

# The Nilgiris as a shared wilderness

## 1. Reading Comprehension:

What was the author's initial perception of the eucalyptus tree, and how did it change?

- A) Initially thought it was beneficial but later found it invasive
- B) Saw it as a foreign, water-greedy species but later admired its beauty
- C) Viewed it as an iconic species of the Nilgiris and still believes so
- D) Believed it was harmful to the environment and continues to think so

## 2. Reading Comprehension:

Why is the Nilgiri Biosphere considered significant in terms of biodiversity?

- A) It has been a UNESCO site for over a century
- B) It spans across multiple countries with shared ecosystems
- C) It hosts unique flora and fauna not found elsewhere
- D) It is the only biosphere that does not face environmental issues

## 3. Logical Reasoning:

What can be inferred about the challenges posed by increased tourism in the Nilgiris?

- A) Tourism has led to decreased interest in agriculture
- B) Rising tourism creates waste and traffic issues, affecting sustainability
- C) Increased tourism has solely benefited local communities without downsides
- D) Tourism has caused wildlife to migrate away from the area

## 4. Logical Reasoning:

How does the concept of a "shared wilderness" as suggested by the author influence conservation efforts?

- A) It implies that only the government should take responsibility for conservation
- B) It encourages collaboration among citizens, the government, and businesses
- C) It means setting up more boundaries to keep wildlife contained
- D) It suggests that conservation efforts should focus exclusively on indigenous communities

## 5. Vocabulary:

What does the term "galvanised" mean in the context of "local communities have galvanised themselves to protect their home"?

- A) Frightened
- B) Strengthened
- C) United and motivated
- D) Separated

## Zeroing in on methane diplomacy, at COP29

### 6. Reading Comprehension:

Why is methane reduction particularly important in the short term compared to CO<sub>2</sub> reduction?

- A) Methane is 10 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub> on a 20-year timescale
- B) Methane has a longer atmospheric lifespan than CO<sub>2</sub>
- C) Methane reduction can significantly slow near-term temperature rise
- D) CO<sub>2</sub> reduction has minimal impact on climate compared to methane

### 7. Reading Comprehension:

Why has India been hesitant to commit to the Global Methane Pledge?

- A) India lacks the necessary technology to reduce methane emissions
- B) Agriculture, which is a major source of methane in India, makes a blanket reduction challenging
- C) India disagrees with the scientific basis of methane's impact on climate
- D) The U.S. and EU have refused to support India in methane reduction

### 8. Logical Reasoning:

How could India benefit from the U.S.-China methane partnership at COP29?

- A) By gaining direct financial and technical support for agricultural reforms
- B) Through targeted funding and capacity building, particularly in waste management
- C) By reducing agricultural methane emissions in line with China's practices
- D) By adopting China's methane reduction targets as its own

### 9. Logical Reasoning:

Based on the passage, what makes Indore's waste management model a potential solution for methane reduction?

- A) It focuses on reducing all types of waste in large-scale plants
- B) It involves converting organic waste into biomethane for citywide fuel use
- C) It uses methane produced from landfill waste to generate electricity
- D) It solely reduces agricultural waste, the largest source of methane

### 10. Vocabulary:

In the context of "the country will, for the first time in 15 years, set a new global

climate finance goal”, what does the term “quantified” in “new collective quantified goal” mean?

- A) Measured and specified
- B) Approximate and estimated
- C) Flexible and adaptable
- D) Restrictive and binding

## Core correction

### 11. Reading Comprehension:

What is one key reason behind the slowdown in industrial activity in India according to the passage?

- A) Increased exports
- B) Decline in consumer demand in rural areas
- C) Contraction in core sector output
- D) Higher imports of raw materials

### 12. Reading Comprehension:

Why is the consistent decline in the Index of Core Industries since May concerning?

- A) It shows an increase in power demand
- B) It reflects a possible cyclical slowdown in industrial output
- C) It indicates a rise in consumer goods production
- D) It shows improved core sector growth compared to the previous year

### 13. Logical Reasoning:

How might reduced government capital spending impact the core sectors, particularly steel?

- A) It would reduce steel imports from other countries
- B) It could dampen steel output due to lower demand in construction
- C) It would encourage private companies to increase investments
- D) It would boost vehicle sales, benefiting the steel sector

### 14. Logical Reasoning:

Given the government’s ₹11.11 lakh crore capex goal, what action is suggested to meet economic growth objectives?

- A) The government should decrease spending on rural development
- B) The government needs to scale up infrastructure spending
- C) Private investments should be directed to urban areas
- D) Imports should be increased to meet the demand in core sectors

**15. Vocabulary:**

What does the word "insipid" in the sentence "and was an insipid 2% higher than last September" imply about the growth in core sectors?

- A) Significant and encouraging
- B) Dull and unremarkable
- C) Rapid and impressive
- D) Unusual and unexpected

## Safe worship

**16. Reading Comprehension:**

What is one reason for recurring fireworks-related accidents at temple festivals in Kerala according to the passage?

- A) Absence of religious festivals
- B) Inadequate safety precautions
- C) Lack of explosive storage units
- D) Restriction of fireworks to night-only displays

**17. Reading Comprehension:**

What is the stance of the Kerala government regarding the new amendments to the Explosives Act, as discussed in the passage?

- A) They support a complete ban on fireworks in temple festivals
- B) They argue the amendments threaten traditional festival practices
- C) They believe the amendments will improve festival safety
- D) They suggest the amendments apply only to non-religious events

**18. Logical Reasoning:**

If a firecracker accident at a festival could endanger attendees, what would be the most effective response by authorities according to the passage?

- A) Increasing the frequency of fireworks displays
- B) Allowing only daytime fireworks without restriction
- C) Enforcing strict safety regulations during festivals
- D) Encouraging nearby residents to attend the fireworks

**19. Logical Reasoning:**

Why might some people argue for balancing cultural practices with safety norms?

- A) They feel fireworks have become safer over the years
- B) They believe festivals have a low risk of causing harm
- C) They value preserving cultural traditions in religious events

- D) They think fireworks displays are important for tourism

**20. Vocabulary:**

What does the word "glamourising" in the sentence "an 'unhealthy culture' glamourising every religious festival" suggest about how fireworks are perceived?

- A) Displaying fireworks modestly
- B) Viewing fireworks as excessively exciting or attractive
- C) Regulating fireworks for safety
- D) Ignoring fireworks in religious festivals

**Answer Key on the next page**

# Answer Key

**1. Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The author initially thought of eucalyptus as a foreign, invasive, and water-greedy species but later came to admire its beauty and presence.

**2. Answer: C**

**Explanation:** The Nilgiri Biosphere is significant due to its rich biodiversity and unique flora and fauna that are not found anywhere else in the world, making it an important ecological zone.

**3. Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Increased tourism has led to sustainability issues, such as waste accumulation and traffic, impacting the local environment and communities.

**4. Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The author promotes the concept of a "shared wilderness," emphasizing that conservation requires cooperation among the community, government, and businesses.

**5. Answer: C**

**Explanation:** "Galvanised" in this context means united and motivated, as local communities have mobilized themselves to actively protect their environment.

**6. Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Methane has a significantly higher global warming potential in the short term than CO<sub>2</sub>, making its reduction one of the most effective ways to slow near-term temperature rise.

**7. Answer: B**

**Explanation:** India's methane emissions are primarily from agriculture, specifically rice and livestock, making it difficult to commit to economy-wide reduction targets like the Global Methane Pledge.

**8. Answer: B**

**Explanation:** India could leverage the U.S.-China methane partnership to receive targeted funding and support, especially for waste management, which accounts for 14% of its methane emissions.

**9. Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Indore's model converts organic waste into biomethane, providing fuel for city buses, thus effectively reducing methane emissions from waste.

**10. Answer: A**

**Explanation:** "Quantified" in this context means the goal is measured and specified, indicating a clear, set target for climate finance at COP29.

**11. Answer: C**

**Explanation:** The passage notes that the slowdown in industrial activity is partly due to the contraction in core sector output, which declined by 0.8% in September compared to August.

**12. Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The passage indicates that the steady decline in the Index of Core Industries suggests a potential cyclical slowdown in industrial output, causing concern about sustained economic growth.

**13. Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Reduced government capital spending could decrease demand in construction projects, which, in turn, would lower demand for steel, affecting its output.

**14. Answer: B**

**Explanation:** To meet the capex goal and support growth, the passage suggests the government needs to increase its spending on infrastructure.

**15. Answer: B**

**Explanation:** "Insidid" here describes the growth as dull or unimpressive, indicating a lackluster 2% increase in core sector output over the previous year.

**16. Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The passage highlights that accidents occur due to a lack of adequate safety precautions, which could have prevented such incidents.

**17. Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The Kerala government expressed concerns that the amendments could hinder traditional festival practices, especially those involving fireworks, like the Thrissur Pooram.

**18. Answer: C**

**Explanation:** The passage suggests that enforcing strict safety regulations is essential to prevent accidents and protect public safety.

**19. Answer: C**

**Explanation:** Some people argue for balancing cultural practices with safety norms because they consider these fireworks displays integral to preserving cultural and religious traditions.

**20. Answer: B**

**Explanation:** "Glamourising" suggests that fireworks are seen as exciting or attractive additions to festivals, potentially overshadowing safety concerns.