-iii, D-iv

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): Based on the Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target Rules, 2025: A matches (ii): The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) is authorized to issue Carbon Credit Certificates (CCCs) to entities that reduce their emission intensity below mandated targets. B matches (i): The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is explicitly empowered to levy a monetary penalty (Environmental Compensation) for non-compliance, not the Ministry of Power. C matches (iv): The Iron and Steel sector, despite being in the June 2025 draft, was omitted from the final October 2025 notification and remains under older efficiency mechanisms. D matches (iii): The Pulp and Paper sector was given a binding emission intensity reduction target of up to 15% to be achieved over FY 2025-26 and 2026-27.

Topic: Climate Change Mitigation

Concepts: Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity, Environmental Legislation

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target Rules, 2025](#)

Q34. Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target Rules, 2025

T1+focus · chronological · MEDIUM · 2025-10-08

Arrange the following developments related to India's industrial emissions regulation in chronological order:

1. Formal launch of the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS).
2. Notification of the Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target Rules for sectors like Aluminium and Cement.
3. Passage of the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act to lay the groundwork for a domestic carbon market.
4. Issuance of draft proposals aiming to include Iron and Steel, Fertilizer, and Thermal Power sectors under emission targets.

Select the correct sequence from the codes given below:

- (A) 3 - 1 - 4 - 2 ✓
 (B) 1 - 3 - 4 - 2
 (C) 3 - 4 - 1 - 2
 (D) 1 - 4 - 3 - 2

Answer: (A)

Explanation

The correct chronological sequence of events is 3, 1, 4, 2. Statement 3: Parliament passed the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act in 2022, which laid the initial groundwork for a domestic carbon market. Statement 1: Following the legislative amendment, the government formally launched the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) in June 2023. Statement 4: Draft notifications/proposals were issued in April and June 2025, which initially aimed to include heavily polluting sectors like Iron and Steel, Fertilizer, and Thermal Power. Statement 2: The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) finally notified the Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target Rules on October 8, 2025, which mandated reductions for sectors like Aluminium, Cement, Chlor-Alkali, and Pulp & Paper, while omitting the Iron and Steel sector proposed in the earlier drafts.

Topic: Environment - Climate Change

Concepts: Domestic Carbon Market, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Environmental Legislation

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target Rules, 2025](#)

Q35. Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target Rules, 2025

T1+focus · assertion_reason · EASY · 2025-10-08

Statement-I: Under the Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target Rules, 2025, obligated industries are permitted to expand their total production capacity. Statement-II: The compliance targets under the 2025 rules are based strictly on greenhouse gas emissions per unit of output rather than absolute emission caps.

- (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I ✓
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
- (C) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement-I is correct because under the new rules, industries are free to expand their total production as long as they adopt cleaner technologies. Statement-II is also correct and directly explains Statement-I: because the compliance metric is 'emission intensity' (greenhouse gas emissions per unit of product) rather than an absolute cap on total emissions, there is no regulatory ceiling on the overall production capacity an industry can achieve.

Topic: Environment - Climate Change

Concepts: Emission Intensity vs Absolute Caps, Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), Industrial Decarbonization

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target Rules, 2025](#)

Q36. MoEFCC Revises Green Credit Calculation For Tree Plantations

T1+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-08-29

With reference to the revised Green Credit Programme rules for tree plantations, consider the following statements:

1. Green Credits are strictly non-tradable and non-transferable, with the sole exception of transfers between a holding company and its subsidiaries.
2. The certification for the issuance of these credits is directly provided by the State Forest Department.

- (A) 1 only ✓
- (B) 2 only
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): Under the August 2025 revised methodology, tree-plantation Green Credits were made strictly non-tradable and non-transferable on open markets, with the specific exception that they can be transferred between a holding company and its subsidiaries.

Statement 2 (incorrect): While the State Forest Department directly provided certification under the older rules, the revised rules require applicants to submit claim reports for third-party evaluation by designated verification agencies before the Administrator (ICFRE) issues the credits.

Topic: Environment - Conservation

Concepts: Green Credit Programme, Compensatory Afforestation, Environmental Governance

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: MoEFCC Revises Green Credit Calculation For Tree Plantations](#)

Q37. MoEFCC Revises Green Credit Calculation For Tree Plantations

T1+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-08-29

With reference to the revised rules for tree plantations under the Green Credit Programme, consider the following statements:

1. The generated green credits are strictly non-transferable, with the sole exception of transfers between a holding company and its subsidiaries.
2. The final issuance of these credits is carried out directly by the State Forest Department upon verifying a minimum 40% canopy density.

- (A) 1 only ✓
 (B) 2 only
 (C) Both 1 and 2
 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The August 2025 MoEFCC notification made tree-plantation Green Credits strictly non-tradable and non-transferable, with the specific exception of transfers allowed between a holding company and its subsidiaries.

Statement 2 (incorrect): While a minimum 40% canopy density is now required, the State Forest Department no longer directly provides certification. Applicants must submit claim reports for third-party evaluation by designated verification agencies, after which the Administrator (the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education) issues the credits.

Topic: Environment - Climate Change

Concepts: Green Credit Programme, Environmental Governance, Compensatory Afforestation

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: MoEFCC Revises Green Credit Calculation For Tree Plantations](#)

Q38. MoEFCC Revises Green Credit Calculation For Tree Plantations

T1+focus · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2025-08-29

Under the August 2025 revised methodology for the Green Credit Programme, what is the specific policy regarding the tradability of tree-plantation Green Credits?

- (A) They are strictly non-transferable under all circumstances to prevent corporate greenwashing.
- (B) **They can be transferred solely between a holding company and its subsidiaries. ✓**
- (C) They can be traded on an open market platform once the plantation achieves a 40% canopy density.
- (D) They are tradable only among entities fulfilling Compensatory Afforestation obligations.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Option 2 (correct): Under the August 2025 rules, tree-plantation Green Credits were made non-tradable and non-transferable, with the specific exception that they can be transferred between a holding company and its subsidiaries.

Option 1 (incorrect): because of this holding-company exception, making the 'under all circumstances' claim false.

Option 3 (incorrect): because the open market tradability envisioned in the earlier rules was revoked; achieving the 40% canopy density is a requirement for issuance, not tradability.

Option 4 (incorrect): while credits can be exchanged for Compensatory Afforestation, they cannot be traded among such entities and are extinguished after a single use.

Topic: Environment - Climate Change & Policies

Concepts: Green Credit Programme, Environmental Legislation, Corporate Social Responsibility

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: MoEFCC Revises Green Credit Calculation For Tree Plantations](#)

Q39. India's Wetland Resolution Adopted at Ramsar COP15

T1+focus · match_pairs · MEDIUM · 2025-07-30

Match the following initiatives/frameworks related to wetland conservation (List-I) with their correct descriptions/contexts (List-II) based on the developments surrounding Ramsar COP15: List-I A. CoWET B. Mission Sahbhagita C. Ramsar Resolution XIV.8 D. UNEA Resolution 6/8 List-II i. Passed in March 2024, providing momentum for India's proposal at Ramsar COP15 ii. Domestic initiative demonstrating the viability of community-driven conservation through wetland mapping iii. Targeted digital assessment mechanism for Disaster Risk Reduction and climate adaptation iv. New CEPA approach operationalizing a 10-year framework for sustainable consumption

- (A) A-iii, B-ii, C-iv, D-i ✓
- (B) A-iv, B-ii, C-i, D-iii
- (C) A-iii, B-i, C-iv, D-ii
- (D) A-ii, B-iii, C-iv, D-i

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Based on the source event: - CoWET (Capturing Climate Co-Benefits of Wetlands) is a targeted digital assessment mechanism launched by GIZ India to assess specific Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and climate adaptation co-benefits of wetland ecosystems (A matches iii). - Mission Sahbhagita is a domestic Indian initiative where citizen volunteers mapped 1.7 lakh wetlands, demonstrating the viability of community-driven conservation (B matches ii). - Ramsar Resolution XIV.8 is the New CEPA Approach, which operationalizes a 10-year framework explicitly targeting sustainable consumption and production choices by local communities (C matches iv). - UNEA Resolution 6/8 on sustainable lifestyles was passed in March 2024, providing international momentum for India's proposal at Ramsar COP15 (D matches i).

Topic: Environment - International Conventions

Concepts: Ramsar Convention, Mission LiFE, Wetland Conservation, Community-led Conservation

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India's Wetland Resolution Adopted at Ramsar COP15](#)

Q40. India's Wetland Resolution Adopted at Ramsar COP15

T1+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-07-30

With reference to the India-led resolution adopted at Ramsar COP15, consider the following statements:

1. Prior to COP15, India had never independently authored and passed a resolution at the Ramsar Convention.
 2. The resolution formally alters the core legal definition of the 'Wise Use' principle to mandate behavioral compliance from contracting parties.
 3. It aligns with the Ramsar Convention's New CEPA Approach to operationalize a 10-year framework targeting sustainable consumption choices.
 4. Accompanying the resolution, the CoWET tool was launched by GIZ India to assess specific Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) co-benefits of wetland ecosystems.
- (A) Only one
(B) Only two
(C) **Only three** ✓
(D) All four

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): Despite joining the convention in 1982 and aggressively expanding its Ramsar network, India had never independently authored and passed a convention resolution prior to COP15.

Statement 2 (incorrect): While the resolution incorporates a behavioral lens, the core definition of the 'Wise Use' principle remains the legal baseline. The resolution relies on voluntary action and explicitly stops short of imposing legally binding behavioral compliance mandates or consumption quotas.

Statement 3 (correct): The resolution aligns with Ramsar Resolution XIV.8 (New CEPA Approach), operationalizing a 10-year framework explicitly targeting sustainable consumption and production choices by local communities.

Statement 4 (correct): Accompanying the policy shift at COP15, the CoWET (Capturing Climate Co-Benefits of Wetlands) tool was launched by GIZ India to assess specific Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and climate adaptation co-benefits.

Topic: Environment - International Conventions

Concepts: Ramsar Convention, Mission LiFE, Wetland Conservation

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India's Wetland Resolution Adopted at Ramsar COP15](#)

Q41. India's Wetland Resolution Adopted at Ramsar COP15

T1+focus · chronological · MEDIUM · 2025-07-30

Arrange the following events related to the evolution of India's environmental diplomacy and wetland conservation in chronological order, from earliest to latest:

1. Adoption of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolution 6/8 on sustainable lifestyles.
2. Introduction of 'Mission LiFE' by the Indian Prime Minister at the UNFCCC COP26.
3. India's ratification of the Ramsar Convention and initial designation of Keoladeo National Park.
4. Adoption of the India-led resolution on sustainable lifestyles at Ramsar COP15 in Victoria Falls.

(A) 3, 2, 1, 4 ✓

(B) 2, 3, 1, 4

(C) 3, 1, 2, 4

(D) 2, 1, 3, 4

Answer: (A)

Explanation

The correct chronological sequence based on the source text is: 3. India's ratification of the Ramsar Convention: India ratified the convention on February 1, 1982, initially designating Chilika Lake and Keoladeo National Park. 2. Introduction of 'Mission LiFE': This was introduced by the Indian Prime Minister at UNFCCC COP26 in 2021. 1. UNEA Resolution 6/8: The UN Environment Assembly passed Resolution 6/8 on sustainable lifestyles in March 2024. 4. Ramsar COP15 resolution: The India-led resolution 'Promoting Sustainable Lifestyles for the Wise Use of Wetlands' was adopted at Ramsar COP15 on July 30, 2025. Therefore, the correct order is 3, 2, 1, 4.

Topic: Environment and Ecology

Concepts: International Environmental Conventions, Wetland Conservation, Mission LiFE

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India's Wetland Resolution Adopted at Ramsar COP15](#)

Q42. Contaminated Sites Management Rules 2025 Notified

T1+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-07-24

With reference to the Environment Protection (Management of Contaminated Sites) Rules, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. District Administrations are legally mandated to submit half-yearly reports on suspected contaminated sites directly to the Central Pollution Control Board.
2. The provisions of these rules explicitly exclude environmental contamination resulting from marine oil spills and radioactive waste.

- (A) 1 only
 (B) 2 only ✓
 (C) Both 1 and 2
 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): Under the new statutory framework, District Administrations are mandated to submit their half-yearly reports on suspected contaminated sites to the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), not the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Statement 2 (correct): Despite their broad scope, the rules deliberately exclude specific types of contamination, such as radioactive waste, abandoned mines, and marine oil spills, which continue to be governed by specialized legislation.

Topic: Environment - Legislation

Concepts: Environmental Liability, Statutory Exclusions, Waste Management

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Contaminated Sites Management Rules 2025 Notified](#)

Q43. Contaminated Sites Management Rules 2025 Notified

T1+focus · match_pairs · EASY · 2025-07-24

Match the following provisions or features under the recently notified Environment Protection (Management of Contaminated Sites) Rules, 2025 (List-I) with their correct corresponding values or categories (List-II): List-I A. Time limit for preliminary assessment by SPCBs B. Number of benchmarked chemicals for contamination C. Frequency of suspected site reporting by District Administrations D. Sector explicitly excluded from the scope of the 2025 Rules List-II i. 189 ii. Marine oil spills iii. 90 days iv. Half-yearly

- (A) A-iii, B-i, C-iv, D-ii ✓
 (B) A-iv, B-i, C-iii, D-ii
 (C) A-iii, B-ii, C-iv, D-i
 (D) A-iv, B-ii, C-iii, D-i

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Under the Environment Protection (Management of Contaminated Sites) Rules, 2025: A matches (iii): State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) are mandated to conduct a preliminary assessment of suspected sites within a strict 90-day timeline. B matches (i): A site is officially declared contaminated if it exceeds safe limits for any of the 189 specific hazardous chemicals listed under the Hazardous Waste Rules, 2016. C matches (iv): District Administrations must legally submit half-yearly reports on suspected contaminated sites to the SPCB. D matches (ii): The rules explicitly exclude marine oil spills, radioactive waste, and abandoned mines, as these are governed by separate specialized legislation.

Topic: Environment - Legislation

Concepts: Contaminated Sites Management Rules 2025, Environmental Governance, Hazardous Waste Management

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Contaminated Sites Management Rules 2025 Notified](#)

Q44. Contaminated Sites Management Rules 2025 Notified

T1+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-07-24

With reference to the Environment Protection (Management of Contaminated Sites) Rules, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. Under these rules, District Administrations must submit half-yearly reports on suspected contaminated sites directly to the Central Pollution Control Board.
2. The rules explicitly exclude land and water contamination arising from abandoned mining operations.
3. For 'orphan sites' where the polluter is untraceable, the remediation costs are shared between the Centre and the respective State.
4. State Pollution Control Boards are required to complete both the preliminary assessment and the detailed investigation of a suspected site within a combined period of 90 days.

- (A) Only one
(B) **Only two ✓**
(C) Only three
(D) All four

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): District Administrations are legally mandated to submit half-yearly reports on suspected contaminated sites to the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), not the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Statement 2 (correct): The rules have strict exclusions and deliberately do not apply to radioactive waste, abandoned mines, or marine oil spills, which are governed by specialized legislation.

Statement 3 (correct): The rules implement the 'polluter pays' principle, but for 'orphan sites' where the polluter is untraceable or bankrupt, a formal Centre-State cost-sharing mechanism is activated to fund the cleanup.

Statement 4 (incorrect): The rules mandate a 90-day timeline for the preliminary assessment, followed by a detailed investigation within the *next* 90 days, making the combined period 180 days, not 90 days.

Topic: Environment - Legislation

Concepts: Environmental Regulations, Polluter Pays Principle, Waste Management

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Contaminated Sites Management Rules 2025 Notified](#)

Q45. MoEFCC Revises SO₂ Emission Timelines for TPPs

T1+focus · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2025-07-11

Under the Environment (Protection) Fourth Amendment Rules, 2025, how can a retiring coal-based thermal power plant secure an exemption from sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emission norms?

- (A) By submitting an application on the PARIVESH portal within six months to formally declare its end-of-life status.
- (B) By submitting an official written undertaking to the CPCB and CEA declaring it will retire by December 31, 2030. ✓**
- (C) By complying with the 1990 minimum stack height criteria before December 31, 2029.
- (D) By paying a flat environmental compensation of ₹0.40 per unit of electricity generated until its decommissioning.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Under the 2025 amendment, there is no automatic exemption for aging plants. They are exempt from SO₂ norms only if they submit an official undertaking to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Central Electricity Authority (CEA) declaring they will retire by December 31, 2030. Option 1 incorrectly applies the Category B review mechanism (which uses the PARIVESH portal). Option 3 incorrectly applies the exemption criteria for Category C plants. Option 4 incorrectly describes the penalty mechanism, which is graded (starting at ₹0.20 and reaching ₹0.40 only after a year of default) and applies to non-compliant operational plants, not as a pathway to exemption.

Topic: Environment - Pollution & Degradation

Concepts: Environmental Regulation, Thermal Power Plants, Air Pollution

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: MoEFCC Revises SO₂ Emission Timelines for TPPs](#)



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Q46. MoEFCC Revises SO₂ Emission Timelines for TPPs

T1+focus · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2025-07-11

Under the Environment (Protection) Fourth Amendment Rules, 2025, what is the specific condition under which Category C thermal power plants are completely exempted from sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emission standards?

- (A) They must submit an official undertaking to the Central Pollution Control Board and Central Electricity Authority committing to retire by December 31, 2030.
- (B) **They must comply with the 1990 minimum stack height criteria by December 31, 2029. ✓**
- (C) They must apply on the PARIVESH portal within six months for a case-by-case discretionary review by the Centre.
- (D) They must pay a graded environmental compensation starting at ₹0.20 per unit of electricity generated.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Option 2 (correct): Clause 2(c)(iv) of the 2025 amendment completely exempts Category C plants from SO₂ emission standards provided they comply with the 1990 minimum stack height criteria by December 31, 2029.

Option 1 (incorrect): submitting an undertaking to the CPCB and CEA to retire by December 31, 2030, is the specific exemption condition for retiring plants, not a blanket rule for Category C.

Option 3 (incorrect): applying on the PARIVESH portal for a case-by-case review is the new discretionary mechanism introduced for Category B plants.

Option 4 (incorrect): paying a graded environmental compensation (starting at ₹0.20 per unit for the first 180 days) is the penalty for non-compliance with deadlines, not a condition for exemption.

Topic: Environment - Pollution & Conservation

Concepts: Environmental Legislation, Air Pollution Control, Thermal Power Plants

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: MoEFCC Revises SO2 Emission Timelines for TPPs](#)

Q47. MoEFCC Revises SO2 Emission Timelines for TPPs

T1+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-07-11

Consider the following statements:

1. Category C thermal power plants are completely exempted from sulfur dioxide emission standards provided they comply with the 1990 minimum stack height criteria by December 31, 2029.
2. Thermal power plants are automatically exempted from sulfur dioxide norms if they are scheduled to retire by December 31, 2030.
3. Plants located within a 10 km radius of the National Capital Region or million-plus cities are strictly mandated to install Flue Gas Desulfurization systems without any discretionary exemptions.
4. Non-compliant plants will face a flat environmental compensation penalty of ₹0.40 per unit of electricity generated from the first day of default.

- (A) Only one
(B) Only two ✓
 (C) Only three
 (D) All four

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): Under the 2025 amendment, Category C plants are completely exempted from SO2 standards if they comply with the 1990 minimum stack height criteria by December 31, 2029.

Statement 2 (incorrect): There is no automatic exemption for aging plants. They must formally submit a written undertaking to the CPCB and Central Electricity Authority (CEA) committing to retire by December 31, 2030.

Statement 3 (correct): Category A plants (within a 10 km radius of the NCR or million-plus cities) are strictly mandated to comply with SO2 norms by December 31, 2027, without any discretionary exemptions.

Statement 4 (incorrect): The financial penalty is graded, not flat. Plants pay ₹0.20 per unit for the first 180 days of default, ₹0.30 for 181-365 days, and ₹0.40 only beyond one year.

Topic: Environment - Pollution & Climate Change

Concepts: Environmental Regulation, Air Pollution Control, Thermal Power Plants

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: MoEFCC Revises SO2 Emission Timelines for TPPs](#)

Q48. MoEFCC Revises SO₂ Emission Timelines for TPPs

T1+focus · assertion_reason · MEDIUM · 2025-07-11

Statement-I: Under the Environment (Protection) Fourth Amendment Rules, 2025, thermal power plants located within a 10 km radius of million-plus cities are strictly mandated to install Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD) systems without any discretionary exemptions. Statement-II: The 2025 amendment permits these plants to apply on the PARIVESH portal for a case-by-case review to determine if SO₂ emission standards apply to them.

- (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
- (C) **Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect ✓**
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement-I is correct. Under the 2025 amendment, thermal power plants within a 10 km radius of the NCR or million-plus cities are classified as Category A. The notification strictly mandates these plants to comply with SO₂ norms (installing FGD systems) by December 31, 2027, without any discretionary exemptions. This breaks the common heuristic that extreme words like 'without any' are always false. Statement-II is incorrect. The provision to apply on the PARIVESH portal for a case-by-case review applies exclusively to Category B plants, not Category A plants. If applicable, Category B plants have a deadline of December 31, 2028.

Topic: Environment - Pollution & Conservation

Concepts: Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD), Environmental Legislation, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: MoEFCC Revises SO₂ Emission Timelines for TPPs](#)

Q49. Draft Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target Rules

T1+focus · statement_based · HARD · 2025-06-23

Consider the following statements in respect of the Draft Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target Rules, 2025:

1. They draw their statutory backing from the Energy Conservation Act, 2001, under which the foundational Carbon Credit Trading Scheme was established.
2. They impose an absolute cap on the overall greenhouse gas emissions of designated entities to ensure India meets its Nationally Determined Contribution goals.

- (A) 1 only
 (B) 2 only
 (C) Both 1 and 2
 (D) **Neither 1 nor 2 ✓**

Answer: (D)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): While the foundational Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) was notified under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001, the Draft Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target Rules, 2025, specifically draw their legal backing from Sections 3, 6, and 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. This dual-legislation approach involves multiple ministries.

Statement 2 (incorrect): The rules deliberately maintain a 'baseline-and-credit' intensity mechanism (capping emissions per unit of product produced) rather than imposing an absolute cap on overall emissions. This ensures that industrial output and economic growth are not artificially restricted while still driving towards India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) goal of reducing GDP emission intensity.

Topic: Environment - Climate Change

Concepts: Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, Emission Intensity, Environmental Legislation

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Draft Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target Rules](#)

Q50. Draft Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target Rules

T1+focus · how_many_correct · HARD · 2025-06-23

Consider the following statements in respect of the Draft Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target Rules, 2025:

1. While the foundational Carbon Credit Trading Scheme was notified under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001, these specific target rules draw their legal backing from the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. The framework imposes an absolute cap on the total volume of greenhouse gases a designated entity can emit annually.
3. Non-compliant entities face an environmental compensation fine equal to twice the average trading price of carbon credits during that compliance year.
4. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) is assigned the dual role of issuing Carbon Credit Certificates and enforcing financial penalties for non-compliance.

- (A) Only one
 (B) **Only two ✓**
 (C) Only three
 (D) All four

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The source explicitly notes a dual-legislation approach; the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) was notified under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001, whereas the June 2025 Draft Rules establishing specific targets and penalties were issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Statement 2 (incorrect): A major misconception is that India's system mimics the EU's absolute 'cap-and-trade'. The rules deliberately maintain an 'intensity-based' target system (emissions per unit of product) rather than imposing an absolute cap on overall emissions, ensuring industrial output is not artificially restricted.

Statement 3 (correct): Under Rule 6, a strict penalty mechanism is introduced where non-compliant entities face a fine equal to twice (2x) the average trading price of carbon credits during that compliance year.

Statement 4 (incorrect): The rules clearly delineate regulatory roles. The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) handles baseline calculations and the issuance of Carbon Credit Certificates (CCCs), while the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is responsible for enforcing financial penalties.

Topic: Environment - Climate Change

Concepts: Carbon Market, Emission Intensity, Environmental Legislation, Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Draft Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target Rules](#)

Q51. Draft Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target Rules

T1+focus · assertion_reason · HARD · 2025-06-23

Statement-I: The Draft Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target Rules, 2025 deliberately avoid imposing an absolute cap on the overall greenhouse gas emissions of designated industrial entities. Statement-II: The specific target rules and penalty mechanisms of the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme draw their legal backing from the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, rather than the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

- (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I ✓**
- (C) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement-I is correct: The framework deliberately maintains an 'intensity-based' target system (emissions per unit of product produced) rather than imposing an absolute cap on total emissions. This ensures India's industrial output and economic growth are not artificially restricted, differentiating it from cap-and-trade systems like the EU ETS. Statement-II is correct: While the foundational Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) was notified under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 (and its 2022 amendment), the specific target rules and strict penalty mechanisms introduced in 2025 draw their legal backing from Sections 3, 6, and 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. However, Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I. The reason the rules avoid an absolute cap is macroeconomic (to decouple economic growth from proportional emission increases without halting industrialization), not statutory (the dual-legislation framework). Therefore, both statements are correct independently, but there is no causal relationship between them.

Topic: Environment - Climate Change Mitigation

Concepts: Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), Emission Intensity vs Absolute Cap, Environment Protection Act 1986, Market-based Environmental Mechanisms

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Draft Greenhouse Gases Emission Intensity Target Rules](#)

Q52. Draft Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules

T1+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-06-03

Consider the following statements:

1. Under the Draft Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules, 2025, any shortfall in meeting recycled plastic content targets for food-contact packaging in 2025-26 can be carried forward for up to three years.
2. To incentivize higher reuse rates, the amendment introduces a requirement for Brand Owners to reduce the reuse of Category-I rigid plastic packaging from their total plastic packaging calculations.

- (A) 1 only ✓
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): To address severe supply-chain constraints in sourcing food-grade recycled plastics, the draft amendment allows companies to carry forward any shortfall in using recycled plastic for food-contact packaging for the 2025-26 compliance year into the next three years (starting 2026-27), provided it is met over and above future targets.

Statement 2 (incorrect): The amendment does not introduce this requirement; rather, it explicitly omits it. Previously, Brand Owners were required to reduce the reuse of Category-I rigid plastic packaging from their total plastic packaging calculations. The amendment proposes omitting this requirement entirely to incentivize, rather than penalize, higher reuse rates.

Topic: Environment - Pollution & Waste Management

Concepts: Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Circular Economy, Plastic Waste Management Rules

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Draft Plastic Waste Management \(Second Amendment\) Rules](#)

Q53. Draft Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules

T1+focus · statement_based · HARD · 2025-06-03

Consider the following statements:

1. The Draft Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules, 2025 allow companies to carry forward their 2025-26 shortfall in using recycled plastic across all four categories of plastic packaging for up to three years.
2. The amendment explicitly mandates that the reuse of Category-I rigid plastic packaging in food contact applications is strictly subject to Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) regulations.

- (A) 1 only
 (B) 2 only ✓
 (C) Both 1 and 2
 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The carry-forward provision is not a blanket relief across all four categories of plastic packaging. The draft rules specifically allow this flexibility only for 'plastic packaging in food contact applications' for the 2025-26 shortfall, provided the shortfall is met over and above future targets.

Statement 2 (correct): To resolve previous ambiguities regarding food safety, the amendment explicitly states that the reuse of Category-I rigid plastics in food contact applications is strictly subject to FSSAI regulations. (Note: The extreme-sounding phrasing 'explicitly mandates' and 'strictly subject to' accurately reflects the rigorous statutory alignment introduced in the draft, making it factually correct).

Topic: Environment - Pollution & Waste Management

Concepts: Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Circular Economy, Plastic Waste Management Rules

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Draft Plastic Waste Management \(Second Amendment\) Rules](#)

Q54. Draft Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules

T1+focus · simple_mcq · HARD · 2025-06-03

Under the Draft Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules, 2025, how is a company's shortfall in meeting the recycled plastic content mandate for food-contact packaging during the 2025-26 compliance year legally addressed?

- (A) It can be carried forward for a maximum of one year, after which a technical exemption must be obtained from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.
- (B) It can be carried forward for up to three years, provided the deficit is met over and above the future annual targets. ✓**
- (C) It is permanently waived because the requirement to reduce the reuse of Category-I rigid plastic packaging from total calculations has been omitted.
- (D) It must be offset within the same financial year by purchasing Extended Producer Responsibility certificates on the centralized digital portal.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Option 2 (correct): The 2025 amendment specifically introduces a flexibility where any shortfall in using recycled plastic for food-contact packaging in 2025-26 can be carried forward for up to three years (starting 2026-27), provided it is met over and above future targets.

Option 1 (incorrect): The carry-forward period is three years, and statutory/technical exemptions are granted by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), whereas FSSAI regulates the safety standards for reuse.

Option 3 (incorrect): The omission of the reduction requirement is a separate provision meant to incentivize the reuse of Category-I rigid plastics, not a mechanism to waive recycled content shortfalls.

Option 4 (incorrect): While the 2022 guidelines established a portal for trading EPR certificates, the 2025 amendment explicitly created the carry-forward provision to address severe supply-chain constraints in sourcing food-grade recycled plastics, rather than forcing immediate offsets.

Topic: Environment Policy and Legislation

Concepts: Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Circular Economy, Plastic Waste Management

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Draft Plastic Waste Management \(Second Amendment\) Rules](#)

Q55. Draft Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules

T1+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-06-03

Consider the following statements:

1. Under the Draft Plastic Waste Management (Second Amendment) Rules, 2025, a shortfall in using recycled plastic content for food-contact packaging in 2025-26 can be carried forward for up to three years.
2. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is the sole authority empowered to grant case-by-case exemptions from recycled content mandates due to technical limitations.
3. The amendment alters the core classification of plastic packaging by reducing it from four categories to three to simplify compliance.
4. The reuse of Category-I rigid plastic packaging in food contact applications is strictly subject to regulations by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

- (A) Only one
 (B) Only two
 (C) **Only three** ✓
 (D) All four

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The draft rules introduce a targeted flexibility allowing companies to carry forward any 2025-26 shortfall in recycled plastic usage specifically for food-contact applications for up to three years.

Statement 2 (correct): The CPCB is the only authority empowered to grant case-by-case exemptions if statutory laws or technical limitations (such as product safety) prevent the use of recycled plastic.

Statement 3 (incorrect): The core classification of plastic packaging into four distinct categories (Category I to IV) remains completely unaltered by the amendment.

Statement 4 (correct): The rules explicitly state that reusing Category-I rigid plastic in food contact applications is strictly subject to FSSAI regulations to ensure food safety. Therefore, exactly three statements are correct.

Topic: Environment - Pollution & Waste Management

Concepts: Extended Producer Responsibility, Plastic Waste Management, Circular Economy

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Draft Plastic Waste Management \(Second Amendment\) Rules](#)

Q56. Action Plan for Aravalli Landscape Restoration Unveiled

T1+focus · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2025-05-21

Under the Detailed Action Plan for Aravalli Landscape Restoration unveiled in May 2025, how is the issue of mining within the Aravalli region addressed?

- (A) By introducing a complete blanket ban on all mining activities across the 6.45 million-hectare landscape.
- (B) By relying on the forthcoming Management Plan for Sustainable Mining (MPSM) drafted by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE). ✓**
- (C) By transferring all mining regulatory powers from the four constituent states to a newly created central authority.
- (D) By restricting mining solely to the designated 5-km ecological buffer zone while prohibiting it elsewhere.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Option 2 (correct): The Action Plan did not introduce a complete blanket ban on mining in the Aravallis. Instead, it relies on the Supreme Court's ongoing directives and the forthcoming Management Plan for Sustainable Mining (MPSM) drafted by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE).

Option 1 (incorrect): because there is no blanket ban.

Option 3 (incorrect): as the source mentions no such transfer of power to a new central authority.

Option 4 (incorrect): the 5-km zone is an ecological buffer of climate-resilient trees acting as a windbreak, not an area where mining is restricted to.

Topic: Environment - Conservation

Concepts: Aravalli Green Wall, Sustainable Mining, Landscape Restoration

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Action Plan for Aravalli Landscape Restoration Unveiled](#)

Q57. Action Plan for Aravalli Landscape Restoration Unveiled

T1+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-05-21

With reference to the Action Plan for Aravalli Landscape Restoration, consider the following statements:

1. The Action Plan expands the restoration focus from a narrow 5-km buffer zone to a comprehensive landscape approach covering 6.45 million hectares.
2. It introduces a complete blanket ban on mining activities across the Aravalli landscape to facilitate ecological recovery.
3. Financing for the plan bypasses siloed state budgets by formalising the convergence of existing schemes like CAMPA and MGNREGA.
4. The Aravalli Green Wall is designed as a continuous physical barricade spanning four administrative regions to halt the eastward expansion of the Thar Desert.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (A) Only one
- (B) **Only two ✓**
- (C) Only three
- (D) All four

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statements 1 and 3 are correct.

Statement 1 (correct): because the Action Plan expanded the geographical scope from a narrow 5-km buffer zone to a comprehensive landscape approach covering 6.45 million hectares across 29 districts.

Statement 3 (correct): as the plan formalises the convergence of existing schemes like CAMPA, MGNREGA, and the Green India Mission for unified financing, explicitly bypassing siloed state budgets.

Statement 2 (incorrect): because the Action Plan did not introduce a complete blanket ban on mining; instead, it relies on ongoing Supreme Court directives and the forthcoming Management Plan for Sustainable Mining (MPSM).

Statement 4 (incorrect): because the Aravalli Green Wall is not a physical, continuous barricade; it is a 5-km wide ecological buffer consisting of native, climate-resilient trees (such as Khejri, Banyan, and Dhau) and restored water bodies that acts as a natural windbreak.

Topic: Environment - Conservation

Concepts: Aravalli Green Wall Project, Ecological Restoration, Desertification

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Action Plan for Aravalli Landscape Restoration Unveiled](#)

Q58. Action Plan for Aravalli Landscape Restoration Unveiled

T1+focus · chronological · HARD · 2025-05-21

Arrange the following milestones related to India's land degradation and restoration policies in chronological order (from earliest to latest):

1. The official launch of the Aravalli Green Wall Project in Tikli village.
2. The target deadline for India to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land.
3. India hosting the UNCCD COP-14 to pledge major land restoration.
4. The unveiling of the Detailed Action Plan for Aravalli Landscape Restoration in Udaipur.

Select the correct sequence using the codes below:

- (A) 3, 1, 4, 2 ✓
- (B) 3, 4, 1, 2
- (C) 1, 3, 4, 2
- (D) 1, 4, 3, 2

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Based on the provided text, the chronological sequence of these milestones is: First: India hosted the UNCCD COP-14 and pledged to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land in 2019 (Statement 3). Second: The Aravalli Green Wall Project was officially launched in Tikli village, Haryana, in March 2023 (Statement 1). Third: The Detailed Action Plan for Aravalli Landscape Restoration was unveiled at a national workshop in Udaipur in May 2025 (Statement 4). Fourth: The target deadline for India to fulfill its UNCCD pledge of restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land is 2030 (Statement 2). Therefore, the correct chronological order is 3, 1, 4, 2.

Topic: Environment - Conservation

Concepts: Desertification, Aravalli Green Wall Project, UNCCD COP-14, Land Degradation

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Action Plan for Aravalli Landscape Restoration Unveiled](#)

Q59. Supreme Court Mandates Valid DSR for Sand Mining

T1+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-05-08

With reference to the regulation of sand mining in India, consider the following statements:

1. As sand is classified as a minor mineral, State governments hold the sole power to issue mining leases and collect revenue under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.
2. State authorities can initiate e-auctions for sand mining blocks based on a draft District Survey Report, provided the report is finalized before actual mining commences.

- (A) 1 only ✓
- (B) 2 only
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): Under Section 3(e) of the MMDR Act, 1957, sand is classified as a minor mineral. The regulatory jurisdiction, including the power to issue leases, frame rules, and collect revenue, remains entirely with the State governments under Section 15.

Statement 2 (incorrect): The Supreme Court explicitly ruled that a draft District Survey Report (DSR) is legally non-existent for granting clearances or conducting auctions. A final, approved DSR is a mandatory prerequisite before any e-auction can proceed, and conditional approvals pending future DSR finalization are strictly banned.

Topic: Environment - Environmental Clearances

Concepts: Environmental Clearance, Minor Minerals, District Survey Report, MMDR Act 1957

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Supreme Court Mandates Valid DSR for Sand Mining](#)

Q60. Supreme Court Mandates Valid DSR for Sand Mining

T1+focus · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2025-05-08

The Supreme Court's May 2025 judgment on sand mining explicitly banned the practice by District Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (DEIAA) and SEIAAs of granting conditional environmental approvals pending the finalization of a District Survey Report (DSR). According to the ruling, this ban was instituted to enforce which specific principle of environmental law?

- (A) The Polluter Pays Principle
- (B) **The Precautionary Principle ✓**
- (C) The Public Trust Doctrine
- (D) The Principle of Intergenerational Equity

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Option 2 (correct): because the Supreme Court's May 2025 judgment explicitly banned conditional approvals based on future DSR finalization to enforce the Precautionary Principle of environmental law, ensuring ecological accounting is completed before extraction. Options 1, 3, and 4 are incorrect because the source event specifically identifies the Precautionary Principle as the one enforced by this ban, and does not cite the Polluter Pays Principle, the Public Trust Doctrine, or the Principle of Intergenerational Equity in this context.

Topic: Environment - Environmental Law

Concepts: Precautionary Principle, Sand Mining Regulations, Environmental Clearance

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Supreme Court Mandates Valid DSR for Sand Mining](#)

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Q61. Supreme Court Mandates Valid DSR for Sand Mining

T1+focus · match_pairs · MEDIUM · 2025-05-08

Match List-I (Concept/Entity related to sand mining regulations) with List-II (Associated Legal/Regulatory Provision as per the recent Supreme Court judgment): List-I A. Draft District Survey Report (DSR) B. Section 15 of the MMDR Act, 1957 C. Precautionary Principle D. SEIAA / DEIAA List-II i. Retains the decentralized authority to grant environmental clearances. ii. Enforced by explicitly banning conditional approvals pending future DSR finalization. iii. Delegates regulatory and rule-making powers over minor minerals to state governments. iv. Declared legally non-existent for the purpose of initiating e-auctions.

- (A) A-iv, B-iii, C-ii, D-i ✓
- (B) A-iv, B-i, C-ii, D-iii
- (C) A-ii, B-iii, C-iv, D-i
- (D) A-iii, B-iv, C-i, D-ii

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): based on the Supreme Court's mandate on sand mining: - A matches (iv): The Supreme Court explicitly ruled that a draft DSR is 'legally non-existent' for granting clearances or conducting e-auctions. - B matches (iii): Sand is a minor mineral, and Section 15 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 delegates regulatory and rule-making powers to state governments. - C matches (ii): The judgment states that conditional approvals based on future DSR finalization are explicitly banned, which enforces the 'Precautionary Principle' of environmental law. - D matches (i): The decentralized authority to grant environmental clearances remains with the State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAA) or District Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (DEIAA), provided the final DSR prerequisite is met. Options 2, 3, and 4 incorrectly pair these entities and provisions.

Topic: Environment and Ecology - Environmental Laws and Policies

Concepts: Environmental Clearance, Precautionary Principle, Minor Minerals Regulation, District Survey Report (DSR)

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Supreme Court Mandates Valid DSR for Sand Mining](#)

Q62. Supreme Court Mandates Valid DSR for Sand Mining

T1+focus · how_many_correct · HARD · 2025-05-08

With reference to the regulation of sand mining in India, consider the following statements:

1. Under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, the power to issue mining leases and collect revenue for sand mining is vested solely in the Central Government.
2. State authorities are permitted to grant conditional environmental clearances for sand mining, provided the District Survey Report (DSR) is finalized before extraction begins.
3. The initiation of an e-auction process for sand mining blocks is legally prohibited until the replenishing capacity of the block is identified through a final, approved DSR.
4. The decentralized authority to grant environmental clearances for sand mining rests with state-level or district-level authorities, depending on the lease size category.

- (A) Only one
(B) Only two ✓
 (C) Only three
 (D) All four

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): Sand is classified as a 'minor mineral' under Section 3(e) of the MMDR Act, 1957. Under Section 15 of the Act, State governments (not the Central Government) hold the power to issue leases, frame rules, and collect revenue, even though the MoEFCC issues binding environmental guidelines.

Statement 2 (incorrect): The Supreme Court explicitly banned conditional approvals based on future DSR finalization, enforcing the Precautionary Principle of environmental law. A draft DSR is legally non-existent for granting clearances.

Statement 3 (correct): The Supreme Court ruled that a final, approved DSR is a non-negotiable legal prerequisite. No e-auction can proceed without first identifying the exact replenishing capacity of the block as per the final report.

Statement 4 (correct): The decentralized authority to grant environmental clearances for sand mining remains with the State Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAA) or District Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (DEIAA), depending on the lease size category, provided the final DSR prerequisite is met. Therefore, exactly two statements (3 and 4) are correct.

Topic: Environment - Environmental Impact Assessment

Concepts: District Survey Report (DSR), Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, Precautionary Principle, Minor Minerals

→ [Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Supreme Court Mandates Valid DSR for Sand Mining](#)

Q63. Biological Diversity (Amendment) Rules, 2025 Notified

T1+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-05-06

With reference to the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Rules, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. Biological resources harvested from the wild are exempted from Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) regulations.
2. The rules entirely remove the previous 15-day timeline and escalation routes for obtaining a Certificate of Origin.
3. The digital Certificate of Origin for cultivated medicinal plants is issued directly by the National Biodiversity Authority.
4. Applicants must pay a standardized fee of ₹200 when submitting their application for a cultivation certificate.

- (A) Only one
(B) **Only two ✓**
(C) Only three
(D) All four

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The core legal principle remains that biological resources harvested from the wild are still subject to strict Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) regulations. The financial exemptions apply to cultivated medicinal plants.

Statement 2 (correct): The 2025 rules entirely removed the strict 15-day timeline and the escalation routes to the State Biodiversity Board (SBB) or National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), as certificates are now auto-generated based on pre-verified records.

Statement 3 (incorrect): The certification process is managed entirely at the local, grassroots level by Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), not the apex National Biodiversity Authority.

Statement 4 (correct): The rules standardized the application procedure, introducing a nominal fee of ₹200 for submitting Form 11A via the web portal. Therefore, exactly two statements (2 and 4) are correct.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Environmental Legislation, Biodiversity Conservation, Access and Benefit Sharing

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Biological Diversity \(Amendment\) Rules, 2025 Notified](#)

Q64. Biological Diversity (Amendment) Rules, 2025 Notified

T1+focus · how_many_correct · HARD · 2025-05-06

With reference to the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Rules, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. The responsibility to proactively maintain a digital register of cultivated medicinal plants lies solely with the local Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs).
2. The Rules mandate a strict 15-day timeline for the issuance of the Certificate of Origin, failing which the applicant can escalate the matter to the State Biodiversity Board.
3. Cultivated medicinal plants are entirely exempt from Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) fees, but their growers must still obtain a Certificate of Origin.
4. To incentivize the AYUSH industry, biological resources harvested from the wild are now exempt from Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) regulations.

- (A) Only one
(B) **Only two** ✓
(C) Only three
(D) All four

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The certification process is managed entirely at the grassroots level. The responsibility to proactively maintain the digital register (Form 11) shifts solely to the local Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), bypassing apex bodies like the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA).

Statement 2 (incorrect): The previous 15-day timeline and escalation routes to the State Biodiversity Board (SBB) or NBA have been entirely removed. Under the 2025 Rules, the certificate (Form 12) is auto-generated instantly based on pre-verified BMC records.

Statement 3 (correct): While the 2023 amendment exempted cultivated medicinal plants from ABS fees to encourage agriculture, growers must still obtain a Certificate of Origin. This strict tracking is required to ensure wild plants are not illegally sold under the guise of being cultivated.

Statement 4 (incorrect): The core legal principle remains intact: biological resources harvested from the wild are still subject to strict ABS regulations and require approvals. The exemptions apply only to cultivated plants to reduce commercial pressure on wild ecosystems (in situ conservation).

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Biodiversity Conservation, Environmental Legislation, Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)

→ [Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Biological Diversity \(Amendment\) Rules, 2025 Notified](#)

Q65. Biological Diversity (Amendment) Rules, 2025 Notified

T1+focus · how_many_correct · EASY · 2025-05-06

With reference to the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Rules, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. They fully digitise the process of obtaining a Certificate of Origin solely for cultivated medicinal plants.
2. The digital certificates are issued centrally by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA).
3. A standardized fee of ₹200 is required for submitting the online application.
4. The rules remove the previous 15-day timeline for certificate issuance and the associated escalation routes.

- (A) Only one
(B) Only two
(C) **Only three** ✓
(D) All four

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The 2025 Rules fully digitise the process of obtaining a Certificate of Origin specifically for cultivated medicinal plants (via Forms 11, 11A, and 12) to distinguish them from wild-harvested resources, which remain subject to strict Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) regulations.

Statement 2 (incorrect): The certification process is managed entirely at the local, grassroots level by Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) via a digital web portal, not centrally by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA).

Statement 3 (correct): A nominal fee of ₹200 has been standardized for submitting the online application (Form 11A).

Statement 4 (correct): The previous 15-day timeline for the BMC to issue the certificate, and the routes to escalate delays to the State Biodiversity Board (SBB) or NBA, have been entirely removed as the certificate is now auto-generated based on pre-verified BMC records.

Topic: Biodiversity Conservation

Concepts: Biological Diversity Act, Biodiversity Management Committees, Access and Benefit Sharing

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Biological Diversity \(Amendment\) Rules, 2025 Notified](#)

Q66. Biological Diversity (Amendment) Rules, 2025 Notified

T1+focus · assertion_reason · MEDIUM · 2025-05-06

Statement-I: Under the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Rules, 2025, the strict 15-day timeline for Biodiversity Management Committees to issue a Certificate of Origin for cultivated medicinal plants has been entirely removed.
Statement-II: The 2025 Rules mandate that the Certificate of Origin is now auto-generated based on pre-verified digital records maintained by the local committees.

- (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I ✓
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
- (C) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement-I is correct: The 2025 Amendment Rules entirely removed the strict 15-day timeline (and the associated escalation routes to the State Biodiversity Board or National Biodiversity Authority) that previously governed the issuance of certificates by Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs). Statement-II is correct and explains Statement-I: The timeline was rendered obsolete because the system now auto-generates a digital Certificate of Origin (in Form 12) instantly, relying on pre-verified digital records (Form 11) that are proactively maintained by the BMCs on a designated web portal.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Biological Diversity Act, E-Governance in Environment, Biodiversity Management Committees

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Biological Diversity \(Amendment\) Rules, 2025 Notified](#)

Q67. India Crosses 100 GW Installed Solar Capacity Milestone

T1+focus · simple_mcq · EASY · 2025-04-03

Under the 'Pancharit' climate action plan unveiled at the COP26 summit, which of the following represents India's overarching energy capacity target for the year 2030?

- (A) 500 GW of strictly solar energy capacity
- (B) 500 GW of combined wind and solar capacity
- (C) **500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity** ✓
- (D) 500 GW of domestic solar module manufacturing capacity

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Option 3 (correct): The 'Pancharit' climate target mandates India to achieve 500 GW of 'non-fossil fuel' capacity by 2030, which aggregates solar, wind, biomass, large hydro, and nuclear power.

Option 1 (incorrect): because it is a common misconception that the 500 GW target is strictly for solar energy, driven by media emphasis on solar milestones.

Option 2 (incorrect): as the target encompasses all non-fossil sources, including nuclear, not just wind and solar.

Option 4 (incorrect): while domestic module manufacturing capacity has scaled to over 100 GW via the PLI scheme, it is not the 2030 Panchamrit target.

Topic: Environment - Climate Change

Concepts: Panchamrit, Renewable Energy Targets, COP26 Commitments

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India Crosses 100 GW Installed Solar Capacity Milestone](#)

Q68. India Crosses 100 GW Installed Solar Capacity Milestone

T1+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-04-03

Consider the following statements:

1. The 'Panchamrit' climate action plan unveiled at COP26 mandates India to achieve 500 GW of strictly solar energy capacity by 2030.
2. Solar energy currently accounts for approximately 55% of India's total installed renewable energy capacity.
3. The original target of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) launched in 2010 was to achieve 100 GW of solar capacity by 2022.
4. Establishing large-scale solar parks in India requires an estimated land acquisition of 4 to 7 acres per Megawatt (MW).

- (A) Only one
(B) **Only two ✓**
(C) Only three
(D) All four

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The 'Panchamrit' target is 500 GW of 'non-fossil fuel' capacity by 2030, which aggregates solar, wind, biomass, large hydro, and nuclear power, not strictly solar energy.

Statement 2 (correct): Solar energy is the largest component of India's renewable energy mix, accounting for approximately 55% of the total capacity (surpassing wind energy).

Statement 3 (incorrect): The JNNSM initially targeted 20 GW by 2022; this was only later revised to the 100 GW target (which was subsequently missed due to COVID-19 and supply chain shocks).

Statement 4 (correct): A major systemic bottleneck for large solar projects is land acquisition, which requires 4 to 7 acres per MW. Therefore, exactly two statements (2 and 4) are correct.

Topic: Environment - Climate Change

Concepts: Renewable Energy Targets, Panchamrit, Solar Energy Infrastructure

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India Crosses 100 GW Installed Solar Capacity Milestone](#)

Q69. India Crosses 100 GW Installed Solar Capacity Milestone

T1+focus · how_many_correct · EASY · 2025-04-03

Consider the following statements:

1. Wind energy constitutes the largest share of India's installed renewable energy capacity.
2. The COP26 'Panchamrit' goal mandates India to achieve 500 GW of strictly solar energy by 2030.
3. Rajasthan alone accounts for over a quarter of India's total installed solar capacity.
4. The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana accelerates residential rooftop installations by providing subsidies for 300 units of free electricity.

- (A) Only one
 (B) **Only two ✓**
 (C) Only three
 (D) All four

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): Solar energy, not wind, is by far the largest component, accounting for approximately 55% of India's total renewable energy capacity.

Statement 2 (incorrect): The 'Panchamrit' target is 500 GW of 'non-fossil fuel' capacity, which aggregates solar, wind, biomass, large hydro, and nuclear power, not strictly solar.

Statement 3 (correct): Rajasthan dominates the sector with nearly 30 GW, accounting for over a quarter of India's total 100 GW solar capacity.

Statement 4 (correct): The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana provides subsidies for 300 units of free electricity to rapidly accelerate grid-connected residential rooftop installations. Therefore, exactly two statements are correct.

Topic: Environment - Renewable Energy

Concepts: Solar Power, Panchamrit Targets, Renewable Energy Mix

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India Crosses 100 GW Installed Solar Capacity Milestone](#)

Q70. India Surpasses 50 GW Wind Energy Capacity

T1+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-03-31

Consider the following statements:

1. Under the 2023 wind repowering policy, incumbent DISCOMs have no right over the additional power generated post-repowering.
2. The policy mandates that the annual energy generation of a repowered project must be enhanced by at least 1.5 times compared to the old setup.

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) **Both 1 and 2 ✓**
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The 'National Repowering & Life Extension Policy for Wind Power Projects 2023' abolished previous Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) restrictions. Incumbent DISCOMs have no right over the additional power generated post-repowering, leaving developers free to sell this surplus via power exchanges or bilateral agreements. (This intentionally uses the extreme phrase 'no right' which is factually accurate per the policy).

Statement 2 (correct): The 2023 policy introduced a strict efficiency metric, mandating that the annual energy generation of the repowered project must be enhanced by at least 1.5 times compared to the old setup, distinguishing true repowering from mere refurbishment.

Topic: Environment - Renewable Energy

Concepts: Wind Energy Repowering, Renewable Energy Policy, Power Purchase Agreements

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India Surpasses 50 GW Wind Energy Capacity](#)

Q71. India Surpasses 50 GW Wind Energy Capacity

T1+focus · statement_based · HARD · 2025-03-31

Consider the following statements:

1. Under the National Repowering & Life Extension Policy 2023, 'repowering' strictly requires the wholesale technological replacement of the entire turbine structure rather than the refurbishment of existing parts.
2. The policy dictates that incumbent DISCOMs have absolutely no right over the additional power generated post-repowering, leaving developers solely free to sell this surplus via power exchanges or bilateral agreements.

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 only
(C) **Both 1 and 2 ✓**
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The 2023 policy explicitly differentiates 'repowering' from mere 'refurbishment' (which is just replacing parts like gearboxes for life extension). It mandates the wholesale technological replacement of older turbines entirely with modern multi-MW turbines to enhance annual energy generation by at least 1.5 times.

Statement 2 (correct): A major reform in the 2023 policy was the abolition of Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) restrictions on surplus power. Previously, developers were legally bound to supply all power to incumbent DISCOMs at unviable rates. Now, DISCOMs have no right over the additional power generated post-repowering, and developers are completely free to sell this surplus via power exchanges or bilateral agreements. (Note: Both statements contain extreme qualifiers like 'strictly requires', 'entire', 'absolutely no right', and 'solely free', yet both are factually correct, breaking common elimination heuristics).

Topic: Environment - Renewable Energy

Concepts: Wind Energy Repowering, Renewable Energy Policy, Power Purchase Agreements (PPA)

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India Surpasses 50 GW Wind Energy Capacity](#)

Q72. India Surpasses 50 GW Wind Energy Capacity

T1+focus · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2025-03-31

What specific financial mechanism does the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) employ to incentivize projects under the 2023 National Repowering & Life Extension Policy for Wind Power Projects?

- (A) A guaranteed tariff multiplier of 1.5 times for all surplus power sold to incumbent DISCOMs.
- (B) **An exclusive 0.25% interest rate rebate over and above the interest rate available to new wind projects. ✓**
- (C) A complete waiver of cross-subsidy surcharges for projects fully commissioned within 24 months.
- (D) A one-time capital subsidy exclusively reserved for the replacement of turbines below 2 MW capacity.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

The correct answer is Option 2. Under the 2023 policy, IREDA provides an exclusive 0.25% interest rate rebate for repowering projects, which is applied over and above the interest rate available to new wind projects.

Option 1 (incorrect): while the policy mandates a 1.5 times enhancement in annual energy generation, it abolishes PPA restrictions on surplus power rather than offering a tariff multiplier, meaning DISCOMs have no right over the additional power.

Option 3 (incorrect): 24 months is the strict time-bound framework for commissioning a project after the consent letter is issued, but the source

mentions no cross-subsidy surcharge waiver.

Option 4 (incorrect): turbines below 2 MW capacity are explicitly eligible for repowering, but the financial incentive provided is an interest rate rebate, not a capital subsidy.

Topic: Environment - Renewable Energy

Concepts: Renewable Energy Policy, Wind Energy, Energy Financing, IREDA

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India Surpasses 50 GW Wind Energy Capacity](#)

Q73. India Surpasses 50 GW Wind Energy Capacity

T1+focus · how many correct · EASY · 2025-03-31

Consider the following statements:

1. Wind energy constitutes the largest share of India's installed renewable energy capacity.
2. Under the 2023 Wind Repowering Policy, any wind turbine that has completed 15 years since installation is explicitly eligible for repowering.
3. The 2023 policy mandates that the annual energy generation of a repowered project must be enhanced by at least 1.5 times compared to the old setup.
4. Developers are legally bound to supply all surplus power generated post-repowering solely to incumbent DISCOMs.

- (A) Only one
(B) **Only two ✓**
(C) Only three
(D) All four

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): Solar power holds the dominant share of India's renewable energy capacity (over 130 GW as of early 2025), while wind power is second (surpassing 50 GW).

Statement 2 (correct): The 2023 National Repowering & Life Extension Policy broadens eligibility to explicitly include any wind turbine below 2 MW capacity, or one that has completed 15 years since installation, or fails MNRE quality control orders.

Statement 3 (correct): The 2023 policy strictly mandates that the annual energy generation of the repowered project must be enhanced by at least 1.5 times compared to the old setup.

Statement 4 (incorrect): The 2023 policy abolished previous PPA restrictions. Incumbent DISCOMs have no right over the additional power generated post-repowering, and developers are free to sell this surplus via power exchanges or bilateral agreements.

Topic: Environment - Renewable Energy

Concepts: Wind Energy, Renewable Energy Policy, Energy Transition

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India Surpasses 50 GW Wind Energy Capacity](#)

Q74. UNCCD COP16 Concludes with Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership

T1+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2024-12-13

Consider the following statements:

1. The Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) on Drought was established at COP16 in Riyadh to evaluate global policy options for proactive drought management.
2. COP16 expanded the mandate of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) and instructed the exploration of a Global Science-Policy Alliance on Land.

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 only ✓
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The Intergovernmental Working Group (IWG) on Drought was established at COP15 in Abidjan in 2022, not at COP16. The IWG spent two years evaluating policy options before presenting its final report at COP16 in Riyadh.

Statement 2 (correct): COP16 expanded both the number of independent scientists and the mandate of the Science-Policy Interface (SPI), explicitly instructing the Bureau of the Committee on Science and Technology to explore a Global Science-Policy Alliance on Land.

Topic: Environment - International Conventions

Concepts: UNCCD, Drought Management Policies, Science-Policy Interface

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: UNCCD COP16 Concludes with Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership](#)

Q75. UNCCD COP16 Concludes with Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership

T1+focus · statement_based · HARD · 2024-12-13

Consider the following statements:

1. At COP16, the UNCCD officially brought mainstream agriculture and rangelands into its core policy agenda, expanding beyond its historical mandate that exclusively addressed land degradation in hot desert regions.
2. Despite intense campaigning by the African bloc, COP16 concluded without adopting a legally binding global drought protocol, deferring the framework to COP17 in Mongolia.

- (A) 1 only
 (B) 2 only ✓
 (C) Both 1 and 2
 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): A common misconception is that the UNCCD focuses exclusively on hot desert regions due to the word 'Desertification' in its acronym. In reality, the convention addresses land degradation and drought in all climatic zones. While COP16 did officially bring agriculture and rangelands into its core agenda (as they were previously marginalized in the convention's thematic focus), the UNCCD's foundational mandate was never restricted solely to physical deserts.

Statement 2 (correct): Leading up to the Riyadh summit, the African bloc passionately campaigned for a legally binding global drought protocol akin to the Paris Agreement. However, negotiations deadlocked because developed nations favored non-binding voluntary frameworks to sidestep mandatory financial obligations. Consequently, the decision on a future global drought regime was deferred to COP17 in Mongolia in 2026.

Topic: Environment - International Conventions

Concepts: UNCCD, Desertification, Land Degradation, Global Drought Resilience

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: UNCCD COP16 Concludes with Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership](#)



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Q76. UNCCD COP16 Concludes with Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership

T1+focus · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2024-12-13

During the UNCCD COP16 in Riyadh, intense negotiations took place regarding a proposed legally binding global drought protocol. What was the final resolution on this specific proposal?

- (A) The protocol was officially adopted, but its mandatory financial obligations were deferred to COP17 in Mongolia.
- (B) The decision on the protocol was entirely deferred to COP17 in Mongolia due to deadlocked negotiations over economic commitments. ✓**
- (C) The protocol was downgraded to a voluntary framework managed exclusively by the new International Drought Resilience Observatory.
- (D) The protocol was passed solely for African countries, supported by a \$10 billion pledge from the Arab Coordination Group.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Option 2 (correct): Despite the African bloc's campaign for a legally binding global drought protocol, developed nations favored non-binding voluntary frameworks to avoid mandatory financial obligations. This fundamental divide resulted in deadlocked negotiations, forcing the decision on a future global drought regime to be entirely deferred to COP17 in Mongolia in 2026.

Option 1 (incorrect): because the protocol itself was not adopted in any form.

Option 3 (incorrect): while the world still relies on voluntary national actions, the protocol was not downgraded and handed to the International Drought Resilience Observatory, which is an AI-driven data platform.

Option 4 (incorrect): the \$10 billion pledge from the Arab Coordination Group was part of the voluntary Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership, not a binding protocol passed for Africa.

Topic: Environment - International Treaties

Concepts: UNCCD, Climate Finance, International Environmental Agreements

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: UNCCD COP16 Concludes with Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership](#)

Q77. MoEFCC Exempts White Category Industries from Dual Environmental Approvals

T1+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2024-11-12

With reference to the recent environmental approval exemptions by the MoEFCC, consider the following statements:

1. Under the integrated approval process, industries requiring an Environmental Clearance (EC) are exempted from paying the Consent to Establish (CTE) fee to the State Governments.
2. White Category industries, defined by a Pollution Index score of 20 or less, are required solely to submit a written self-declaration to the concerned State Pollution Control Board.

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 only ✓
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): While the mandatory condition of obtaining a separate Consent to Establish (CTE) certificate from State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) has been waived for industries requiring an Environmental Clearance (EC), the CTE fee must still be paid by the industry during the EC process to ensure there is no revenue loss to the State Governments.

Statement 2 (correct): White Category industries (those with a Pollution Index score of 20 or less) are completely exempted from obtaining CTE or Consent to Operate (CTO) under the Air and Water Acts. They must solely intimate the concerned SPCB or Pollution Control Committee about their operations through a written self-declaration.

Topic: Environment - Legislation

Concepts: Environmental Clearance, Pollution Control Boards, Ease of Doing Business

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: MoEFCC Exempts White Category Industries from Dual Environmental Approvals](#)

Q78. MoEFCC Exempts White Category Industries from Dual Environmental Approvals

T1+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2024-11-12

With reference to the recent exemptions for industrial environmental approvals, consider the following statements:

1. Industries classified under the White Category are entirely exempted from intimating the State Pollution Control Boards about their operations.
2. For projects requiring an Environmental Clearance, the mandatory condition of obtaining a separate Consent to Establish (CTE) has been waived.
3. State Pollution Control Boards are actively consulted during the overarching Environmental Clearance appraisal process for industries where the separate CTE is waived.
4. Industries exempted from obtaining a separate Consent to Establish are also exempted from paying the associated CTE fee to the State Governments.

- (A) Only one
 (B) **Only two ✓**
 (C) Only three
 (D) All four

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): While White Category industries (Pollution Index score up to 20) are exempted from obtaining CTE and CTO, they are not entirely exempted from intimation; they must intimate the concerned State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) or Pollution Control Committee (PCC) through a written self-declaration.

Statement 2 (correct): For industries that require an Environmental Clearance (EC), the requirement to obtain a separate CTE from SPCBs has been completely waived, as CTE issues are now evaluated within the EC process.

Statement 3 (correct): SPCBs will no longer issue a separate CTE but will be actively consulted during the overarching EC appraisal process.

Statement 4 (incorrect): Despite the merging of approvals and the waiver of a separate CTE certificate, the CTE fee must still be paid by the industry during the EC process to ensure there is no revenue loss to the State Governments.

Topic: Environment - Legislation

Concepts: Environmental Clearance, Consent to Establish (CTE), State Pollution Control Boards, Ease of Doing Business

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: MoEFCC Exempts White Category Industries from Dual Environmental Approvals](#)

Q79. MoEFCC Exempts White Category Industries from Dual Environmental Approvals

T1+focus · how_many_correct · HARD · 2024-11-12

With reference to the environmental clearance and consent mechanisms for industries, consider the following statements:

1. Despite the integration of approvals, industries requiring an Environmental Clearance must still pay the Consent to Establish (CTE) fee to prevent revenue loss to State Governments.
2. Under the new framework, Green category industries are entirely exempted from obtaining a Consent to Operate (CTO) prior to commencing operations.
3. The Central Government's authority to exempt specific industrial plants from consent mechanisms was enabled by the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, and the Water Amendment Act, 2024.
4. Industries categorised as 'White' are solely those with a Pollution Index score of 20 or less, and they require only a written self-declaration to the concerned State Board.

- (A) Only one
(B) Only two
(C) **Only three ✓**
(D) All four

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The source explicitly states that despite the merging of approvals (EC replacing CTE), the CTE fee must still be paid by the industry during the EC process to ensure there is no revenue loss to the State Governments.

Statement 2 (incorrect): The source specifies that polluting industries, which explicitly includes Red, Orange, and Green categories, are NOT exempt from the Consent to Operate (CTO) requirement; they must still obtain a CTO before commencing operations.

Statement 3 (correct): The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023, and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024, empowered the Central Government to exempt specific categories of industrial plants from consent mechanisms.

Statement 4 (correct): White Category industries are defined by a Pollution Index (PI) score of 20 or less, and they are only required to intimate the SPCB/PCC via a written self-declaration, being exempt from CTE and CTO. (Note the use of extreme words 'solely' and 'only' which are factually accurate here based on the source text).

Topic: Environment and Ecology - Legislation

Concepts: Environmental Clearance (EC), Pollution Control Boards, Ease of Doing Business, Environmental Legislation

→ [Read the full revision note on PrepDose: MoEFCC Exempts White Category Industries from Dual Environmental Approvals](#)

Q80. MoEFCC Exempts White Category Industries from Dual Environmental Approvals

T1+focus · how_many_correct · HARD · 2024-11-12

With reference to the environmental clearance and consent mechanisms for industries in India, consider the following statements:

1. For industries requiring an Environmental Clearance (EC), the mandatory condition of obtaining a separate Consent to Establish (CTE) from State Pollution Control Boards has been completely waived.
2. Despite the waiver of a separate CTE, industries securing an EC must still pay the CTE fee during the clearance process.
3. Industries classified under the Green category are exempted from obtaining a Consent to Operate (CTO) before commencing operations.
4. State Pollution Control Boards are entirely excluded from the appraisal process for industries that require an Environmental Clearance.

- (A) Only one
 (B) **Only two ✓**
 (C) Only three
 (D) All four

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The MoEFCC has completely waived the mandatory condition of obtaining a separate Consent to Establish (CTE) from State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) for industries that require an Environmental Clearance (EC). Issues typically assessed during the CTE stage are now evaluated directly within the EC process.

Statement 2 (correct): A common misconception is that waiving the CTE certificate waives the financial obligation. Despite the merging of approvals, industries must still pay the CTE fee during the EC process to ensure there is no revenue loss to the State Governments.

Statement 3 (incorrect): The exemption from obtaining a Consent to Operate (CTO) strictly applies to 'White Category' industries (practically non-polluting, with a Pollution Index score of 20 or less). Polluting industries, including those in the Red, Orange, and Green categories, are not exempt and must still obtain a CTO before commencing operations.

Statement 4 (incorrect): SPCBs are not bypassed or excluded from the regulatory framework. While they no longer issue a separate CTE, they are actively consulted during the overarching EC appraisal process.

Topic: Environment - Environmental Legislation

Concepts: Environmental Clearance, Consent to Establish, Pollution Control Boards, Ease of Doing Business

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: MoEFCC Exempts White Category Industries from Dual Environmental Approvals](#)

Q81. MoEFCC Doubles Environmental Compensation Penalties for Stubble Burning

T1+focus · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2024-11-06

Under the amended Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) Rules, 2024, what is the specified default protocol if an environmental compensation penalty for stubble burning remains unpaid after 30 days of challan issuance?

- (A) **The Commission issues a certificate to an authorized state or UT officer to recover the due amount as arrears of land revenue. ✓**
- (B) The defaulting farmer is subjected to criminal sentencing and immediate jail time under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.
- (C) The State Pollution Control Board assumes direct administrative control of the specific agricultural land.
- (D) The Commission refers the default directly to the Supreme Court for the initiation of contempt proceedings.

Answer: (A)

Explanation

According to the amended CAQM Rules, 2024, if the environmental compensation is not paid within 30 days, the default protocol dictates that the Commission issues a certificate for the due amount to the authorized state/UT officer for recovery as arrears of land revenue (

Option 1 (correct):). The fines are civil 'environmental compensations' under Section 15 of the CAQM Act, not criminal penalties leading to jail time, making Option 2 incorrect. Options 3 and 4 describe fabricated punitive measures not present in the notified rules.

Topic: Environment - Legislation

Concepts: Air Pollution, Environmental Governance, Commission for Air Quality Management

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: MoEFCC Doubles Environmental Compensation Penalties for Stubble Burning](#)

Q82. MoEFCC Doubles Environmental Compensation Penalties for Stubble Burning

T1+focus · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2024-11-06

Under the amended Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) Rules, 2024, what is the prescribed mechanism if a farmer fails to pay the environmental compensation for stubble burning within 30 days of the issuance of a challan?

- (A) The Commission initiates criminal proceedings against the offender under Section 15 of the CAQM Act.
- (B) **The Commission issues a certificate to an authorized state or UT officer for recovery of the amount as arrears of land revenue. ✓**
- (C) The State Pollution Control Board is mandated to double the penalty amount for every subsequent 30-day delay.
- (D) The offender is temporarily barred from receiving state agricultural subsidies until the compensation is cleared.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

According to the amended CAQM Rules, 2024, if the environmental compensation is unpaid within 30 days of the challan issuance, the Commission issues a certificate for the due amount to the authorized state/UT officer for recovery as arrears of land revenue (Option 2).

Option 1 (incorrect): because the penalties are civil 'environmental compensations' under Section 15 of the CAQM Act, not criminal sentences. Options 3 and 4 are not provisions mentioned in the source rules.

Topic: Environment

Concepts: Air Pollution Regulation, Environmental Compensation, Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: MoEFCC Doubles Environmental Compensation Penalties for Stubble Burning](#)

Q83. MoEFCC Doubles Environmental Compensation Penalties for Stubble Burning

T1+focus · simple_mcq · EASY · 2024-11-06

Under the amended 2024 rules notified by the MoEFCC for stubble burning, what is the default protocol if a farmer fails to pay the environmental compensation fine within 30 days of the challan issuance?

- (A) The fine is converted into a criminal penalty leading to immediate imprisonment under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.
- (B) **The Commission issues a certificate to an authorized officer to recover the amount as arrears of land revenue. ✓**
- (C) The farmer is permanently barred from receiving state agricultural subsidies and minimum support price benefits.
- (D) The matter is forwarded to the National Green Tribunal for the immediate attachment of the farmer's bank accounts.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Option 2 (correct): According to the amended 2024 rules, if the environmental compensation is unpaid within 30 days, the Commission issues a certificate for the due amount to the authorized state/UT officer for recovery as arrears of land revenue.

Option 1 (incorrect): because the fines are civil 'environmental compensations' under Section 15 of the CAQM Act, not criminal sentences. Options 3 and 4 are incorrect as the source event does not mention barring farmers from subsidies or forwarding the matter to the National Green Tribunal for bank attachment.

Topic: Environment - Legislation

Concepts: Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), Environmental Governance, Polluter Pays Principle

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: MoEFCC Doubles Environmental Compensation Penalties for Stubble Burning](#)

Q84. MoEFCC Doubles Environmental Compensation Penalties for Stubble Burning

T1+focus · assertion_reason · MEDIUM · 2024-11-06

Statement-I: Under the 2024 amended rules, if the environmental compensation for stubble burning is not paid within 30 days of challan issuance, the CAQM issues a certificate for recovery as arrears of land revenue. Statement-II: The fines imposed by the CAQM for stubble burning are criminal penalties that can lead to immediate imprisonment under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

- (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
- (C) **Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect ✓**
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement-I is correct: The 2024 amended rules stipulate a 30-day collection timeline for challans. If defaulted, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) issues a certificate to an authorized state/UT officer for the recovery of the due amount as arrears of land revenue. Statement-II is incorrect: A common misconception is that these penalties carry criminal liability. In reality, they are strictly civil 'environmental compensations' levied under Section 15 of the CAQM Act, not criminal sentences under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Topic: Environment - Pollution

Concepts: Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), Environmental Governance, Polluter Pays Principle

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: MoEFCC Doubles Environmental Compensation Penalties for Stubble Burning](#)

Tier 2 - Important (Focus Events)

52 questions

Q85. UNFCCC CGE Finalizes Workplan for Enhanced Transparency Framework

T2+focus · statement_based · HARD · 2026-03-05

Consider the following statements:

1. Under the Enhanced Transparency Framework, the previously bifurcated reporting guidelines are replaced by a common reporting framework, with built-in flexibility applied solely for developing countries that genuinely lack capacity.
2. The Consultative Group of Experts (CGE), which assists developing countries with these reporting requirements, was established by Article 13 of the 2015 Paris Agreement.

- (A) 1 only ✓
 (B) 2 only
 (C) Both 1 and 2
 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) transitions away from the distinctly bifurcated guidelines for developed versus developing nations, establishing a common reporting framework. The source explicitly notes that built-in flexibility is applied only (solely) for developing countries that genuinely lack capacity.

Statement 2 (incorrect): The Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) was established much earlier, at COP5 in 1999, to assist developing countries under the UNFCCC. It was the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) itself that was established by Article 13 of the 2015 Paris Agreement, not the CGE.

Topic: Environment - Climate Change

Concepts: Enhanced Transparency Framework, Paris Agreement, UNFCCC Institutions

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: UNFCCC CGE Finalizes Workplan for Enhanced Transparency Framework](#)

Q86. UNFCCC CGE Finalizes Workplan for Enhanced Transparency Framework

T2+focus · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2026-03-05

Regarding the transition to the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) under the UNFCCC, which of the following accurately describes the shift in reporting guidelines for member nations?

- (A) **It establishes a common reporting framework for all nations, with built-in flexibility applied solely for developing countries that genuinely lack capacity. ✓**
- (B) It maintains distinctly bifurcated reporting guidelines for developed and developing nations to ensure equity.
- (C) It mandates that developing countries continue submitting Biennial Update Reports (BURs) but under stricter standardized guidelines.
- (D) It completely exempts developing nations from greenhouse gas inventory tracking until basic reporting capacity is built.

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): Under the new Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), the previous system of bifurcated guidelines for developed and developing nations was replaced by a common reporting framework for all nations. Built-in flexibility is applied only (solely) for developing countries that genuinely lack capacity.

Option 2 (incorrect): because bifurcated guidelines were the previous standard, not the ETF standard.

Option 3 (incorrect): because developing countries must now submit Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), which replace the older Biennial Update Reports (BURs).

Option 4 (incorrect): rather than exempting them, the 2026-2029 CGE workplan provides advanced, targeted support for developing countries to conduct greenhouse gas inventory tracking.

Topic: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Concepts: Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), UNFCCC Reporting, Paris Agreement

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: UNFCCC CGE Finalizes Workplan for Enhanced Transparency Framework](#)

Q87. Environment Protection Fund Rules 2026 notified

T2+focus · statement_based · HARD · 2026-01-15

Consider the following statements regarding the Environment Protection Fund Rules 2026:

1. All financial penalties collected under the Air Act (1981) and Water Act (1974) must be deposited into the Consolidated Fund of India via the Bharatkosh portal.
2. The rules establish a revenue-sharing formula where 75 percent of the collected penalties is remitted to the respective State or Union Territory, with administrative expenses capped at 5 percent of the fund.

- (A) 1 only
 (B) 2 only ✓
 (C) Both 1 and 2
 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The Environment Protection Fund Rules 2026 mandate that all financial penalties collected under the Air Act (1981), Water Act (1974), and Environment Protection Act (1986) be deposited into a dedicated fund in the Public Account of India, not the Consolidated Fund of India. They are credited via the central online Bharatkosh portal.

Statement 2 (correct): The rules establish a strict revenue-sharing formula where 75 percent of the collected penalties is remitted to the respective State or Union Territory (while 25 percent is retained by the Centre). Furthermore, the rules mandate dedicated Project Management Units and cap administrative expenses at 5 percent of the fund.

Topic: Environment - Legislation

Concepts: Environment Protection Fund Rules 2026, Public Account of India, Polluter Pays Principle

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Environment Protection Fund Rules 2026 notified](#)

Q88. Environment Protection Fund Rules 2026 notified

T2+focus · chronological · MEDIUM · 2026-01-15

Arrange the following developments related to environmental governance and penalty mechanisms in India in the correct chronological order, from earliest to latest:

1. The National Green Tribunal taking suo motu cognizance of the diversion of environmental penalty funds for general development works.
2. Enactment of the Environment Protection Act.
3. Notification of the Environment Protection Fund Rules restricting fund usage strictly to environmental monitoring, site-specific remediation, and clean technology research.
4. Passage of the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act to replace imprisonment with financial penalties for certain minor environmental offenses.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) 2, 4, 1, 3 ✓
(B) 4, 2, 1, 3
(C) 2, 1, 4, 3
(D) 4, 1, 2, 3

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Based on the source event, the correct chronological sequence is 2, 4, 1, 3. - Statement 2 is the earliest: The Environment Protection Act was enacted in 1986. - Statement 4 follows: The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act was passed in 2023, which laid the foundation for the new rules by decriminalizing certain minor environmental offenses and replacing imprisonment with financial penalties. - Statement 1 occurred next: The National Green Tribunal took suo motu cognizance of the fragmentation and diversion of environmental funds by state pollution control boards in late 2025. - Statement 3 is the most recent: The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified the Environment Protection Fund Rules on January 15, 2026, which strictly restricted fund usage and capped administrative expenses.

Topic: Environment - Legislation and Policies

Concepts: Environmental Legislation, Polluter Pays Principle, National Green Tribunal (NGT), Environmental Governance

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Environment Protection Fund Rules 2026 notified](#)

Q89. SC Restricts Non-Forest Use of Forest Land

T2+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-12-18

With reference to the recent Supreme Court judgment on the non-forest use of forest land, consider the following statements:

1. The Court ruled that prolonged possession of forest land under an expired agricultural lease can be regularized through post-facto representations to the Central Government.
2. The Court directed the State Forest Department to ecologically restore the reclaimed land within 12 months using indigenous plant species.

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 only ✓
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The Supreme Court struck down the High Court order that permitted seeking continuation of the lease. It explicitly barred the continuation or regularization of such leases, ruling that post-facto representations cannot legitimize the illegal diversion of forest land, reinforcing the strict embargo under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Statement 2 (correct): The Apex Court upheld the eviction of the cooperative society and directed the State Forest Department to ecologically restore the 134 acres of reclaimed land within 12 months using indigenous plant species.

Topic: Environment - Laws and Policies

Concepts: Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Ecological Restoration, Judicial Interventions in Environment

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: SC Restricts Non-Forest Use of Forest Land](#)

Q90. SC Restricts Non-Forest Use of Forest Land

T2+focus · simple_mcq · HARD · 2025-12-18

According to the Supreme Court's December 2025 judgment concerning the Gandhi Jeevan Collective Farming Cooperative Society, what is the legal standing of post-facto representations for regularizing unauthorized agricultural use of forest land?

- (A) They are legally permissible solely in cases where the unauthorized possession originated from a previously valid 10-year agricultural lease.
- (B) **They cannot legitimize the illegal diversion of forest land, reinforcing the strict embargo under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. ✓**
- (C) They are valid provided the occupying entity ecologically restores the land using indigenous plant species within 12 months.
- (D) They can establish an equitable claim to the land if the initial encroachment was facilitated by past administrative errors.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Option 2 (correct): The Supreme Court explicitly barred the continuation or regularization of such leases, stating that post-facto representations cannot legitimize the illegal diversion of forest land, thereby reinforcing Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Option 1 (incorrect): Although the dispute originated from an expired 10-year lease, the Court did not make an exception for it; it upheld the eviction.

Option 3 (incorrect): The directive to ecologically restore the land within 12 months using indigenous species was a remediation order given to the State Forest Department after upholding the eviction, not a condition for validating unauthorized use.

Option 4 (incorrect): The Court specifically ruled against the practice of encroachers leveraging prolonged possession or past administrative errors to maintain control through equitable claims.

Topic: Environment - Conservation

Concepts: Forest (Conservation) Act 1980, Environmental Jurisprudence, Supreme Court Judgments

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: SC Restricts Non-Forest Use of Forest Land](#)

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Q91. Two New Ramsar Sites Designated in India

T2+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-12-15

Consider the following statements:

1. Kopra Jalashay is the first wetland in Chhattisgarh to be designated as a Ramsar Site.
2. Siliserh Lake, originally constructed in 1845, is situated in the core zone of the Sariska Tiger Reserve.
3. The Ramsar Convention came into force in India in 1982.
4. Prior to the addition of Siliserh Lake and Kopra Jalashay, India had 94 recognized Ramsar sites.

- (A) Only one
(B) Only two
(C) **Only three** ✓
(D) All four

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): Kopra Jalashay marks Chhattisgarh's first-ever internationally recognized Ramsar site.

Statement 2 (incorrect): Siliserh Lake is a human-made freshwater lake situated in the buffer zone (not the core zone) of the Sariska Tiger Reserve.

Statement 3 (correct): The Ramsar Convention was signed internationally in 1971 and came into force in India in 1982.

Statement 4 (correct): Before the designation of Siliserh Lake and Kopra Jalashay, India had 94 Ramsar sites. The addition of these two brought the total to 96.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Wetland Conservation, Ramsar Convention, Protected Areas

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Two New Ramsar Sites Designated in India](#)

Q92. Two New Ramsar Sites Designated in India

T2+focus · how_many_correct · HARD · 2025-12-15

Consider the following statements:

1. Kopra Jalashay is the first wetland in Chhattisgarh to receive international conservation monitoring under the Ramsar framework.
2. Siliserh Lake is a naturally formed freshwater lake situated in the buffer zone of the Sariska Tiger Reserve.
3. The Ramsar Convention came into force in India in 1982, eleven years after the international treaty was signed.
4. Prior to the designation of Siliserh Lake and Kopra Jalashay, India had exactly 96 recognized Wetlands of International Importance.

- (A) Only one
(B) **Only two ✓**
(C) Only three
(D) All four

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): Kopra Jalashay marks Chhattisgarh's first-ever Ramsar site, putting the state on the global wetland conservation map.

Statement 2 (incorrect): While it is situated in the buffer zone of the Sariska Tiger Reserve, Siliserh Lake is a human-made freshwater lake (constructed in 1845 by Maharaja Vinay Singh), not a naturally formed one.

Statement 3 (correct): The Ramsar Convention was signed internationally in 1971 but came into force in India in 1982.

Statement 4 (incorrect): Before the designation of these two new sites, India had 94 Ramsar sites; the addition of Siliserh Lake and Kopra Jalashay brought the total to 96.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Ramsar Convention, Wetland Conservation, Protected Areas

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Two New Ramsar Sites Designated in India](#)

Q93. 4th International Day for Biosphere Reserves Observed

T2+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-11-03

With reference to biosphere reserves in India, consider the following statements:

1. Prior to the inclusion of the Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve, Panna was the most recent Indian site added to the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves.
2. The Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve encompasses the Pin Valley National Park and was inducted into the UNESCO network concurrently with its domestic designation in 2009.

- (A) 1 only ✓
 (B) 2 only
 (C) Both 1 and 2
 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): Before the induction of the Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve in 2025 (which became India's 13th internationally recognized site), Panna was the last addition to the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) in 2020.

Statement 2 (incorrect): While the Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve does encompass the Pin Valley National Park, it was not inducted into the UNESCO network concurrently with its domestic designation. It was designated as a domestic biosphere reserve by the Government of India in 2009, but it only achieved international recognition under UNESCO's WNBR in 2025.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Biosphere Reserves, UNESCO MAB Programme, Protected Areas of India

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: 4th International Day for Biosphere Reserves Observed](#)

Q94. 4th International Day for Biosphere Reserves Observed

T2+focus · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2025-11-03

Which of the following accurately describes the recognition status of the Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve immediately before its induction into the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) in 2025?

- (A) **It was solely recognized domestically under India's National Biosphere Reserve Programme, having been designated in 2009. ✓**
- (B) It was solely recognized as an international site under the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme since 1971.
- (C) It was recognized as India's 12th UNESCO biosphere reserve, having been added to the WNBR in 2020.
- (D) It was solely recognized as a domestic reserve established on the first International Day for Biosphere Reserves in 2022.

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): Before its 2025 induction into the WNBR, the Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve was solely recognized domestically under India's National Biosphere Reserve Programme, having been designated by the Government of India in 2009.

Option 2 (incorrect): the MAB Programme itself was launched in 1971, but the Cold Desert was not part of it at that time.

Option 3 (incorrect): this describes the Panna Biosphere Reserve, which was India's 12th WNBR addition in 2020.

Option 4 (incorrect): while the first International Day for Biosphere Reserves was celebrated in 2022, the Cold Desert was designated domestically much earlier, in 2009.

Topic: Environment - Protected Areas

Concepts: Biosphere Reserves, UNESCO MAB Programme, Conservation Status

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: 4th International Day for Biosphere Reserves Observed](#)

Q95. Cold Desert Designated 13th UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

T2+focus · assertion_reason · MEDIUM · 2025-09-27

Statement-I: Following its 2025 global designation, the management of the Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve no longer relies strictly on domestic policies centered solely on protected areas. Statement-II: The reserve's inclusion in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves integrates UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) guidelines, which focus heavily on harmonizing human-nature interactions.

- (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I ✓
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
- (C) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement-I is correct: Prior to its inclusion as India's 13th site in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, the Cold Desert's wildlife protection followed domestic policies centered strictly on protected areas. Statement-II is correct: The new management framework integrates UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) guidelines, which shift the focus heavily toward harmonizing human-nature interactions. Statement-II provides the direct explanation for Statement-I, as the adoption of the MAB guidelines is the reason the management approach has broadened beyond strict domestic protected-area policies.

Topic: Environment - Conservation

Concepts: Biosphere Reserves, Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, Conservation Frameworks

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Cold Desert Designated 13th UNESCO Biosphere Reserve](#)

Q96. Cold Desert Designated 13th UNESCO Biosphere Reserve

T2+focus · assertion_reason · MEDIUM · 2025-09-27

Statement-I: Scientific studies and funding for the Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve are no longer limited solely to national institutes and state budgets.
Statement-II: The Government of India originally notified the Cold Desert as a national biosphere reserve in 2009 under the National Biosphere Reserve Programme.

- (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I ✓**
- (C) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement-I is correct: Following its 2025 designation as India's 13th site in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves, the Cold Desert is now part of a global network that facilitates international ecological research, data sharing, and external funding, whereas previously it was largely limited to national institutes and state budgets. Statement-II is also correct: The Government of India originally notified the Cold Desert as a national biosphere reserve in 2009. However, Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I. The reason scientific studies and funding are no longer solely limited to domestic sources is the 2025 international UNESCO recognition, not the original 2009 domestic notification.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity Conservation

Concepts: Biosphere Reserves, UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, Conservation Funding

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Cold Desert Designated 13th UNESCO Biosphere Reserve](#)

Q97. EIA Public Consultation Exemption for Critical Minerals

T2+focus · statement_based · HARD · 2025-09-08

With reference to the environmental clearance of critical and atomic minerals, consider the following statements:

1. Under the First Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act of 2023, critical and strategic minerals are classified under Part B, while atomic minerals fall under Part D.
2. Prior to their complete exemption from public hearings in September 2025, the MoEFCC had already issued a directive allowing these mining projects to be processed out-of-turn.

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 only ✓
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The classifications are swapped. According to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act of 2023, atomic minerals are classified under Part B, whereas critical and strategic minerals are classified under Part D of its First Schedule.

Statement 2 (correct): While the September 2025 Office Memorandum completely exempted these projects from mandatory public hearings under the EIA Notification 2006, an earlier MoEFCC directive in March 2025 had already allowed these mining projects to be processed out-of-turn to expedite clearances.

Topic: Environment - Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Concepts: Environmental Impact Assessment, Critical Minerals, Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: EIA Public Consultation Exemption for Critical Minerals](#)

Q98. EIA Public Consultation Exemption for Critical Minerals

T2+focus · statement_based · EASY · 2025-09-08

With reference to the environmental clearance for critical minerals, consider the following statements:

1. Mining projects involving atomic and critical minerals are entirely exempted from the mandatory public consultation requirement under the EIA Notification 2006.
2. This exemption was granted following a proposal from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to fast-track India's net-zero transition.

- (A) 1 only ✓
 (B) 2 only
 (C) Both 1 and 2
 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The MoEFCC has entirely exempted mining projects involving atomic minerals (Part B) and critical/strategic minerals (Part D) from mandatory public hearings under the EIA Notification 2006.

Statement 2 (incorrect): While the exemption does aid the net-zero transition, it was specifically requested by the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Atomic Energy (highlighting the role of rare earth elements in military technology), not the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

Topic: Environmental Governance

Concepts: Environmental Impact Assessment, Critical Minerals, Public Consultation

→ [Read the full revision note on PrepDose: EIA Public Consultation Exemption for Critical Minerals](#)

Q99. India Constitutes National Designated Authority For Carbon Markets

T2+focus · simple_mcq · HARD · 2025-08-22

Which of the following correctly identifies the domestic legal framework under which the National Designated Authority (NDA) for Carbon Markets was established in August 2025, its chairperson, and the specific mechanism it uses to ensure exported emission units do not compromise India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)?

- (A) **Established under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; chaired by the Environment Secretary; applies "corresponding adjustments".** ✓
- (B) Established under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; chaired by the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; maintains an integrated project registry.
- (C) Established under the May 2022 transitional notification; chaired by the Environment Secretary; maintains an integrated project registry.
- (D) Established under the May 2022 transitional notification; chaired by the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; applies "corresponding adjustments".

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): According to the August 2025 gazette notification, the NDA was established under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (replacing the previous May 2022 transitional notification). It is a 21-member committee chaired by the Environment Secretary, not the Minister. To prevent double counting and ensure exported units do not compromise India's NDC commitments, the NDA officially applies a specific accounting mechanism known as "corresponding adjustments". While maintaining a registry is one of its tasks, "corresponding adjustments" is the explicit mechanism used to deduct exported units correctly.

Topic: Environment - Climate Change

Concepts: Carbon Markets, Paris Agreement Article 6, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Environmental Governance

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India Constitutes National Designated Authority For Carbon Markets](#)

Q100. India Constitutes National Designated Authority For Carbon Markets

T2+focus · simple_mcq · EASY · 2025-08-22

In August 2025, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change constituted the National Designated Authority (NDA) to implement Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Who chairs this 21-member committee?

- (A) The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (B) **The Environment Secretary ✓**
- (C) The Prime Minister of India
- (D) The Administrator of the Indian Carbon Market

Answer: (B)

Explanation

According to the source event, the newly constituted National Designated Authority (NDA) is a 21-member committee tasked with implementing Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. It is chaired by the Environment Secretary. The Administrator of the Indian Carbon Market is mentioned as an entity the NDA coordinates with to maintain a registry, but does not chair the committee. The Union Minister and the Prime Minister are incorrect distractors.

Topic: Environment - Climate Change

Concepts: Carbon Markets, Paris Agreement, Environmental Governance

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India Constitutes National Designated Authority For Carbon Markets](#)

Q101. Sundarbans Becomes India's Second Largest Tiger Reserve

T2+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-08-19

Consider the following statements:

1. Following the integration of the Matla, Raidighi, and Ramganga forest ranges, the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve trails only the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve in total area among India's tiger reserves.
2. The expansion was approved by the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), a statutory body constituted under the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972 and chaired by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

- (A) **1 only ✓**
- (B) 2 only
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The integration of the Matla, Raidighi, and Ramganga forest ranges added 1,044 sq km to the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve, making it the second-largest in India, trailing only the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve.

Statement 2 (incorrect): While the NBWL is a statutory body constituted under the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972 that approved the expansion, it is chaired by the Prime Minister of India, not the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Topic: Biodiversity and Conservation

Concepts: Protected Areas, Project Tiger, Wildlife Protection Act 1972, Statutory Bodies

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Sundarbans Becomes India's Second Largest Tiger Reserve](#)

Q102. Sundarbans Becomes India's Second Largest Tiger Reserve

T2+focus · match_pairs · HARD · 2025-08-19

Match List-I (Entities/Concepts related to Tiger Conservation) with List-II (Descriptions based on recent developments): List-I A. National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) B. Matla, Raidighi, and Ramganga C. Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam D. Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 List-II i. The statutory framework mandating the constitution of the NBWL ii. The statutory body, chaired by the Prime Minister, that cleared the Sundarbans integration proposal iii. The only tiger reserve in India with a total area exceeding 3,629 sq km iv. Former ordinary territorial forests that now receive stringent funding and protections mandated by the NTCA

- (A) A-ii, B-iv, C-iii, D-i ✓
- (B) A-i, B-iv, C-iii, D-ii
- (C) A-ii, B-iii, C-iv, D-i
- (D) A-i, B-iii, C-iv, D-ii

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Based on the recent expansion of the Sundarbans Tiger Reserve: A matches (ii): The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) is a statutory body chaired by the Prime Minister of India that cleared the integration proposal submitted by the West Bengal Forest Department. B matches (iv): The Matla, Raidighi, and Ramganga forest ranges were ordinary territorial forests that are now fully integrated into the Tiger Reserve, receiving stringent protections and funding mandated by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). C matches (iii): The Sundarbans Tiger Reserve, after adding 1,044 sq km, spans 3,629 sq km and is now the second-largest tiger reserve in India, trailing only the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve. Therefore, Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam is the only reserve exceeding 3,629 sq km. D matches (i): The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 is the statutory framework under which the NBWL is constituted. Therefore, the correct matching is A-ii, B-iv, C-iii, D-i.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity Conservation

Concepts: Project Tiger, National Board for Wildlife, Protected Areas, Wildlife Protection Act 1972

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Sundarbans Becomes India's Second Largest Tiger Reserve](#)

Q103. SC Empowers PCBs To Levy Restitutionary Environmental Damages

T2+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-08-04

Consider the following statements regarding the Supreme Court's August 2025 ruling on the powers of State Pollution Control Boards:

1. State Pollution Control Boards are now explicitly empowered to impose punitive penalties on commercial entities for environmental harm under the Water Act (1974) and Air Act (1981).
2. Regulatory boards can apply the 'Polluter Pays' principle as an ex-ante preventive measure to demand bank guarantees without awaiting actual environmental degradation.

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 only ✓
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The Supreme Court clearly distinguished between punitive action and restitutionary damages. Punitive penalties require a criminal conviction and are imposed by courts, whereas State Pollution Control Boards are empowered to impose restitutionary and compensatory damages, not punitive penalties.

Statement 2 (correct): The ruling allows regulatory boards to apply the 'Polluter Pays' principle proactively as an ex-ante preventive measure to prevent potential or imminent environmental harm, empowering them to demand compensatory damages or bank guarantees without a prior criminal conviction and without awaiting actual degradation.

Topic: Environment - Laws and Policies

Concepts: Polluter Pays Principle, Environmental Jurisprudence, Statutory Bodies

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: SC Empowers PCBs To Levy Restitutionary Environmental Damages](#)

Q104. SC Empowers PCBs To Levy Restitutionary Environmental Damages

T2+focus · chronological · MEDIUM · 2025-08-04

Arrange the following events related to the empowerment of Pollution Control Boards to levy environmental damages in the correct chronological order:

1. The Delhi High Court rules that Sections 33A and 31A of the Water and Air Acts do not confer penalty-levying powers to boards.
2. The Supreme Court establishes that boards can impose restitutionary damages as an ex-ante preventive measure without a prior criminal conviction.
3. The Delhi Pollution Control Committee demands damages or bank guarantees from commercial entities for operating without mandatory environmental consents.
4. An appeal is taken up to clarify whether environmental regulators are limited to merely filing complaints in courts for criminal prosecution.

- (A) 3, 1, 4, 2 ✓
 (B) 1, 3, 4, 2
 (C) 3, 4, 1, 2
 (D) 1, 4, 3, 2

Answer: (A)

Explanation

The correct chronological sequence of events leading to the Supreme Court judgment in 'Delhi Pollution Control Committee v. Lodhi Property Co. Ltd.' is as follows: First (3): The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) issued show-cause notices to commercial entities operating without mandatory environmental consents, demanding damages or bank guarantees. Second (1): The Delhi High Court struck down the DPCC's demands, stating that Sections 33A and 31A of the Water (1974) and Air (1981) Acts did not confer penalty-levying powers to the boards. Third (4): Consequently, boards were limited to filing complaints for criminal prosecution, leading the Supreme Court to take up an appeal to clarify the statutory mandate of environmental regulators. Fourth (2): On August 4, 2025, the Supreme Court ruled that boards are explicitly empowered to impose and collect restitutionary and compensatory damages as an ex-ante preventive measure, distinguishing this from punitive penalties requiring a criminal conviction.

Topic: Environment & Ecology

Concepts: Polluter Pays Principle, Environmental Governance, Statutory Bodies

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: SC Empowers PCBs To Levy Restitutionary Environmental Damages](#)

Q105. Designation of Khichan and Menar as Ramsar Sites

T2+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-06-04

Consider the following statements:

1. Prior to their 2025 Ramsar designation, neither Khichan nor Menar held any formal state-level recognition as wetlands.
2. Khichan serves as a wintering ground for Demoiselle cranes migrating along the Central Asian Flyway.

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 only ✓
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): While Khichan relied heavily on voluntary local efforts and community conservation, Menar had already been notified as a wetland complex by the Rajasthan government in 2022 before achieving international Ramsar recognition.

Statement 2 (correct): Khichan is recognized specifically for its community-based conservation efforts that serve as a crucial winter home for thousands of Demoiselle cranes, protecting migratory species along the Central Asian Flyway.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Ramsar Convention, Wetland Conservation, Central Asian Flyway

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Designation of Khichan and Menar as Ramsar Sites](#)



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Q106. Designation of Khichan and Menar as Ramsar Sites

T2+focus · how_many_correct · EASY · 2025-06-04

Consider the following statements:

1. The addition of Khichan and Menar as Ramsar Sites has elevated India's total number of such sites to 89.
2. Khichan serves as a wintering ground for Demoiselle cranes, heavily supported by the local community's daily feeding practices.
3. Menar was previously notified as a wetland complex by the Rajasthan government in 2022 before achieving international recognition.

- (A) Only one
(B) **Only two** ✓
(C) All three
(D) None

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The addition of Khichan and Menar elevated India's total number of Ramsar sites to 91. India previously had 89 recognized wetlands of international importance before these two were added.

Statement 2 (correct): Khichan has long been an informal but crucial wintering ground for Demoiselle cranes, heavily supported by the local community's daily feeding practices.

Statement 3 (correct): Menar, known as the 'bird village' of Udaipur, was previously notified as a wetland complex by the Rajasthan government in 2022 before achieving this international recognition. Therefore, exactly two statements are correct.

Topic: Environment - Wetlands

Concepts: Ramsar Convention, Community Conservation, Migratory Species

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Designation of Khichan and Menar as Ramsar Sites](#)

Q107. Launch of National Red List Assessment of Indian Flora and Fauna

T2+focus · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2025-06-01

What is the primary methodological approach adopted by the National Red List Assessment Project (2025) for evaluating the conservation status of native Indian species?

- (A) Formulating a new domestic threat assessment framework that supersedes the global IUCN criteria.
- (B) **Applying the standard IUCN criteria specifically to national populations to trigger domestic legal protection. ✓**
- (C) Relying exclusively on global IUCN Red List updates to identify severe regional vulnerabilities within India.
- (D) Restricting threat assessments solely to localized endemic populations surveyed by the Zoological Survey of India.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Option 2 (correct): The National Red List Assessment Project applies standard IUCN criteria specifically to national populations. This localized assessment can trigger targeted domestic legal protection for locally declining species, even if they are labeled 'Least Concern' globally.

Option 1 (incorrect): because the project does not supersede IUCN criteria; rather, it applies them locally.

Option 3 (incorrect): because the initiative was launched precisely because global IUCN updates could miss domestic population nuances and ignore regional vulnerabilities.

Option 4 (incorrect): because the project evaluates native Indian species comprehensively and is coordinated by both the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), not restricted solely to ZSI-surveyed populations.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: IUCN Red List, Conservation Status, Biodiversity Governance

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Launch of National Red List Assessment of Indian Flora and Fauna](#)

Q108. Launch of National Red List Assessment of Indian Flora and Fauna

T2+focus · simple_mcq · EASY · 2025-06-01

Under the National Red List Assessment Project launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, what is the primary goal targeted for completion by 2030?

- (A) **Publishing India's first standalone national Red Data Books based on IUCN criteria. ✓**
- (B) Replacing the global IUCN Red List criteria with entirely new domestic assessment standards.
- (C) Merging the Botanical Survey of India and Zoological Survey of India into a single new organization.
- (D) Conducting the first-ever localized flora and fauna surveys in the Indian subcontinent.

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): The primary goal of the National Red List Assessment Project is to centralize biodiversity data and publish India's first official, standalone national Red Data Books by 2030.

Option 2 (incorrect): The project does not replace IUCN criteria; rather, it applies existing IUCN criteria specifically to national populations.

Option 3 (incorrect): While data from the BSI and ZSI will be centralized and standardized, the source event does not state that the two historical organizations will be merged.

Option 4 (incorrect): The BSI (established in 1890) and ZSI (established in 1916) have traditionally conducted extensive localized surveys long before this project; the new initiative aims to create a cohesive national baseline from such data, not conduct the 'first-ever' surveys.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Biodiversity Conservation, IUCN Red List, Species Assessment

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Launch of National Red List Assessment of Indian Flora and Fauna](#)

Q109. Gogabil Lake Declared as a Ramsar Wetland Site

T2+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-05-13

Consider the following statements:

1. Gogabil Lake is a natural oxbow lake formed by the Mahananda, Kankahar, and Ganga rivers.
2. In 2019, it was officially declared as India's first Community Reserve by the National Board for Wildlife.

- (A) 1 only ✓
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): Gogabil is a natural oxbow lake formed by the fluvial action of the Mahananda, Kankahar, and Ganga rivers.

Statement 2 (incorrect): While it was declared a Community Reserve in 2019, it was Bihar's first Community Reserve (not India's), and the designation was made by the State Board for Wildlife, not the National Board for Wildlife.

Topic: Environment - Protected Areas

Concepts: Wetland Conservation, Ramsar Sites, Fluvial Geomorphology

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Gogabil Lake Declared as a Ramsar Wetland Site](#)

Q110. Gogabil Lake Declared as a Ramsar Wetland Site

T2+focus · assertion_reason · MEDIUM · 2025-05-13

Statement-I: The 2025 Ramsar designation of Gogabil Lake ensures prioritized central assistance and its integration into the national Amrit Dharohar scheme.
Statement-II: Prior to this international recognition, conservation efforts for the lake relied heavily on central government funding rather than state-level wildlife frameworks.

- (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I
(B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
(C) **Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect** ✓
(D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement-I is correct: The declaration of Gogabil Lake as a Ramsar site in May 2025 ensures prioritized central assistance and brings the wetland securely under the ambit of the national Amrit Dharohar scheme. Statement-II is incorrect: Prior to the Ramsar tag, wetland conservation efforts at Gogabil were largely isolated with limited central government funding. It was protected

primarily as a Community Reserve since 2019, relying heavily on state-level wildlife frameworks and local community management, not central funding.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity & Conservation

Concepts: Ramsar Convention, Amrit Dharohar scheme, Wetland Conservation, Community Reserve

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Gogabil Lake Declared as a Ramsar Wetland Site](#)

Q111. NGT Mandates Fresh EC For Coal Source Switch

T2+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-04-28

With reference to the Environmental Clearance process for thermal power plants, consider the following statements:

1. Changing a plant's coal source is treated as a material change requiring a fresh Environmental Impact Assessment under Regulation 7(2) of the EIA Notification 2006.
2. The National Green Tribunal applied the Precautionary Principle to ensure that changes in coal combustion are scientifically evaluated before implementation.

- (A) 1 only
 (B) 2 only
 (C) **Both 1 and 2 ✓**
 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The National Green Tribunal (NGT) ruled that changing a thermal power plant's coal source (e.g., from imported to domestic) is a material change. Because different coal grades have varying ash and sulfur contents, this switch requires prior Environmental Clearance and a fresh Environmental Impact Assessment under Regulation 7(2) of the EIA Notification 2006.

Statement 2 (correct): The NGT applied the Precautionary Principle in its judgment, striking down a 2020 MoEFCC Office Memorandum that allowed blanket procedural exemptions. The tribunal mandated that changes in coal combustion must be scientifically evaluated before implementation to prevent environmental degradation from altered air and water pollution levels.

Topic: Environment - Pollution & Conservation

Concepts: Environmental Clearance, Precautionary Principle, EIA Notification 2006, National Green Tribunal

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: NGT Mandates Fresh EC For Coal Source Switch](#)

Q112. NGT Mandates Fresh EC For Coal Source Switch

T2+focus · simple_mcq · EASY · 2025-04-28

In April 2025, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) quashed a 2020 Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) Office Memorandum. What did the NGT rule regarding thermal power plants that wish to change their coal source?

- (A) They can never change their coal source once the initial Environmental Clearance is granted.
- (B) **They must always obtain a prior Environmental Clearance and conduct a fresh Environmental Impact Assessment. ✓**
- (C) They are solely required to comply with default administrative conditions to bypass the clearance process.
- (D) They can switch between domestic and imported coal without a new assessment to promote domestic coal usage.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Option 2 (correct): The NGT ruled that changing the coal source is a material change requiring prior Environmental Clearance and a fresh Environmental Impact Assessment under Regulation 7(2) of the EIA Notification 2006.

Option 1 (incorrect): because switching is permitted provided the statutory clearance process is followed. Options 3 and 4 describe the provisions of the quashed 2020 MoEFCC Office Memorandum, which the NGT struck down for bypassing scientific scrutiny and public hearings.

Topic: Environment - Pollution & Climate Change

Concepts: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), National Green Tribunal (NGT), Precautionary Principle

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: NGT Mandates Fresh EC For Coal Source Switch](#)

Q113. MP Declares Dr. Ambedkar Wildlife Sanctuary

T2+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-04-12

Consider the following statements regarding the newly notified Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Abhyaran:

1. Prior to its official designation, the area functioned as a standard reserve forest without specialized wildlife protections.
2. It serves as an ecological corridor connecting the Panna and Madhav Tiger Reserves.
3. The final notification was issued under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, which empowers the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to declare sanctuaries.
4. With this declaration, Madhya Pradesh now has exactly 25 officially recognized wildlife sanctuaries.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (A) Only one
- (B) Only two
- (C) **Only three** ✓
- (D) All four

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): Before the notification, the 258.64 sq. km area in the Sagar district functioned as a standard reserve forest without specialized wildlife protections.

Statement 2 (correct): The sanctuary acts as a crucial ecological corridor connecting the Panna and Madhav Tiger Reserves within the Central Indian Landscape.

Statement 3 (incorrect): While the NTCA emphasized the need to secure corridors, the final notification under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 empowers state governments (not the NTCA) to declare sanctuaries.

Statement 4 (correct): The establishment of this sanctuary brings the total number of officially recognized wildlife sanctuaries in Madhya Pradesh to 25.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Wildlife Conservation, Protected Areas, Wildlife Protection Act 1972

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: MP Declares Dr. Ambedkar Wildlife Sanctuary](#)

Q114. MP Declares Dr. Ambedkar Wildlife Sanctuary

T2+focus · how_many_correct · HARD · 2025-04-12

Consider the following statements:

1. The Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Abhyaran serves as an ecological corridor connecting the Panna and Madhav Tiger Reserves.
2. Under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) issued the final notification to declare this sanctuary.
3. Prior to its designation, the area in the Sagar district functioned as a standard reserve forest without specialized wildlife protections.
4. The official declaration of this sanctuary brings the total number of recognized wildlife sanctuaries in Madhya Pradesh to 25.

- (A) Only one
(B) Only two
(C) **Only three** ✓
(D) All four

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The sanctuary serves as a crucial ecological corridor connecting the Panna and Madhav Tiger Reserves within the Central Indian Landscape to promote healthy genetic dispersal.

Statement 2 (incorrect): While the NTCA emphasized the need to secure wildlife corridors, the final notification was issued under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, which empowers state governments (not the NTCA) to declare sanctuaries.

Statement 3 (correct): Before the notification, the 258.64 sq. km area in the Sagar district functioned as a standard reserve forest without specialized wildlife protections.

Statement 4 (correct): The declaration of the Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Abhyaran makes it the 25th officially recognized wildlife sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh, up from 24.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Wildlife Conservation, Protected Areas, Wildlife Protection Act 1972, Tiger Corridors

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: MP Declares Dr. Ambedkar Wildlife Sanctuary](#)

Q115. SC Overrules NGT on Auroville Project

T2+focus · statement_based · EASY · 2025-03-17

With reference to the Auroville Township Project, consider the following statements:

1. The Supreme Court ruled that the 2004 and 2006 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) notifications cannot be applied retrospectively to its construction.
2. Its Universal Township Master Plan was approved by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in 2001.

- (A) 1 only ✓
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The Supreme Court set aside the NGT order, clarifying that the 2004 and 2006 EIA notifications cannot be applied retrospectively to construction projects that were already approved and substantially under construction by 2001.

Statement 2 (incorrect): The Auroville Universal Township Master Plan was approved in 2001 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, not the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Topic: Environment - Environmental Laws and Policies

Concepts: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Precautionary Principle, Judicial Review of Environmental Clearances

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: SC Overrules NGT on Auroville Project](#)

Q116. SC Overrules NGT on Auroville Project

T2+focus · how_many_correct · HARD · 2025-03-17

With reference to the Auroville Township Project dispute, consider the following statements:

1. The Auroville Universal Township Master Plan was originally approved in 2001 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
2. The National Green Tribunal cannot override approved statutory town planning without a substantial question of law related to Schedule I of the NGT Act.
3. The 2004 and 2006 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) notifications cannot be applied retrospectively to construction projects substantially under construction by 2001.
4. The application of the Precautionary Principle to balance economic progress with environmental preservation is derived from Article 21 of the Constitution.

- (A) Only one
(B) Only two
(C) **Only three** ✓
(D) All four

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The Auroville Universal Township Master Plan was approved in 2001 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, not the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. This is a common misconception trap regarding statutory town planning for specialized foundations.

Statement 2 (correct): The Supreme Court restricted the NGT's powers, ruling that it cannot override approved statutory town planning exercises without a substantial question of law related to Schedule I of the NGT Act.

Statement 3 (correct): The Supreme Court clarified that the 2004 and 2006 EIA notifications cannot be applied retrospectively to construction projects that were already approved and substantially under construction by 2001.

Statement 4 (correct): The judicial balancing of economic progress with environmental preservation, including the invocation of the Precautionary Principle and Sustainable Development, is an application of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution.

Topic: Environment - Laws and Policies

Concepts: Environmental Impact Assessment, National Green Tribunal, Precautionary Principle, Article 21

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: SC Overrules NGT on Auroville Project](#)

Q117. Sikhna Jwhlao National Park Approved in Assam

T2+focus · statement_based · HARD · 2025-02-16

Consider the following statements:

1. The creation of Sikhna Jwhlao National Park elevates the entirety of the Chirang-Ripu Elephant Reserve to the status of a National Park under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. It establishes a fully protected ecological corridor connecting Raimona National Park in the west to Manas National Park in the east.

- (A) 1 only
 (B) 2 only ✓
 (C) Both 1 and 2
 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The notification does not elevate the entire Chirang-Ripu Elephant Reserve. Rather, the Sikhna Jwhlao National Park covers a specific 316.29 sq km area that was carved out of the elephant reserve (specifically parts of the Chirang and Manas Reserve Forests) to grant it strict legal protection as an inviolate space.

Statement 2 (correct): The park secures a critical wildlife corridor across the Greater Manas Conservation Landscape, establishing a fully protected ecological link between Raimona National Park (west) and Manas National Park (east), which also extends to Bhutan's Phibsoo Wildlife Sanctuary.

Topic: Environment - Protected Areas

Concepts: Protected Areas, Wildlife Corridors, Wildlife Protection Act 1972, Geography of Assam

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Sikhna Jwhlao National Park Approved in Assam](#)

Q118. Sikhna Jwhlao National Park Approved in Assam

T2+focus · assertion_reason · MEDIUM · 2025-02-16

Statement-I: The establishment of Sikhna Jwhlao National Park creates a fully protected ecological corridor between Raimona National Park and Manas National Park. Statement-II: The park was formed by elevating parts of the Chirang-Ripu Elephant Reserve to a National Park under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thereby granting it strict legal protection as an inviolate space.

- (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I ✓
 (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
 (C) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
 (D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement-I is correct: Sikhna Jwhlao National Park establishes a fully protected ecological corridor between Raimona National Park (west) and Manas National Park (east), extending to Bhutan's Phibsoo Wildlife Sanctuary. Statement-II is correct and explains Statement-I: The area previously functioned as reserve forests within the Chirang-Ripu Elephant Reserve, which allowed certain human activities. By elevating it to a National Park under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, it receives the highest tier of strict legal protection as an inviolate space. This legal reclassification is the precise mechanism that transforms the habitat into a 'fully protected' corridor.

Topic: Environment - Protected Areas

Concepts: Wildlife Protection Act 1972, Protected Areas, Ecological Corridors

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Sikhna Jwhlao National Park Approved in Assam](#)

Q119. India Surpasses 100 GW Installed Solar Capacity Milestone

T2+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-02-11

Consider the following statements:

1. The target of 100 GW installed solar capacity was established during the initial launch of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission in 2010.
2. India's 'Panchamrit' climate commitment aims to reach 500 GW of non-fossil fuel electricity capacity by 2030.

- (A) 1 only
 (B) 2 only ✓
 (C) Both 1 and 2
 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) was launched in 2010 with an initial target of only 20 GW by 2022. This target was later revised upward to 100 GW in 2015 under the broader National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).

Statement 2 (correct): The recent milestone of crossing 100 GW in solar capacity is a crucial step toward achieving India's 'Panchamrit' climate commitment, which explicitly targets reaching 500 GW of non-fossil fuel electricity capacity by 2030.

Topic: Environment and Ecology

Concepts: Renewable Energy Targets, National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), Panchamrit Strategy

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India Surpasses 100 GW Installed Solar Capacity Milestone](#)

Q120. India Surpasses 100 GW Installed Solar Capacity Milestone

T2+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-02-11

Consider the following statements:

1. The Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission, launched in 2010, initially set a target of 100 GW of solar capacity by 2022.
2. India is the fourth country in the world to achieve an installed solar power capacity of 100 GW.
3. In India's renewable energy space, solar power currently trails behind wind power in terms of total installed capacity.
4. India's 'Panchamrit' climate commitment includes a target of reaching 500 GW of non-fossil fuel electricity capacity by 2030.

- (A) Only one
 (B) **Only two ✓**
 (C) Only three
 (D) All four

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM) initially aimed for 20 GW by 2022 when launched in 2010. It was later revised to 100 GW in 2015.

Statement 2 (correct): Crossing the 100 GW mark makes India the fourth country globally to achieve a 'solar century'.

Statement 3 (incorrect): While solar power previously trailed behind wind power, it is now the dominant renewable energy source in India's energy mix.

Statement 4 (correct): The 100 GW milestone is a crucial step toward India's 'Panchamrit' commitment of reaching 500 GW of non-fossil fuel electricity capacity by 2030. Therefore, exactly two statements are correct.

Topic: Environment and Ecology

Concepts: Renewable Energy Targets, Solar Power, Climate Change Commitments

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India Surpasses 100 GW Installed Solar Capacity Milestone](#)

Q121. Four New Ramsar Sites Designated in India

T2+focus · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2025-02-02

In the context of the four new Ramsar sites designated in India in February 2025, which of the following correctly describes the framework governing the identification and protection of these wetland ecosystems?

- (A) **They are strictly guided by the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, functioning in tandem with State Wetland Authorities. ✓**
- (B) They are solely administered by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change through the Amrit Dharohar scheme.
- (C) They are directly governed by the intergovernmental provisions of the 1971 Ramsar Convention, which India ratified in 1982.
- (D) They are regulated exclusively under the Central Asian Flyway mandates to preserve habitats for migratory avian species.

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): The source explicitly states that the identification and protection of these ecosystems 'are strictly guided by the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, functioning in tandem with State Wetland Authorities.' This deliberately weaponizes the extreme word 'strictly' to test candidates who rely on eliminating extreme statements.

Option 2 (incorrect): while the Amrit Dharohar scheme is an initiative launched by the MoEFCC to expand the wetlands network, it is not the sole administrative framework for their protection.

Option 3 (incorrect): although India ratified the 1971 Ramsar Convention in 1982, the actual on-ground identification and protection are guided by national statutory rules, not directly governed by the international treaty.

Option 4 (incorrect): protecting the Central Asian Flyway for migratory birds is an ecological benefit of the designation, not the regulatory framework guiding it.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity & Conservation

Concepts: Wetland Conservation Rules, Ramsar Convention, Environmental Governance

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Four New Ramsar Sites Designated in India](#)

Q122. Four New Ramsar Sites Designated in India

T2+focus · chronological · MEDIUM · 2025-02-02

Arrange the following events related to wetland conservation in chronological order, from earliest to latest:

1. Introduction of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules
2. India's official ratification of the Ramsar Convention
3. Official recognition of Jharkhand's first Ramsar site
4. Adoption of the intergovernmental Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

- (A) 4, 2, 1, 3 ✓
 (B) 2, 4, 1, 3
 (C) 4, 1, 2, 3
 (D) 2, 1, 4, 3

Answer: (A)

Explanation

The correct chronological sequence is 4, 2, 1, 3. According to the source event: The intergovernmental Ramsar Convention on Wetlands was adopted on February 2, 1971 (Statement 4). India officially ratified the convention a decade later in 1982 (Statement 2). The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules were introduced in 2017 to guide ecosystem protection (Statement 1). Finally, Jharkhand received its first-ever Ramsar site (Udhwa Lake) on February 2, 2025 (Statement 3).

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Wetland Conservation, Ramsar Convention, Environmental Policy

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Four New Ramsar Sites Designated in India](#)

Q123. India Adds Four New Ramsar Wetlands

T2+focus · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2025-01-31

Which of the following correctly describes a fact related to the January 2025 addition of four new Ramsar wetlands in India?

- (A) **The Khecheopalri Wetland and Udhwa Lake designations represent the first-ever Ramsar sites for Sikkim and Jharkhand, respectively.** ✓
- (B) The addition of these four sites brought India's national tally of recognized wetlands of international importance to 85.
- (C) Domestically, these ecosystems are governed by the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, which centralized management under the Union Ministry.
- (D) The recent national momentum for Ramsar designation has been driven by the Amrit Dharohar scheme launched in the 2024-25 Union Budget.

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): The January 2025 expansion is historically significant as it introduces the inaugural Ramsar wetland designations for Sikkim (Khecheopalri Wetland) and Jharkhand (Udhwa Lake).

Option 2 (incorrect): Before the announcement, India had 85 Ramsar sites; the addition of four new sites brought the national total to 89.

Option 3 (incorrect): The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, actually decentralized wetland management to State Wetland Authorities, rather than centralizing it at the Union level.

Option 4 (incorrect): The Amrit Dharohar capacity building scheme, which has driven recent momentum for designation, was launched in the 2023-24 Union Budget, not 2024-25.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Ramsar Convention, Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, Amrit Dharohar Scheme

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India Adds Four New Ramsar Wetlands](#)

Q124. India Adds Four New Ramsar Wetlands

T2+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-01-31

With reference to India's Ramsar wetlands, consider the following statements:

1. The Khecheopalri Wetland and Udhwa Lake are the first-ever Ramsar sites designated in Sikkim and Jharkhand, respectively.
2. India became a party to the Ramsar Convention in 1982.
3. The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 centralized the management of wetlands under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
4. The Amrit Dharohar capacity building scheme, which drives recent designation momentum, was launched in the 2023-24 Union Budget.

- (A) Only one
(B) Only two
(C) **Only three ✓**
(D) All four

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The January 2025 expansion introduced the first-ever Ramsar wetland designations for Sikkim (Khecheopalri Wetland) and Jharkhand (Udhwa Lake).

Statement 2 (correct): India became a party to the Ramsar Convention, an international treaty for wetland conservation, in 1982.

Statement 3 (incorrect): The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 actually decentralized wetland management to State Wetland Authorities, rather than centralizing it under the Union Ministry.

Statement 4 (correct): The Amrit Dharohar capacity building scheme was launched in the 2023-24 Union Budget and has driven recent national

momentum for wetland designations. Thus, exactly three statements are correct.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Ramsar Convention, Wetland Conservation, Amrit Dharohar

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India Adds Four New Ramsar Wetlands](#)

Q125. International Big Cat Alliance Treaty Enters Into Force

T2+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-01-23

Consider the following statements:

1. Membership in the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) for formal collaboration on funding is restricted solely to the range countries of the seven major big cats.
2. The establishment of the alliance was spearheaded by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
3. The alliance operates as an independent international legal entity whose Secretariat staff enjoy diplomatic protections in India.
4. The alliance was officially launched in January 2025 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger.

- (A) Only one
(B) **Only two ✓**
(C) Only three
(D) All four

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The IBCA provides a unified global platform where both range and non-range UN member countries can formally collaborate on funding and habitat restoration, not solely range countries.

Statement 2 (correct): The establishment of the IBCA was formally approved by the Indian Union Cabinet and spearheaded by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

Statement 3 (correct): The IBCA is a fully functional, treaty-based intergovernmental organization and an independent international legal entity. By hosting the Secretariat, India grants special rights and diplomatic protections to the organization's staff.

Statement 4 (incorrect): The alliance was officially launched on April 9, 2023, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger. January 23, 2025, is the date the treaty officially entered into force after receiving the necessary ratifications.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: International Environmental Treaties, Biodiversity Conservation, Wildlife Protection

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: International Big Cat Alliance Treaty Enters Into Force](#)

Q126. International Big Cat Alliance Treaty Enters Into Force

T2+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-01-23

Consider the following statements regarding the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA):

1. Membership in the alliance is open solely to countries that are natural habitats (range countries) for at least one of the seven major big cats.
2. The establishment of the alliance was spearheaded by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
3. The treaty officially entered into force on the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger.
4. As the host of the Secretariat, India provides special rights and diplomatic protections to the organization's staff.

- (A) Only one
(B) **Only two ✓**
(C) Only three
(D) All four

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The IBCA provides a unified global platform where both range and non-range UN member countries can formally collaborate on funding and habitat restoration.

Statement 2 (correct): The formal establishment of the IBCA was spearheaded by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) following Union Cabinet approval in February 2024.

Statement 3 (incorrect): The IBCA was launched on April 9, 2023, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger, but the treaty officially entered into force on January 23, 2025, after five nations deposited their instruments of ratification.

Statement 4 (correct): By hosting the Secretariat of this independent international legal entity, India grants special rights and diplomatic protections to the organization's staff.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity Conservation

Concepts: International Environmental Treaties, Wildlife Conservation, Apex Predators

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: International Big Cat Alliance Treaty Enters Into Force](#)

Q127. Environment Protection (End-of-Life Vehicles) Rules, 2025 Notified

T2+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-01-06

With reference to the Environment Protection (End-of-Life Vehicles) Rules, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. Bulk consumers, defined as entities owning 100 or more vehicles, must register on a centralized portal managed by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
2. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) certificates purchased by producers to meet specific steel recycling targets are valid for five years.

- (A) 1 only
(B) 2 only ✓
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): While bulk consumers are indeed defined as those owning 100 or more vehicles, the rules mandate that they (along with producers and scrapping facilities) must register on a centralized portal managed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), not the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Statement 2 (correct): The rules mandate that producers meet their Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) obligations for steel recycling targets by purchasing EPR certificates from authorized Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSFs), and these certificates are valid for a period of 5 years.

Topic: Environment - Policies and Legislation

Concepts: Extended Producer Responsibility, Circular Economy, Waste Management Rules

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Environment Protection \(End-of-Life Vehicles\) Rules, 2025 Notified](#)

Q128. Environment Protection (End-of-Life Vehicles) Rules, 2025 Notified

T2+focus · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-01-06

With reference to the Environment Protection (End-of-Life Vehicles) Rules, 2025, consider the following statements:

1. The rules mandate producers to meet specific steel recycling targets by purchasing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) certificates that are valid for five years.
2. An owner must deposit a vehicle at a designated collection centre or Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facility within 60 days of it being declared an End-of-Life Vehicle.

- (A) 1 only ✓
 (B) 2 only
 (C) Both 1 and 2
 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): The rules mandate Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for producers to meet specific steel recycling targets (starting at 8% in 2025-26) by purchasing valid 5-year EPR certificates from authorized Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSFs).

Statement 2 (incorrect): Under the new rules, a vehicle declared as an End-of-Life Vehicle (ELV) must be deposited at a designated collection centre or RVSF within 180 days, not 60 days. This addresses the previous loophole where owners could indefinitely abandon unfit or deregistered vehicles.

Topic: Environment - Policies and Legislation

Concepts: Extended Producer Responsibility, Circular Economy, Waste Management

→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Environment Protection (End-of-Life Vehicles) Rules, 2025 Notified

Q129. Supreme Court Orders Protection of Orans and Sacred Groves

T2+focus · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2024-12-18

In its December 2024 judgment on the protection of sacred groves such as Orans, what specific mechanism did the Supreme Court explicitly recommend to provide formal statutory backing against state land diversion while maintaining community rights?

- (A) **Protecting the groves as 'Community Reserves' under Section 36-C of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. ✓**
- (B) Classifying the groves as revenue wastelands to prevent their acquisition for solar or wind energy projects.
- (C) Mandating a minimum size requirement for the groves before they can be notified under the Forest (Conservation) Act.
- (D) Transferring the management of the groves to the Central Empowered Committee established in 2005.

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): The Supreme Court explicitly recommended protecting sacred groves as 'Community Reserves' under Section 36-C of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, to provide formal legal protection while maintaining community rights.

Option 2 (incorrect): Historically, classifying these areas as 'revenue wastelands' was precisely what made them vulnerable to acquisition for commercial uses like solar and wind energy projects, a vulnerability the judgment sought to end.

Option 3 (incorrect): The Court directed that the groves be notified as 'forests' based on their cultural and ecological purpose, explicitly stating this should be done rather than relying on a minimum size requirement.

Option 4 (incorrect): The 2005 Central Empowered Committee was an advisory body that previously recommended classifying Rajasthan's sacred groves as forests; the Court did not transfer management to this committee, but instead ordered the creation of a new 5-member execution committee to oversee the mapping process.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity Conservation

Concepts: Sacred Groves, Wildlife Protection Act 1972, Community Reserves, Forest Conservation

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Supreme Court Orders Protection of Orans and Sacred Groves](#)

Q130. Supreme Court Orders Protection of Orans and Sacred Groves

T2+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2024-12-18

Consider the following statements regarding the Supreme Court's 2024 judgment on the protection of sacred groves:

1. The Court mandated that sacred groves must meet a minimum size requirement to be officially notified as 'forests' under the Forest (Conservation) Act.
2. The Court explicitly recommended protecting these groves as 'Community Reserves' under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
3. The mapping and notification process will be overseen by a five-member execution committee headed by a retired Supreme Court judge.
4. The judgment addresses the state's delay in implementing the 2004 Kapoor Committee's recommendations to classify Rajasthan's sacred groves as forests.

- (A) Only one
(B) **Only two ✓**
(C) Only three
(D) All four

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The Supreme Court ruled that sacred groves must be notified as 'forests' based on their cultural and ecological purpose, explicitly stating this is rather than a minimum size requirement.

Statement 2 (correct): The Court recommended protecting these groves as 'Community Reserves' under Section 36-C of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 to provide legal protection while maintaining community rights.

Statement 3 (incorrect): The 5-member execution committee ordered by the Court to strictly enforce the mapping process is to be headed by a retired High Court judge, not a Supreme Court judge.

Statement 4 (correct): The judgment stems from petitions highlighting that despite recommendations from the 2004 Kapoor Committee (and 2005 Central Empowered Committee) to classify Rajasthan's sacred groves as forests, the state delayed official notification. Thus, exactly two statements (2 and 4) are correct.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Sacred Groves, Forest Conservation Act, Wildlife Protection Act, Community Reserves

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Supreme Court Orders Protection of Orans and Sacred Groves](#)

Q131. INC-5 Adjourns Without Final Global Plastics Treaty

T2+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2024-12-01

With reference to the global plastics treaty negotiations, consider the following statements:

1. The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) was established following a resolution adopted at the UN Environment Assembly in 2022.
2. The fifth session of the INC (INC-5) concluded with the adoption of a consolidated 'Chair's Text' as the official baseline document for resumed negotiations.
3. The 'High Ambition Coalition' opposed mandatory global cuts in primary plastic polymer production, advocating strictly for downstream waste management.
4. India has advocated for a consensus-based approach focusing on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) rather than hard caps on polymer production.

- (A) Only one
 (B) Only two
 (C) **Only three** ✓
 (D) All four

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): In March 2022, the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2) adopted Resolution 5/14 to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, establishing the INC to draft the treaty.

Statement 2 (correct): INC-5 ended without finalizing the treaty, but member states agreed to adopt a consolidated 'Chair's Text' to serve as the official baseline document for resumed negotiations (INC-5.2) in 2025.

Statement 3 (incorrect): It was the oil and plastic-producing nations that opposed production caps. The 'High Ambition Coalition' actually demanded mandatory global cuts in primary plastic polymer production and a full lifecycle approach.

Statement 4 (correct): India has advocated for a consensus-based approach focusing on waste management and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) rather than hard caps on polymer production, to balance environmental goals with its developing industrial needs. Therefore, exactly three statements (1, 2, and 4) are correct.

Topic: Environment and Ecology

Concepts: International Environmental Agreements, Plastic Pollution, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: INC-5 Adjourns Without Final Global Plastics Treaty](#)

Q132. INC-5 Adjourns Without Final Global Plastics Treaty

T2+focus · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2024-12-01

With reference to the negotiations for a global plastics treaty, consider the following statements:

1. The mandate to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution was established by a resolution at the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2).
2. The fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5) concluded with the adoption of a consolidated 'Chair's Text' as the official baseline document.
3. The 'High Ambition Coalition' opposed mandatory global cuts in primary plastic polymer production, favoring strictly downstream waste management.
4. India has advocated for a consensus-based approach focusing on Extended Producer Responsibility rather than hard caps on polymer production.

- (A) Only one
 (B) Only two
 (C) **Only three** ✓
 (D) All four

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): In March 2022, the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2) adopted Resolution 5/14 to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

Statement 2 (correct): INC-5 ended without finalizing the treaty but adopted a consolidated 'Chair's Text' as the official baseline document for resumed negotiations in 2025.

Statement 3 (incorrect): It was the oil and plastic-producing nations that favored downstream waste management and opposed the 'High Ambition Coalition', which actually demanded mandatory global cuts in primary plastic polymer production.

Statement 4 (correct): India's stance aims to balance environmental goals with developing industrial needs by advocating for waste management and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) rather than hard caps on polymer production. Therefore, exactly three statements are correct.

Topic: Environment - International Agreements

Concepts: Global Plastics Treaty, Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC), Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: INC-5 Adjourns Without Final Global Plastics Treaty](#)

Q133. Supreme Court Mandates Strict Enforcement of GRAP-IV in Delhi-NCR

T2+focus · simple_mcq · HARD · 2024-11-18

Following the Supreme Court's November 2024 judgment regarding the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in Delhi-NCR, what is the mandated procedure for scaling down Stage IV anti-pollution measures once they have been triggered?

- (A) The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) retains sole administrative discretion to lift the measures once the Air Quality Index (AQI) drops below the 450 mark.
- (B) State governments of the NCR may scale down the measures only after the AQI sustains a level below 'severe plus' for several consecutive days.
- (C) **No scaling down of Stage IV measures is permitted without prior, explicit approval from the Supreme Court, regardless of any improvements in the AQI. ✓**
- (D) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change must issue a revised notification based on the Environment Pollution Authority (EPCA) framework to relax the measures.

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Prior to the November 2024 judgment, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) had the administrative discretion to scale down or lift GRAP stages if the AQI improved below threshold levels. However, the Supreme Court stripped this discretionary power, ruling that no scaling down of GRAP Stage IV measures is permitted without prior, explicit approval from the Supreme Court itself, regardless of AQI improvements. Option 1 describes the previous, now-overruled CAQM discretion. Option 2 incorrectly applies the previous flawed practice of waiting 'several days' (which authorities used to delay triggering measures) to the scaling-down process. Option 4 incorrectly conflates the historical 2017 notification bodies (MoEFCC and EPCA) with current scaling-down procedures.

Option 3 (correct): and deliberately uses extreme phrasing ('No scaling down', 'regardless') which is factually accurate in this specific judicial context.

Topic: Environment - Pollution & Conservation

Concepts: Judicial Activism, Air Pollution Management, Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Supreme Court Mandates Strict Enforcement of GRAP-IV in Delhi-NCR](#)

Q134. Supreme Court Mandates Strict Enforcement of GRAP-IV in Delhi-NCR

T2+focus · match_pairs · EASY · 2024-11-18

Match List-I (Provisions/Entities related to the Graded Response Action Plan) with List-II (Corresponding Facts/Authorities) based on the recent Supreme Court judgment on Delhi-NCR air pollution: List-I A. Threshold for preemptively triggering GRAP Stage IV measures B. Authority whose explicit prior approval is solely required to scale down GRAP Stage IV C. Statutory body responsible for GRAP implementation in the NCR since 2021 D. Year of initial GRAP notification by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change List-II i. 2017 ii. Supreme Court of India iii. Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) iv. AQI breaching the 450 mark Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (A) A-iv, B-ii, C-iii, D-i ✓
- (B) A-iv, B-iii, C-ii, D-i
- (C) A-ii, B-iv, C-iii, D-i
- (D) A-iii, B-ii, C-iv, D-i

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Based on the source event: - A matches (iv): The Supreme Court mandated that Stage IV measures must be triggered immediately and preemptively the moment the AQI breaches the 450 mark. - B matches (ii): The judgment removed the CAQM's administrative discretion, ruling that no scaling down of GRAP Stage IV is permitted without prior, explicit approval from the Supreme Court. - C matches (iii): In 2021, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) became the statutory body responsible for GRAP implementation in the NCR. - D matches (i): The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) was initially notified in 2017. Therefore, the correct matching is A-iv, B-ii, C-iii, D-i. Option 2 is a strong distractor because historically, the CAQM (iii) had the discretion to scale down measures (B), but the recent judgment transferred this authority solely to the Supreme Court.

Topic: Environment - Pollution

Concepts: Air Pollution, Judicial Activism, Environmental Governance

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Supreme Court Mandates Strict Enforcement of GRAP-IV in Delhi-NCR](#)

Q135. 7th Session of International Solar Alliance Assembly Held in New Delhi

T2+focus · simple_mcq · HARD · 2024-11-04

To address the historical challenge of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) procuring solar infrastructure in isolation, which specific initiative was formalized at the 7th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)?

- (A) The launch of the AI-driven 'ISA Academy' to centralize solar technical training exclusively for SIDS.
- (B) The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by 16 SIDS for coordinated solar procurement and capacity building. ✓**
- (C) The release of the 3rd World Solar Report to assess green hydrogen readiness solely within SIDS.
- (D) A treaty amendment restricting future ISA funding strictly to SIDS and countries located between the Tropics.

Answer: (B)

Explanation

The correct answer is Option 2. According to the source event, 16 Small Island Developing States signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the 7th Assembly for coordinated solar procurement and capacity building, resolving the issue of isolated procurement.

Option 1 (incorrect): because while the AI-driven 'ISA Academy' was launched at the event, it is designed to democratize solar knowledge worldwide, not exclusively for SIDS.

Option 3 (incorrect): as the 3rd World Solar Report details global market trends, investments, and green hydrogen readiness, rather than focusing solely on SIDS.

Option 4 (incorrect): the ISA originally targeted countries between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn but has since evolved into a broader global organization, and no such restrictive funding amendment was mentioned.

Topic: International Environmental Agreements

Concepts: International Solar Alliance, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Renewable Energy Infrastructure

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: 7th Session of International Solar Alliance Assembly Held in New Delhi](#)

Q136. 7th Session of International Solar Alliance Assembly Held in New Delhi

T2+focus · simple_mcq · EASY · 2024-11-04

At the 7th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) held in New Delhi in November 2024, a new Memorandum of Understanding for coordinated solar procurement and capacity building was signed. Which specific group of nations was the primary focus of this agreement?

- (A) Least Developed Countries (LDCs)
- (B) **Small Island Developing States (SIDS) ✓**
- (C) Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)
- (D) Sub-Saharan African nations

Answer: (B)

Explanation

The correct answer is Small Island Developing States (SIDS). During the 7th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance, 16 Small Island Developing States signed a Memorandum of Understanding for coordinated solar procurement and capacity building. This initiative aims to address the previous challenge where SIDS often procured solar infrastructure in isolation. The other options (Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Sub-Saharan African nations) are incorrect because the specific MoU signed at this event was exclusively focused on the 16 Small Island Developing States.

Topic: Environment - Climate Change

Concepts: International Solar Alliance, Small Island Developing States, Renewable Energy Transition

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: 7th Session of International Solar Alliance Assembly Held in New Delhi](#)

Tier 2 - Important

15 questions

Q137. Draft Amendment for End-of-Life Vehicles Rules, 2025

T2 · how_many_correct · EASY · 2026-03-27

With reference to the Draft Environment Protection (End-of-Life Vehicles) Amendment Rules, 2026, consider the following statements:

1. Under the original 2025 rules, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) obligations were strictly limited to the recycling of steel.
2. The draft amendments mandate insurance companies to track and report accident-related vehicle scrapping.
3. The amendments mandate an escalating minimum recycled content of steel in new vehicles, aiming to reach 80% by 2055.

- (A) Only one
(B) **Only two** ✓
(C) All three
(D) None

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): Under the original 2025 rules, EPR obligations were strictly limited to steel recycling. The 2026 draft expands this to multi-waste certificates covering used oil, tires, batteries, e-waste, plastics, and glass.

Statement 2 (correct): The draft brings insurance companies into the regulatory framework to track and report accident-related vehicle scrapping, closing previous loopholes.

Statement 3 (incorrect): The amendment mandates an escalating minimum recycled content of steel in new vehicles aiming to reach 60% (not 80%) by 2055.

Topic: Environment - Waste Management

Concepts: Extended Producer Responsibility, Circular Economy, Waste Management Rules

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Draft Amendment for End-of-Life Vehicles Rules, 2025](#)

Q138. Launch of Him-CONNECT at WSDS 2026

T2 · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2026-02-25

The Him-CONNECT platform was launched to facilitate the commercialization and scaling of climate-resilient technologies that were primarily developed under which of the following initiatives?

- (A) Hill Area Development Programmes
(B) Pilot projects of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
(C) **National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS)** ✓
(D) Academic pilot projects of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

Answer: (C)

Explanation

The correct answer is the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS). Him-CONNECT was conceptualized specifically to translate research investments, technologies, and innovations developed over the last decade under the MoEFCC's NMHS into market-ready applications.

Option 1 (incorrect): while Him-CONNECT represents a modern, technology-driven approach to Hill Area Development Programmes, the specific technologies being scaled were developed under NMHS.

Option 2 (incorrect): The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) organized the 25th World Sustainable Development Summit where the platform was launched, but it is not the parent initiative of the technologies.

Option 4 (incorrect): while researchers from institutions like CSIR and IITs are linked to start-ups through the platform, the overarching initiative that funded these projects is NMHS.

Topic: Environment - Climate Change

Concepts: Climate Adaptation, Technology Commercialization, Himalayan Ecosystem

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Launch of Him-CONNECT at WSDS 2026](#)

Q139. World Wetlands Day 2026 Observance

T2 · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2026-02-02

Which of the following statements accurately reflects the recent shift in wetland management frameworks, as highlighted during the World Wetlands Day 2026 observance?

- (A) **They now explicitly mandate the integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge into conservation plans. ✓**
- (B) They treat cultural heritage and ecological conservation as separate domains under different legal frameworks.
- (C) They restrict community involvement solely to peripheral participation in state-run projects.
- (D) They predominantly rely on top-down, scientifically driven administrative models with limited local input.

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): The 2026 observance highlighted a major shift where management frameworks now explicitly mandate the integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and culturally significant practices into conservation plans. Options 2, 3, and 4 are incorrect because they describe the outdated ('BEFORE') paradigms of wetland management, which previously separated cultural and ecological domains, restricted community involvement to peripheral awareness generation, and relied on top-down administrative models.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity and Conservation

Concepts: Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), Wetland Conservation, Community-led Conservation

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: World Wetlands Day 2026 Observance](#)

Q140. 88th SC-NBWL meeting clears strategic projects

T2 · chronological · HARD · 2026-01-19

Arrange the following events related to wildlife conservation and developmental projects in chronological order of their occurrence:

1. SC-NBWL recommendation to divert forest land for the Kopra medium irrigation project.
2. Enactment of the statute that constitutes the National Board for Wildlife.
3. Notification of the Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve.
4. Displacement of tiger habitat by the Ken-Betwa River Linking Project.

- (A) 2, 4, 3, 1 ✓
 (B) 2, 3, 4, 1
 (C) 4, 2, 3, 1
 (D) 2, 4, 1, 3

Answer: (A)

Explanation

The correct chronological sequence is 2, 4, 3, 1. First, the statute that constitutes the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) is the Wildlife Protection Act, which was enacted in 1972 (Event 2). Second, the Ken-Betwa River Linking Project displaced tiger habitat (Event 4), which necessitated compensatory measures. Third, to compensate for this specific habitat loss, the Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve was notified in 2023 (Event 3). Finally, in January 2026, the Standing Committee of the NBWL recommended the diversion of 272 hectares of this newly created reserve's core forest land for the Kopra medium irrigation project (Event 1). Option 1 correctly reflects this causal and chronological chain, while the other options disrupt the logical sequence of habitat loss followed by compensatory notification and subsequent diversion.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity and Conservation

Concepts: Compensatory Afforestation, Protected Area Management, Statutory Bodies

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: 88th SC-NBWL meeting clears strategic projects](#)

Q141. CPCB Proposes Environmental Damage Cost Assessment Methodology

T2 · assertion_reason · HARD · 2025-08-06

Statement-I: The draft Environmental Damage Cost Assessment (EDCA) methodology mandates that fixed penalties for environmental contraventions strictly range from ₹10,000 to ₹15,00,000. Statement-II: Under the EDCA framework, total environmental compensation is calculated solely using these fixed penalties based on pollution potential, population exposure, and operational scale.

- (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
- (C) **Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect ✓**
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Statement-I is correct: The draft EDCA methodology standardizes fixed penalties, computing them based on pollution potential, population exposure, and operational scale, with amounts strictly ranging from ₹10,000 to ₹15,00,000 per contravention. Statement-II is incorrect: Total environmental compensation is not calculated 'solely' using these fixed penalties. The EDCA explicitly includes a comprehensive combination of damage costs, scientific assessment costs, fixed penalties (under the Jan Vishwas Act of 2023), and long-term ecological remediation costs. This question deliberately weaponizes extreme words: the word 'strictly' in Statement-I is factually correct as per the proposed statutory formula, breaking the common heuristic that extreme words are always false. Conversely, the word 'solely' in Statement-II makes it incorrect by ignoring the other comprehensive cost inclusions.

Topic: Environment - Pollution & Conservation

Concepts: Polluter Pays Principle, Environmental Damage Cost Assessment, Central Pollution Control Board

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: CPCB Proposes Environmental Damage Cost Assessment Methodology](#)

Q142. NGT Fines UP Jal Nigam for Hindon River Pollution

T2 · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2025-07-11

In its July 2025 judgment penalizing the UP Jal Nigam for the pollution of the Hindon River, what specific directive did the National Green Tribunal (NGT) issue regarding the ₹21.53 crore environmental compensation?

- (A) It must be distributed as direct health compensation to the residents of the 140 affected riparian villages.
- (B) It must be deposited into the state's general administrative funds to bridge the urban sewage treatment gap.
- (C) **It must be utilized exclusively for the on-ground ecological restoration of the Hindon River ecosystem. ✓**
- (D) It must be allocated to the oversight committee headed by Justice SVS Rathore to monitor sugar and paper mills.

Answer: (C)

Explanation

Option 3 (correct): The NGT strictly mandated that the recovered ₹21.53 crore be deposited and utilized exclusively for the on-ground restoration of the Hindon River ecosystem.

Option 2 (incorrect): because absorbing such compensation into general administrative funds was the previous practice that the NGT specifically sought to end by ring-fencing the funds. Options 1 and 4 are incorrect; while the source event notes that 140 riparian villages suffer from rising disease rates and an oversight committee under Justice SVS Rathore was previously formed, the NGT did not direct the penalty funds to them.

Topic: Environmental Degradation and Pollution

Concepts: Polluter Pays Principle, National Green Tribunal (NGT), River Rejuvenation, Water Pollution

→ [Read the full revision note on PrepDose: NGT Fines UP Jal Nigam for Hindon River Pollution](#)

Q143. NGT Order on CPCB Industrial Siting Criteria

T2 · assertion_reason · HARD · 2025-06-25

Statement-I: State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) are now mandated to enforce industrial siting criteria as a precondition for granting Consent to Establish (CTE) universally, regardless of the existence of formal local zoning plans. Statement-II: Polluting industries historically bypassed environmental regulations by locating in rural and peri-urban areas where the absence of municipal master plans created regulatory ambiguity for SPCBs.

- (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I ✓
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
- (C) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Both statements are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I. According to the June 2025 NGT order, SPCBs must now universally enforce CPCB siting criteria as a strict precondition for granting CTE, even in areas lacking formal town planning schemes (Statement-I is correct). This universal mandate was issued precisely because enforcement previously relied on local master plans, creating a regulatory loophole. Polluting industries exploited this ambiguity by setting up safe havens in unplanned rural and peri-urban areas where SPCBs lacked clear directives to reject their applications (Statement-II is correct and explains the necessity of the mandate in Statement-I). Therefore,

Option 1 (correct):

Option 2 (incorrect): because Statement-II directly explains the historical loophole that necessitated the mandate in Statement-I.

Option 3 (incorrect): because Statement-II is a true statement.

Option 4 (incorrect): because Statement-I is a true statement.

Topic: Environmental Regulation

Concepts: Environmental Clearances, Pollution Control Boards, Industrial Zoning, National Green Tribunal

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: NGT Order on CPCB Industrial Siting Criteria](#)

Q144. UNFCCC Bonn Climate Change Conference (SB 62)

T2 · simple_mcq · EASY · 2025-06-16

At the UNFCCC Bonn Climate Change Conference (SB 62), negotiators streamlined the proposed indicators for the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA). Which of the following areas was explicitly prioritized in these revised metrics?

- (A) **Means of Implementation, encompassing finance, capacity building, and technology transfer ✓**
- (B) Mitigation of job losses specifically within the fossil fuel and energy sectors
- (C) Mainstreaming of water resilience into the upcoming round of Nationally Determined Contributions
- (D) Accountability mechanisms for developed nations regarding the \$1.3 trillion climate finance target

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): During SB 62, negotiators worked to streamline the unwieldy list of 489 proposed GGA indicators to fewer than 100, explicitly prioritizing 'Means of Implementation' (finance, capacity building, and technology transfer).

Option 2 (incorrect): because mitigating job losses in the fossil fuel sector was the previous, narrower focus of the 'Just Transition' discussions, not the GGA indicators.

Option 3 (incorrect): as mainstreaming water resilience was part of the technical guidelines advanced for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) due for COP30, not the GGA indicators.

Option 4 (incorrect): because while the \$1.3 trillion climate finance target is a crucial overarching issue for the Global South at SB 62, it was not the specific framework prioritized within the streamlined GGA metrics.

Topic: Environment - Climate Change

Concepts: Global Goal on Adaptation, UNFCCC, Climate Finance

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: UNFCCC Bonn Climate Change Conference \(SB 62\)](#)

Q145. NGT Takes Suo Motu Cognisance of MSC ELSA 3 Shipwreck

T2 · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2025-05-27

Following the sinking of the MSC ELSA 3 cargo ship off the Kochi coast, which entity expanded regional tracking of the toxic drift under the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan?

- (A) The Indian Coast Guard
- (B) **The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) ✓**
- (C) The National Green Tribunal (NGT)
- (D) The Kerala state impact assessment committee

Answer: (B)

Explanation

The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) expanded regional tracking under the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan to monitor the toxic drift towards Lakshadweep, Alappuzha, and Kollam. The Indian Coast Guard (along with the Navy) was responsible for rescuing the 24 crew members before the vessel sank. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) took suo motu cognisance of the incident to direct cargo disclosure and ensure corporate accountability. The Kerala state impact assessment committee was constituted by the state government after declaring the coastal pollution a state-specific disaster.

Topic: Disaster Management

Concepts: Marine Pollution, Disaster Contingency Planning, Environmental Monitoring

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: NGT Takes Suo Motu Cognisance of MSC ELSA 3 Shipwreck](#)

Q146. UNFCCC Holds First Climate Week 2025 in Panama

T2 · assertion_reason · EASY · 2025-05-19

Statement-I: In 2025, the UNFCCC shifted its Climate Week framework from hosting four distinct regional events to a consolidated biannual global format. Statement-II: The UNFCCC Secretariat aimed to increase efficiency by combining mandated intergovernmental meetings into global events.

- (A) **Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I ✓**
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
- (C) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (D) Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): Statement-I is correct: The source explicitly states that the UNFCCC previously hosted four separate Regional Climate Weeks annually, but in 2025, it consolidated these into a biannual global 'Climate Week'

format, starting with the event in Panama. Statement-II is correct: The text notes that the UNFCCC Secretariat shifted to this new biannual platform specifically 'to increase efficiency by combining mandated meetings into global events.' Therefore, Statement-II provides the correct operational rationale (reason) for the structural shift described in Statement-I.

Option 2 (incorrect): because Statement-II does indeed explain Statement-I.

Option 3 (incorrect): because Statement-II is factually correct.

Option 4 (incorrect): because Statement-I is factually correct.

Topic: Environment - Climate Change

Concepts: UNFCCC, Global Climate Governance, International Environmental Agreements

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: UNFCCC Holds First Climate Week 2025 in Panama](#)

Q147. SC Reinstates Tree-Felling Curbs in TTZ

T2 · how_many_correct · MEDIUM · 2025-03-25

Consider the following statements:

1. Following the March 2025 judgment, state authorities can permit tree felling on non-forest lands within the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) without Supreme Court approval.
2. The Supreme Court directly oversees the adequacy of compensatory environmental measures for tree felling in the TTZ.
3. The protection framework for the TTZ originated from a 1996 judicial directive requiring industries to switch to cleaner fuels to prevent acid rain.
4. The 2025 Supreme Court judgment relaxed judicial oversight over private land clearing in the TTZ to facilitate regional infrastructure projects.

- (A) Only one
(B) **Only two ✓**
(C) Only three
(D) All four

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The March 2025 judgment recalled the 2019 order, making prior permission from the Supreme Court mandatory before felling any trees on non-forest and private lands in the TTZ.

Statement 2 (correct): Under the new ruling, the Supreme Court directly oversees the necessity of felling and the adequacy of compensatory environmental measures, a role previously held primarily by local or state forest departments.

Statement 3 (correct): The TTZ framework originated from the 1996 M.C. Mehta v. Union of India case, which directed industries to switch to cleaner fuels to prevent acid rain and subsequent 'marble cancer'.

Statement 4 (incorrect): The 2025 judgment restored strict judicial scrutiny over the region. It was the previous 2019 order that had relaxed judicial

oversight to facilitate regional development and infrastructure projects.

Topic: Environment - Conservation

Concepts: Environmental Jurisprudence, Eco-Sensitive Zones, Taj Trapezium Zone

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: SC Reinstates Tree-Felling Curbs in TTZ](#)

Q148. First Indian Wins Ramsar Wetland Award

T2 · match_pairs · MEDIUM · 2025-03-08

Match List-I with List-II based on recent developments in wetland conservation in India: List-I A. Pallikaranai Marsh B. Care Earth Trust C. 'Wise Use of Wetlands' D. Ramsar Convention List-II i. The specific award category won by an Indian for the first time in 2025 ii. A freshwater wetland that shrank from 6,000 hectares to under 600 hectares due to waste dumping iii. The organization that systematically mapped and revived 44 urban wetlands across Tamil Nadu iv. Established in 1971, it occasionally presents awards to honor global efforts in wetland management

- (A) A-ii, B-iii, C-i, D-iv ✓
- (B) A-iii, B-ii, C-iv, D-i
- (C) A-ii, B-i, C-iii, D-iv
- (D) A-iii, B-ii, C-i, D-iv

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): A matches (ii) because the Pallikaranai Marsh, Chennai's last remaining natural freshwater wetland, shrank from 6,000 hectares to under 600 hectares due to rapid urbanization and waste dumping. B matches (iii) because the Care Earth Trust is the community-driven organization that successfully mapped and revived 44 urban wetlands across Tamil Nadu. C matches (i) because 'Wise Use of Wetlands' is the specific category of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award won by environmental scientist Jayshree Vencatesan in 2025, making her the first Indian to receive this honor. D matches (iv) because the Ramsar Convention was established in 1971 and occasionally presents the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award to honor remarkable global efforts.

Topic: Environment - Biodiversity

Concepts: Ramsar Convention, Wetland Conservation, Ecological Restoration

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: First Indian Wins Ramsar Wetland Award](#)

Q149. Supreme Court Clarifies NGT Jurisdiction on Compensation Recalculation

T2 · statement_based · MEDIUM · 2025-01-09

Consider the following statements in respect of the jurisdiction of the National Green Tribunal (NGT):

1. When a State Pollution Control Board's calculation of environmental compensation is found to be flawed, the NGT is strictly required to remand the matter back to the Board for redetermination.
2. The NGT possesses the authority to direct the initiation of proceedings under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) for environmental offenses.

- (A) 1 only ✓
(B) 2 only
(C) Both 1 and 2
(D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Statement 1 (correct): As per the January 2025 Supreme Court ruling in the Waris Chemicals vs UPPCB case, the NGT cannot directly recalculate environmental compensation or substitute a State Pollution Control Board's (SPCB) technical assessment with its own. If the SPCB's calculation is flawed, the NGT is strictly required to remand the matter back to the SPCB for redetermination.

Statement 2 (incorrect): The Supreme Court clarified that the NGT lacks the jurisdiction to direct PMLA prosecutions for environmental offenses, striking down the NGT's previous order that attempted to expand its punitive scope in this manner.

Topic: Environment - Institutions and Bodies

Concepts: National Green Tribunal (NGT), Judicial Restraint, State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Supreme Court Clarifies NGT Jurisdiction on Compensation Recalculation](#)

Q150. MoEFCC Notifies Public Liability Insurance (Amendment) Rules

T2 · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2024-12-17

According to the Public Liability Insurance (Amendment) Rules notified in December 2024, what is the revised maximum insurance policy limit for a single incident involving hazardous substances?

- (A) ₹15 crore
(B) ₹250 crore ✓
(C) ₹500 crore
(D) ₹1,000 crore

Answer: (B)

Explanation

The December 2024 amendments to the Public Liability Insurance Rules increased the maximum policy limit to ₹250 crore per single incident. Therefore,

Option 2 (correct): Option 1 (₹15 crore) was the previous maximum limit for multiple accidents prior to the amendment. Option 3 (₹500 crore) is the newly established limit for multiple accidents in a policy year, not a single incident. Option 4 is an incorrect distractor.

Topic: Environmental Law and Policies

Concepts: Public Liability Insurance Act, Absolute Liability Principle, Polluter Pays Principle

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: MoEFCC Notifies Public Liability Insurance \(Amendment\) Rules](#)

Q151. Ratapani Notified as 8th Tiger Reserve of Madhya Pradesh

T2 · simple_mcq · MEDIUM · 2024-12-02

Following the official notification of Ratapani as a Tiger Reserve, which of the following administrative mandates now strictly applies to its management?

- (A) **It must operate under a customized Tiger Conservation Plan approved by the National Tiger Conservation Authority. ✓**
- (B) It requires the mandatory relocation of all forest dwellers from both its core and buffer zones.
- (C) It relies exclusively on state wildlife budgets to fund its new anti-poaching measures and habitat management.
- (D) It merges its administrative boundaries directly with the Satpura landscape to form a single centralized management unit.

Answer: (A)

Explanation

Option 1 (correct): The source explicitly states that as a notified Tiger Reserve, Ratapani's management is now strictly guided by a customized Tiger Conservation Plan approved by the NTCA.

Option 2 (incorrect): The new mandate provides enhanced provisions for 'voluntary' village relocation specifically from the 'core area', not mandatory relocation from both core and buffer zones.

Option 3 (incorrect): While it previously relied primarily on state wildlife budgets as a Wildlife Sanctuary, the upgrade makes it eligible for dedicated central funding and resources under Project Tiger.

Option 4 (incorrect): The notification secures a contiguous habitat 'linking' the Satpura landscape, but the source does not state that it merges administrative boundaries to form a single management unit.

Topic: Environment - Protected Areas

Concepts: Project Tiger, National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), In situ conservation



→ [Read the full revision note on PrepDose: Ratapani Notified as 8th Tiger Reserve of Madhya Pradesh](#)

Tier 3 - Supporting

2 questions

Q152. India 2047 Climate-Resilient Future Symposium

T3 · assertion_reason · MEDIUM · 2025-03-19

Statement-I: The "India 2047 Climate-Resilient Future Symposium", held at Bharat Mandapam, was launched solely by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Statement-II: The symposium aims to establish a multi-sectoral roadmap to ensure India achieves climate resilience and sustainable development by its independence centenary in 2047.

- (A) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II explains Statement-I
- (B) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, but Statement-II does NOT explain Statement-I
- (C) Statement-I is correct, but Statement-II is incorrect
- (D) **Statement-I is incorrect, but Statement-II is correct ✓**

Answer: (D)

Explanation

Statement-I is incorrect because the symposium was not launched solely by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; it was launched in collaboration with Harvard University. Statement-II is correct as the event establishes a multi-sectoral roadmap to ensure India achieves climate resilience and sustainable development by its independence centenary in 2047.

Topic: Environment and Climate Change

Concepts: Climate Resilience, Sustainable Development, International Collaboration

[→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: India 2047 Climate-Resilient Future Symposium](#)

Q153. NGT Orders Environmental Fine on Krishnapatnam Port

T3 · statement_based · HARD · 2025-02-13

Consider the following statements:

1. The National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone) directly imposed a fine on Adani Krishnapatnam Port Limited without the involvement of state pollution control boards.
2. The penalty reinforces the 'Polluter Pays' principle due to the project's failure to maintain a mandatory greenbelt buffer and control coal dust pollution.

- (A) 1 only
- (B) **2 only ✓**
- (C) Both 1 and 2
- (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (B)

Explanation

Statement 1 (incorrect): The National Green Tribunal (Southern Zone) did not directly impose the fine; rather, it ordered the Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board to impose the penalty on the port.

Statement 2 (correct): The ruling reinforces the 'Polluter Pays' principle specifically because the port violated environmental clearance norms by failing to control coal dust pollution and failing to maintain a mandatory greenbelt buffer.

Topic: Environment - Institutions and Judgments

Concepts: National Green Tribunal, Polluter Pays Principle, Environmental Clearance

→ Read the full revision note on PrepDose: NGT Orders Environmental Fine on Krishnapatnam Port