

**Q.1) With reference to Project Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (NCAVES), consider the following statements:**

1. This project has been launched by United Nation Environment Programme.
2. This project is being funded by European Union.
3. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is its implementation agency.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

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

**Explanation**

**About Project Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (NCAVES)**

In 2017, the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the European Union (EU) launched the NCAVES Project.

This project is funded by the EU through its Partnership Instrument and aims to assist the five participating partner countries, namely Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa, to advance the knowledge agenda on environmental-economic accounting, and in particular ecosystem accounting.

The project will have duration until the end of 2021.

In India, the NCAVES project is being implemented by the MoSPI in close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC).

**Q.2) Consider the following pairs of conservation community and associated protected areas:**

1. Soligas : Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve
2. Baigas : Kanha National Park
3. Bugun : Namdapha National Park

**Which of the above are correctly matched?**

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

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

**Explanation:**

Example of successful community participation and co-existence include

- Bishnoi tribe of Rajasthan,
- Soligas in the BRT Tiger Reserve
- Baigas of the Kanha National Park
- Bugun tribe of Eaglenest wildlife Sanctuary

**Q.3) Consider the following statements about Red Panda:**

1. India has both subspecies of red panda i.e. Himalayan and Chinese.
2. It is state animal of Sikkim.
3. It is under schedule 1 of Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 and Critically Endangered under IUCN's red list.

**Which of the above statements are correct?**

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

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

**Explanation:**

**About Red Panda**

- The red panda is a carnivore native to the eastern Himalayas and south-western China.
- It is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List and Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 because the wild population is estimated at fewer than 10,000 mature individuals

and continues to decline due to habitat loss and fragmentation, poaching, and inbreeding depression.

- Scientists from the ZSI have concluded that India is home to both the (sub) species — Himalayan red panda and the Chinese red panda and the Siang river in Arunachal Pradesh splits the red panda into these two phylogenetic species.
- In India, it is found in Sikkim, western Arunachal Pradesh, Darjeeling district of West Bengal and parts of Meghalaya.
- It is also the state animal of Sikkim.
- It is classified as a carnivore but mainly eat bamboo leaves.
- These animals spend most of their lives in trees and even sleep aloft. When foraging, they are most active at night as well as in the gloaming hours of dusk and dawn.

**Q.4) Consider the following statements about Community Rights of forest under Forest Rights Act, 2006:**

1. It covers both individual rights and community rights.
2. Ministry of Environment is nodal ministry of land transfer under this Act.
3. Gram Sabha is final authority of land transfer to the tribes.

**Which of the above given statement is *incorrect*?**

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 1 and 3 only

**Q.4) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006

**Features:**

The Act recognizes and vests the forest rights and occupation in Forest land in Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDST) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) who have been residing in such forests for three generations.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs

**The Act identifies four types of rights:**

▪ **Title rights**

- It gives FDST and OTFD the right to ownership to land farmed by tribals or forest dwellers subject to a maximum of 4 hectares.
- Ownership is only for land that is actually being cultivated by the concerned family and no new lands will be granted.

• **Use rights**

- The rights of the dwellers extend to extracting Minor Forest Produce, grazing areas etc.

• **Relief and development rights**

- To rehabilitate in case of illegal eviction or forced displacement and to basic amenities, subject to restrictions for forest protection.

• **Forest management rights**

- It includes the right to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage any community forest resource which they have been traditionally protecting and conserving for sustainable use.

**Procedure**

- Gram Sabha is the authority to initiate a process to vest rights on marginally and tribal communities after assessment of the extent of their needs from forest lands.
- Sub-Divisional Level committee after its assessment, passes the resolution to Sub-divisional officer to district level committee for its final decision  
(Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect)

**Eligibility**

- Members or community of the Scheduled Tribes who primarily reside in and who depend on the forests or forest lands for bona fide livelihood needs.
- It can also be claimed by any member or community who has for at least three generations (**75 years**) prior to the **13th day of December, 2005** primarily resided in forests land for bona fide livelihood needs.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs is nodal ministry of this act. (Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect)

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

1. Leopards are among most adoptable carnivores.
2. Highest population of Leopards in India is found in Maharashtra.
3. It is endangered under IUCN's red list.

**Select the correct statements:**

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

**Q.5) Solution (a)**

**Explanation:**

#### Leopards

- Species: Leopards are among the most adaptable carnivores. They are known to exist very close to human habitations.
- Indian subspecies is found in all forested habitats in the country, absent only in the arid deserts and above the timber line in the Himalayas.
- Population: India now has 12,852 leopards, 60% increase compared to the previous estimate (2014). Highest population
  - State Wise: Madhya Pradesh (3421), Karnataka (1783) and Maharashtra (1690)
- Threat: Poaching, habitat loss, depletion of natural prey and human-conflict.
  - IUCN status - Vulnerable.
  - Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) - Appendix I
  - Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 - Schedule I

**Q.6) Usually in translocation of Tiger, tiger and tigress are chosen from different reserves. What is the possible reason for it?**

- a) To lessen the effect on reserve, from where tiger is translocated
- b) To increase diversity of species of tigers
- c) To control Genetic inbreeding
- d) For faster translocation of tiger, as it will be easy to get single tiger from a state.

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

**Explanation:**

**TRANSLOCATION OF TIGERS**

- Translocation is a conservation tool that can boost the overall population of a species by establishing viable populations spread out in more than one area.
- This helps increase genetic diversity and safeguards populations from being wiped out by poachers, diseases or natural disasters like fire and floods.
- With increasing tiger populations in some areas, translocation is likely to emerge as a management tool for reducing conflict, repopulating potential tiger habitat and diversifying populations.
- But concerns of genetic inbreeding have to be kept in mind for translocation. This means tigers and tigresses meant for a particular tiger reserve should be translocated from different reserves. (Hence, Statement c is correct)

**Q.7) Consider the following statements about a Tiger Reserve:**

1. It is situated on the Indo-Nepal Border and thus represents Terai Ecosystem.
2. Around half of the world's barasinghas are present here.
3. It was established in 1958 as a wildlife sanctuary for Swamp Deer.

**Which Tiger Reserve is being discussed here?**

- a) Pilibhit Tiger Reserve
- b) Amangarh Tiger Reserve
- c) Valmiki Tiger Reserve
- d) Dudhwa Tiger Reserve

**Q.7) Solution (d)**

**Explanation**

The Dudhwa Tiger Reserve is a protected area in Uttar Pradesh that stretches mainly across the Lakhimpur Kheri and Bahraich districts and comprises the Dudhwa National Park, Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary and Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary. It covers an area of 1,284.3 km<sup>2</sup> and includes three large forest fragments amidst the matrix dominated by agriculture. It shares the north-eastern boundary with Nepal and so represent Terai ecosystem, which is defined to a large extent by the Mohana River.

Dudhwa became a tiger reserve in 1979. The area was established in 1958 as a wildlife sanctuary for swamp deer.

**Major attractions of Dudhwa National Park** are the tigers (population 98 in 1995) and swamp deer (population over 1,600).

- Billy Arjan Singh successfully hand-reared and reintroduced zoo-born tigers and leopards into the wilds of Dudhwa.
- Some rare species inhabit the park. Hispid hare, earlier thought to have become extinct, was rediscovered here in 1984. In the mid-1980s, Indian rhinoceros was reintroduced into Dudhwa from Assam and Nepal.
- The other animals to be seen here include swamp deer, sambar deer, barking deer, spotted deer, hog deer, tiger, Indian rhinoceros, sloth bear, ratel, jackal, civets, jungle cat, fishing cat, leopard cat.
- Dudhwa National Park is a stronghold of the barasingha. Around half of the world's barasinghas are present in Dudhwa National Park.

**Q.8) Consider the following statements about Biologically Heritage Sites (BHS):**

1. Central government with consultation of state and local body will notify it.
2. State government with consultation with central government may frame rules for management and conservation of BHS.

**Select the correct statements:**

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

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

**Explanation:**

Biodiversity Heritage Sites" (BHS) are well defined areas that are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems - terrestrial, coastal and inland waters and, marine having rich biodiversity comprising of any one or more of the following components:

- richness of wild as well as domesticated species or intra-specific categories,
- high endemism,
- presence of rare and threatened species, keystone species, species of evolutionary significance,
- wild ancestors of domestic/ cultivated species or their varieties,
- past pre-eminence of biological components represented by fossil beds and having significant cultural, ethical or aesthetic values and
- are important for the maintenance of cultural diversity, with or without a long history of human association with them

**Guidelines and Management of Biodiversity heritage sites**

- Under Section 37 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (BDA) the State Government in consultation with local bodies may notify in the official gazette, areas of biodiversity importance as Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS). **(So, statement 1 is incorrect)**
- Under sub section (2) of Section 37, the State Government in consultation with the Central Government may frame rules for the management and conservation of BHS.

**Q.9) Which of the following is not one of the defined protected area under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972?**

1. National Parks
2. Wildlife Sanctuaries
3. Community Reserves
4. Conservation Reserves
5. Private protected areas
6. Biosphere reserves
7. Tiger Reserves

**Choose the correct answer:**

- a) 1,2, 3,6 and 7 only
- b) 1,2,6 and 7 only

- c) 1,2, 3, 4 and 7 only  
d) All of the above

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

**Explanation:**

The Wildlife Protection Act 1972 is first umbrella act to protect plants as well as animals.

It defines five types of protected areas viz. National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Community Reserves, Conservation Reserves and Tiger Reserves.

- Biosphere reserve (UNESCO designation roughly corresponding to IUCN Category V): The Indian government has also established Biosphere reserves, which protect larger areas of natural habitat, and often include one or more national parks and/or preserves, along buffer zones that are open to limited economic activities. The Indian government has established 18 Biosphere Reserves of India.
- Private protected areas: These are regions which are owned by an individual or an organisation /corporation not affiliated to the government or a communal body. Even though Indian legislation does not provide protection to such areas, some NGOs are using methods such as land trusts to help in the conservation effort, and providing limited means of protection.

**Protected Areas of India (As on December, 2019)**

	No.	Total (km <sup>2</sup> )	Area Coverage Country	% of
<b>National Parks (NPs)</b>	101	40,564.03	1.23	
<b>Wildlife Sanctuaries (WLSs)</b>	553	119,756.97	3.64	
<b>Conservation Reserves (CRs)</b>	86	3,858.25	0.12	
<b>Community Reserves</b>	163	833.34	0.03	
<b>Protected Areas (PAs)</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>1,65,012.59</b>	<b>5.02</b>	

**Q.10) Consider the following statements with reference to Panna Biosphere Reserve:**

1. It is also a tiger reserve and third biosphere from state of Madhya Pradesh.

2. It is situated in Satpura range of Madhya Pradesh.
3. Ken river flow through it and Ken-Betwa interlink project will be located in it.

**Which of the above given statements are correct?**

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

**Q.10) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

**About Panna Biosphere Reserve**

- Established in 1981, Panna Biosphere Reserve is located in the Panna and Chhatarpur districts of Madhya Pradesh with an area of around 540 km. sq.
- It was declared in 1993 as the twenty second Tiger reserve of India and the fifth in Madhya Pradesh.
- It is situated in the Vindhya mountain range in the northern part of Madhya Pradesh. **(Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect)**
- Ken River (one of the least polluted tributaries of the Yamuna River) flows through the reserve and the Ken-Betwa river interlinking project will also be located in it.
- In 1994, The Panna National Park got the status of Project Tiger Reserve as India's 22nd tiger reserve.
- In 2011, It was notified as a Biosphere Reserve by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)
- In 2020, it has been included in Man and Biosphere programme of UNESCO. The Panna Biosphere Reserve is the third in Madhya Pradesh to be included in the list after Pachmarhi and Amarkantak.

**Q.11) Consider the following statements with reference to "Fishing Cat":**

1. It is found all over India.
2. It is in Appendix II of CITES and schedule I of WPA, 1972.
3. It is also state animal of West Bengal.

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

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

**Q.11) Solution (b)**

**Basic Information:**

**About Fishing Cats**

Fish cat is mammal double the size of domestic cat which is a native to wetlands, swamps and marshy areas.

**Habitats**

- Fishing cats have a patchy distribution along the Eastern Ghats.
- They abound in estuarine floodplains, tidal mangrove forests and also inland freshwater habitats.
- Apart from Sundarbans in West Bengal and Bangladesh, fishing cats inhabit the Chilika lagoon and surrounding wetlands in Odisha, Coringa and Krishna mangroves in Andhra Pradesh. (So, statement 1 is not correct)

In 2012, the West Bengal government officially declared the Fishing Cat as the State Animal.

**Conservation status**

- IUCN status: Vulnerable
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) lists the fishing cat on Appendix II.
- Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and thereby protected from hunting

**The conservation threats** to fishing cats are mainly due to:

- habitat loss [wetland degradation and conversion for aquaculture and other commercial projects],
- sand mining along river banks,
- agricultural intensification resulting in loss of riverine buffer and
- conflict with humans in certain areas resulting in targeted hunting and retaliatory killings

**Q.12) The Global Biodiversity Outlook is released by:**

- a) International Union for Conservation of Nature
- b) World Wide Fund for Nature
- c) Convention on Biological Diversity
- d) United Nations Environment Program

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

**Explanation:**

**About Global Biodiversity Outlook**

- It is a flagship publication of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- It is a periodic report that summarizes the latest data on the status and trends of biodiversity and draws conclusions relevant to the further implementation of the CBD.
- Evidence is presented by the latest UN Global Biodiversity Outlook 5 report: none of the 20 targets has been fully met. Many countries have chosen to ignore the connection between biodiversity and well-being, and depleted ecological capital in pursuit of financial prosperity.

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

1. Living Planet Report is released by IUCN, which assess trends of global biodiversity and health of planet.
2. According to it, India has lost nearly one third of its natural wetland.

**Select the correct code:**

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

**Q.13) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

Living Planet Report 2020 has been released by the World Wide Fund for Nature. (So, Statement

1 is incorrect)

**Key takeaways from the Report**

- There has been a reduction of 68 % in the global wildlife population between 1970 and 2016.
- 75 % of the Earth's ice-free land surface has already been significantly altered.
- Most of the oceans are polluted.
- More than 85% of the area of wetlands has been lost during this period and India has lost more than 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of its natural wetlands. (So, Statement 2 is correct)
- The most important cause of biodiversity loss: Land-use change – conversion of pristine habitats into agricultural systems and oceans have been overfished.
- The highest biodiversity loss due to land use change: (1) Europe and Central Asia at 57.9 %; (2) North America at 52.5 %; (3) Latin America and Caribbean at 51.2 %; (4) Africa at 45.9 %; (5) Asia at 43 %.
- The largest wildlife population loss: Latin America at an alarming 94 %.
- One of the most threatened biodiversity: Freshwater biodiversity (declining faster than that in oceans or forest).

**Q.14) Consider the following statements with reference to “Central Zoo Authority”:**

1. It is chaired by Minister of state responsible for Forests And Wildlife Wing
2. It was established under Wildlife (protection) Act, 1972.
3. It also approves the exchange of tigers among different zoos in India.

**Which of the above given statement is/are incorrect?**

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

**Q.14) Solution (a)**

**Explanation:**

Central Zoo Authority was established under provision of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment & Forests by the Government of India in the year 1992. (Hence, Statement 2 is correct.)

It consists of Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change as Chairperson, 10 members and a Member Secretary. **(Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.)**

The main objective of this Authority is to complement and strengthen the national effort in conservation of the rich biodiversity of the country, particularly the fauna as per the National Zoo Policy, 1998. Other objectives of this Authority include- enforcing minimum standards and norms for upkeep and healthcare of animals in Indian zoos and to control mushrooming of unplanned and ill-conceived zoos.

- Every zoo in the count is required to obtain recognition from the Authority for its operation. The Authority evaluates the zoos with reference to the parameters prescribed under the Rules and grants recognition, accordingly.
- It therefore, provides technical and financial assistance to such zoos which have the potential to attain the desired standard in animal management.
- Central Zoo Authority also regulates the exchange of animals of endangered category listed under Schedule. I and II of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 among zoos. **(Hence, Statement 3 is correct)**
- Exchange of animals between Indian and foreign zoos is also approved by the Authority before the requisite clearances under EXIM Policy and the CITES permits are issued by the competent authority.
- The Authority also coordinates and implements programmes on capacity building of 200 personnel, planned conservation breeding programmes and ex situ research including biotechnological intervention for conservation of species for complementing in situ

In case of Tiger's translocation from one protected areas to another protected area, approval of National Tiger Conservation Authority is needed. Final permission is granted by National Board of Wildlife.

**Q.15) Consider the following statements about Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES):**

1. It is a legally binding treaty, but does not take place of national laws.
2. CITES Secretariat is administrated by UNEP.
3. Appendix III of CITES lists species that are not necessarily now threatened with extinction but that may become so unless trade is closely controlled.

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

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

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

**Q.15) Solution (b)**

**Explanation:**

- CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species.
- CITES was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of IUCN (The World Conservation Union) and came into force in 1975.
- CITES is an international agreement to which States and regional economic integration organizations adhere voluntarily.
- Although CITES is legally binding on the Parties, it does not take the place of national laws. Rather it provides a framework to be respected by each Party, which has to adopt its own domestic legislation to ensure that CITES, is implemented at the national level.
- For many years CITES has been among the conservation agreements with the largest membership, with now 183 Parties.

**Appendix of CITES**

- **Appendix I**
  - It lists species that are the most endangered among CITES-listed animals and plants.
  - Examples include gorillas, sea turtles, most lady slipper orchids, and giant pandas. Currently 931 species are listed.
  - They are threatened with extinction and CITES prohibits international trade in specimens of these species except when the purpose of the import is not commercial, for instance for scientific research
- **Appendix II**
  - It lists species that are not necessarily now threatened with extinction but that may become so unless trade is closely controlled.
  - Most CITES species are listed in this Appendix, including American ginseng, paddlefish, lions, American alligators, mahogany and many corals. Currently 34,419 species are listed.

- International trade in specimens of Appendix-II species may be authorized by the granting of an export permit or re-export certificate.
- Appendix III
  - It is a list of species included at the request of a Party that already regulates trade in the species and that needs the cooperation of other countries to prevent unsustainable or illegal exploitation.
  - Examples include map turtles, walruses and Cape stag beetles. Currently 147 species are listed.
  - International trade in specimens of species listed in this Appendix is allowed only on presentation of the appropriate permits or certificates.

**Q.16) Consider the following statements about “Eco Sensitive Zones” and identify the correct statement:**

- a) They are notified by State government under Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- b) Hotels and Resorts can be established and are part of allowed activities in Eco sensitive zones.
- c) Kasturirangan report suggested notifying entire area of Western Ghats as Eco sensitive zone, while Gadgil committee recommended only 37% of Western Ghats to be Eco Sensitive Zone.
- d) All the above given statements are correct.

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

**Explanation:**

- Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) are areas notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Government of India around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries. **(So, Statement 1 is not correct.)**
- The purpose of declaring ESZs is to create some kind of "shock absorbers" to the protected areas by regulating and managing the activities around such areas.
- They also act as a transition zone from areas of high protection to areas involving lesser protection.
- The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 does not mention the word "Eco-Sensitive Zones". However, Section 3(2)(v) of the Act, says that Central Government can restrict areas in which any industries, operations or processes or class of industries, operations or processes shall not be carried out or shall be carried out subject to certain safeguards.

- **Activities Allowed in ESZs**

- **Prohibited activities:** Commercial mining, saw mills, industries causing pollution (air, water, soil, noise etc), establishment of major hydroelectric projects (HEP), commercial use of wood, Tourism activities like hot-air balloons over the National Park, discharge of effluents or any solid waste or production of hazardous substances.
  - **Regulated activities:** Felling of trees, **establishment of hotels and resorts**, commercial use of natural water, erection of electrical cables, drastic change of agriculture system, e.g. adoption of heavy technology, pesticides etc, widening of roads.
  - **Permitted activities:** On-going agricultural or horticultural practices, rainwater harvesting, organic farming, use of renewable energy sources, adoption of green technology for all activities.
  - **As, Establishment of Hotels and Resort are regulated, but they are permitted under Eco-sensitive Zone. (So, statement 2 is correct)**
- **Instead of the total area of Western Ghats (as suggested by Gadgil Report), only 37% (i.e. 60,000 sq. km.) of the total area be brought under ESA under Kasturirangan report. (So, statement 3 is incorrect)**

**Q.17) Consider the following statements with respect to “Snow Leopard” and choose the right statements:**

1. Snow Leopards are group animals and found in groups of 4-5 members.
2. They are found at elevations of 3,000-5,000 metres or higher in the Himalayas.
3. Snow leopards are categorized as 'Vulnerable' by IUCN and in the Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.
4. Government of India has started a central sector scheme named Project Snow Leopard for the conservation of the species and its habitats.

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

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

**Q.17) Solution (b)**

### Snow Leopard

- Snow leopards are considered medium-sized cats, standing about 24 inches at the shoulder and weighing around 30-55kg.
- Like most species of cats, snow leopards are solitary animals, though sometimes male and female pairs might be seen together during mating season.
- Snow leopards live in the mountainous regions of central and southern Asia.
- In India, their geographical range encompasses a large part of the western Himalayas including the states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh in the eastern Himalayas.
- Snow leopards prefer steep, rugged terrains with rocky outcrops and ravines. This type of habitat provides good cover and clear view to help them sneak up on their prey.
- They are found at elevations of 3,000-5,000 metres or higher in the Himalayas.
- The strikingly beautiful snow leopard remains one of the most mysterious cats in the world.
- This roving, high altitude cat is rarely sighted and because it is so elusive, accurate population numbers are hard to come by, although estimates range from 450 to 500 individuals for India.
- The Government of India has identified the snow leopard as a flagship species for the high altitude Himalayas.
- It has developed a **centrally-supported programme called Project Snow Leopard** for the conservation of the species and its habitats.
- The snow leopard is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN's Red List. In addition, the snow leopard, like all big cats, is listed on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES). Also it is listed in schedule 1 of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

### Q.18) Consider the following statements about Nagar Van Scheme:

1. It aims to create forests in 2000 urban cities across the country in next five years.
2. Nagar Van Scheme is implemented by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
3. The finances for the scheme will be paid for by the CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016) funds.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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

**About Nagar Van scheme:**

- **Objective:** Under this scheme a minimum of 20 hectares of forests will be created in the city. These city forests will provide the city dwellers a wholesome natural environment for recreation and will contribute to improvement of the city's environment by pollution mitigation, cleaner air, noise reduction, water harvesting and reduction of heat island effect.
- **Aim:** The Nagar Van Udyan Yojana aims **at developing 200 Nagar Van (City Forests)** across the country in cities having Municipal Corporation or Municipalities by involving local communities, educational institutions, local bodies, NGOs etc. Van Udyan once established will be maintained by the State Government. (So, Statement 1 is incorrect)
- **Implementing Ministry:** Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (So, statement 2 is incorrect)
- **Finances:** The finances for the scheme will be paid for by the CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF) Act, 2016) funds.

**Q.19) Consider the following statements about a National Park:**

1. It was originally created to preserve the habitat of white-winged wood duck.
2. It is bounded by Lohit and Brahmaputra on one side and Dibru river on another.
3. It is also designated as a Biosphere Reserve.

**Which National Park is being discussed here?**

- a) Manas National Park
- b) Kaziranga National Park
- c) Dibru-Saikhowa National Park
- d) Nameri National Park

**Q.19) Solution (c)**

**Explanation:**

### About Dibru-Saikhowa National Park

- Dibru-Saikhowa National Park is a national park in Assam located in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts.
- It was designated a Biosphere Reserve in July 1997.
- The park is bounded by the Brahmaputra and Lohit Rivers in the north and Dibru River in the south.
- It mainly consists of moist mixed semi-evergreen forests, moist mixed deciduous forests, canebrakes and grasslands.
- Originally created to help conserve the habitat of the rare white-winged wood duck, the park is also home to other rare creatures such as water buffalo, black-breasted parrot bill, tiger and capped langur.
- It is the largest Salix swamp forest in north-eastern India, with a tropical monsoon climate with a hot and wet summer and cool and usually dry winter. Annual rainfall ranges from 230 to 380 cm.
- Species include Bengal tiger, Indian leopard, clouded leopard, jungle cat, sloth bear, dhole, small Indian civet, Malayan giant squirrel, Chinese pangolin, Gangetic dolphin, slow loris, pig tailed macaque, Assamese macaque, rhesus macaque, capped langur, Hoolock gibbon, Asian elephant, wild boar, Sambar deer, hog deer, barking deer, Asiatic water buffalo, and feral horse. The park is one of the few places in the world which is home to feral horses.

### Q.20) Consider following statement about “Nagarhole National Park”:

1. It is part of Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve.
2. It is situated in the basin region of Kaveri.
3. Nagarhole NP has highest density of tiger Population.

### Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

### Q.20) Solution (a)

**Basic introduction:**

- Nagarhole National Park is a national park located in Kodagu district and Mysore district in Karnataka.
- It is one of India's premier Tiger Reserves along with the adjoining Bandipur Tiger Reserve and Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Together with the adjoining Bandipur National Park, Mudumalai National Park and Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, it forms the largest protected area in Southern India.
- This park was declared the thirty seventh Project Tiger, Tiger reserves of India in 1999.
- **It is part of the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve.**
- The Western Ghats Nilgiris Sub-Cluster of 6,000 km<sup>2</sup>, including all of Nagarhole National Park, is under consideration by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee for selection as a World Heritage Site. (So, Statement 3 is not Correct)
- The park has rich forest cover, small streams, hills, valleys and waterfalls.
- Its water sources include the Lakshmantirtha River, Sarati Hole, Nagar Hole, Balle Halla, Kabini River, four perennial streams, 47 seasonal streams, four small perennial lakes, 41 artificial tanks, and several swamps. Kabini is prominent tributary. **(So, Statement 2 is correct)**
- The park has a healthy predator-prey ratio, with many tigers, Gaur, elephants, Indian leopards, and deer (Chital, Sambar, etc.).
- Corbett National Park has highest tiger population density and Nagarhole with 127 tigers comes at second place. Bandipur Tiger Reserve is 3<sup>rd</sup> dense tiger populated area in India. **(So, Statement 3 is incorrect)**

**Q.21) The FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) does not measure the monthly change in international prices of which of the following commodity?**

- a) Oilseeds
- b) Pulses
- c) Sugar
- d) Dairy products

**Q.21) Solution (b)**

The FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) is a measure of the monthly change in international prices of a basket of food commodities.

It measures changes for a basket of cereals, oilseeds, dairy products, meat and sugar.

Base Period: 2014-16.

**Q.22) Consider the following statements:**

1. India is home to both Himalayan red panda and the Chinese red panda.
2. The Teesta River in Sikkim splits the red panda into these two subspecies.

**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

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

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India have concluded that <b>India is home to both the subspecies</b> - Himalayan red panda ( <i>Ailurus fulgens</i> ) and the Chinese red panda ( <i>Ailurus styani</i> ).	<b>The Siang River in Arunachal Pradesh splits the red panda into these two phylogenetic species.</b> The red panda is a mammal species native to the eastern Himalayas and southwestern China. It is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

**Q.23) The Strait of Gibraltar separates which of the following two countries?**

- a) Portugal and Morocco
- b) Spain and Algeria
- c) Portugal and Algeria
- d) Spain and Morocco

**Q.23) Solution (d)**

The **Strait of Gibraltar** connects the Atlantic Ocean with the Mediterranean Sea and **separates Spain on the European continent from Morocco on the African continent.**

Gibraltar is a small portion of land on the southern tip of the Iberian peninsula that Britain controls but Spain claims as its own.



**Q.24) With reference to Bare Necessities Index (BNI), consider the following statements:**

1. BNI is an attempt to quantify the “basic needs” approach to economic development
2. BNI is constructed at both at the rural and urban level.
3. The BNI has been created for all States using data from Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011.

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

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

**Q.24) Solution (b)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Correct	Correct	Incorrect
<b>The Bare Necessities Index (BNI) is an attempt to quantify the “basic needs” approach to economic development</b> using data from National Statistical Office (NSO). It is created for all States/Union Territories by employing data at State Level.	Economic Survey 2020-21 constructs a <b>Bare Necessities Index (BNI) at the rural, urban and all India level.</b> The BNI summarises 26 indicators on five dimensions viz., water, sanitation, housing, micro-environment, and other facilities.	<b>The BNI has been created for all States for 2012 and 2018 using data from two NSO rounds viz., 69th and 76th on Drinking Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Housing Condition in India.</b>

**Q.25) With reference to Payment Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) scheme, consider the following statements:**

1. The Fund subsidises deployment of payment acceptance infrastructure in tier-2 cities.
2. The Fund will be operational for five years effective from January 1, 2021.
3. The entire initial corpus to the Fund is contributed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

**Which of the statements given above is/are *NOT* correct?**

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

**Q.25) Solution (d)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3
Incorrect	Incorrect	Incorrect
Objective of the Payment Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) scheme is to <b>subsidise deployment of</b>	<b>The fund will be operational for three years effective from January 1, 2021</b> and may be extended for two more years. The	<b>The PIDF presently has a corpus of Rs 345 crore, with Rs 250 crore contributed by the RBI and</b>

<b>payment acceptance infrastructure in tier-3 to tier-6 cities</b> , with a special focus on the north-eastern states of the country.	implementation of targets shall be monitored by the RBI with assistance from card networks, the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and the Payments Council of India (PCI).	<b>Rs 95 crore by the major authorised card networks in the country.</b> The authorised card networks shall contribute in all Rs 100 crore.
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**Q.26) The REPLACE action framework sometimes seen in news, aims to eliminate which of the following?**

- a) Antimicrobial resistance
- b) Industrially produced transfats
- c) Psychotropic substances
- d) Chronic undernutrition

**Q.26) Solution (b)**

WHO released **REPLACE action framework** which is a roadmap for countries to implement the prompt, complete and sustained **elimination of industrially produced transfats from the food supply by 2023.**

REPLACE provides six strategic actions to ensure the prompt, complete, and sustained elimination of industrially-produced transfats from the food supply.

**Q.27) With reference to The North East Venture Fund, consider the following statements:**

1. It is the only dedicated Venture Fund for the North Eastern Region with an initial corpus of Rs. 100 crores.
2. The fund primarily targets to invest in infrastructure projects.

**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

**Q.27) Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2
Correct	Incorrect
<b>The North East Venture Fund (NEVF) is the first and the only dedicated Venture Fund for the North Eastern Region with an initial corpus of Rs. 100 crores.</b> The main focus of North East Venture Fund (NEVF) is for mostly the enterprises involved in Food Processing, Healthcare, Tourism, segregation of services, IT, etc.	<b>The fund targets to invest in Start-Ups and unique business opportunities to provide resources for new entrepreneurships.</b> The Venture Fund Scheme launched by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) intended to promote growth of business ventures and skill development in the region.

**Q.28) The Gavipuram Cave Temple, an example of rock-cut architecture, is located in which of the following State?**

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Karnataka
- d) Maharashtra

**Q.28) Solution (c)**

**Gavi Gangadhareshwara Temple is also known as Gavipuram Cave Temple** is an example of Indian rock-cut architecture.

- This cave temple is dedicated to Shiva and cut into a monolithic stone and is **located in Bangalore, Karnataka.**
- It was built in the 16th century by Kempe Gowda I, the founder of the city.
- The temple is famous for its mysterious stone discs in the forecourt and the exact planning allowing the sun to shine on shrine in certain time of the year.
- Lakhs of devotees come in mid January every year on Makar sankranti Day to this temple.

- This is a special day when the sun's rays fall on the Shivalinga for one hour as it passes between the horns of the Nandi.

**Q.29) Consider the following statements regarding the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons:**

1. It is legally binding international agreement.
2. It is yet to come into force.
3. It prohibits the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.
4. India is a signatory to this treaty.

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

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

**Q.29) Solution (a)**

Statement 1	Statement 2	Statement 3	Statement 4
Correct	Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect
The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), or the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty, is the first <b>legally binding international agreement</b> to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons with the ultimate goal being their total elimination.	It was adopted on 7 July 2017, opened for signature on 20 September 2017, and <b>entered into force on 22 January 2021.</b>	It prohibits a full range of nuclear-weapon related activities, such as undertaking to develop, test, produce, manufacture, acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. <b>It also prohibits the use or threat of use of these weapons as well.</b>	All of the nuclear weapon states (US, Russia, China, Britain, France, <b>India</b> , Pakistan, North Korea and Israel) and all NATO members except the Netherlands <b>did not vote.</b>

**Q.30) The Sigur plateau is a part of which of the following Biosphere Reserve?**

- a) Nokrek Biosphere Reserve
- b) Achanakmar-Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve
- c) Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve
- d) Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve

**Q.30) Solution (d)**

**Sigur Plateau** is a plateau in the north and east of Nilgiri District in the Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu.

It connects the Western and the Eastern Ghats and sustains elephant populations and their genetic diversity. It has the Nilgiri Hills on its southwestern side and the Moyar River Valley on its north-eastern side.

It is an **ecologically fragile area within Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve** and forms part of Elephant corridor. The elephants cross the plateau in search of food and water.

**Read the following passage and answer the question that follow. Your answer to this question should be based on passage only.**

In the world today we make health an end in itself. We have forgotten that health is really means to enable a person to do his work and does it well. A lot of modern medicine and this includes many patients as well as many physicians pays very little attention to health but very much attention to those who imagine that they are ill. Our great concern with health is shown by the medical columns in newspapers. The health articles in popular magazines and the popularity of television programmes and all those books on medicine. We talk about health all the time. Yet for the most part the only result is more people with imaginary illness. The healthy man should not be wasting time talking about health: he should be using health for work. The work does the work that good health possible.

**Q.31) Modern medicine is primarily concerned with**

- a) promotion of good health
- b) people suffering from imaginary illness
- c) people suffering from real illness
- d) increased efficiency in work

**Q.31) Solution (b)**

A lot of modern medicine and this includes many patients as well as many physicians pays very little attention to health but very much attention to those who imagine that they are ill. This statement supports our question. Hence Option b is the correct answer.

**Q.32) In a certain code language,**

'pit na som' means 'bring me water'

'na jo tod' means 'water is life'

'tub od pit' means 'give me toy'

'jo lin kot' means 'life and death'

Which of the following represents 'is' in that language?

- a) jo
- b) na
- c) tod
- d) lin

**Q.32) Solution (c)**

In statements A and B, the common code word is 'na' and the common word is 'water'.

So, 'na' means 'water'.

In statements B and D, the common code word is 'jo' and the common word is 'life'.

So, 'jo' means 'life'.

Thus, in statements B, 'tod' represents 'is'.

**Q.33) In certain code language, 'FOX' is coded as '108' and 'SOUP' is coded as '148'. How will 'UPSIDE' be coded as in that language?**

- a) 528
- b) 590

c) 385

d) 494

**Q.33) Solution (a)**

For the word 'FOX',

$$[(27 - 6) + (27 - 15) + (27 - 24)] \times \text{Number of letter}$$

$$= (21 + 12 + 3) \times 3$$

$$= 36 \times 3 = 108$$

For the word 'SOUP',

$$[(27 - 19) + (27 - 15) + (27 - 21) + (27 - 16)] \times \text{Number of letter}$$

$$= (8 + 12 + 6 + 11) \times 4$$

$$= 37 \times 4 = 148$$

Similarly,

For the word 'UPSIDE',

$$[(27 - 21) + (27 - 16) + (27 - 19) + (27 - 9) + (27 - 4) + (27 - 5)] \times \text{Number of letter}$$

$$= (6 + 11 + 8 + 18 + 23 + 22) \times 6$$

$$= 88 \times 6 = 528$$

Therefore, the correct answer is option a.

**Q.34) In the series AABABCABCDABCDE....which letter occupies the 100<sup>th</sup> position?**

a) H

b) J

c) I

d) K

**Q.34) Solution (c)**

A AB ABC ABCD ABCDE...

The given series contains 1, 2, 3, 4.....consecutive alphabets starting from A

So, up to 13th term, the number of alphabets =  $n(n+1)/2 = 13(13+1)/2 = 91$

Again it will start from alphabet A and therefore, 100th alphabet will be I

Hence option c is incorrect.

**Q.35) In a certain code language**

'134' means 'good and tasty'

'478' means 'see good pictures'

'729' means 'pictures are faint'

Which of the following digits stands for 'see'?

- a) 1
- b) 4
- c) 8
- d) 7

**Q.35) Solution (c)**

In the first and second statements, the common code digit is '4' and the common word is 'good'.

So, '4' stands for 'good'.

In the second and third statements, the common code digit is '7' and the common word is 'pictures'.

So, '7' means 'pictures'.

Thus, in the second statements, '8' means 'see'.

