



PRELIMS QUESTION

Q1. Consider the following statements;

1. Poverty and shared prosperity report is released by the Food and Agriculture Organization.
2. As per the report, half of the world will be moved to poverty by 2030.
3. Secondary Activities will be worst affected

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (D)

Explanation:

Statement 1: the report is released by *The World Bank*. So statement 1 is incorrect.

Statement 2: Under present scenarios, the combined effects of climate change **could push between 68 million and 132 million more people into poverty by 2030**. So statement 2 is incorrect.

Statement 3: With their livelihoods predominantly **based on primary activities**, the poorest are least able to adapt, more vulnerable and less resilient to the impacts of climate change. The impacts of climate change can also raise food prices, worsen people's health, and increase exposure to disasters. So statement 3 is incorrect.

Q2. Major advantages of Urban Water Bodies are;

1. Maintaining Water Hydrology
2. Protecting Biodiversity
3. Help adapt to Climate Change Effects
4. Helps in dumping management

Which of the above statements is/are the most probable option/s the question?

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

Answer: (A)

Explanation:

Maintaining Hydrology: by recharging groundwater, channelizing water flow to prevent waterlogging and flooding, shoreline stabilization etc.

- **Source of water supply:** for Drinking, Industrial use, Irrigation etc.
- **Water quality improvement:** by removing excess Nutrients and many Chemical Contaminants.
- **Helps cities adapt to climate change effects:** such as the Heat Island Effect and Flash Floods



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- **Preserving the biodiversity:** by hosting a wide variety of flora and fauna including migratory species.
- **Socio-economic functions:** Supports recreational activities, tourism, fishing, transportation etc. Some water bodies also act as sites of artistic, religious and spiritual pursuits.

Q3. Climate action goal is under which international organization;

- | | |
|---------|-----------|
| 1. UNDP | 2. UNFCCC |
| 3. FAO | 4. CBD |

Answer: (A)

Explanation:

Sustainable Development Goal 13 of UNDP is about climate action and is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations in 2015. The official wording is to "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts". The Goal has targets to be achieved by 2030.

Q4. What do you understand by the term Blue Flag tag

1. Environmental Certification for Beaches
2. UN Peacekeeping Force Official Flag
3. Blue Ocean Initiative Flag
4. NASA Atmospheric Program

Answer: (A)

Explanation:

Kasarkod and Padubidri beaches in Karnataka were accorded the '**Blue Flag**' tag from the international agency **Foundation for Environment Education (FEE)**, Denmark.

About Blue Flag Certification

- The '**Blue Flag**' is a certification that can be obtained by a beach, marina, or **sustainable boating tourism operator, and serves as an eco-label.**
 - o The certification is **awarded annually by the Denmark-based non-profit Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE).**
 - o It **sets stringent environmental, educational, safety-related** and access-related criteria that applicants must meet and maintain.
- A '**Blue Flag**' beach is an **eco-tourism model** to provide tourists with clean and hygienic bathing water, facilities/amenities, a safe and healthy environment and sustainable development of the area.
- The certification is awarded by **the FEE based on 33 stringent criteria** in four major heads:
 - o **Environmental education and information**





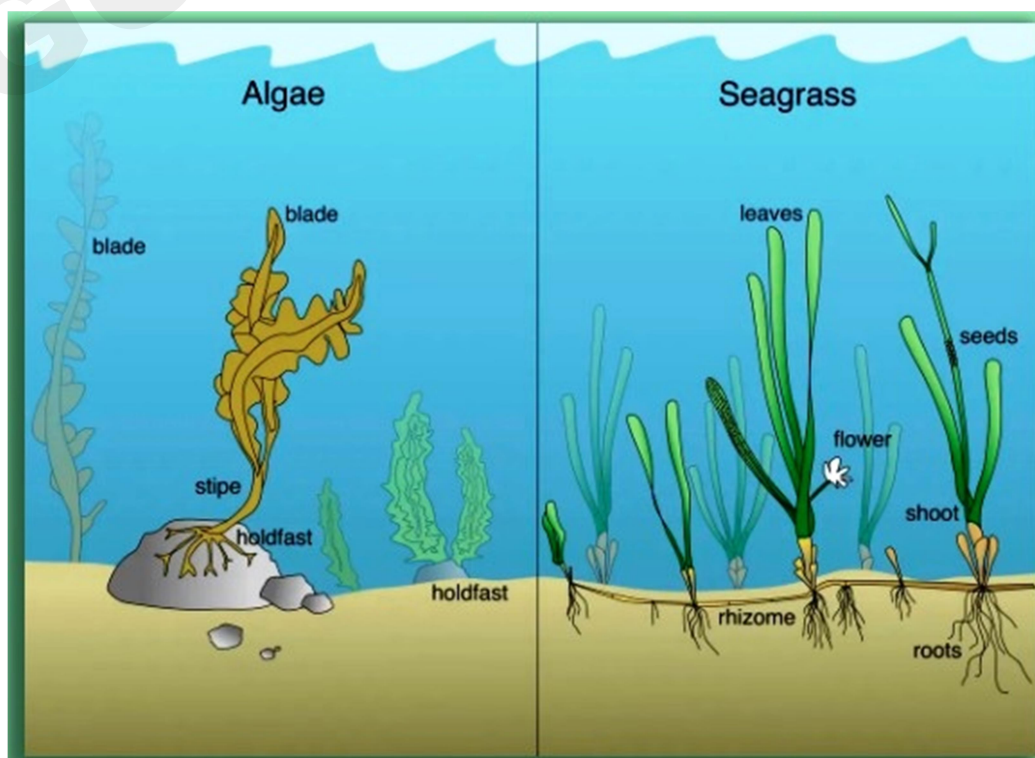
- Some of the important seagrasses are: **Sea Cow Grass** (*Cymodocea serrulata*), **Thready Seagrass** (*Cymodocea rotundata*), **Needle Seagrass** (*Syringodium isoetifolium*) and **Flat tipped Seagrass** (*Halodule uninervis*).

Threats to Seagrasses include:

- Natural disturbances like Grazing, storms, Ice-scouring and Desiccation.
- Human disturbances like Eutrophication, Mechanical destruction of habitat, Overfishing and Release of nutrients, Siltation, trawling, Coastal engineering construction and Pollution.

Importance of Seagrasses

- They are considered to be '**Ecosystem Engineers**' which help maintain water quality and trap fine sediments and suspended particles in the water column and increase water clarity.
- Seagrasses **sequester up to 11% of the organic carbon buried in the ocean** and can capture carbon from the atmosphere up to 35 times faster than tropical rainforests.
- They **filter nutrients** released from land-based industries before they reach sensitive habitats like coral reefs.
- They **stabilize sea bottom** similar to land grasses that prevent soil erosion as Ocean bottoms without seagrasses are prone to intense wave action from currents and storms.
- They **protect juvenile and small adult fish** from large predators.
- Seagrasses **provide food as well as habitat** for fishes, octopuses, shrimp, blue crabs, oysters, sponges, sea urchins, clams, etc. They are called '**the lungs of the sea**' as they release oxygen into the water through photosynthesis.
- They are used as **fertilizer for sandy soil**.







- ✓ Nothing that is made in a circular economy becomes waste, moving away from our current linear 'take-make-dispose economy.

Q8. Consider the following statements regarding Wetland of International Importance;

1. It should contain a Rare or Unique Natural or Near-Natural Wetland.
2. It should Support 200000 or more Waterbirds.
3. Supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: (D)

Explanation:

Nine criteria for identifying wetland of international importance;

1. Contains a representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland the type found within the appropriate biogeographic region. **So statement 1 is correct.**
2. Supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities.
3. Supports populations of plant and/or animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of a particular biogeographic region.
4. Supports plant and/or animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions.
5. Regularly supports **20,000** or more waterbirds. **So statement 2 is incorrect**
6. Supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird.
7. Supports a significant proportion of indigenous fish subspecies, species or families, life-history stages, species interactions and/or populations that are representative of wetland benefits and/or values and thereby contributes to global biological diversity.
8. An important source of food for fishes, spawning ground, nursery and/or migration path on which fish stocks, either within the wetland or elsewhere, depend. Specific criteria based on other taxa
9. Supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of wetland-dependent nonavian animal species. **So statement 3 is correct.**



Q9. MOSAiC experiment was recently in news;

1. Observatory for Arctic climate studies
2. NASA rover mission for mars studies
3. Indian Neutrino observatory experiment for neutron
4. Study of extra-terrestrial life

Answer: (A)

Explanation:

MOSAIC is the largest first of its kind **one-year-long polar expedition into the central Arctic exploring the Arctic climate** system that lasted from 2019 to 2020.

The objective of the expedition is to **measure the atmospheric, geophysical, oceanographic and all other possible variables in the Arctic**, and use them to more accurately forecast the changes in our weather systems due to climate change in the Arctic.

- The project was **designed by the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)**

Q10. Consider the following statements about the Stockholm Convention

1. It is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.
2. India ratified the Stockholm Convention in 2006

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- Recently the Union Cabinet has approved the **ratification of seven chemicals listed under Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)**.
- The Cabinet further delegated its powers to ratify chemicals under the Stockholm Convention to Union Ministers of External Affairs (MEA) and Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MEFCC) in respect of POPs already regulated under the domestic regulations thereby streamlining the procedure.
- MoEFCC had notified the '**Regulation of Persistent Organic Pollutants Rules**, on March 5, 2018, under the provisions of the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**. The regulation inter alia prohibited the manufacture, trade, use, import and export of **seven chemicals** namely (i) Chlordecone, (ii) Hexabromobiphenyl, (iii) Hexabromodiphenyl ether and Heptabromodiphenylether (Commercial octaBDE), (iv) Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and Pentabromodiphenyl ether (Commercial penta-BDE), (v) Pentachlorobenzene, (vi) Hexabromocyclododecane, and (vii) Hexachlorobutadiene, which were already listed as POPs under Stockholm Convention.



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About Stockholm Convention

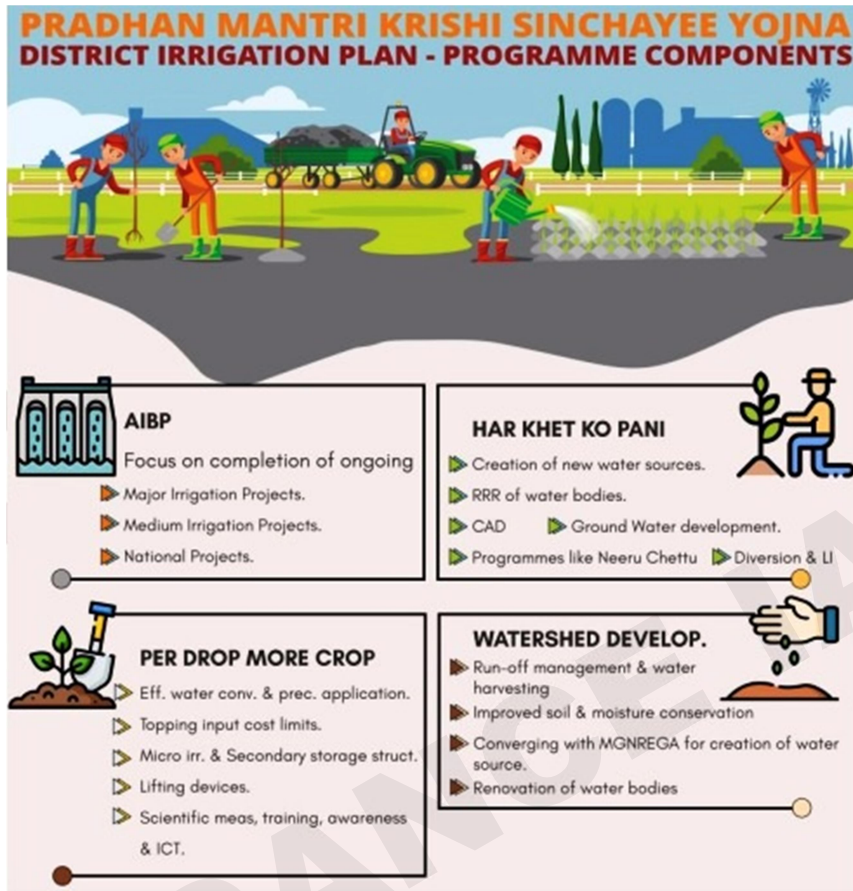
- The Stockholm Convention is a **legally binding global treaty to protect human health and the environment from Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)**, which are identified chemical substances that persist in the environment, **bio-accumulate in living organisms**, adversely affect human health/ environment and have the property of long-range environmental transport (LRET).
- Exposure to POPs can lead to **cancer, damage to central & peripheral nervous systems, diseases of the immune system**, reproductive disorders and interference with normal infant and child development.
- POPs are listed in various Annexes to the Stockholm Convention after thorough scientific research, deliberations and negotiations among member countries. The Convention **require each party to prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs** that are listed in various Annexes.
- **India had ratified the Stockholm Convention** on January 13, 2006.

MAINS QUESTION

- Q1. Poverty due to Climate Change is a new reality. What India can do to Eradicate this issue? (10M, 150W)
- Q2. Recently green buildings were in news. What do you understand by the term Green Building? What are the Advantages and Challenges of Green Building in India? (15M, 250W)
- Q3. Climate Change making Cyclones Fiercer, more Frequent. What do you understand by the term Tropical Cyclone, briefly quotes its features and what are the possible ways to protect society from such disasters? (10M, 150W)
- Q4. Where is the world Headed towards as per IPCC's 1.5oC report? What are the bottlenecks in Implementing Pro-environment Policies? (10M, 150W)



Snippets



Report by VDem (Varieties of Democracy) Institute

- VDem, a **Sweden Based firm** has released a report grading the quality of liberal Democracies across the world.
- According to this data, **India is an Elected Autocracy**.
 - The classification means that elections in India simply assert that autocratic power.
 - V-Dem **downgraded India** as a democracy and placed it **below neighbours such as Bangladesh and Nepal**.
 - Reasons behind degrading rank:
 - Muzzling of media
 - Frequent use of sedition clauses
 - Defamation cases
- **Autocracy** is defined as “**a system of government by one person with absolute power**”.
 - V-Dem classified India as a Complete Autocracy during an Emergency.
- The report pointed towards the ‘**steep**’ **global decline of liberal democracies in the past 10 years** in the Asia-Pacific region, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America.
- Apart from India, countries like **Brazil and Turkey** figured among the top 10 countries that slipped in rankings that were part of the G-20 nations.



- The findings are similar to the recently published report by a US-based NGO, Freedom House.
 - Freedom House also lowered India's status as 'partly free' in terms of political rights and civil liberties.

National Employability through Apprenticeship Programme (NETAP)

In News

According to the study by the **National Employability Through Apprenticeship Program (NETAP)**, India's apprenticeship ecosystem is currently witnessing a positive momentum.

National Employability Through Apprenticeship Programme

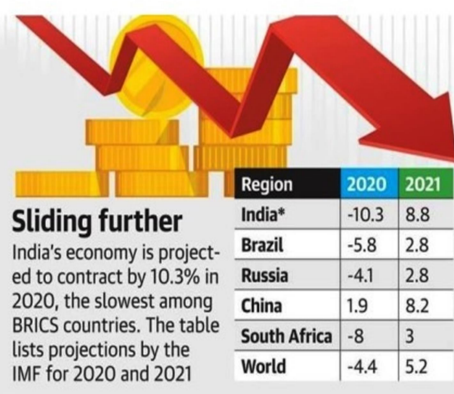
- It is India's fastest growing blended **apprenticeship training program**.
- Set up in 2014 as a **100% employer-funded Public-Private Partnership (PPP)**.
- The program was launched by the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship** and **TeamLease Skills University (Gujarat)**, India's first vocational skills university.
- It is in accordance with the **National Employability Enhancement Mission** of the AICTE.
- **Aim:** To help organizations develop a qualified, robust and sustainable workforce and a productive human supply chain.
 - It is output-driven and helps employers to design training programs relevant to their organization and industry to create the right talent.

Key Findings of the Apprenticeship Outlook Report

- 41% of the employers in India are keen on hiring apprentices.
- 58% of enterprises want to increase the quantum of their apprenticeship hiring this year.
- Out of the 18 sectors reviewed more than 16 were keen on hiring apprentices.
- The manufacturing (55%), automobiles and ancillaries (51%) and retail (48%) are the leaders, sectors like travel and hospitality and beauty and wellness, the spaces severely hit by the pandemic.
- Overall the preference for women apprentices has increased by 10% y-o-y and this trend was more visible in Bengaluru, Mumbai and Kolkata.

Projections for Climate Change

- While advanced economies had historically contributed the major share of emissions, China and India, as fast-growing emerging economies, were significant emitters and are expected to account for growing shares of carbon emissions.
- The report pointed that, advanced economies cannot successfully mitigate climate change by themselves, as they accounted for a declining share of global emissions.
- In contrast, the five largest countries/economic union — the United States, China, the European Union, Japan, and India — acting jointly could make a huge impact in global emissions.



*India's figures are for fiscal years. All figures in %