

UPSC Prelims Environment Questions (PYQs)

2023

Q1. Consider the following statements:

Once the Central Government notifies an area as a 'Community Reserve'

1. the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State becomes the governing authority of such forest
2. hunting is not allowed in such area
3. people of such area are allowed to collect non-timber forest produce
4. people of such area are allowed traditional agricultural practices

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct answer: c



Q2. Consider the following statements:

Statement-1: Marsupials are not naturally found in India.

Statement-II: Marsupials can thrive only in montane grasslands with no predators.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-1 is correct Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-1 is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Correct answer: c

Q3. Invasive Species Specialist Group' (that develops Global Invasive Species Database) belongs to which one of the following organizations?

- (a) The International Union for Conservation of Nature
- (b) The United Nations Environment Programme
- (c) The United Nations World Commission for Environment and Development
- (d) The World Wide Fund for Nature

Correct answer: a

Q4. Consider the following fauna:

1. Lion-tailed Macaque
2. Malabar Civet
3. Sambar Deer

How many of the above are generally nocturnal or most active after sunset?

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

Correct answer: b

Q5. Which of the following organisms perform waggle dance for others of their kin to indicate the direction and the distance to a source of their food?

- (a) Butterflies
- (b) Dragonflies
- (c) Honeybees
- (d) Wasps

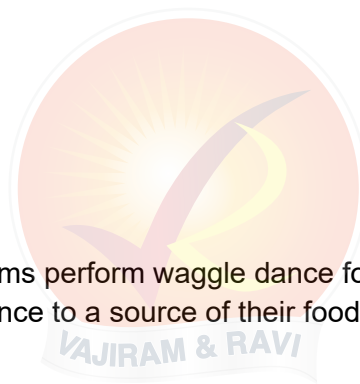
Correct answer: c

Q6. Consider the following statements:

1. Some mushrooms have medicinal properties.
2. Some mushrooms have psycho-active properties.
3. Some mushrooms have insecticidal properties.
4. Some mushrooms have bioluminescent properties.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three



(d) All four

Correct answer: d

Q7. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian squirrels:

1. They build nests by making burrows in the ground.
2. They store their food materials like nuts and seeds in the ground.
3. They are omnivorous.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Correct answer: c

Q8. Consider the following statements:

1. Some microorganisms can grow in environments with temperature above the boiling point of water.
2. Some microorganisms can grow in environments with temperature below the freezing point of water.
3. Some microorganisms can grow in highly acidic environment with a pH below 3.

How many of the above statements are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Correct answer: c

Q9. Which one of the following makes a tool with a stick to scrape insects from a hole in a tree or a log of wood?

(a) Fishing cat

(b) Orangutan

(c) Otter

(d) Sloth bear

Correct answer: b

Q10. Which one of the following is the best example of repeated falls in sea level, giving rise to present-day extensive marshland?

- (a) Bhitarkanika Mangroves
- (b) Marakkanam Salt Pans
- (c) Naupada Swamp
- (d) Rann of Kutch

Correct answer: d

Q11. Consider the following statements:

Statement-I: Carbon markets are likely to be one of the most widespread tools in the fight against climate change.

Statement-II: Carbon markets transfer resources from the private sector to the State.

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

- (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Correct answer: b

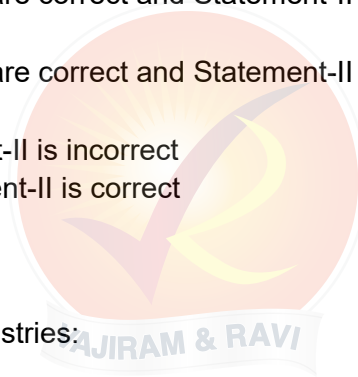
Q12. Consider the following heavy industries:

1. Fertilizer plants
2. Oil refineries
3. Steel plants

Green hydrogen is expected to play a significant role in decarbonizing how many of the above industries?

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

Correct answer: c



Q13. Consider the following activities :

1. Spreading finely ground basalt rock on farmlands extensively
2. Increasing the alkalinity of oceans by adding lime
3. Capturing carbon dioxide released by various industries and pumping it into abandoned subterranean mines in the form of carbonated waters

How many of the above activities are often considered and discussed for carbon capture and sequestration?

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

Correct answer: c

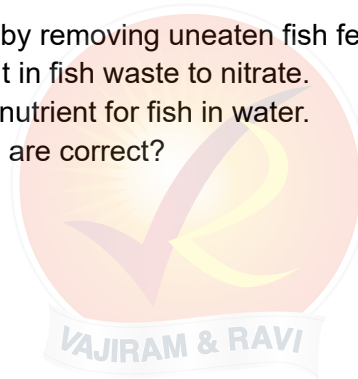
Q14. With reference to the role of biofilters in Recirculating Aquaculture System, consider the following statements :

1. Biofilters provide waste treatment by removing uneaten fish feed.
2. Biofilters convert ammonia present in fish waste to nitrate.
3. Biofilters increase phosphorus as nutrient for fish in water.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct answer: b



Q15. Consider the following statements regarding mercury pollution :

1. Gold mining activity is a source of mercury pollution in the world.
2. Coal-based thermal power plants cause mercury pollution.
3. There is no known safe level of exposure to mercury.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct answer: c

Q16. With reference to green hydrogen, consider the following statements :

1. It can be used directly as a fuel for internal combustion.
2. It can be blended with natural gas and used as fuel for heat or power generation.
3. It can be used in the hydrogen fuel cell to run vehicles.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Correct answer: c

Q17. Consider the following statements :

1. In India, the Biodiversity Management Committees are key to the realization of the objectives of the Nagoya Protocol.
2. The Biodiversity Management Committees have important functions in determining access and benefit sharing, including the power to levy collection fees on the access of biological resources within its jurisdiction.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: c

2022

Q1. "Climate Action Tracker" which monitors the emission reduction pledges of different countries is a :

- (a) Database created by coalition of research organisations
- (b) Wing of ""International Panel of Climate Change
- (c) Committee under ""United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- (d) Agency promoted and financed by United Nations Environment Programme and World Bank

Correct answer: a

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. "The Climate Group" is an international non-profit organization that drives climate action by building large networks and runs them.
2. The International Energy Agency in partnership with the Climate Group launched a global initiative "EP100".
3. EP100 brings together leading companies committed to driving innovation in energy efficiency and increasing competitiveness while delivering on emission reduction goals.
4. Some Indian companies are members of EP100.
5. The International Energy Agency is the Secretariat to the 'Under2 Coalition'.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 2, 4 and 5
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Correct answer: b

Q2. "If rainforests and tropical forests are the lungs of the Earth, then surely wetlands function as its kidneys." Which one of the following functions of wetlands best reflects the above statement?

- (a) The water cycle in wetlands involves surface runoff subsoil percolation and evaporation.
- (b) Algae form the nutrient base upon which fish, crustaceans, molluscs, birds, reptiles and mammals thrive.
- (c) Wetlands play vital role in maintaining sedimentation balance and soil stabilization.
- (d) Aquatic plants absorb heavy metals and excess nutrients

Correct answer: d

Q3. In the context of WHO Air Quality Guidelines, consider the following statements:

1. The 24-hour mean of PM_{2.5} should not exceed 15 µg/m³ and annual mean of PM_{2.5} should not exceed 5 µg/m³.
2. In a year, the highest levels of ozone pollution occur during the periods of inclement weather.
3. PM₁₀ can penetrate the lung barrier and enter the bloodstream.
4. Excessive ozone in the air can trigger asthma.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct answer: b

Q4. With reference to "Gucchi" sometimes mentioned in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It is a fungus.
2. It grows in some Himalayan forest areas.
3. It is commercially cultivated in the Himalayan foothills of north-eastern India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: c

Q5. Which of the following is not a bird?

- (a) Golden Mahseer
- (b) Indian Nightjar
- (c) Spoonbill
- (d) White Ibis

Correct answer: a



Q6. Which of the following are nitrogen-fixing plants?

1. Alfalfa
2. Amaranth
3. Chickpea
4. Clover
5. Purslane (Kulfa)
6. Spinach

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (b) 1, 3, 5 and 6 only
- (c) 2, 4, 5 and 6 only
- (d) 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6

Correct answer: a

Q8. "Biorock technology" is talked about in which one of the following situations?

- (a) Restoration of damaged coral reefs
- (b) Development of building materials using plant residue

- (c) Identification of areas for exploration/extraction of shale gas
- (d) Providing salt licks for wild animals in forests/protected areas

Correct answer: a

Q9. The "Miyawaki method" is well known for the:

- (a) Promotion of commercial farming in arid and semi-arid areas
- (b) Development of gardens using genetically modified flora
- (c) Creation of mini forests in urban areas
- (d) Harvesting wind energy on coastal areas and on sea surfaces

Correct answer: c

Q10. Consider the following pairs:

	Wetland/Lake		Location
1.	Hokera Wetland	—	Punjab
2.	Renuka Wetland	—	Himachal Pradesh
3.	Rudrasagar Lake	—	Tripura
4.	Sasthamkotta Lake	—	Tamil Nadu

How many pairs given above are correctly matched?

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



Correct answer: b

2021

Q1. 'R2 Code of Practices' constitutes a tool available for promoting the adoption of

- (a) environmentally responsible practices in electronics recycling industry
- (b) ecological management of Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention
- (c) sustainable practices in the cultivation of agricultural crops in degraded lands
- (d) 'Environmental Impact Assessment' in the exploitation of natural resources

Correct answer: a

Q2. Why is there a concern about copper smelting plants?

1. They may release lethal quantities of carbon monoxide into environment.
2. The copper slag can cause the leaching of some heavy metals into environment.
3. They may release sulphur dioxide as a pollutant.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Correct answer: b

Q3. With reference to furnace oil, consider the following statements:

1. It is a product of oil refineries.
2. Some industries use it to generate power.
3. Its use causes sulphur emissions into environment.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct answer: d



Q4. What is blue carbon?

- (a) Carbon captured by oceans and coastal ecosystems
- (b) Carbon sequestered in forest biomass and agricultural soils
- (c) Carbon contained in petroleum and natural gas
- (d) Carbon present in atmosphere

Correct answer: a

Q5. In the nature, which of the following is/are most likely to be found surviving on a surface without soil?

1. Fern
2. Lichen
3. Moss
4. Mushroom

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 4 only

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

Correct answer: c

Q6. With reference to the 'New York Declaration on Forests', which of the following statements are correct?

1. It was first endorsed at the United Nations Climate Summit in 2014.
2. It endorses a global timeline to end the loss of forests.
3. It is a legally binding international declaration.
4. It is endorsed by governments, big companies and indigenous communities.
5. India was one of the signatories at its inception.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1, 2 and 4
- (b) 1, 3 and 5
- (c) 3 and 4
- (d) 2 and 5

Correct answer: a



Q7. Which one of the following is a filter feeder?

- (a) Catfish
- (b) Octopus
- (c) Oyster
- (d) Pelican

Correct answer: c

Q8. In case of which one of the following biogeochemical cycles, the weathering of rocks is the main source of release of nutrients to enter the cycle?

- (a) Carbon cycle
- (b) Nitrogen cycle
- (c) Phosphorus cycle
- (d) Sulphur cycle

Correct answer: c

Q9. Which of the following are detritivores?

1. Earthworms
2. Jellyfish
3. Millipedes
4. Seahorses
5. Woodlice

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Correct answer: c

Q10. The 'Common Carbon Metric', supported by UNEP, has been developed for

- (a) assessing the carbon footprint of building operations around the world
- (b) enabling commercial farming entities around the world to enter carbon emission trading
- (c) enabling governments to assess the overall carbon footprint caused by their countries
- (d) assessing the overall carbon foot-print caused by the use of fossil fuels by the world in a unit time

Correct answer: a

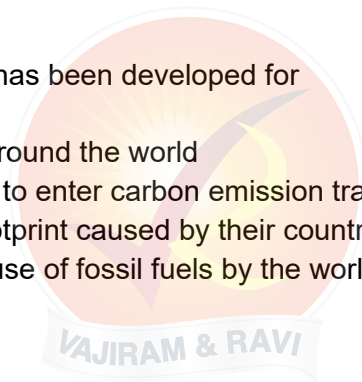
Q11. Which of the following have species that can establish a symbiotic relationship with other organisms?

1. Cnidarians
2. Fungi
3. Protozoa

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Correct answer: d



Q12. Consider the following statements:

Statement 1: The United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the Arbor Day Foundation have recently recognized Hyderabad as 2020 Tree City of the World.

Statement 2: Hyderabad was selected for the recognition for a year following its commitment to grow and maintain the urban forests.

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

- (a) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct and Statement 2 is the correct explanation for Statement 1.
- (b) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct but Statement 2 is not the correct explanation for Statement 1.
- (c) Statement 1 is correct but Statement 2 is not correct.
- (d) Statement 1 is not correct but Statement 2 is correct.

Correct answer: d

Q13. The vegetation of savannah consists of grassland with scattered small trees, but extensive areas have no trees. The forest development in such areas is generally kept in check by one or more or a combination of some conditions. Which of the following are such conditions.

- 1. Burrowing animals and termites
- 2. Fire
- 3. Grazing herbivores
- 4. Seasonal rainfall
- 5. Soil properties

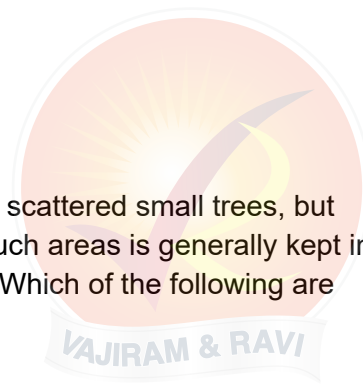
Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 4 and 5
- (c) 2, 3 and 4
- (d) 1, 3 and 5

Correct answer: c

Q14. How is permaculture farming different from conventional chemical farming?

- 1. Permaculture farming discourages monocultural practices but in conventional chemical farming, monoculture practices are predominant.
- 2. Conventional chemical farming can cause an increase in soil salinity but the occurrence of such phenomenon is not observed in permaculture farming.
- 3. Conventional chemical farming is easily possible in semi-arid regions but permaculture farming is not so easily possible in such regions.



4. Practice of mulching is very important in permaculture farming but not necessarily so in conventional chemical farming.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Correct answer: b

Q15. In the context of India's preparation for Climate -Smart Agriculture, consider the following statements:

1. The 'Climate-Smart Village' approach in India is a part of a project led by the Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS), an international research programme.
2. The project of CCAFS is carried out under Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) headquartered in France.
3. The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in India is one of the CGIAR's research centres.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct answer: d



2020

Q1. With reference to chemical fertilizers in India, consider the following statements:

1. At present, the retail price of chemical fertilizers is market-driven and not administered by the Government.
2. Ammonia, which is an input of urea, is produced from natural gas.
3. Sulphur, which is a raw material for phosphoric acid fertilizer, is a by-product of oil refineries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: b

Q2. With reference to India's Desert National Park, which of the following statements are correct?

1. It is spread over two districts.
2. There is no human habitation inside the Park.
3. It is one of the natural habitats of the Great Indian Bustard.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: c

Q3. Among the following Tiger Reserves, which one has the largest area under "Critical Tiger Habitat"?

- (a) Corbett
- (b) Ranthambore
- (c) Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem
- (d) Sundarbans

Correct answer: c

Q4. If a particular plant species is placed under Schedule VI of The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, what is the implication?

- (a) A licence is required to cultivate that plant.
- (b) Such a plant cannot be cultivated under any circumstances.
- (c) It is a Genetically Modified crop plant.
- (d) Such a plant is invasive and harmful to the ecosystem.

Correct answer: a

Q5. According to India's National Policy on Biofuels, which of the following can be used as raw materials for the production of biofuels?

1. Cassava
2. Damaged wheat grains
3. Groundnut seeds
4. Horse gram
5. Rotten potatoes
6. Sugar beet

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 5 and 6 only
- (b) 1, 3, 4 and 6 only

- (c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

Correct answers: a

Q6. Which of the following statements best describes the term 'Social Cost of Carbon'?
It is a measure, in monetary value, of the

- (a) long-term damage done by a tonne of CO₂ emissions in a given year.
- (b) requirement of fossil fuels for a country to provide goods and services to its citizens, based on the burning of those fuels.
- (c) efforts put in by a climate refugee to adapt to live in a new place.
- (d) contribution of an individual person to the carbon footprint on the planet Earth.

Correct answers: a

Q7. With reference to Indian elephants, consider the following statements:

1. The leader of an elephant group is a female.
2. The maximum gestation period can be 22 months.
3. An elephant can normally go on calving till the age of 40 years only.
4. Among the States in India, the highest elephant population is in Kerala.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: a

Q8. Which of the following Protected Areas are located in Cauvery basin?

1. Nagarhole National Park
2. Papikonda National Park
3. Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve
4. Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: c

Q9. With reference to India's biodiversity, Ceylon frogmouth, Coppersmith barbet, Gray-chinned minivet and White-throated redstart are

- (a) Birds
- (b) Primates
- (c) Reptiles
- (d) Amphibians

Correct answer: a

Q10. Which one of the following protected areas is well-known for the conservation of a sub-species of the Indian swamp deer (Barasingha) that thrives well on hard ground and is exclusively graminivorous?

- (a) Kanha National Park
- (b) Manas National Park
- (c) Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary
- (d) Tal Chhapar Wildlife Sanctuary

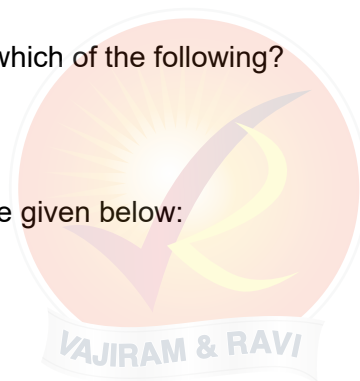
Correct answer: a

Q11. Steel slag can be the material for which of the following?

- 1. Construction of base road
- 2. Improvement of agricultural soil
- 3. Production of cement

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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



Correct answer: d

Q12. Which of the following are the most likely places to find the musk deer in its natural habitat?

- 1. Askot Wildlife Sanctuary
- 2. Gangotri National Park
- 3. Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary
- 4. Manas National Park

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: a

Q13. In rural road construction, the use of which of the following is preferred for ensuring environmental sustainability or to reduce carbon footprint?

1. Copper slag
2. Cold mix asphalt technology
3. Geotextiles
4. Hot mix asphalt technology
5. Portland cement

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 4 and 5 only
- (d) 1 and 5 only

Correct answer: a

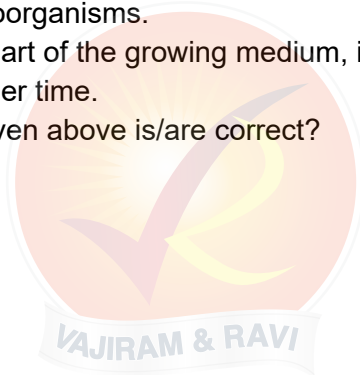
Q14. What is the use of biochar in farming?

1. Biochar can be used as a part of the growing medium in vertical farming.
2. When biochar is a part of the growing medium, it promotes the growth of nitrogen-fixing microorganisms.
3. When biochar is a part of the growing medium, it enables the growing medium to retain water for longer time.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: d



2019

Q1. Which one of the following National Parks lies completely in the temperate alpine zone?

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

Correct answer: d

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. Asiatic lion is naturally found in India only.
2. Double-humped camel is naturally found in India only.
3. One-horned rhinoceros is naturally found in India only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: a

Q3. In the context of which of the following do some scientists suggest the use of cirrus cloud thinning technique and the injection of sulphate aerosol into stratosphere?

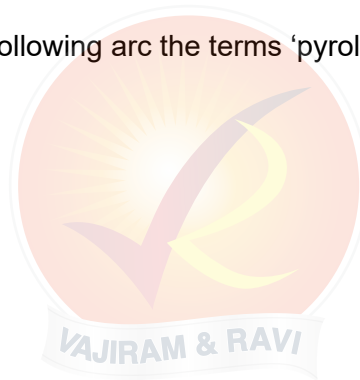
- (a) Creating the artificial rains in some regions
- (b) Reducing the frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones
- (c) Reducing the adverse effects of solar wind on the Earth
- (d) Reducing the global warming

Correct answer: d

Q4. In the context of which one of the following are the terms 'pyrolysis and plasma gasification' mentioned?

- (a) Extraction of rare earth elements
- (b) Natural gas extraction technologies
- (c) Hydrogen fuel-based automobiles
- (d) Waste-to-energy technologies

Correct answer: d



Q5. Which of the following are in Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve?

- (a) Neyyar, Idl Peppara and Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuaries; and Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve
- (b) Mudumalai, Sathyamangalam and Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuaries; and Silent Valley National Park
- (c) Kaundinya, Gundla Brahmeswaram and Papikonda Wildlife Sanctuaries; and Mukurthi National Park
- (d) Kawal and Sri Venkateswara Wildlife Sanctuaries; and Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve

Correct answer: a

Q6. Consider the following statements:

1. Some species of turtles are herbivores.
2. Some species of fish are herbivores.
3. Some species of marine mammals are herbivores.
4. Some species of snakes viviparous.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Correct answer: d

Q7. Wildlife	Naturally found in
1. Blue-finned Mahseer	Cauvery River
2. Irrawaddy Dolphin	Chambal River
3. Rusty-spotted Cat	Eastern Ghats

Which of the pairs given correctly matched?

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

Correct answer: c

Q8. Why is there a great concern about the 'microbeads' that are released into environment?

- (a) They are considered harmful to marine ecosystems.
- (b) They are considered to cause skin cancer in children.
- (c) They are small enough to be absorbed by crop plants in irrigated fields.
- (d) They are often found to be used as food adulterants.

Correct answer: a

Q9. Recently, there was a growing awareness in our country about the importance of Himalayan nettle (*Girardinia diversifolia*) because it is found to be a sustainable source of

- (a) anti-malarial drug
- (b) biodiesel
- (c) pulp for paper industry
- (d) textile fibre

Correct answer: d

Q10. Which of the following statements are correct about the deposits of 'methane hydrate'?

1. Global warming might trigger the release of methane gas from these deposits.
2. Large deposits of 'methane hydrate' are found in Arctic Tundra and under the seafloor.
3. Methane in atmosphere oxidizes to carbon dioxide after a decade or two.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Correct answer: d

Q11. Consider the following:

1. Carbon monoxide
2. Methane
3. Ozone
4. Sulphur dioxide

Which of the above are released into atmosphere due to the burning of crop/biomass residue?

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

Correct answer: d

Q12. In India, the use of carbofuran, methyl parathion, phorate and triazophos is viewed with apprehension. These chemicals are used as

- (a) pesticides in agriculture
- (b) preservatives in processed foods
- (c) fruit-ripening agents
- (d) moisturising agents in cosmetics

Correct answer: a

Q13. Consider the following statements:

1. Under Ramsar Convention, it is mandatory on the part of the Government of India to protect and conserve all the wetlands in the territory of India.
2. The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 were framed by the Government of India based on the recommendations of Ramsar Convention.
3. The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 also encompass the drainage area or catchment regions of the wetlands as determined by the authority.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: c

Q14. Consider the following statements:

1. Agricultural soils release nitrogen oxides into environment.
2. Cattle release ammonia into environment.
3. Poultry industry releases reactive nitrogen compounds environment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: d

Q15. In the context of proposals to the use of hydrogen-enriched CNG (H-CNG) as fuel for buses in public transport, consider the following statements:

1. The main advantage of the use of H-CNG is the elimination of carbon monoxide emissions.
2. H-CNG as fuel reduces carbon dioxide and hydrocarbon emissions.
3. Hydrogen up to one-fifth by volume can be blended with CNG as fuel for buses.
4. H-CNG makes the fuel less expensive than CNG.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: b

Q16. Why are dewdrops not formed on a cloudy night?

- (a) Clouds absorb the radiation released from the Earth's surface.
- (b) Clouds reflect back the Earth's radiation.
- (c) The Earth's surface would have low temperature on cloudy nights.
- (d) Clouds deflect the blowing wind to ground level.

Correct answer: b

Q17. Consider the following statements:

1. As per recent amendment to the Indian Forest Act, 1927, forest dwellers have the right to fell the bamboos grown on forest areas.
2. As per the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, bamboo is a minor forest produce.
3. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 allows ownership of minor forest produce to forest dwellers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: b

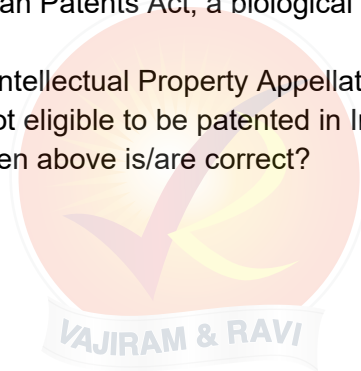
Q18. Consider the following statements:

1. According to the Indian Patents Act, a biological process to create a seed can be patented in India.
2. In India, there is no Intellectual Property Appellate Board.
3. Plant varieties are not eligible to be patented in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: c



Q19. Consider the following statements:

The Environment Protection Act, 1986 empowers the Government of India to

1. state the requirement of public participation in the process of environmental protection, and the procedure and manner in which it is sought
2. lay down the standards for emission or discharge of environmental pollutants from various sources

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: b

Q20. As per the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 in India, which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) Waste generator has to segregate waste into five categories.
- (b) The Rules are applicable to notified urban local bodies, notified towns and all industrial townships only.
- (c) The Rules provide for exact and elaborate criteria for the identification of sites for landfills and waste processing facilities.
- (d) It is mandatory on the part of waste generator that the waste generated in one district cannot be moved to another district.

Correct answer: c

Q21. Consider the following statements:

- 1. As per law, the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority exists at both National and State levels.
- 2. People's participation is mandatory in the compensatory afforestation programmes carried out under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: a

Q22. In India, 'extended producer responsibility' was introduced as an important feature in which of the following?

- (a) The Bio-medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998
- (b) The Recycled Plastic (Manufacturing and Usage) Rules, 1999
- (c) The e-Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011
- (d) The Food Safety and Standard Regulations, 2011

Correct answer: c

2018

Q1. In which one of the following States is Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary located?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Manipur
- c) Meghalaya
- d) Nagaland

Correct answer: a

Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. The definition of "Critical Wildlife Habitat" is incorporated in the Forest Rights Act, 2006.
2. For the first time in India, Baigas have been given Habitat Rights.
3. Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change officially decides and declares Habitat Rights for Primitive and Vulnerable Tribal Groups in any part of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: a

Q3. How is the National Green Tribunal (NGT) different from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)?

1. The NGT has been established by an Act whereas the CPCB has been created by an executive order of the Government.
2. The NGT provides environmental justice and helps reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts whereas the CPCB promotes cleanliness of streams and wells, and aims to improve the quality of air in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: b

Q4. With reference to organic farming in India, consider the following statements:

1. 'The National Programme for Organic Production' (NPOP) is operated under the guidelines and directions of the Union Ministry of Rural Development.
2. 'The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority' (APEDA) functions as the Secretariat for the implementation of NPOP.
3. Sikkim has become India's first fully organic State.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: b

Q5. Which of the following leaf modifications occur(s) in the desert areas to inhibit water loss?

1. Hard and waxy leaves
2. Tiny leaves
3. Thorns instead of leaves

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: d

Q6. Which of the following has/have shrunk immensely/dried up the recent past due to human activities?

1. Aral Sea
2. Black Sea
3. Lake Baikal

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: a

Q7. With reference to the 'Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA)', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. GACSA is an outcome of the Climate Summit held in Paris in 2015.
2. Membership of GACSA does not create any binding obligations.
3. India was instrumental in the creation of GACSA.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: b

Q8. With reference to the circumstances in Indian agriculture, the concept of "Conservation Agriculture" assumes significance. Which of the following fall under the Conservation Agriculture?

1. Avoiding the monoculture practices
2. Adopting minimum tillage
3. Avoiding the cultivation of plantation crops
4. Using crop residues to cover soil surface
5. Adopting spatial and temporal crop sequencing/crop rotations

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) 1, 3 and 4
- b) 2, 3, 4 and 5
- c) 2, 4 and 5
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 5

Correct answer: c

Q9. With reference to the Genetically Modified mustard (GM mustard) developed in India, consider the following statements:

1. GM mustard has the genes of a soil bacterium that give the plant the property of pest-resistance to a wide variety of pests.
2. GM mustard has the genes that allow the plant cross-pollination and hybridization.
3. GM mustard has been developed jointly by the IARI and Punjab Agricultural University.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: b

Q10. Which of the following statements best describes "carbon fertilization"?

- a) Increased plant growth due to increased concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere
- b) Increased temperature of Earth due to increased concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere
- c) Increased acidity of oceans as a result of increased concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere
- d) Adaptation of all living beings on Earth to the climate change brought about by the increased concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere

Correct answer: a

Q11. With reference to solar power production in India, consider the following statements:

1. India is the third largest in the world in the manufacture of silicon wafers used in photovoltaic units.

2. The solar power tariffs are determined by the Solar Energy Corporation of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: d

Q12. Which of the following is/are the possible consequence/s of heavy sand mining in river beds?

1. Decreased salinity in the river

2. Pollution of groundwater

3. Lowering of the water-table

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: b

Q13. The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), a UN mechanism to assist countries transition towards greener and more inclusive economies, emerged at

a) The Earth Summit on Sustainable Development 2002, Johannesburg

b) The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development 2012, Rio de Janeiro

c) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change 2015, Paris

d) The World Sustainable Development Summit 2016, New Delhi

Correct answer: b

Q14. Why is a plant called *Prosopis juliflora* often mentioned in the news?

a) Its extract is widely used in cosmetics.

b) It tends to reduce the biodiversity in the area in which it grows.

c) Its extract is used in the synthesis of pesticides.

d) None of these

Correct answer: b

Q15. Consider the following statements:

1. Most of the world's coral reefs are in tropical waters.
2. More than one-third of the world's coral reefs are located in the territories of Australia, Indonesia and Philippines.
3. Coral reefs host far more number of animal phyla than those hosted by tropical rainforests.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: d

Q16. Momentum for Change: Climate Neutral Now"" is an initiative launched by

- a) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- b) The UNEP Secretariat
- c) The UNFCCC Secretariat
- d) The World Meteorological Organization

Correct answer: c



2017

Q1. With reference to 'Global Climate Change Alliance', which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: a

Q2. Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) is a standard criterion for

- a) Measuring oxygen levels in blood
- b) Computing oxygen levels in forest ecosystems

- c) Pollution assay in aquatic ecosystems
- d) Assessing oxygen levels in high altitude regions

Correct answer: c

Q3. With reference to the role of UN-Habitat in the United Nations Programme working towards a better urban future, which of the statements is/are correct?

1. UN-Habitat has been mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities to provide adequate shelter for all.
2. Its partners are either governments or local urban authorities only.
3. UN-Habitat contributed to the overall objective of the United Nations system to reduce poverty and to promote access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: b

Q4. Consider the following statements:

1. Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) to Reduce Short Lived Climate Pollutants is a unique initiative of G20 group of countries.
2. The CCAC focuses on methane, black carbon and hydrofluorocarbons.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: b

Q5. If you want to see gharials in their natural habitat, which one of the following is the best place to visit?

- a) Bhitarkanika Mangroves
- b) Chambal River
- c) Pulicat Lake
- d) Deepor Beel

Correct answer: b

Q6. The term 'M-STriPES' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of

- a) Captive breeding of Wild Fauna

- b) Maintenance of Tiger Reserves
- c) Indigenous Satellite Navigation System
- d) Security of National Highways

Correct answer: b

Q7. In India, if a species of tortoise is declared protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, what does it imply?

- a) It enjoys the same level of protection as the tiger.
- b) It no longer exists in the wild, a few individuals are under captive protection; and not it is impossible to prevent its extinction.
- c) It is endemic to a particular region of India.
- d) Both (b) and (c) stated above are correct in this context

Correct answer: a

Q8. Recently there was a proposal to translocate some of the lions from their habitat in Gujarat to which one of the following sites?

- a) Corbett National Park
- b) Kuno Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary
- c) Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary
- d) Sariska National Park

Correct answer: b

Q9. The term 'Domestic Content Requirement' is sometimes seen in the news with reference to

- a) Developing solar power production in our country
- b) Granting licenses to foreign T.V. channels in our country
- c) Exporting our food products to other countries
- d) Permitting foreign educational institutions to set up their campuses in our country

Correct answer: a

Q10. According to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which of the following animals cannot be hunted by any person except under some provisions provided by law?

1. Gharial
2. Indian wild ass
3. Wild buffalo

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: d

Q11. From the ecological point of view, which one of the following assumes importance in being a good link between the Eastern Ghats and the Western Ghats?

- a) Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve
- b) Nallamala Forest
- c) Nagarhole National Park
- d) Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve

Correct answer: a

Q12. Consider the following statements in respect of Trade Related Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce (TRAFFIC):

- 1. TRAFFIC is a bureau under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- 2. The mission of TRAFFIC is to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: b

Q13. In the context of mitigating the impending global warming due to anthropogenic emissions of carbon dioxide, which of the following can be potential sites for carbon sequestration?

- 1. Abandoned and uneconomic coal seams
- 2. Depleted oil and gas reservoirs
- 3. Subterranean deep saline formations

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: d

2016

Q1. The term 'Intended Nationally Determined Contributions' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of

- a) pledges made by the European countries to rehabilitate refugees from the war-affected Middle East
- b) plan of action outlined by the countries of the world to combat climate change
- c) capital contributed by the member countries in the establishment of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- d) plan of action outlined by the countries of the world regarding Sustainable Development Goals

Correct answer: b

Q2. What is/are the importance/ importances of the 'United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification'?

- 1. It aims to promote effective action through innovative national programmes and supportive international partnerships
- 2. It has a special/particular focus on South Asia and North Africa regions, and its Secretariat facilitates the allocation of major portions of financial resources to these regions.
- 3. It is committed to a bottom-up approach, encouraging the participation of local people in combating desertification.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: c

Q3. In which of the following regions of India are you most likely to come across the 'Great Indian Hornbill' in its natural habitat?

- a) Sand deserts of northwest India
- b) Higher Himalayas of Jammu and Kashmir
- c) Salt marshes of western Gujarat
- d) Western Ghats

Correct answer: d

Q4. Which of the following are the key features of 'National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA)?

1. River basin is the unit of planning and management.
2. It spearheads the river conservation efforts at the national level.
3. One of the Chief Ministers of the States through which the Ganga flows becomes the Chairman of NGRBA on rotation basis.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: a

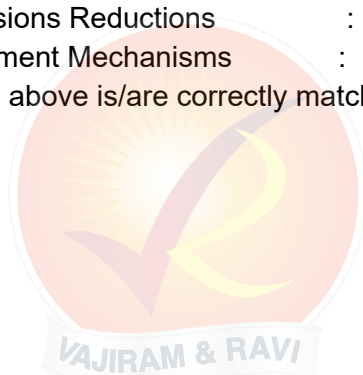
Q5. Consider the following pairs:

Sl. No.	Terms sometimes seen in the news	Their origin
1.	Annex-I Countries	: Cartagena Protocol
2.	Certified Emissions Reductions	: Nagoya Protocol
3.	Clean Development Mechanisms	: Kyoto Protocol

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Correct answer: c



Q6. Which of the following best describes/ describe the aim of the 'Green India Mission' of the Government of India?

1. Incorporating environmental benefits and costs into the Union and State Budgets thereby implementing the 'green accounting'
2. Launching the second green revolution to enhance agricultural output so as to ensure food security to one and all in the future
3. Restoring and enhancing forest cover and responding to climate change by a combination of adaptation and mitigation measures

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: c

Q7. 'Net metering' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of promoting the

- a) production and use of solar energy by the households/consumers
- b) use of piped natural gas in the kitchens of households
- c) installation of CNG kits in motor-cars
- d) installation of water meters in urban households

Correct answer: a

Q8. What is/are unique about 'Kharai camel', a breed found in India?

- 1. It is capable of swimming up to three kilometers in seawater.
- 2. It survives by grazing on mangroves.
- 3. It lives in the wild and cannot be domesticated.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: a

Q9. Recently, our scientists have discovered a new and distinct species of banana plant which attains a height of about 11 meters and has orange-coloured fruit pulp. In which part of India has it been discovered?

- a) Andaman Islands
- b) Anaimalai Forests
- c) Maikala Hills
- d) Tropical rain forests of northeast

Correct answer: a

Q10. With reference to an initiative called 'The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. It is an initiative hosted by UNEP, IMF and World Economic Forum.
- 2. It is a global initiative that focuses on drawing attention to the economic benefits of biodiversity.
- 3. It presents an approach that can help decision makers recognize, demonstrate and capture the value of ecosystems and biodiversity.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Correct answer: c

Q11. With reference to 'Red Sanders', sometimes seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It is a tree species found in a part of South India.
2. It is one of the most important trees in the tropical rainforest areas of South India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: a

Q12. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

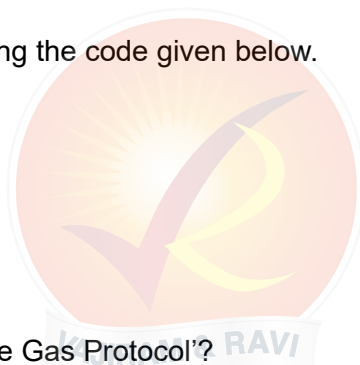
Proper design and effective implementation of UN-REDD+ Programme can significantly contribute to

1. protection of biodiversity
2. resilience of forest ecosystems
3. poverty reduction

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Correct answer: d



Q13. What is the 'Greenhouse Gas Protocol'?

- a) It is an international accounting tool for government and business leaders to understand, quantify and manage greenhouse gas emissions.
- b) It is an initiative of the United Nations to offer financial incentives to developing countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adopt eco friendly technologies.
- c) It is an intergovernmental agreement ratified by all the member countries of the United Nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to specified levels by the year 2022.
- d) It is one of the multilateral REDD+ initiatives hosted by the World Bank.

Correct answer: a

Q14. With reference to 'Agenda 21', sometimes seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It is a global action plan for sustainable development.
2. It originated in the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

Correct answer: a

Q15. 'Gadgil Committee Report' and 'Kasturirangan Committee Report', sometimes seen in the news, are related to

- a) constitutional reforms
- b) Ganga Action Plan
- c) linking of rivers
- d) protection of Western Ghats

Correct answer: d

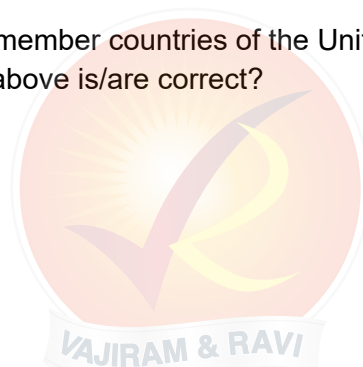
Q16. Consider the following statements:

1. The International Solar Alliance was launched at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2015.
2. The Alliance includes all the member countries of the United Nations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: a



Q17. In the cities of our country, which among the following atmospheric gases are normally considered in calculating the value of Air Quality Index?

1. Carbon dioxide
2. Carbon monoxide
3. Nitrogen dioxide
4. Sulfur dioxide
5. Methane

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 4 and 5 only
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Correct answer: b

Q18. Recently, for the first time in our country, which of the following States has declared a particular butterfly as 'State Butterfly'?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Himachal Pradesh
- c) Karnataka
- d) Maharashtra

Correct answer: d

Q19. With reference to the Agreement at the UNFCCC Meeting in Paris in 2015, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Agreement was signed by all the member countries of the UN and it will go into effect in 2017.
2. The Agreement aims to limit the greenhouse gas emissions so that the rise in average global temperature by the end of this century does not exceed 2°C or even 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
3. Developed countries acknowledged their historical responsibility in global warming and committed to donate \$ 1000 billion a year from 2020 to help developing countries to cope with climate change.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Correct answer: a



Q20. Consider the following statements:

1. The Sustainable Development Goals were first proposed in 1972 by a global think tank called the 'Club of Rome'.
2. The Sustainable Development Goals have to be achieved by 2030.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: b

2015

Q1. Which of the following National Parks is unique in being a swamp with floating vegetation that supports a rich biodiversity?

- a) Bhitarkanika National Park

- b) Keibul Lamjao National Park
- c) Keoladeo Ghana National Park
- d) Sultanpur National Park

Correct answer: b

Q2. With reference to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resource (IUCN) and the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which of the following statements is/are correct ?

1. IUCN is an organ of the United Nations and CITES is an international agreement between governments.
2. IUCN runs thousands of field projects around the world to better manage natural environments.
3. CITES is legally binding on the States that have joined it, but this Conventional does not take the place of national laws.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Correct answer: b

Q3. With reference to 'fly ash' produced by the power plants using coal as fuel, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Fly ash can be used in the production of bricks for building construction.
2. Fly ash can be used as a replacement for some of the Portland cement contents of concrete.
3. Fly ash is made up of silicon dioxide and calcium oxide only, and does not contain any toxic elements.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Correct answer: a

Q4. With reference to 'dugong', a mammal found in India, which of the following statements is/are correct ?

1. It is a herbivorous marine animal.
2. It is found along the entire coast of India.
3. It is given legal protection under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Correct answer: c

Q5. Which one of the following is the national aquatic animal of India?

- a) Saltwater crocodile
- b) Olive ridley turtle
- c) Gangetic dolphin
- d) Gharial

Correct answer: c

Q6. Which one of the following is associated with the issue of control and phasing out of the use of ozone-depleting substances?

- a) Bretton Woods Conference
- b) Montreal Protocol
- c) Kyoto Protocol
- d) Nagoya Protocol

Correct answer: b

Q7. What is Rio+20 Conference, often mentioned in the news?

- a) It is the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development
- b) It is a Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization
- c) It is a Conference of the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change
- d) It is a Conference of the Member Countries of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Correct answer: a

Q8. Which of the statements regarding 'Green Climate Fund' is/are correct?

1. It is intended to assist the developing countries in adaption and mitigation practices to counter climate change.
2. It is founded under the aegis of UNEP, OECD, Asian Development Bank and World Bank.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: a

Q9. Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2014 was given to which one of the following?

- a) Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
- b) Indian Institute of Science
- c) Indian Space Research Organization
- d) Tata Institute of Fundamental Research

Correct answer: c

Q10. Which one of the following National Parks has a climate that varies from tropical to subtropical, temperate and arctic?

- a) Khangchendzonga National park
- b) Nandadevi National Park
- c) Neora Valley National Park
- d) Namdapha National park

Correct answer: d

Q11. Which one of the following National Parks has a climate that varies from tropical to subtropical, temperate and arctic?

- a) Khangchendzonga National park
- b) Nandadevi National Park
- c) Neora Valley National Park
- d) Namdapha National park

Correct answer: d



Q12. The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee is constituted under the

- a) Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006
- b) Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999
- c) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- d) Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

Correct answer: c

Q13. With reference to 'Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)', consider the following statements :

1. It was established very recently in response to incidents of piracy and accidents of oil spills.
2. It is an alliance meant for maritime security only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct answer: d

Q14. With reference to 'Forest Carbon Partnership Facility', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a global partnership of governments, businesses, civil society and indigenous peoples.
 2. It provides financial aid to universities, individual scientists and institutions involved in scientific forestry research to develop eco-friendly and climate adaptation technologies for sustainable forest management.
 3. It assists the countries in their 'REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation)' efforts by providing them with financial and technical assistance.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: c



Q15. With reference to an organization known as 'BirdLife International', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a Global Partnership of Conservation Organizations.
 2. The concept of 'biodiversity hotspots' originated from this organization.
 3. It identifies the sites known/referred to as 'Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas'.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Correct answer: c

Q16. Which one of the following is the best description of the term 'ecosystem'?

- a) A community of organisms interacting with one another
- b) That part of the Earth which is inhabited by living organisms
- c) A community of organisms together with the environment in which they live
- d) The flora and fauna of a geographical area

Correct answer: c

Q17. With reference to bio-toilets used by the Indian Railways, consider the following statements:

1. The decomposition of human waste in the bio-toilets is initiated by a fungal inoculum.
2. Ammonia and water vapour are the only end products in this decomposition which are released into the atmosphere.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: d

2014

Q1. If a wetland of international importance is brought under the 'Montreux Record', what does it imply?

- a) Changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring or are likely to occur in the wetland as a result of human interference.
- b) The country in which the wetland is located should enact a law to prohibit any human activity within five kilometers from the edge of the wetland.
- c) The survival of the wetland depends on the cultural practices and traditions of certain communities living in its vicinity and therefore the cultural diversity therein should not be destroyed.
- d) It is given the status of 'World Heritage Site'.

Correct answer: a

Q2. Consider the following pairs:

Sl.

No.	Programme/Project	Ministry
1.	Drought-Prone Area Programme :	Ministry of Agriculture
2.	Desert Development Programme :	Ministry of Environment and Forests
3.	National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas :	Ministry of Rural Development

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 3 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) None

Correct answer: d

Q3. With reference to the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), consider the following statements:

1. It is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
2. It strives to conserve nature through action-based research, education and public awareness.
3. It organizes and conducts nature trails and camps for the general public.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: c

Q4. With reference to 'Global Environment Facility', which of the following statements is/are correct?

- a) It serves as a financial mechanism for 'Convention on Biological Diversity' and 'United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change'.
- b) It undertakes scientific research on environmental issues at the global level.
- c) It is an agency under OECD to facilitate the transfer of technology and funds to underdeveloped countries with the specific aim to protect their environment.
- d) Both a) and b)

Correct answer: a

Q5. With reference to technology for solar power production, consider the following statements:

1. 'Photovoltaics' is a technology that generates electricity by direct conversion of light into electricity, while 'Solar Thermal' is a technology that utilizes the Sun's rays to generate heat which is further used in the electricity generation process.
2. Photovoltaics generates Alternating Current (AC), while Solar Thermal generates Direct Current(DC).
3. India has a manufacturing base for Solar Thermal technology, but not for photovoltaics.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) None

Correct answer: a

Q6. Consider the following pairs:

Sl.

No. Protected area

State

1. Dampa Tiger Reserve : Mizoram
2. Gumti Wildlife Sanctuary: Sikkim
3. Saramati Peak : Nagaland

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Correct answer: c

Q7. With reference to a conservation organization called 'Wetlands International', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is an intergovernmental organization formed by the countries which are signatories to Ramsar Convention.
2. It works at the field level to develop and mobilize knowledge and use practical experience to advocate for better policies.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: b

Q8. Other than poaching, what are the possible reasons for the decline in the population of Ganges River Dolphins?

1. Construction of dams and barrages on rivers
2. Increase in the population of crocodiles in rivers.
3. Getting trapped in fishing nets accidentally
4. Use of synthetic fertilizers and other agricultural chemicals in crop fields in the vicinity of rivers

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: c

Q9. Brominated flame retardants are used in many household products like mattresses and upholstery. Why is there some concern about their use?

1. They are highly resistant to degradation in the environment.
2. They are able to accumulate in humans and animals.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: c

Q10. Consider the following:

1. Bats
2. Bears
3. Rodents

The phenomenon of hibernation can be observed in which of the above kinds of animals?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1, 2 and 3
- d) Hibernation cannot be observed in any of the above

Correct answer: c

Q11. Which of the following adds/add carbon dioxide to the carbon cycle on the planet Earth?

1. Volcanic action
2. Respiration
3. Photosynthesis
4. Decay of organic matter

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: c

Q12. If you walk through the countryside, you are likely to see some birds stalking alongside the cattle to seize the insects disturbed by their movement through grasses. Which one of the following is/are such bird/birds?

1. Painted Stork
2. Common Myna
3. Black-necked Crane

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: b

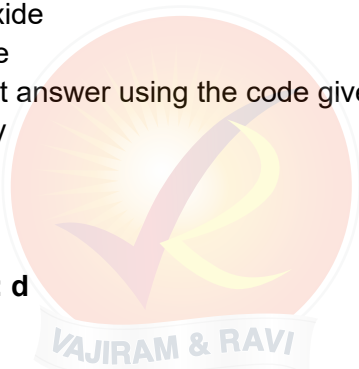
Q13. Which of the following are some important pollutants released by the steel industry in India?

- 1. Oxides of sulphur
- 2. Oxide of nitrogen
- 3. Carbon monoxide
- 4. Carbon dioxide

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: d



Q14. Which of the following have coral reefs?

- 1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- 2. Gulf of Kachchh
- 3. Gulf of Mannar
- 4. Sunderbans

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: a

Q15. Consider the following pairs:

- | No. | Wetland | Confluence of Rivers |
|-----|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. | Harike Wetlands : | Confluence of Beas and Satluj/ Sutlej |
| 2. | Keoladeo Ghana National Park : | Confluence of Banas and Chambal |
| 3. | Kolleru Lake : | Confluence of Musi and Krishna |

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

- a) 1 only

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

Correct answer: a

Q16. The most important strategy for the conservation of biodiversity together with traditional human life is the establishment of

- a) biosphere reserves
- b) botanical gardens
- c) national parks
- d) wildlife sanctuaries

Correct answer: a

Q17. The scientific view is that the increase in global temperature should not exceed 2° Celsius above pre-industrial level. If the global temperature increases beyond 3°C above the pre-industrial level, what can be its possible impact/impacts on the world?

1. Terrestrial biosphere tends toward a net carbon source.
2. Widespread coral mortality will occur.
3. All the global wetlands will permanently disappear.
4. Cultivation of cereals will not be possible anywhere in the world.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: b

Q18. What are the benefits of implementing the 'Integrated Watershed Development Programme'?

1. Prevention of soil runoff
2. Linking the country's perennial rivers with seasonal rivers
3. Rainwater harvesting and recharge of groundwater Table
4. Regeneration of natural vegetation

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: c

Q19. With reference to Neem tree, consider the following statements:

1. Neem oil can be used as a pesticide to control the proliferation of some species of insects and mites.
2. Neem seeds are used in the manufacture of biofuels and hospital detergents.
3. Neem oil has applications in pharmaceutical industry.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: c

Q20. Which one of the following is the process involved in photosynthesis?

- a) Potential energy is released to form free energy.
- b) Free energy is converted into potential energy and stored.
- c) Food is oxidized to release carbon dioxide and water.
- d) Oxygen is taken, and carbon dioxide and water vapour are given out.

Correct answer: b

Q21. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the vegetative propagation of plants?

1. Vegetative propagation produces a clonal population.
2. Vegetative propagation helps in eliminating the virus.
3. Vegetative propagation can be practiced most of the year.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: c

Q22. Consider the following techniques/phenomena:

1. Budding and grafting in fruit plants
2. Cytoplasmic male sterility
3. Gene silencing

Which of the above is/are used to create transgenic crops?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) None

Correct answer: b

Q23. Among the following organisms, which one does not belong to the class of other three?

- a) Crab
- b) Mite
- c) Scorpion
- d) Spider

Correct answer: a

Q24. Consider the following international agreements:

1. The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
2. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
3. The World Heritage Convention

Which of the above has/have a bearing on the biodiversity?

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

Correct answer: d



Q25. Consider the following statements regarding 'Earth Hour':

1. It is an initiative of UNEP and UNESCO.
2. It is a movement in which the participants switch off the lights for one hour on a certain day every year.
3. It is a movement to raise the awareness about the climate change and the need to save the planet.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: c

Q26. Which one of the following is the correct sequence of a food chain?

- a) Diatoms-Crustaceans-Herrings
- b) Crustaceans-Diatoms-Herrings
- c) Diatoms-Herrings-Crustaceans
- d) Crustaceans-Herrings-Diatoms

Correct answer: a

Q27. With reference to 'Eco-Sensitive Zones', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Eco-Sensitive Zones are the areas that are declared under the (Wildlife Protection) Act, of 1972.
2. The purpose of the declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones is to prohibit all kinds of human activities in those zones except agriculture.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: d

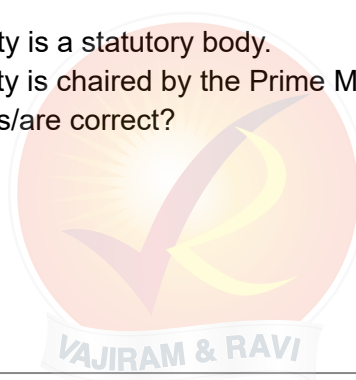
Q28. Consider the following statements:

1. Animal Welfare Board of India is established under the (Environment Protection) Act, 1986.
2. National Tiger Conservation Authority is a statutory body.
3. National Ganga River Basin Authority is chaired by the Prime Minister.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: b



2013

Q1. Consider the following fauna of India:

1. Gharial
2. Leatherback turtle
3. Swamp deer

Which of the above is/are endangered?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) None

Q2. Which of the following leaf modifications occurs/occur in desert areas to inhibit water loss?

1. Hard and waxy leaves

2. Tiny leaves or no leaves
3. Thorns instead of leaves

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Q3. Consider the following

1. Star tortoise
2. Monitor lizard
3. Pygmy hog
4. Spider monkey

Which of the above found in India?

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



Q4. Which of the following can be found as pollutants in the drinking water in some parts of India?

1. Arsenic
2. Sorbitol
3. Fluoride
4. Formaldehyde
5. Uranium

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2, 4 and 5 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 5 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5"

Q5. In the grasslands, trees do not replace the grasses as a part of an ecological succession because of

- (a) insects and fungi
- (b) limited sunlight and paucity of nutrients
- (c) water limits and fire
- (d) None of the above

Q6. Which one of the following is the correct sequence of ecosystems in the order of decreasing productivity?

- (a) Oceans, lakes, grasslands, mangroves
- (b) Mangroves, oceans, grasslands, lakes
- (c) Mangroves, grasslands, lakes, oceans
- (d) Oceans, mangroves, lakes, grasslands"

Q7. Contour bunding is a method of soil conservation used in

- (a) desert margins, liable to strong wind action
- (b) low flat plains, close to stream courses, liable to flooding
- (c) scrublands, liable to spread of weed growth
- (d) None of the above"

Q8. Under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, who shall be the authority to initiate the process for determining the nature and extent of individual or community forest rights or both?

- (a) State Forest Department
- (b) District Collector/Deputy Commissioner
- (c) Tahsildar /Block Development Officer / Mandai Revenue Officer
- (d) Gram Sabha

Q9. Improper handling and storage of cereal grains and oilseeds result in the production of toxins known as aflatoxins which are not generally destroyed by normal cooking process.

Aflatoxins are produced by

- (a) bacteria
- (b) protozoa
- (c) moulds
- (d) viruses

Q10. Due to improper / indiscriminate disposal of old and used computers or their parts, which of the following are released into the environment as e-waste?

1. Beryllium
2. Cadmium
3. Chromium
4. Heptachlor
5. Mercury
6. Lead
7. Plutonium

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- (a) 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 only
- (b) 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 only
- (c) 2, 4, 5 and 7 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

Q11. Acid rain is caused by the pollution of environment by

- (a) carbon dioxide and nitrogen
- (b) carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide
- (c) ozone and carbon dioxide
- (d) nitrous oxide and sulphur dioxide

Q12. With reference to food chains in ecosystems, consider the following statements :

1. A food chain illustrates the order in which a chain of organisms feed upon each other.
2. Food chains are found within the populations of a species.
3. A food chain illustrates the numbers of each organism which are eaten by others.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) None

Q13. Consider the following pairs

National Park - River flowing through the Park

1. Corbett National Park : Ganga
2. Kaziranga National Park : Manas
3. Silent Valley National Park : Kaveri

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

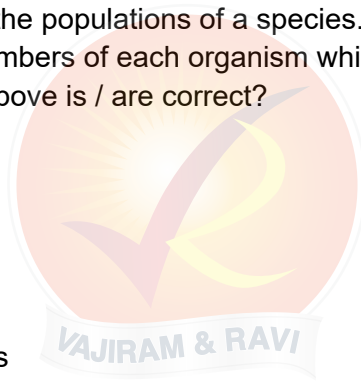
- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) None

Q14. Consider the following organisms

1. Agaricus
2. Nostoc
3. Spirogyra

Which of the above is / are used as bio fertilizer / bio fertilizers

- (a) 1 and 2



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

Q15. Which of the following adds / add nitrogen to the soil?

- 1. Excretion of urea by animals
- 2. Burning of coal by man
- 3. Death of vegetation

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

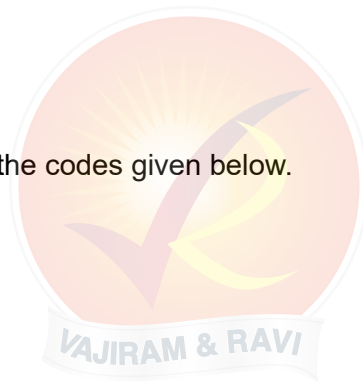
- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (e) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q16. In which of the following States is lion-tailed macaque found in its natural habitat?

- 1. Tamil Nadu
- 2. Kerala
- 3. Karnataka
- 4. Andhra Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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



Q17. Which one of the following terms describes not only the physical space occupied by an organism, but also its functional role in the community of organisms?

- (a) Ecotone
- (b) Ecological niche
- (c) Habitat
- (d) Home range

Q18. Photochemical smog is a resultant of the reaction among

- (a) NO₂, O₃ and peroxyacetyl nitrate in the presence of sunlight
 - (b) CO, O₂ and peroxyacetyl nitrate in the presence of sunlight
 - (c) CO, CO₂ and NO₂ at low temperature
 - (d) High concentration of NO₂, O₃ and CO in the evening
-