

**Q.1) The Floating gardens of the Dal lake in Kashmir are famous for their vegetable production. The name given to these floating gardens is?**

- a) Phumdi
- b) Raad
- c) Bet
- d) Tila

**Q.1) Solution (b)**

**Phumdi:** The floating islands of Loktak lake in Manipur are called Phumdis

**Raad:** Raad is the local name of floating gardens in Kashmir.

**Bet:** Bet is the name given to a flood plain when it is flooded with water. Sometimes the entire flood plain is called Bet land. One of the largest Bet land area of India is Ganga Kosi Flood plain in Bihar.

**Tila:** Tila is the local name of soil mounds or small hillocks in North India.

**Q.2) Which of the following statements are correct about Biological and Toxin weapons Convention?**

1. The convention entered into force in 1975.
2. It prohibits the development, production, and stockpiling of biological and toxin weapons.
3. UN Biological Weapons Authority is the watchdog to check compliance of the countries.

Select the code from below:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

**Q.2) Solution (a)**

A draft of the BWC, submitted by the British was opened for signature on 10 April 1972 and entered into force 26 March 1975 when twenty-two governments had deposited their instruments of ratification. It commits the 178 states which are party to it as of December 2016 to prohibit the development, production, and stockpiling of biological and toxin

weapons. However, the absence of any formal verification regime to monitor compliance has limited the effectiveness of the Convention.

Following Articles are present in the convention:

- **Article I:** Never under any circumstances to acquire or retain biological weapons.
- **Article II:** To destroy or divert to peaceful purposes biological weapons and associated resources prior to joining.
- **Article III:** Not to transfer, or in any way assist, encourage or induce anyone else to acquire or retain biological weapons.
- **Article IV:** To take any national measures necessary to implement the provisions of the BWC domestically.
- **Article V:** To consult bilaterally and multilaterally to solve any problems with the implementation of the BWC.
- **Article VI:** To request the UN Security Council to investigate alleged breaches of the BWC and to comply with its subsequent decisions.
- **Article VII:** To assist States which have been exposed to a danger as a result of a violation of the BWC.
- **Article X:** To do all of the above in a way that encourages the peaceful uses of biological science and technology.

**Q.3) The Minamata Convention is an international treaty designed to protect human health and the environment from**

- a) Anthropogenic release of Mercury
- b) Anthropogenic release of Heavy metals
- c) Surface Ozone
- d) Green house gases

**Q.3) Solution (a)**

The **Minamata Convention on Mercury** is an international treaty designed to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds. This Convention was a result of three years of meeting and negotiating, after which the text of the Convention was approved by delegates representing close to 140 countries on 19 January 2013 in Geneva and adopted and signed later that year on 10 October 2013 on a Diplomatic Conference held in Kumamoto, Japan. The Convention is named after the Japanese city Minamata. This naming is of symbolic importance as the city went through devastating incident of mercury poisoning. It is expected that over the next few decades, this international agreement will enhance the reduction of mercury

pollution from the targeted activities responsible for the major release of mercury to the immediate environment.

**Q.4) After a long gap of 84 years, Cobra lily has been rediscovered in Nilgiris. Which of the following statements are correct about Cobra Lilies?**

1. It is endemic specie found in Nilgiris only.
2. It was believed to be extinct in wild in the world.

Select the code from below:

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

**Q.4) Solution (d)**

*Arisaema* (Cobra Lily) is a large and diverse genus of the flowering plant family Araceae. The largest concentration of species is in China and Japan, with other species native other parts of southern Asia as well as eastern and central Africa, Mexico and eastern North America.

Of the handful cobra lily species found in the Nilgiris, only two are endemic.

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/after-84-years-cobra-lily-blooms-again/article18525894.ece>

**Q.5) Consider the following statements:**

1. The National Green Tribunal is an executive body established in 2011 for quick disposal of cases related to environment protection.
2. It is not bound by procedure laid down under the Civil Procedure Code, 1908, but guided by the principles of Natural Justice.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Q.5) Solution (b)**

The National Green Tribunal has been established on 18.10.2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. It is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to handle environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues. The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice.

The Tribunal's dedicated jurisdiction in environmental matters shall provide speedy environmental justice and help reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts. The Tribunal is mandated to make and endeavour for disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing of the same. Initially, the NGT is proposed to be set up at five places of sittings and will follow circuit procedure for making itself more accessible. New Delhi is the Principal Place of Sitting of the Tribunal and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai shall be the other 4 place of sitting of the Tribunal.

**Q.6) National Water Policy is formulated by the Ministry of Water Resources of the Government of India to govern the planning and development of water resources and their optimum utilization. Which of the following statements is *not correct* about India's National Water Policy?**

- a) It treats water as an economic good to promote conservation and efficient use.
- b) It ensures access to a minimum quantity of potable water for essential health and hygiene to all citizens.
- c) To keep aside a portion of the river flow to meet the ecological needs and to ensure that the low and high flow releases correspond in time closely to the natural flow regime.
- d) It has set water allocation priorities to different sectors.

**Q.6) Solution (d)**

The main emphasis of National Water Policy 2012 is to treat water as *economic good* which the ministry claims to promote its conservation and efficient use. This provision intended for the privatization of water-delivery services is being criticized from various quarters. The policy also does away with the priorities for water allocation mentioned in 1987 and 2002 versions of the policy. The policy was adopted with a disapproval from many states.

The other major features are:-

- To ensure access to a minimum quantity of potable water for essential health and hygiene to all citizens, available within easy reach of the household.
- To curtail subsidy to agricultural electricity users.
- Setting up of Water Regulatory Authority.
- To keep aside a portion of the river flow to meet the ecological needs and to ensure that the low and high flow releases correspond in time closely to the natural flow regime.
- To give statutory powers to Water Users Associations to maintain the distribution system.
- Project benefited families to bear part of the cost of resettlement & rehabilitation of project affected families.
- To remove the large disparity between stipulations for water supply in urban areas and in rural areas.
- To support a National Water Framework Law.

**Q.7) Which of the following plants can be used as indicators of Sulphur Oxide pollution in Air?**

- a) Ferns
- b) Lichens
- c) Liver Worts
- d) Conifers

**Q.7) Solution (b)**

**Sulfur dioxide** is released if the fuel contains **sulfur** compounds. This gas contributes to acid rain. Lichens can be used as air **pollution indicators**, especially of the concentration of **sulfur dioxide** in the atmosphere. Lichens are plants that grow in exposed places such as rocks or tree bark.

**Q.8) Which of the following air pollution devices are suitable for removing dust particles from air?**

1. Cyclone separator
2. Electrostatic precipitator
3. Fabric filter
4. Wet scrubber



Select the code from below:

- a) 1,2 and 3
- b) 2,3 and 4
- c) 1,3 and 4
- d) All of the above

**Q.8) Solution (d)**

Cyclonic separation is a method of removing particulates from an air, gas or liquid stream.

An **electrostatic precipitator (ESP)** is a filtration device that removes fine particles, like dust and smoke, from a flowing gas using the force of an induced **electrostatic** charge minimally impeding the flow of gases through the unit.

**Fabric Filters** (also called baghouses and bagfilters) are air pollution control devices that remove particulate matter from a gas stream by passing the dirty air through a layer of cloth. The particulate matter deposits on the cloth surface and the clean air passes through.

**Wet scrubbers** are effective air pollution control devices for removing particles and/or gases from industrial exhaust streams. A **wet scrubber** operates by introducing the dirty gas stream with a **scrubbing** liquid – typically water. Particulate or gases are collected in the **scrubbing** liquid.

**Q.9) The Government of India has put restrictions on the use of Loud Speakers/ public address systems under The Noise pollution (Regulation and Control) Rule, 2000. Which of the following statements are correct about regarding this?**

1. A loud speaker or a public address system shall not be used except after obtaining written permission from the authority.
2. A loud speaker or a public address system or any sound producing instrument or a musical instrument or a sound amplifier shall not be used at night time except in closed premises for communication within, like auditoria, conference rooms, community halls, banquet halls or during a public emergency.

Select the code from below:

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

**Q.9) Solution (c)**

Restrictions on the use of loud speakers / public address system and sound producing instruments.-

(1) A loud speaker or a public address system shall not be used except after obtaining written permission from the authority.

(2) A loud speaker or a public address system or any sound producing instrument or a musical instrument or a sound amplifier shall not be used at night time except in closed premises for communication within, like auditoria, conference rooms, community halls, banquet halls or during a public emergency.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-rule (2), the State Government may subject to such terms and conditions as are necessary to reduce noise pollution, permit use of loud speakers or public address system and the like during night hours (between 10.00 p.m. to 12.00

midnight) on or during any cultural or religious festive occasion of a limited duration not exceeding fifteen days in all during a calendar year. The concerned State Government shall generally specify in advance, the number and particulars of the days on which such exemption would be operative.

(4) The noise level at the boundary of the public place, where loudspeaker or public address system or any other noise source is being used shall not exceed 10 dB (A) above the ambient noise standards for the area or 75 dB (A) whichever is lower;

(5) The peripheral noise level of a privately owned sound system or a sound producing instrument shall not, at the boundary of the private place, exceed by more than 5 dB (A) the ambient noise standards specified for the area in which it is used.

**Q.10) Which of the following traits should a waste material show to be categorised under Hazardous waste?**

1. Ignitability
2. Reactivity
3. Corrosivity
4. Toxicity

Select the code from below:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 3 and 4
- c) 1,3 and 4
- d) All of the above

**Q.10) Solution (d)**

Characteristic hazardous wastes are materials that are known or tested to exhibit one or more of the following four hazardous traits:

- ignitability
- reactivity
- corrosivity
- toxicity

**Q.11) Which of the following is not a criterion for selecting a Ramsar Site?**

- a) If the site is representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type found within the appropriate biogeographic region.
- b) If it supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities.
- c) If it supports plant and/or animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions.
- d) If it regularly supports 2,00,000 or more water-birds.

**Q.11) Solution (d)**

**Criteria for Selecting a RAMSAR site:**

- **Criterion 1:** If the site is representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type found within the appropriate biogeographic region.
- **Criterion 2:** if it supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities.
- **Criterion 3:** if it supports populations of plant and/or animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of a particular biogeographic region.
- **Criterion 4:** if it supports plant and/or animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions.
- **Criterion 5:** if it regularly supports 20,000 or more water-birds.
- **Criterion 6:** if it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of water-bird.
- **Criterion 7:** if it 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.
- **Criterion 8:** if it is 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.



- **Criterion 9:** if it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of wetland-dependent non-avian animal species.

**Q.12) Convention on Biological Diversity entered into force in December 1993. Which of the following were the objectives of CBD?**

1. Conservation of Biological Diversity
2. Sustainable use of the components of Biological Diversity
3. The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources

Select the code from below:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 only
- d) All of the above

**Q.12) Solution (d)**

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) entered into force on 29 December 1993. It has 3 main objectives:

- The conservation of biological diversity
- The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity.
- The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources
- The Convention was opened for signature on 5 June 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Rio "Earth Summit").
- This convention is a legally binding framework treaty that has been ratified by 180 countries.
- The areas that are dealt by convention are **conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of biological resources and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their sustainable use.**
- The convention came into force in 1993. Many biodiversity issues are addressed including habitat preservation, intellectual property rights, biosafety and indigenous people's rights.

**Q.13) Consider the following statements:**

1. World heritage Convention is under the aegis of UNESCO
2. Wild Life wing of the Ministry of Environment and Forests is associated with the conservation of the Natural World Heritage sites.

3. Currently, six natural World Heritage Sites have been recognized by UNESCO in India.

Which of the above statements is correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

**Q.13) Solution (d)**

**World Heritage Convention:**

India is a member of World Heritage Convention responsible for listing of World Heritage Sites, which include both Cultural and natural sites. The World Heritage Convention is a Convention under the aegis of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Wild Life wing of the Ministry of Environment and Forests is associated with the conservation of the Natural World Heritage sites.

Currently, six natural World Heritage Sites have been recognized by UNESCO in India, viz., Nanda Devi National Park, Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Keoladeo National Park, Sundarbans National Park. Apart from these, the Valley of Flowers National Park has also been included in the list of World Heritage Sites as an extension of Nanda Devi National Park.

Further, a serial cluster of following 39 sites from Western Ghats spread over 4 States have also been inscribed as World Heritage Sites

**Q.14) Haze has been a major urban problem of the recent time. To tackle this ASEAN Agreement on transboundary haze pollution has been signed. Which of the following statements are correct regarding this agreement?**

- 1. The objective of the resolution is to reduce haze pollution in South and South East Asia.
- 2. India has ratified the agreement.

Select the code from below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

**Q.14) Solution (d)**

ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution

It is an environmental agreement signed in 2002 between all ASEAN nations to reduce haze pollution in Southeast Asia.

As of June 2007, eight countries Viz. Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Darussalam , Myanmar , Vietnam , Thailand , Lao PDR , Cambodia have ratified the agreement.

**Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding Saker Falcons:**

1. Saker Falcons are found in semi – arid to forest regions of Europe and Central Asia.
2. They migrate to South Asia and Africa during Winters.
3. They are listed as endangered Species in IUCN red list.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

**Q.15) Solution (d)**

The current status of Saker Falcon has been changed from Vulnerable to Endangered this year. Hence a question is probable.

Saker falcons (often simply called “sakers”) occur in the semi-desert and forest regions from Eastern Europe to central Asia, where they are the dominant “desert falcon.” Saker falcons migrate as far as northern parts of southern Asia and parts of Africa for the winter. Recently (in 1997), sakers have been observed breeding as far west as Germany.

Kindly go through the following link to know more:

[http://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Falco\\_cherrug/](http://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Falco_cherrug/)

**Q.16) Consider the following statements about Niyamgiri hills**

1. Niyamgiri Suraksha Samiti (NSS) is the organisation that has been opposing bauxite mining in the hills
2. It is located in Jharkhand
3. Niyamgiri is home to the Dongria Kondh tribe

**Select the correct statements**

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

**Q.16) Solution (c)**

Niyamgiri Suraksha Samiti, a tribal outfit that has opposed bauxite mining in the ecologically sensitive Niyamgiri hills since 2003.

The Niyamgiri is a hill range situated in the districts of Kalahandi and Rayagada in Odisha.

Niyamgiri is home to around 10,000 members of the Dongria Kondh which is a vulnerable tribe. Their struggle against bauxite mining by aluminium major Vedanta has been on since the company signed an MoU with the Odisha government in 2004 to mine the hills through state owned Odisha Mining Corporation. The deal would have allowed the corporation to mine enough to feed its 1-million-tonne alumina plant at Lanjigarh in Kalahandi. However, the mining proposals were rejected by 12 gram sabhas held by tribal communities in the region, as per a Supreme Court order.

**Q.17) Which of the following committees is concerned with Arbitration mechanism?**

- a) B N Srikrishna
- b) Bibek Debroy
- c) A K Sinha
- d) Madhukar Gupta

**Q.17) Solution (a)**

Seeking to make India a hub of international arbitration and to accelerate the system of alternate dispute resolution, the government set up a high level committee to recommend

ways to make arbitration more efficient. It is headed by retired Supreme Court judge B N Srikrishna.

Justice Dispensing System in India has come under great stress for various reasons including huge pendency of cases in various courts. The injustice is particularly egregious in commercial disputes, where cases remain pending for years. Accordingly, arbitration provides an effective and efficient alternative window for dispute resolution.

The Government of India has laid emphasis on making Arbitration a preferred mode for settlement of commercial disputes. We have been taking legislative and administrative initiatives on arbitration which aim at minimizing court intervention, bring down costs, fix timelines for expeditious disposal, and ensure neutrality of arbitrator and enforcement of awards. The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2015 envisages quick enforcement of contracts, easy recovery of monetary claims, reduce the pendency of cases in courts and hasten the process of dispute resolution through arbitration, so as to encourage foreign investment by projecting India as an investor friendly country having a sound legal framework and ease of doing business in India.

Source: [http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-sets-up-committee-to-recommend-ways-to-make-arbitration-more-efficient-116122900932\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-sets-up-committee-to-recommend-ways-to-make-arbitration-more-efficient-116122900932_1.html)

**Q.18) The Inter-State Council consists of**

1. Prime Minister
2. Chief Ministers of all States
3. Chief Ministers of Union Territories having a Legislative Assembly
4. Administrators of UTs not having a Legislative Assembly

**Select the correct code:**

- a) 1, 2 and 3
- b) 2, 3 and 4
- c) 1, 3 and 4
- d) All of the above

**Q.18) Solution (d)**

The Inter-State Council was established under Article 263 of the Constitution of India through a Presidential Order dated 28th May 1990.



The Council consists of:-

- Prime Minister – Chairman
- Chief Ministers of all States – Members
- Chief Ministers of Union Territories having a Legislative Assembly and Administrators of UTs not having a Legislative Assembly - Members
- Six Ministers of Cabinet rank in the Union Council of Ministers to be nominated by the Prime Minister – Members

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160760>

**Q.19) A recently discovered species of tree-dwelling crab has been named Kani maranjandu after the Kani tribe. The tribe is from**

- a) Kerala
- b) Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- c) Odisha
- d) Andhra Pradesh

**Q.19) Solution (a)**

Kani is a tribe living in the Western Ghats area of Kerala.

Their use of the forest plant arogyapacha (*trichopus zeylanicus*) as a key ingredient in a herbal remedy called Jeevani was noted by visiting scientists in the 1980s. The formula was eventually developed as a commercial enterprise by Arya Vaidya Pharmacy, with the tribe's Kerala Kani Welfare Trust receiving license fees and royalties. Members have been encouraged to cultivate the plant.

The new species named Kani maranjandu after the Kani tribe in Kerala, are substantially different from other congeners.

The characteristic traits of the crab include the structure of its hard upper shell, its male abdominal structure and reproductive parts and diagnostic elongated walking legs, which no other genus has.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/new-tree-living-crab-species-found-in-kerala/article17809088.ece>

**Q.20) Consider the following statements about World Customs Organisation (WCO)**

1. Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC) is the legal instrument of the World Customs Organization (WCO) that aims to simplify and harmonize international customs procedures globally, in order to achieve faster, more predictable and efficient customs clearances
2. India became a member of WCO in 1971
3. It is located in Zurich, Switzerland

**Select the correct statements**

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

**Q.20) Solution (a)**

The World Customs Organization (WCO) is an intergovernmental organization headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. The WCO is noted for its work in areas covering the development of international conventions, instruments, and tools on topics such as commodity classification, valuation, rules of origin, collection of customs revenue, supply chain security, international trade facilitation, customs enforcement activities, combating counterfeiting in support of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), drugs enforcement, illegal weapons trading, integrity promotion, and delivering sustainable capacity building to assist with customs reforms and modernization. The WCO maintains the international Harmonized System (HS) goods nomenclature, and administers the technical aspects of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreements on Customs Valuation and Rules of Origin.

The International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs procedures (revised Kyoto Convention or RKC) was originally adopted in 1974 and was subsequently revised in 1999; the revised Kyoto Convention came into force in 2006. The RKC comprises several key governing principles: transparency and predictability of customs controls; standardization and simplification of the goods declaration and supporting documents; simplified procedures for authorized persons; maximum use of information technology; minimum necessary customs control to ensure compliance with regulations; use of risk management and audit based controls; coordinated interventions with other border agencies; and a partnership with the trade. It promotes trade facilitation and effective controls through its legal provisions that detail the application of simple yet

efficient procedures and also contains new and obligatory rules for its application. The WCO revised Kyoto Convention is sometimes confused with the Kyoto Protocol, which is a protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC or FCCC).

India became the member on 15th Feb 1971.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160265>

