

**Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Living Planet Index Report**

1. It is published by IUCN annually.
2. The report is compiled with data from the Zoological Society of India (ZSI) to measure the abundance of biodiversity.

**Which of the given statements is/are correct?**

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both
- d) None

**Q.1) Solution (d)**

The Living Planet Report is published every two years by the World Wide Fund for Nature since 1998. It is based on the Living Planet Index and ecological footprint calculations.

The Living Planet Report is the world's leading, science-based analysis on the health of our only planet and the impact of human activity. Humanity's demands exceed the Earth's capacity to sustain us. The latest edition of the Living Planet Report was released in October 2016

Populations of vertebrate animals—such as mammals, birds, and fish—have declined by 58% between 1970 and 2012. And we're seeing the largest drop in freshwater species: on average, there's been a whopping 81% decline in that time period.

The Living Planet Database (LPD) currently holds time-series data for over 18,000 populations of more than 3,600 mammal, bird, fish, reptile and amphibian species from around the world, which are gathered from a variety of sources such as journals, online databases and government reports.

Using a method developed by Zoological Society of London and WWF, these species population trends are aggregated to produce indices of the state of biodiversity for communication and informing policy.

**Q.2) Consider the following statements about Rio Declaration on Environment and Development**

1. The Rio Declaration proclaims 30 principles.

2. It includes formulations of the precautionary principle and the polluter pays principle
3. It also includes Environment Impact Assessment

**Select the correct answer using below code**

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

**Q.2) Solution (b)**

The Rio Declaration proclaims 27 principles. It includes formulations of the precautionary principle (principle 15) and of the polluter pays principle (principle 16).

Rio Declaration on Environment and Development consisted of 27 principles intended to guide future sustainable development around the world.

1. The role of humans.
2. State sovereignty
3. The Right to development
4. Environmental Protection in the Development Process
5. Eradication of Poverty
6. Priority for the Least Developed
7. State Cooperation to Protect Ecosystem
8. Reduction of Unsustainable Patterns of Production and Consumption
9. Capacity Building for Sustainable Development
10. Public participation
11. National Environmental Legislation
12. Supportive and Open International Economic System
13. Compensation for Victims of Pollution and other Environmental Damage
14. State Cooperation to Prevent environmental dumping
15. Precautionary principle
16. Internalization of Environmental Costs
17. Environmental Impact Assessments
18. Notification of Natural Disaster
19. Prior and Timely Notification
20. Women have a Vital Role
21. Youth Mobilization
22. Indigenous Peoples have a Vital Role

23. People under Oppression
24. Warfare Peace,
25. Development and Environmental Protection
26. Resolution of Environmental Disputes
27. Cooperation between State and People

Some Scholars have regarded the Rio Declaration as Third Generation Human Rights.

<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf151/aconf15126-1annex1.htm>

**Q.3) Consider the following**

1. Marine Park
2. National Park
3. Coral reefs
4. Mangroves
5. Sand Dunes

Among the following, entities that fall under Coastal Regulation Zone-I (CRZ)

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

**Q.3) Solution (d)**

The CRZ Notification, 2011 clearly lists out the areas that fall within the category of CRZ-I. It includes:-

**(i)Ecologically sensitive areas and the geomorphologic features that play a Primary role in maintaining the integrity of the coast.**

- Mangroves, in case mangrove area is more than 1000 square metres, a buffer area of 50 metres shall be provided;
- Corals and coral reefs and associated biodiversity;
- Sand Dunes;
- Mudflats which are biologically active;
- National parks, marine parks, sanctuaries, reserve forests, wildlife habitats and other protected areas under the provisions of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (53 of 1972),

the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (69 of 1980) or Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986); including Biosphere Reserves encompassing;

- Salt Marshes;
- Turtle nesting grounds;
- Horse shoe crabs habitats;
- Sea grass beds;
- Nesting grounds of birds;
- Areas or structures of archaeological importance and heritage sites;

**(ii) The area between Low Tide Line and High Tide Line.**

**Q.4) India is party to the following international agreements which have bearing on biodiversity?**

1. FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for food and agriculture
2. World Heritage Convention
3. World Trade Organization
4. UN Convention to Combating Desertification
5. UN Law of the Seas

**Select the correct code**

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

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

Article 6 of the treaty on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources has this clause "pursuing fair agricultural policies that promote... use of agricultural biological diversity"

UNCCD collaborates closely with Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). So, UNCCD has a bearing on Biodiversity

**Seven international conventions focus on biodiversity issues:** the Convention on Biological Diversity (year of entry into force: 1993), the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (1975), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

(2004), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (1971), the World Heritage Convention (1972) and the International Plant Protection Convention (1952).

WTO because of TRIPS rules.

The Convention on Biological Diversity complements UNCLOS in explicitly providing for the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources.

**Q.5) Consider the following**

1. Food Processing
2. Printing Press
3. Pulp and Paper
4. Sugar
5. Healthcare Establishments

**Which of the given industries come under RED CATEGORY INDUSTRY?**

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

**Q.5) Solution (c)**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has developed the criteria of categorization of industrial sectors based on the Pollution Index which is a function of the emissions (air pollutants), effluents (water pollutants), hazardous wastes generated and consumption of resources.

- Industrial Sectors having Pollution Index score of 60 and above - Red category
- Industrial Sectors having Pollution Index score of 41 to 59 – Orange category
- Industrial Sectors having Pollution Index score of 21 to 40 – Green category
- Industrial Sectors having Pollution Index score incl.&upto 20 - White category

Refer here for all the categories- <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137373>

**Q.6) Green Digital Finance Alliance is a unique partnership between**

- a) IUCN and Ant Financial Services Group
- b) World Bank and Ant Financial Services Group
- c) UNEP and Ant Financial Services Group
- d) UNDP and Ant Financial Services Group

**Q.6) Solution (c)**

The '**Green Digital Finance Alliance**', a ground-breaking initiative to harness digital technologies in catalysing financing that addresses global environmental challenges, was launched today at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland by its two founders, Ant Financial Services Group (Ant Financial), China's leading online and mobile financial services provider, and UN Environment.

**Q.7) Scientists have discovered two new species 'Sholicola and Montecincla' in the Western Ghats. They are-**

- a) New species of Lizard
- b) New species of Song Bird
- c) New species of Frog
- d) New species of Bat

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

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/Music-to-the-ears-New-species-of-songbird-found/article17093802.ece>

**Q.8) Which of the following protected areas are formed as per the guidelines of 'The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972'?**

1. National Park
2. Biosphere Reserve
3. Wildlife Sanctuary
4. Conservation Reserves
5. Community Reserves

**Select the correct code**

- a) 1, 2, 3 and 4

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

**Q.8) Solution (b)**

Biosphere Reserves are areas of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems which are internationally recognized within the framework of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) programme of the UNESCO and are not formed according to the guidelines of the Wildlife (protection) Act, 1972 and may have one more national parks or wildlife sanctuaries in it. Under the MAB programme there is a World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) and within this network, exchange of information, experience and personnel is allowed.

**Q.9) Consider the following statements with respect to Green Bonds**

1. Green bond is a debt instrument issued by an entity for raising funds from investors
2. The funds generated are used to fund both green and non-green projects
3. A green bond is a tax-exempt bond issued by federally qualified organizations for the development of brownfield sites.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) All the above
- d) None of the above

**Q.9) Solution (a)**

Fund generated from bonds are used **only to fund green projects**.

A green bond is a tax-exempt bond issued by federally qualified organizations or by municipalities for the development of brownfield sites. Brownfield sites are areas of land that are underutilized, have abandoned buildings or are underdeveloped, often containing low levels of industrial pollution. Green bonds are short for qualified green building and sustainable design project bonds.

Green bonds are created to encourage sustainability and the development of brownfield sites. More specifically, green bonds finance projects aimed at energy efficiency, pollution prevention, sustainable agriculture, fishery and forestry, the protection of aquatic and

terrestrial ecosystems, clean transportation, sustainable water management, and the cultivation of environmentally friendly technologies.

The tax-exempt status makes purchasing a green bond a more attractive investment compared to a comparable taxable bond, providing a monetary incentive to tackle prominent social issues such as climate change and a movement to renewable sources of energy.

**Q.10) Which of the following is/are the man-made Ramsar sites of India?**

1. Ropar wetland
2. Harike reservoir
3. Bhoj Wetland
4. Ashtamudi

**Select the correct answer using the code given below.**

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

**Q.10) Solution (c)**

The list of Ramsar sites (related to wetland) in India comprises Indian wetlands deemed to be of "international importance" under the Ramsar Convention. For a full list of all Ramsar sites worldwide, see the Ramsar list of wetlands of international importance.

According to WWF-India, wetlands are one of the most threatened of all ecosystems in India. Loss of vegetation, salinization, excessive inundation, water pollution, invasive species, excessive development and road building, have all damaged the country's wetlands.

Ashtamudi is a natural backwater in Kollam district in Kerala. Rest are manmade reservoirs.

The Bhoj Wetland consists of two lakes located in the city of Bhopal, the capital of the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. The two lakes are the Bhojtal and the Lower Lake, which lie to the west of the city center. It is a manmade reservoir. A total of more than 20,000 birds are observed annually. Bhoj Wetland was recognized as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention of 1971 in 2002.

Ropar wetland- A human-made wetland of lake and river formed by the 1952 construction of a barrage for diversion of water from the Sutlej River for drinking and irrigation supplies.



The site is an important breeding place for the nationally protected Smooth Indian Otter, Hog Deer, Sambar, and several reptiles, and the endangered Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) is thought to be present.

Harike is one of the largest man-made wetlands of northern India which shares its area with the Tarntaran, Ferozpur and Kapurthala districts of Punjab. It came into existence in 1952 after the construction of barrage near the confluence of rivers Sutlej and Beas. Harike is a significant abode for the birds migrating from across the international frontiers. The wetland area is spread over about 41 km<sup>2</sup> and supports more than 400 avian species. In addition to haven for birds, Harike also harbours endangered aquatic mammalian as well as reptilian fauna like Indus river dolphin, smooth-coated otter and seven species of rare freshwater turtles. An area of about 86 km<sup>2</sup> has been notified as wildlife sanctuary. Considered a wetland of international importance especially as waterfowl refuge, this site was accorded the wetland status in 1990 by the Ramsar Convention.

**Q.11) Consider the statements about National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)**

1. The NBA is a Statutory and Autonomous Body
2. It performs the function of regulatory as well as advisory body for Govt
3. The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established in 2010 to implement India's Biological Diversity Act (2002).

**Which of the given statements is/are correct?**

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

**Q.11) Solution (a)**

The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established in 2003 to implement India's Biological Diversity Act (2002). The NBA is a Statutory, Autonomous Body and it performs facilitative, regulatory and advisory function for the Government of India on issues of conservation, sustainable use of biological resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources.

**The main objectives of NBA are:**

To regulate access to biological resources of the country to conserve and sustainable use of biological diversity.

To respect and protect the knowledge of local communities related to biodiversity

To secure sharing of benefits with the local people as conservers of biological resources, holders of knowledge and information relating to the use of biological resources.

Conservation and development of area of importance from the view point of biological diversity by declaring them as biological diversity heritage sites.

Protection and rehabilitation of threatened species, involvement of institutions of state government in the broad scheme of implementation of the Biological Diversity Act through constitution of committees.

**Q.12) Consider the following**

1. Durban Declaration and Program of Action
2. Cancun Agreement
3. Copenhagen Accord
4. Bali Action Plan

**Which of the above includes commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?**

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

**Q.12) Solution (c)**

**Durban Declaration and Programme of Action-** The DDPA reasserts the principles of equality and non-discrimination as core human rights, thus transforming victims of discrimination into rights-holders and States into duty bearers.

**Bali Action Plan-** The Bali Action Plan did not introduce binding commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions but included the request for developed countries to contribute to the mitigation of global warming in the context of sustainable development. In addition, the Bali Action Plan envisaged enhanced actions on adaptation, technology development and on the provision financial resources, as well as measures against deforestation.

**Cancun Agreement**

The agreements, reached on December 11 in Cancun, Mexico, at the 2010 United Nations Climate Change Conference represent key steps forward in capturing plans to reduce

greenhouse gas emissions and to help developing nations protect themselves from climate impacts and build their own sustainable futures.

**The Copenhagen Agreement** is a document that delegates at the 15th session of the Conference of Parties (COP 15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

#### The Accord

- Endorses the continuation of the Kyoto Protocol.
- Underlines that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and emphasises a "strong political will to urgently combat climate change in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities"
- To prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, recognizes "the scientific view that the increase in global temperature should be below 2 degrees Celsius", in a context of sustainable development, to combat climate change.

#### Q.13) According to "United Nations Convention on The Law of Seas (UNCLOS)"

1. Territorial waters are up to 12 nautical miles.
2. Contiguous Zone is up to 22 nautical miles from the shore.
3. The coastal nation has sole exploitation rights over all natural resources in Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ).

#### Which of the above statements are incorrect?

- a) None of the above
- b) Only 2
- c) 2 and 3
- d) 1 and 2

#### Q.13) Solution (b)

The contiguous zone extends up to 24 nautical miles from the shore. In a contiguous zone coastal nations can exercise their rights in four areas: customs, taxation, immigration and pollution.

In Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), which extends up to 200 nautical mile, the coastal nations have exclusive right to exploit the resources. International vessels are free to cross these waters without any restriction.

**Q.14) TRAFFIC, The Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network is a joint conservation programme of**

- a) WWF and UNEP
- b) WWF and UNDP
- c) WWF and UN
- d) WWF and IUCN

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

TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, is a joint program of WWF and IUCN – the International Union for Conservation of Nature. TRAFFIC works to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature. TRAFFIC has gained its greatest reputation from supporting CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Since TRAFFIC was created in 1976 it has helped with the evolution of this international wildlife trade treaty. TRAFFIC North America (NA) works through its offices in the United States, Canada and Mexico, and with its programs in Central America and the Caribbean.

TRAFFIC focuses on leveraging resources, expertise and awareness of the latest globally urgent species trade issues such as tiger parts, elephant ivory and rhino horn. Large scale commercial trade in commodities like timber and fisheries products are also addressed and linked to work on developing rapid results and policy improvements.

**Q.15) Consider the following regarding Joint Forest Management (JFM)**

1. The policies and objectives of Joint Forest Movement are detailed in the Indian Forest Act, 1927
2. At least 50% members of the JFM executive committee/management committee should be women.
3. The presence of at least 50% women members should be a prerequisite for holding the general body meeting.

**Select the incorrect statement/s**

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

**Q.15) Solution (a)**

Joint Forest Management often abbreviated as JFM is the official and popular term in India for partnerships in forest movement involving both the state forest departments and local communities. The policies and objectives of Joint Forest Movement are detailed in the Indian comprehensive National Forest Policy of 1988 and the Joint Forest Movement Guidelines of 1990 of the Government of India

The JFM programme in the country was reviewed by Government of India from time to time in consultation with State Governments, NGO's and other stakeholders in view of several emerging issues. In order to further strengthen the programme, the State Governments may take action on the following suggested lines.

**A) Legal backup to the JFM committees**

i) At present, the JFM committees are being registered under different names in various States as per the provisions contained in the resolutions. Except in a few States where the committees are registered under the relevant acts in most of the states there is no legal back up for these committees. It is therefore, necessary that all the State Governments register the JFM or village committees under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 to provide them with legal back up. This may be completed by 31st March, 2000. Completion of such formation of existing JFM committees may please be reported to this Ministry.

ii) There are different nomenclatures for the JFM committees in different States. It would be better if these committees are known uniformly as JFM committees (JFMC) in all the states. Memorandum of Understanding, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for different work or areas should be separately assigned and signed between the State Governments and the committees. All adults of the village should be eligible to become members of the JFM Committees.

**B) Participation of women in the JFM programme:**

Considering the immense potential and genuine need for women's participation in JFM programme, following guidelines are suggested for ensuring meaningful participation of women in JFM.

i) At least 50% members of the JFM general body should be women. For the general body meeting, the presence of at least 50% women members should be a prerequisite for holding the general body meeting.

ii) At least 33% of the membership in the JFM Executive Committee/ Management Committee should be filled from amongst the women members. The quorum for holding meeting of such Executive/ Management Committee should be one-third of women executive members or a minimum of one whichever is more. One of the posts of office bearer i.e. President/ Vice-President/ Secretary should be filled by a women members of the Committee.

**Q.16) Consider the following statements about White Shipping.**

1. It refers to exchange of relevant advance information on the identity and movement of military vessels
2. India has signed white shipping agreements with several countries including United States and Singapore

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.16) Solution (b)**

White shipping information refers to exchange of relevant advance information on the identity and movement of commercial non-military merchant vessels.

The seas around India abound in vessels of various types ranging from small inland fishing crafts to larger fishing vessels, coastal crafts carrying personnel and cargo and merchant ships of all shapes and sizes that carry various types of cargo.

Being aware of the identity of these vessels is imperative to preventing any potential threat from the sea from impinging on the coastal and offshore security of the country. The 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attack is a case in point. Indian Navy has thus been working towards achieving complete Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) along with all other concerned agencies like the coast guard, customs, ports, fisheries, etc.

The seas of the entire world are inter-linked and vessels can sail routinely around the globe in pursuit of cargo. Thus a vessel that is in Indian waters today maybe sailing towards a distant destination and similarly several vessels set sail from ports around the globe could be bound for India. Having advance information of the vessel, its destination and planned itinerary, etc. is thus extremely helpful towards collating an effective MDA as it can then be properly identified when detected. This information is likely to be available with the country from whose port it sails. The information is equally relevant for the destination country and those it passes enroute. Thus mutual exchange of such information, called white shipping information, is extremely useful for all concerned.

India has signed white shipping agreements with several countries including United States and Singapore and is seeking similar agreement with more countries as part of its ongoing effort at developing an effective regional MDA.

Ships would be classified into white (commercial ships), grey (military vessels), and black (illegal vessels).

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/Parrikar-in-Dhaka-to-boost-defence-ties/article16720185.ece>

**Q.17) Consider the following statements about Market Stabilisation Scheme (MSS)**

1. It is a tool used by the Reserve Bank of India to suck out excess liquidity from the market through issue of securities
2. These securities are not issued to meet government's expenditure
3. MSS bonds have a fixed tenure and earn returns

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.17) Solution (d)**

Market Stabilisation Scheme or MSS is a tool used by the Reserve Bank of India to suck out excess liquidity from the market through issue of securities like Treasury Bills, Dated Securities etc. on behalf of the government. The money raised under MSS is kept in a separate account called MSS Account and not parked in the government account or utilised to fund its expenditures.

The Reserve Bank under Governor YV Reddy initiated the MSS scheme in 2004. To control the surge of US dollars in the Indian market, RBI started buying US dollars while pumping in rupee. This eventually led to over-supply of the domestic currency raising inflationary expectations. MSS was introduced to mop up this excess liquidity.

CRR is a percentage of total deposits the banks are required to set aside with the RBI. It is a sort of contingency fund and does not earn any interest. An increase in CRR means the funds available with banks for lending purposes will be that much lower, ultimately limiting the possibility of a lending rate cut by banks. MSS bonds, on the other hand, have a fixed tenure and earn returns.

In order to mop up extra liquidity from the system in view of demonetisation, government and the Reserve Bank today sharply raised the Market Stabilisation Scheme (MSS) ceiling to Rs. 6 lakh crore from Rs. 30,000 crore.

Read More - <http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/return-of-market-stabilisation-bonds-with-some-differences-4400416/>

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/RBI-raises-Market-Stabilisation-Scheme-limit-to-Rs.-6-lakh-crore-to-manage-liquidity/article16744379.ece>

**Q.18) Consider the following statements about Antrix Corporation**

1. It is the commercial arm of Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)
2. It is a MINIRATNA

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.18) Solution (b)**

Antrix Corporation Limited (Antrix), incorporated on 28 September 1992 (under the Companies Act, 1956), is a wholly owned Government of India Company under the administrative control of Department of Space (DOS). Antrix is the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Antrix promotes and commercially markets the



products and services emanating from the Indian Space Programme. In the year 2008, the Company was awarded 'MINIRATNA' status.

The current business activities of Antrix include:

- Provisioning of communication satellite transponders to various users,
- Providing launch services for customer satellites,
- Marketing of data from Indian and foreign remote sensing satellites,
- Building and marketing of satellites as well as satellite sub-systems,
- Establishing ground infrastructure for space applications, and
- Mission support services for satellites.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/Antrix%E2%80%99s-major-revenues-will-come-from-satcom-business/article16723417.ece>

**Q.19) Consider the following statements about Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF)**

1. It was founded by the Maldives government
2. Ethiopia is the current chair of the CVF
3. Climate Vulnerability Monitor (CVM) is developed by CVF in association with UNEP

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

The Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) is a global partnership of countries that are disproportionately affected by the consequences of global warming. The forum addresses the negative effects of global warming as a result of heightened socioeconomic and environmental vulnerabilities. These countries actively seek a firm and urgent resolution to the current intensification of climate change, domestically and internationally.

**Maldives, 2009-2010**

The Forum first met near Male', Maldives in November 2009 just ahead of the major Copenhagen Summit UN climate change conference (COP15) , where 11 nations gathered

adopting a first Declaration that expressed alarm at the pace of change witnessed to the Earth as a result of human-induced changes to the climate.

### **Kiribati, 2010-2011**

The Forum's 2nd Chair, Kiribati, hosted the Tarawa Climate Change Conference in November 2010 leading a number of CVF member countries to adopt the Ambo Declaration together with other governments ahead of the UN Climate Conference at Cancún, Mexico (COP16). It was in conjunction with the Cancún conference that the Forum issued its first Climate Vulnerability Monitor report, entitled, "The State of the Climate Crisis", drawing attention to the body of specialist evidence attesting to the dire socio-economic consequences of contemporary climatic change.

### **Bangladesh, 2011-2013**

The Forum's 3rd Chair, Bangladesh, hosted a major gathering of the Forum at Dhaka, Bangladesh in November 2011, adopting a second 14-point Declaration of the CVF in an event inaugurated with the participation of UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon. Another major Forum event alongside the opening phases of the 67th UN General Assembly in New York, US in September 2012 saw the launch of the Forum's Trust Fund and the 2nd edition of the Climate Vulnerability Monitor, entitled, "A Guide to the Cold Calculus of a Hot Planet".

### **Costa Rica, 2013-2014**

Costa Rica assumed the Forum's chair in mid-2013. The CVF Costa Rica Action Plan for 2013-15 was released at the UN Climate Conference at Warsaw, Poland (COP19) in November 2013 detailing joint efforts of Forum members to advance international climate policy – find out more here. Costa Rica also hosted the first CVF regional activity in April 2014.

### **Philippines, 2015-2016**

Philippines assumed the chair of the Forum in January 2015 following the tenure of Costa Rica. The Philippines hosted the 2015 Forum Meeting at the UN Climate Conference at Paris, France in November 2015, where the CVF Manila-Paris Declaration and the 2016-2018 Roadmap were adopted.

### **Ethiopia 2016 -**

Ethiopia assumed the Presidency of the Forum in August 2016 following the tenure of Philippines. Ethiopia was confirmed as incoming chair of the Forum in the Manila-Paris Declaration of the CVF adopted in November 2015 at the High Level Climate Vulnerable Forum Meeting at COP21.

The Climate Vulnerability Monitor (CVM) is an independent global assessment of the effect of climate change on the world's populations brought together by panels of key international authorities. The Monitor was launched in December 2010 in London and Cancun to coincide with the UN Cancun Summit on climate change (COP-16).

Developed by DARA and the Climate Vulnerable Forum, the report is meant to serve as a new tool to assess global vulnerability to various effects of climate change within different nations.

The report distills leading science and research for a clearer explanation of how and where populations are being affected by climate change today (2010) and in the near future (2030), while pointing to key actions that reduce these impacts.

DARA and the Climate Vulnerable Forum launched the 2nd edition of the Climate Vulnerability Monitor on 26 September 2012 at the Asia Society, New York.

In 2015, the twenty member countries in a forum chaired by the Philippines launched the official bloc of the forum, the 'V20' or 'Vulnerable Twenty', consisting of the top 20 nations from all over the world that are most affected by the catastrophes rooted from climate change. The members of the bloc are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bhutan, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Kiribati, Madagascar, Maldives, Nepal, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/The-Marrakech-mandate/article16695548.ece>

**Q.20) Climate Change Performance Index is released by**

- a) Germanwatch and Climate Action Network Europe
- b) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- c) Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy (CCCEP)
- d) Global Climate Network (GCN)

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

The Climate Change Performance Index is an instrument designed to enhance transparency in international climate politics and aims to put political and social pressure on those countries which have, up until now, failed to take ambitious action on climate protection.

On the basis of standardised criteria, the index evaluates and compares the climate protection performance of 58 countries that together are responsible for about 90% of global energy-related CO2 emissions.

India has been ranked 20th on Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2017, which underlined that countries like India are making "great efforts" in the fields of renewables and energy efficiency.

With the historic Paris Agreement having recently entered into force, the latest CCPI confirms a boost for renewable energy and positive developments in energy efficiency.

The publication was issued by Germanwatch and Climate Action Network Europe.

Source: [http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-ranks-20th-on-climate-change-performance-index-116111701669\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-ranks-20th-on-climate-change-performance-index-116111701669_1.html)

**Q.21) Which of the following is/are carriers of zika virus?**

1. Aedes aegypti
2. Aedes albopictus
3. Culex

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.21) Solution (c)**

The Culex species of mosquitoes does not appear to transmit the virus that spreads Zika.

**How:** The virus does not multiply and instead disappears in the species.

**Why important to know:** It enables people to target their control strategies so that they are not wasting time and effort on a mosquito that is not transmitting Zika. Instead, more focus should be on efforts to **control mosquitoes like Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus** that infect.

**In detail:**

- The *Aedes aegypti*, or yellow fever mosquito, and *Aedes albopictus*, or Asian tiger mosquito, as two species that transmit the Zika virus.
- The **Culex mosquito has a brown body** while the **Aedes aegypti is black** and **Aedes albopictus black and white**.
- **Culex mosquitoes** are known to **transmit the West Nile virus and Japanese encephalitis**.
- *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* can live in and around houses in plant trays, spare containers or gutters.
- It is important to know which mosquitoes to target and which mosquitoes not to target because mosquitoes live in different environments. Some mosquitoes are found outside and some are more in people's homes. Hence, researchers need to know this in order to target their efforts.

### Zika virus

- Zika virus is a mosquito-borne flavivirus that was first identified in Uganda in 1947 in monkeys through a network that monitored yellow fever.
- *Flavivirus is a genus of viruses in the family Flaviviridae. This genus includes the West Nile virus, dengue virus, tick-borne encephalitis virus, yellow fever virus, Zika virus.*
- Zika virus disease is caused by a virus transmitted primarily by *Aedes* mosquitoes, mainly **Aedes aegypti** in tropical regions. This is the same mosquito that transmits dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever.
- Symptoms are mild fever, skin rash, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise or headache.
- There is scientific consensus that Zika virus is a cause of microcephaly and Guillain-Barré syndrome.
- The first large outbreak of disease caused by Zika infection was reported from the Island of Yap (Federated States of Micronesia) in 2007.
- There is currently no vaccine available.
- Protection against mosquito bites is a key measure to prevent Zika virus infection.

Source: <http://www.livemint.com/Science/aqsTtHIHqEmX98vYZdJHFL/Culex-mosquitoes-not-Zika-virus-carriers-say-Kansas-Univers.html>

### Q.22) Consider the following statements about 'Mission Madhumeha'

1. It promotes Ayurveda for Prevention and Control of Diabetes
2. It is under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Select the correct statements

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

**Q.22) Solution (a)**

The Mission Madhumeha has been launched on 28th October, 2016 on the occasion of first National Ayurveda Day. A protocol on 'Prevention and Control of Diabetes through Ayurveda' was released for implementing the 'Mission Madhumeha'. The Madhumeha Assessment Tool (MAT) based on Ayurvedic philosophy has also been developed for the self-assessment of the people with regards to possibilities of diabetes.

The Anti-diabetic Herbal Composition for Type-2 diabetes mellitus (NBRMAP-DB) trade name "BGR34" has been developed by CSIR, under the category of "Ayurvedic Proprietary Medicine" as per "Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 (6th amendment) Rules" and has been tested for efficacy and safety in animal models.

Source: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=153864>

**Q.23) The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters is also known as**

- a) Marpol Convention
- b) Aarhus Convention
- c) London Convention
- d) OSPAR Convention

**Q.23) Solution (b)**

Formal name of the Aarhus Convention is UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. It was signed in 1998 in the Danish city of Aarhus and entered into force in 2001. It is ratified by 41 countries which include the EU members and Central Asian Countries.

The most notable feature enshrined in EU legislations based upon this treaty is Water Framework Directive.

Aarhus Convention grants the public rights regarding access to information, public participation and access to justice, in governmental decision-making processes on matters concerning the local, national and Transboundary environment.

