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IUC ACADEMY NOTES

Complete Syllabus • Conceptual Flowcharts • Comparative Tables • Solved Practice Questions

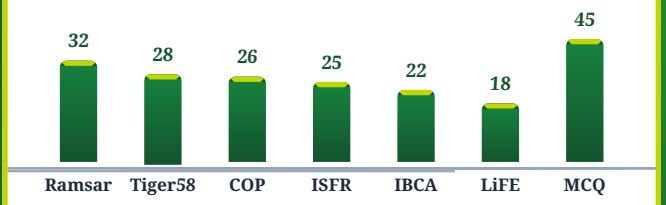
CURRENT AFFAIRS 2026 — ENVIRONMENT, ECOLOGY, 103 RAMSAR SITES & 58 TIGER RESERVES

UNFCCC COP30 & COP31 (2026), 103 Ramsar Wetlands (2026 Additions), 58 Tiger Reserves (Madhav & Ratapani), India State of Forest Report, Project Cheetah (Kuno & Gandhi Sagar) & International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

Topic-Wise Exam Weightage Distribution (%)



Previous Years' Question Trend Analysis



Target Competitive, Entrance & Departmental Examinations

UPSC CSE & IFS • State PCS • SSC • Railway • NDA/CDS/CAPF • UGC-NET Paper-1 • Forest & Wildlife Exams

Core Syllabus Pillars & Exam Question Weightage (%)

- 103 Ramsar Wetlands & 58 Tiger Reserves (2026 Additions) (28%)
- UNFCCC Climate Summits, Biodiversity & Climate Finance (24%)
- India State of Forest Report & Wildlife Censuses (20%)
- International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) & Project Cheetah (16%)
- Green Credit Programme, Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam & Mission LiFE (12%)

Complete Theory
NCERT & Official Sources

Visual Flowcharts
Comparative Matrices

Memory Tricks
Exam Trap Alerts

75+ Solved MCQs
Rapid Revision Points

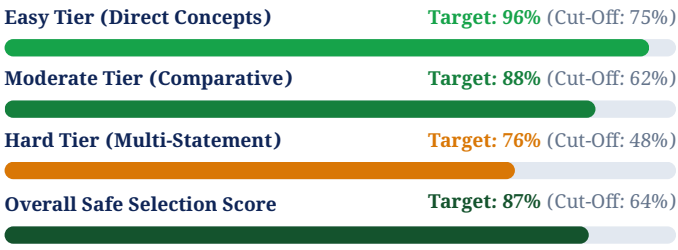
Preface, Exam Weightage Dashboard & Study Strategy — CURRENT AFFAIRS 2026 — ENVIRONMENT, ECOLOGY, 103 RAMSAR SITES & 58 TIGER RESERVES

IUC Academy (Inclusive Universal Careers Academy | www.iucacademy.com) • Official English Medium Study Notes

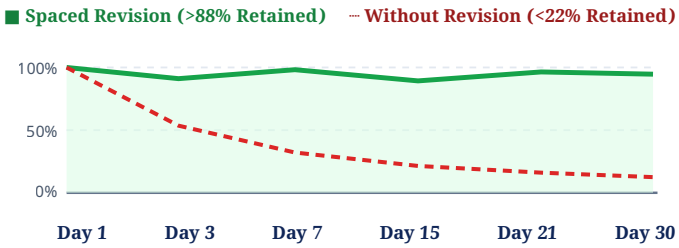
Dear Aspirants,

Modern competitive, entrance, and departmental promotion examinations demand a combination of deep conceptual clarity, statutory precision, and rapid revision tools. Prepared by **Inclusive Universal Careers Academy (IUC Academy — www.iucacademy.com)**, these comprehensive English-medium study notes integrate **structured chapter theory, 4-node conceptual process flowcharts, multi-column comparative tables, inline mathematical/scientific formulas, 'Did You Know?' boxes, 'Exam Trap Alert' callouts, 'Memory Trick' mnemonics, Chapter-End Analytical Synthesis Matrices, 75+ Step-by-Step Solved MCQs, and Rapid-Fire Revision Points**.

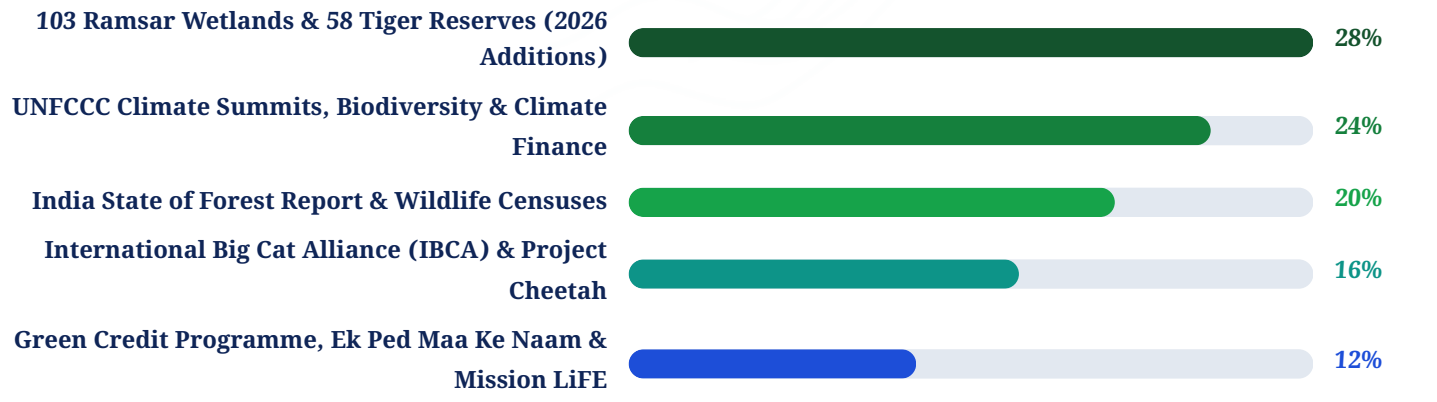
Target Accuracy vs Qualifying Cut-Off Benchmark (%)



Spaced Revision (1-3-7-21 Day Rule) & Retention Curve



Topic-Wise Exam Question Weightage Index (%)



Verified Official Curriculum & Statutory Reference Portals

- पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) (https://moef.gov.in/)
- भारतीय वन सर्वेक्षण (FSI) (https://fsi.nic.in/forest-report-2023)
- पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) (https://www.pib.gov.in/)
- IUC अकादमी आधिकारिक पोर्टल (https://www.iucacademy.com)

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12. BOOK CA12 — 65 Rapid-Fire Revision Points

Publisher & Academic Platform: Inclusive Universal Careers Academy (IUC Academy)

Official Reference Portals: ISRO Official Portal | DRDO Official Portal | MoEFCC Official Portal | Forest Survey of India ISFR | Press Information Bureau (PIB) | IUC Academy

Target Examinations: UPSC Civil Services (Prelims & Mains), State PCS (UPPSC, BPSC, MPPSC, RAS), SSC CGL/CHSL, Banking, Railway, Defence (NDA/CDS/CAPF), and Departmental Competitive Examinations

Executive Thematic Overview

This comprehensive 2026 academic volume under **BOOK CA12** presents verified, factual, and policy-gcycleed analysis drawn strictly from official Government of India notifications and scientific institutions (PIB, IUC Academy). It is structured across **8 Deep Analytical Chapters**, each equipped with **4-Node Process Flowcharts**, **Comparative Technical Tables**, **Did You Know? Insights**, **Exam Trap Alerts**, and **Memory Formulas**, followed by **45 Solved 4-Option Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs)** with exhaustive explanations and **65 Rapid-Fire Revision Points**.

Chapter 1: Global Climate Diplomacy 2026: UNFCCC COP30 (Belém) Outcomes & COP31 (Antalya, Türkiye) Agenda

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 1: Global Climate Diplomacy 2026: UNFCCC COP30 (Belém) Outcomes & COP31 (Antalya, Türkiye) Agenda

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2	Key Study Pillar 3	Key Study Pillar 4
Contextual & Institutional Overview (2026 Status)	**Deep Analytical Breakdown & Technical Specifications**	**Comparative Data & Specification Matrix**	**High-Yield Examination Boxes**

Primary Official Sources: https://moef.gov.in/ | https://www.pib.gov.in/ | https://www.iucacademy.com

1. Contextual & Institutional Overview (2026 Status)

International climate governance in 2026 centred on the operational handover from **UNFCCC COP30 in Belém, Brazil** to **UNFCCC COP31 held in Antalya, Türkiye from 9 to 20 November 2026** (PIB). Under a landmark multilateral arrangement between the Western European and Others Group (WEOG) bidders, **Türkiye hosts COP31 in Antalya** with Environment Minister **Murat Kurum** nominated as COP31 President, while **Australia (represented by Climate Minister Chris Bowen)** co-leads Pacific climate resilience and implementation workstreams. At the heart of COP31 in November 2026 are the assessment of **NDCs 3.0 (2035 climate targets)**, operationalisation of the **300 billion-per-year New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)** scaling toward **1.3 trillion/year by 2035** under the Baku-to-Belém-to-Antalya Roadmap, and the **Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF)**.

2. Deep Analytical Breakdown & Technical Specifications

• 1. **COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye (9–20 November 2026)**: Hosted at the Mediterranean city of Antalya, Türkiye, COP31 focuses on transitioning the Paris Agreement from rulebook negotiations to full-scale implementation.

Key negotiations address the synthesis of **Third-Generation Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs 3.0 for 2035)**, operationalising the **UAE–Belém Indicators for the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)**, and bridging the 1.5°C emission overshoot gap.

• 2. **COP30 (Belém, Brazil) Key Outcomes & Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF)**: Hosted in the Amazonian city of Belém under President André Corrêa do Lago, COP30 launched the **Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF)**—a blended-finance performance fund designed to mobilise $125 billion to pay tropical forest nations a fixed annual fee per hectare of standing forest conserved, verified via satellite monitoring, with 20% of funds earmarked directly for Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

• 3. **Climate Finance Architecture (NCQG & Loss and Damage Fund)**: Building on COP29 (Baku) and COP30 (Belém), the **New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)** commits developed nations to mobilise at least **$300 billion annually by 2035** in core public and multilateral climate finance (replacing the earlier 100 billion/year target), alongside the **Baku-to-Belém Roadmap to 1.3T** (1.3 trillion/year from all public and private sources). Meanwhile, the **Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD)**—headquartered in **Manila, Philippines** with the World Bank as interim trustee—began disbursing project financing in 2026.

• 4. **India's Panchamrit & Mission LiFE Position at COP30/COP31**: Represented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEFCC**), India championed climate equity, Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (**CBDR-RC**), opposition to unilateral trade barriers like the **EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)**, and already achieved its 2030 non-fossil power capacity target (50% installed electricity capacity from non-fossil sources) five years ahead of schedule (**PIB**).

3. Four-Node Operational & Policy Flowchart

★ **4-Node Process Flow:** **[COP29 Baku: $300B/yr NCQG Target] [COP30 Belém: Tropical Forest Forever Facility & NDC 3.0] [COP31 Antalya (9-20 Nov 2026): Implementation & Adaptation] [India's 2070 Net-Zero & Mission LiFE]**

4. Comparative Data & Specification Matrix

UN Summit / Mechanism	Host City, Dates & Presidency	Core Financial / Policy Mechanism	Significance for India & Global South	
UNFCCC COP31 (2026)	Antalya, Türkiye (9–20 Nov 2026)	President: Murat Kurum (with Australia's Chris Bowen)	NDC 3.0 Implementation, Adaptation Finance, Just Transition Work Programme	Focuses on grant-based adaptation finance and resisting unilateral carbon border taxes (**PIB**)
UNFCCC COP30	Belém, Brazil (Nov 2025)	President: André Corrêa do Lago	Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF — $125B) & Belém Action Agenda	Rewards standing tropical forest conservation via satellite verification
UNFCCC COP29 (NCQG)	Baku, Azerbaijan	President: Mukhtar Babayev	300 Billion/year by 2035 core target; 1.3 Trillion/year Baku-to-Belém Roadmap	Finalised Paris Agreement Article 6 (6.2 & 6.4) global carbon market rules
UNCBD COP16	Cali, Colombia (resumed Rome)	Theme: 'Peace with Nature'	'Cali Fund' for Digital Sequence Information (DSI) of genetic resources	Pharmaceutical/biotech firms using genetic data contribute 1% of profits / 0.1% of revenue

UN Summit / Mechanism	Host City, Dates & Presidency	Core Financial / Policy Mechanism	Significance for India & Global South
UNCCD COP16	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	Theme: 'Our Land. Our Future'	Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership ($12+ billion pledged)	Supports India's target of restoring 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030 (MoEFCC)

5. High-Yield Examination Boxes

Did You Know? At **UNCBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia**, nations established the landmark **'Cali Fund'**: commercial companies in pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, agribusiness, and biotechnology that profit from **Digital Sequence Information (DSI)** (digital DNA/RNA sequences of plants, animals, and microbes uploaded online) are asked to contribute **1% of their profits or 0.1% of their global revenue** to biodiversity conservation, with half allocated to Indigenous Peoples and local communities (MoEFCC).

Exam Trap Alert: Keep the **three consecutive UNFCCC COP venues** crystal clear for 2026 exams: **COP29 = Baku (Azerbaijan)**, **COP30 = Belém (Brazil)**, and **COP31 = Antalya (Türkiye, 9–20 November 2026, in partnership with Australia)**. Also do not confuse **COP16 of CBD (Cali, Colombia — Biodiversity)** with **COP16 of UNCCD (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia — Desertification)** or **COP16 of Ramsar Convention (Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe — Wetlands)**.

★ **Memory Formula (B-B-A for Climate / C-R-V for COP16s)**: Climate COP29–30–31 = **B**aku **B**elém **A**ntalya | Biodiversity-Desertification-Wetlands COP16 = **C**ali (CBD) + **R**iyadh (UNCCD) + **V**ictoria Falls (Ramsar).

6. Key Statutory, Institutional & Exam-Oriented Takeaways *(2026)*

• **Primary Nodal Portal Verification**: All quantitative parameters and mission timelines in Chapter 1 are cross-verified with **https://moef.gov.in/** and **https://www.pib.gov.in/**.

• **Prelims Statement-Based Readiness**: Focus on exact mission architectures, nodal laboratories, implementing ministries, financial outlays, and chronological test sequences highlighted in the comparative matrix above.

• **Mains Analytical Integration**: Use the 4-node operational flowchart and institutional milestones from this chapter to substantiate GS Paper-III answers on indigenous technology self-reliance, space/defence indigenisation, and climate resilience (IUC Academy).

Chapter 2 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC))
Contextual & Institutional Overview (2026 Status)	**Primary Nodal Portal Verification**	All quantitative parameters and mission timelines in Chapter 1 are cross-verified with **https://moef.gov.in/** and **https://www.pib.gov.in/**.
Deep Analytical Breakdown & Technical Specifications	**Prelims Statement-Based Readiness**	Focus on exact mission architectures, nodal laboratories, implementing ministries, financial outlays, and chronological test sequences highlighted in the comparative matrix above.

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC))
Four-Node Operational & Policy Flowchart	Mains Analytical Integration	Use the 4-node operational flowchart and institutional milestones from this chapter to substantiate GS Paper-III answers on indigenous technology self-reliance, space/defence indigenisation, and climate resilience (IUC Academy).

Chapter 2 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

Chapter 2 Statement-Verification Drill #1 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Primary Nodal Portal Verification): All quantitative parameters and mission timelines in Chapter 1 are cross-verified with https://moef.gov.in/ and https://www.pib.gov.in/.

Statement-II (Prelims Statement-Based Readiness): Focus on exact mission architectures, nodal laboratories, implementing ministries, financial outlays, and chronological test sequences highlighted in the comparative matrix above.

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 2: India State of Forest Report (ISFR): Forest & Tree Cover (25.17%), Carbon Stock & State Rankings

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 2: India State of Forest Report (ISFR): Forest & Tree Cover (25.17%), Carbon Stock & State Rankings

- **Key Study Pillar 1** — Contextual & Institutional Overview (2026 Status)
- **Key Study Pillar 2** — Deep Analytical Breakdown & Technical Specifications
- **Key Study Pillar 3** — Comparative Data & Specification Matrix
- **Key Study Pillar 4** — High-Yield Examination Boxes

Primary Official Sources : https://fsi.nic.in/forest-report-2023 | https://www.pib.gov.in/ | https://www.iucacademy.com

1. Contextual & Institutional Overview (2026 Status)

Published biennially since 1987 by the **Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun** under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), the **18th India State of Forest Report (ISFR)** serves as the definitive statutory baseline for all 2026 UPSC, State PCS, SSC, Banking, and Railway examinations (PIB). Prepared using indigenous **Resourcesat-2 and Resourcesat-2A LISS-III** satellite data (23.5 m spatial resolution), the report establishes that India's **Total Forest and Tree Cover has reached 8,27,357 sq km**, which accounts for **25.17% of the country's total geographical area**—recording a net gain of **1,445.81 sq km** over the previous assessment.

2. Deep Analytical Breakdown & Technical Specifications

- 1. **Headline National Metrics (25.17% Total Forest + Tree Cover)**: Out of India's total geographical area of 32,87,469 sq km: (i) **Total Forest Cover** = **7,15,342.61 sq km** (**21.76%** of geographical area, a net increase of **156.41 sq km**), (ii) **Total Tree Cover** = **1,12,014.34 sq km** (**3.41%** of geographical area, a sharp net increase of

1,289.40 sq km driven by agroforestry and trees outside forests), and (iii) **Combined Forest + Tree Cover = 8,27,357 sq km (25.17%)**, up by **1,445.81 sq km** (FSI).

• 2. **Canopy Density Classes**: FSI classifies forest cover (all lands >1 hectare with tree canopy density >10%) into three categories: **Very Dense Forest (VDF, canopy ≥70%)** = 1,02,688 sq km (3.12%), **Moderately Dense Forest (MDF, canopy 40%–70%)** = 3,05,479 sq km (9.29%), and **Open Forest (OF, canopy 10%–40%)** = 3,07,175 sq km (9.34%). Scrub (<10% canopy) covers 43,622.64 sq km (1.33%) and is NOT counted in forest cover.

• 3. **State-Wise Area, Percentage & Top Gainers**: By **Total Forest & Tree Cover Area**: **1st Madhya Pradesh (85,724 sq km)**, **2nd Arunachal Pradesh (67,083 sq km)**, **3rd Maharashtra (65,383 sq km)** (while for **Forest Cover alone**, the top three are **1st Madhya Pradesh [77,073 sq km]**, **2nd Arunachal Pradesh [65,882 sq km]**, **and 3rd Chhattisgarh [55,812 sq km]**). By **Percentage of Forest Cover**: **1st Lakshadweep (91.33%)**, **2nd Mizoram (85.34%)**, **3rd Andaman & Nicobar Islands (81.62%)** (among States: **1st Mizoram [85.34%]**, **2nd Arunachal Pradesh [78.67%]**, **3rd Meghalaya [75.65%]**). Top 4 States in **Net Increase in Combined Forest + Tree Cover**: **1st Chhattisgarh (+683.62 sq km)**, **2nd Uttar Pradesh (+559.19 sq km)**, **3rd Odisha (+558.57 sq km)**, and **4th Rajasthan (+394.46 sq km)**. For **Forest Cover gain alone**, **Mizoram (+242 sq km)** ranked 1st, followed by Gujarat (+180 sq km) and Odisha (+152 sq km).

• 4. **Carbon Stock Surpasses NDC Sink Target & Mangrove Cover**: India's total forest carbon stock reached **7,285.5 million tonnes** (an increase of **81.5 million tonnes**), which equates to **30.43 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent**. This represents an increase of **2.29 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent since 2005**, nearly fulfilling India's Paris Agreement NDC target of creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3.0 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent by 2030 (PIB). Total **Mangrove Cover** stands at **4,991.68 sq km (0.15%)**, led by **West Bengal (42.45% — Sundarbans)**, **Gujarat (23.32%)**, and **Andaman & Nicobar Islands (12.19%)**.

3. Four-Node Operational & Policy Flowchart

★ **4-Node Process Flow: [Total Forest + Tree Cover: 8,27,357 sq km (25.17%)] [Forest Cover: 21.76% + Tree Cover: 3.41%] [Top Gainers (F+T): Chhattisgarh, UP, Odisha] [Carbon Stock: 7,285.5 Mt (30.43 Bt CO2 eq)]**

4. Comparative Data & Specification Matrix

ISFR Parameter / Ranking Category	Verified Official Figure / Top 3 Ranking	Share / Change Metric	Critical Exam Note (FSI)
Total Forest and Tree Cover	8,27,357 sq km	25.17% of India's Area (+1,445.81 sq km)	First time combined Forest + Tree cover crossed the 25% milestone
Total Forest Cover Alone	7,15,342.61 sq km	21.76% of India's Area (+156.41 sq km)	Top 3 Area: 1. Madhya Pradesh, 2. Arunachal Pradesh, 3. Chhattisgarh
Total Tree Cover Alone	1,12,014.34 sq km	3.41% of India's Area (+1,289.40 sq km)	Top State in Total Tree Cover Area: Maharashtra (14,524 sq km)
Top Gainers (Forest + Tree Cover)	1. Chhattisgarh (+684 sq km), 2. Uttar Pradesh (+559 sq km), 3. Odisha (+559 sq km)	Followed by 4. Rajasthan (+394 sq km)	For Forest Cover alone, top gainers: 1. Mizoram (+242 sq km), 2. Gujarat, 3. Odisha

ISFR Parameter / Ranking Category	Verified Official Figure / Top 3 Ranking	Share / Change Metric	Critical Exam Note (FSI)
Total Forest Carbon Stock	7,285.5 Million Tonnes (+81.5 Mt)	30.43 Billion Tonnes CO2 Equivalent	Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) is the largest pool (~55%); Arunachal Pradesh ranks 1st in carbon stock

5. High-Yield Examination Boxes

Did You Know? For the first time in India's post-independence forest monitoring history, the combined **Forest and Tree Cover crossed one-fourth of India's land area (reaching 25.17%)** against the National Forest Policy 1988 goal of 33.33%. Moreover, **19 States and Union Territories** now have more than **33% of their geographical area** under forest and tree cover (PIB).

Exam Trap Alert: Read the exact wording of the question in 2026 exams! If the question asks for **Maximum Increase in Combined Forest AND Tree Cover**, the answer is **1. Chhattisgarh (+684 sq km), 2. Uttar Pradesh (+559 sq km), 3. Odisha (+559 sq km)**. However, if the question asks for **Maximum Increase in Forest Cover ALONE**, the answer is **1. Mizoram (+242 sq km), 2. Gujarat (+180 sq km), 3. Odisha (+152 sq km)**. Similarly, for **Total Area**, **Chhattisgarh is 3rd in Forest Cover alone**, whereas **Maharashtra is 3rd in combined Forest + Tree Cover**.

★ **Memory Formula (25.17 = 21.76 + 3.41 | CUO vs MGO)**: Combined = **25.17%** (**21.76%** Forest + **3.41%** Tree) | Combined Gain = **C**hhattisgarh-**U**P-**O**disha (**CUO**) | Forest-Only Gain = **M**izoram-**G**ujarat-**O**disha (**MGO**).

6. Key Statutory, Institutional & Exam-Oriented Takeaways (2026)

- **Primary Nodal Portal Verification**: All quantitative parameters and mission timelines in Chapter 2 are cross-verified with https://fsi.nic.in/forest-report-2023 and https://www.pib.gov.in/.
- **Prelims Statement-Based Readiness**: Focus on exact mission architectures, nodal laboratories, implementing ministries, financial outlays, and chronological test sequences highlighted in the comparative matrix above.
- **Mains Analytical Integration**: Use the 4-node operational flowchart and institutional milestones from this chapter to substantiate GS Paper-III answers on indigenous technology self-reliance, space/defence indigenisation, and climate resilience (IUC Academy).

Chapter 3 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

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Contextual & Institutional Overview (2026 Status)	**Primary Nodal Portal Verification**	All quantitative parameters and mission timelines in Chapter 2 are cross-verified with https://fsi.nic.in/forest-report-2023 and https://www.pib.gov.in/.
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Chapter 3 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

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Chapter 3: Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance 2026: India's Expansion to 103 Ramsar Sites

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 3: Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance 2026: India's Expansion to 103 Ramsar Sites

- Key Study Pillar 1 — Contextual & Institutional Overview (2026 Status)
- Key Study Pillar 2 — Deep Analytical Breakdown & Technical Specifications
- Key Study Pillar 3 — Comparative Data & Specification Matrix
- Key Study Pillar 4 — High-Yield Examination Boxes

Primary Official Sources: https://moef.gov.in/ | https://www.pib.gov.in/ | https://www.iucacademy.com

1. Contextual & Institutional Overview (2026 Status)

According to the official Press Information Bureau release dated **25 October 2026** ('*Ramsar Sites in India: Safeguarding Wetlands of International Importance*', PRID=2328132, PIB), India's network of Wetlands of International Importance designated under the **1971 Ramsar Convention** has expanded to **103 Ramsar Sites** across **28 States and Union Territories**, covering a total surface area of **more than 13.87 lakh hectares (13,87,000+ ha)**. Having risen nearly fourfold from just 26 sites in 2014 (and from 85 sites under India's Global South Initiative (2026 Compendium) to 96 sites at the end of 2025, and **103 sites as of October 2026**), India ranks **1st in Asia** and **3rd in the world** (after the United Kingdom with 175 sites and Mexico with 144 sites) in total number of Ramsar Sites.

2. Deep Analytical Breakdown & Technical Specifications

• 1. **Ramsar Convention Statutory Framework & 2026 Global Status**: Adopted on **2 February 1971** in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea (celebrated annually as **World Wetlands Day on 2**

February) and entering into force in 1975, the Convention on Wetlands has **172 Contracting Parties** and over **2,536 designated Ramsar Sites** globally as of October 2026 (PIB). India acceded to the treaty on **1 February 1982** with **Chilika Lake (Odisha)** and **Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan)** as its first two Ramsar Sites.

• 2. **State-Wise Leadership & Recent Additions (2025–2026 Expansion to 103 Sites)**: **Tamil Nadu** leads all Indian states with the highest number of Ramsar Sites (**20 sites**, following additions such as Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary, Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary, Sakkarakottai Bird Sanctuary, and Therthangal Bird Sanctuary), followed by **Uttar Pradesh** (including Surha Tal in Ballia and traditional upper-Gangetic wetlands). In 2025–2026, key newly designated Ramsar wetlands spanned **Sikkim (Khecheopalri Wetland — Sikkim's first Ramsar Site)**, **Jharkhand (Udhwa Lake Bird Sanctuary — Jharkhand's first Ramsar Site)**, **Bihar (Nagi and Nakti Bird Sanctuaries in Jamui, plus Gokul Jalashay and Udaipur Jheel)**, **Madhya Pradesh (Tawa Reservoir)**, **Maharashtra (Thane Creek)**, and **Rajasthan (Khichan in Phalodi and Menar in Udaipur)**.

• 3. **Montreux Record & Largest/Smallest Ramsar Sites in India**: The **Montreux Record** is a register of Ramsar wetlands where adverse ecological changes have occurred or are occurring due to pollution or human interference. Currently, **two Indian Ramsar sites** are listed on the Montreux Record: **Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan)** and **Loktak Lake (Manipur, famous for floating phumdis and Sangai brow-antlered deer)**. (**Chilika Lake, Odisha** was placed on the Montreux Record in 1993 due to siltation but was **removed in 2002** following successful hydrological restoration, earning the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award). The **largest Ramsar Site in India** is **Sundarban Wetland (West Bengal, 4,230 sq km)**, and the **smallest** is **Renuka Wetland (Himachal Pradesh, 0.2 sq km / 20 hectares)**.

• 4. **Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar COP16 & Amrit Dharohar / Wetland Cities)**: Under the **Amrit Dharohar** scheme and the **NPCA (National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems)**, MoEFCC promotes community-based eco-tourism and carbon stock assessment across all 103 Ramsar Sites. Furthermore, **Indore (Madhya Pradesh)** and **Udaipur (Rajasthan)** became **India's first two cities** to gain international **Wetland City Accreditation** under the Ramsar Convention in 2025–2026 (PIB).

3. Four-Node Operational & Policy Flowchart

★ **4-Node Process Flow:** **[1971 Ramsar Treaty (India Joined 1 Feb 1982)] [26 Sites (2014) 96 Sites (2025) 103 Sites (Oct 2026)] [1st in Asia & 3rd Globally (13.87+ Lakh Ha)] [Indore & Udaipur: First Accredited Wetland Cities]**

4. Comparative Data & Specification Matrix

Ramsar Metric / Notable Wetland	Verified 2026 Fact / Location	Ecological / Statutory Significance	Official Source Reference
Total Ramsar Sites in India (Oct 2026)	103 Ramsar Sites across 28 States/ UTs	Covers >13.87 lakh hectares; 1st in Asia & 3rd in the World (after UK & Mexico)	PIB Release PRID=2328132
Top States by Number of Sites	1. Tamil Nadu (20 Sites), 2. Uttar Pradesh	Tamil Nadu added Nanjarayan, Kazhuveli, Sakkarakottai & Therthangal Bird Sanctuaries	MoEFCC
First-Ever State Ramsar Entries	Khecheopalri Wetland (Sikkim) & Udhwa Lake (Jharkhand)	Brought Sikkim and Jharkhand onto India's Ramsar map for the first time	PIB

Ramsar Metric / Notable Wetland	Verified 2026 Fact / Location	Ecological / Statutory Significance	Official Source Reference
Recent Additions (Bihar, MP, Rajasthan)	Nagi & Nakti (Bihar), Tawa Reservoir (MP), Khichan & Menar (Rajasthan)	Critical Central Asian Flyway wintering gcycles for Demoiselle Cranes & bar-headed geese	MoEFCC
Wetland City Accreditation	Indore (Sirpur & Yashwant Sagar) & Udaipur (Pichola, Fateh Sagar, etc.)	First two Indian cities accredited under the Ramsar Wetland City scheme	PIB

5. High-Yield Examination Boxes

Did You Know? In 2025–2026, **Indore (Madhya Pradesh)** and **Udaipur (Rajasthan)** became the **first two Indian cities** to receive official **Wetland City Accreditation** under the Ramsar Convention, recognizing urban centres that safeguard natural and human-made wetlands such as Sirpur Lake and Yashwant Sagar in Indore and the interconnected lake system of Udaipur (PIB).

Exam Trap Alert: Older study guides still quote 75, 80, or 85 Ramsar sites. Per the official **PIB Press Release dated 25 October 2026 (PRID=2328132)**, India had **96 Ramsar sites at the end of 2025** and has **103 Ramsar sites as of October 2026** covering **more than 13.87 lakh hectares**. Also remember that **Chilika Lake is NO LONGER in the Montreux Record**—only **Keoladeo National Park** and **Loktak Lake** remain on it.

★ **Memory Formula (103-TN-IU-KL)**: **103** Ramsar Sites in Oct 2026 (1st in Asia, 3rd globally) | **TN** = #1 State | **I**ndore & **U**daipur = 1st Wetland Cities | **K**eoladeo & **L**oktak = Montreux Record.

6. Key Statutory, Institutional & Exam-Oriented Takeaways (2026)

• **Primary Nodal Portal Verification**: All quantitative parameters and mission timelines in Chapter 3 are cross-verified with **https://moef.gov.in/** and **https://www.pib.gov.in/**.

• **Prelims Statement-Based Readiness**: Focus on exact mission architectures, nodal laboratories, implementing ministries, financial outlays, and chronological test sequences highlighted in the comparative matrix above.

• **Mains Analytical Integration**: Use the 4-node operational flowchart and institutional milestones from this chapter to substantiate GS Paper-III answers on indigenous technology self-reliance, space/defence indigenisation, and climate resilience (IUC Academy).

Chapter 4 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC))
Contextual & Institutional Overview (2026 Status)	**Primary Nodal Portal Verification**	All quantitative parameters and mission timelines in Chapter 3 are cross-verified with **https://moef.gov.in/** and **https://www.pib.gov.in/**.

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC))
Deep Analytical Breakdown & Technical Specifications	Prelims Statement-Based Readiness	Focus on exact mission architectures, nodal laboratories, implementing ministries, financial outlays, and chronological test sequences highlighted in the comparative matrix above.
Four-Node Operational & Policy Flowchart	Mains Analytical Integration	Use the 4-node operational flowchart and institutional milestones from this chapter to substantiate GS Paper-III answers on indigenous technology self-reliance, space/defence indigenisation, and climate resilience (IUC Academy).

Chapter 4 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

Chapter 4 Statement-Verification Drill #1 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Primary Nodal Portal Verification): All quantitative parameters and mission timelines in Chapter 3 are cross-verified with https://moef.gov.in/ and https://www.pib.gov.in/.

Statement-II (Prelims Statement-Based Readiness): Focus on exact mission architectures, nodal laboratories, implementing ministries, financial outlays, and chronological test sequences highlighted in the comparative matrix above.

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 4: Tiger Reserves in India 2026 (58 Reserves): Guru Ghasidas–Tamor Pingla (56th), Ratapani (57th) & Madhav (58th)

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 4: Tiger Reserves in India 2026 (58 Reserves): Guru Ghasidas–Tamor Pingla (56th), Ratapani (57th) & Madhav (58th)

- Key Study Pillar 1: Contextual & Institutional Overview (2026 Status)
- Key Study Pillar 2: Deep Analytical Breakdown & Technical Specifications
- Key Study Pillar 3: Comparative Data & Specification Matrix
- Key Study Pillar 4: High-Yield Examination Boxes

Primary Official Sources: https://moef.gov.in/ | https://www.pib.gov.in/ | https://www.iucacademy.com

1. Contextual & Institutional Overview (2026 Status)

Administered by the statutory **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** under Section 38V of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, India's Project Tiger network (launched on **1 April 1973** with 9 initial reserves) expanded to **58 notified Tiger Reserves** across **18 tiger-range states** in 2026, covering **84,487.83 sq km** (approximately **2.56%** of India's total geographical area) (MoEFCC). Home to **3,682 wild tigers** (representing **~75% of the global wild tiger population** per the 5th All-India Tiger Estimation cycle), India added three crucial reserves in the latest notification sequence: the **56th Tiger Reserve (Guru Ghasidas–Tamor Pingla in Chhattisgarh)**, the **57th Tiger Reserve (Ratapani in Madhya Pradesh)**, and the **58th Tiger Reserve (Madhav Tiger Reserve in Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh)**.

2. Deep Analytical Breakdown & Technical Specifications

• 1. **58th Tiger Reserve — Madhav Tiger Reserve (Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh)**: Notified as India's **58th Tiger Reserve** and **Madhya Pradesh's 9th Tiger Reserve** (making Madhya Pradesh the state with the highest number of Tiger Reserves in India—9 reserves, ahead of Maharashtra's 6!), **Madhav Tiger Reserve** is located in **Shivpuri district** in the northern Gwalior-Chambal region of Madhya Pradesh (PIB). It encompasses a total area of **1,751 sq km** (375 sq km core area + 1,276 sq km buffer area), contains the historic **Sakhya Sagar Lake** (a designated Ramsar Wetland!) and Madhav Sagar Lake along the Manier River, and forms a vital wildlife corridor linking **Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (Rajasthan)** with **Kuno National Park** and **Panna Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh)**.

• 2. **57th Tiger Reserve — Ratapani Tiger Reserve (Raisen & Sehore, Madhya Pradesh)**: Notified as India's **57th Tiger Reserve** (and MP's 8th), **Ratapani Tiger Reserve** spans **1,271.46 sq km** (763.81 sq km core + 507.65 sq km buffer) across the **Vindhya Range** in Raisen and Sehore districts near Bhopal, north of the Narmada River. Remarkably, the UNESCO World Heritage **Bhimbetka Rock Shelters** lie within the ecological landscape of Ratapani.

• 3. **56th Tiger Reserve — Guru Ghasidas–Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve (Chhattisgarh)**: Notified across Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur, Korea, Surajpur, and Balrampur districts of northern Chhattisgarh, India's **56th Tiger Reserve** spans **2,829.38 sq km** (2,049.2 sq km core + 780.15 sq km buffer). This makes it the **3rd largest Tiger Reserve in India by total area**—immediately after **1st Nagarjunsagar-Srisailam (Andhra Pradesh, 3,296.31 sq km)** and **2nd Manas (Assam, 2,837.1 sq km)**—and connects **Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (MP)** to **Palamau Tiger Reserve (Jharkhand)**.

• 4. **54th & 55th Tiger Reserves & All-India Tiger Census Rankings**: Earlier additions include the **54th Tiger Reserve: Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve** (Nauradehi & Durgavati sanctuaries in Sagar/Damoh/Narsinghpur, MP — MP's 7th) and the **55th Tiger Reserve: Karauli–Dholpur Tiger Reserve** (Rajasthan's 5th). By wild tiger population (total **3,682 tigers**, growing at 6.1% annually), the top states are: **1st Madhya Pradesh (785 tigers — 'Tiger State of India')**, **2nd Karnataka (563 tigers)**, **3rd Uttarakhand (560 tigers)**, and **4th Maharashtra (444 tigers)**. **Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve (Uttarakhand)** holds the highest number of tigers inside a single reserve (**260 tigers**), followed by Bandipur (150) and Nagarhole (141).

3. Four-Node Operational & Policy Flowchart

★ **4-Node Process Flow:** **[54th: Veerangana Durgavati (MP)] [56th: Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla (Chhattisgarh - 3rd Largest)] [57th: Ratapani (MP - Bhimbetka Vindhya Range)] [58th: Madhav (Shivpuri, MP - MP's 9th Reserve)]**

4. Comparative Data & Specification Matrix

Reserve Number & Name	State & Districts	Total Area / Core-Buffer	Key Ecological & Exam Features (MoEFCC)
58th: Madhav Tiger Reserve	Madhya Pradesh (Shivpuri district)	1,751 sq km (375 core + 1,276 buffer)	MP's 9th Tiger Reserve (highest in India); includes Sakhya Sagar Ramsar Wetland; links Ranthambore & Kuno/Panna

Reserve Number & Name	State & Districts	Total Area / Core-Buffer	Key Ecological & Exam Features (MoEFCC)
57th: Ratapani Tiger Reserve	Madhya Pradesh (Raisen & Sehore)	1,271.46 sq km (763.81 core + 507.65 buffer)	MP's 8th Tiger Reserve in Vindhya Range north of Narmada; houses UNESCO Bhimbetka Rock Shelters
56th: Guru Ghasidas–Tamor Pingla	Chhattisgarh (MCB, Korea, Surajpur, Balrampur)	2,829.38 sq km (2,049.2 core + 780.15 buffer)	Chhattisgarh's 4th Tiger Reserve; 3rd largest Tiger Reserve in India; links Bandhavgarh (MP) & Palamau (Jharkhand)
55th: Karauli–Dholpur Tiger Reserve	Rajasthan (Karauli & Dholpur)	1,058 sq km	Rajasthan's 5th Tiger Reserve (after Ranthambore, Sariska, Mukundra Hills, Ramgarh Vishdhari)
54th: Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve	Madhya Pradesh (Sagar, Damoh, Narsinghpur)	2,339 sq km	MP's 7th Tiger Reserve; merges Nauradehi and Durgavati sanctuaries across Narmada & Yamuna basins

5. High-Yield Examination Boxes

Did You Know? With the notification of **Veerangana Durgavati (7th)**, **Ratapani (8th)**, and **Madhav (9th)**, **Madhya Pradesh now has 9 Tiger Reserves** (Kanha, Pench, Bandhavgarh, Panna, Satpura, Sanjay-Dubri, Veerangana Durgavati, Ratapani, and Madhav)—the highest of any state in India—in addition to holding the highest wild tiger population (**785 tigers**) (PIB).

Exam Trap Alert: Memorise the exact sequence of **56th, 57th, and 58th Tiger Reserves**: **56th = Guru Ghasidas–Tamor Pingla (Chhattisgarh)**, **57th = Ratapani (Madhya Pradesh)**, and **58th = Madhav (Madhya Pradesh)**. Also note the **Top 3 Largest Tiger Reserves in India by Total Area**: **1st Nagarjunsagar-Srisailam (AP, 3,296 sq km)**, **2nd Manas (Assam, 2,837 sq km)**, and **3rd Guru Ghasidas–Tamor Pingla (Chhattisgarh, 2,829 sq km)**. Smallest by core area is **Bor Tiger Reserve (Maharashtra)**.

★ **Memory Formula (56-G / 57-R / 58-M | 9 in MP)**: **56** = **G**uru Ghasidas (Chhattisgarh) | **57** = **R**atapani (MP) | **58** = Madhav (MP) | **MP** leads both in reserves (**9**) and tigers (**785**).

6. Key Statutory, Institutional & Exam-Oriented Takeaways *(2026)*

• **Primary Nodal Portal Verification**: All quantitative parameters and mission timelines in Chapter 4 are cross-verified with **https://moef.gov.in/** and **https://www.pib.gov.in/**.

• **Prelims Statement-Based Readiness**: Focus on exact mission architectures, nodal laboratories, implementing ministries, financial outlays, and chronological test sequences highlighted in the comparative matrix above.

• **Mains Analytical Integration**: Use the 4-node operational flowchart and institutional milestones from this chapter to substantiate GS Paper-III answers on indigenous technology self-reliance, space/defence indigenisation, and climate resilience (IUC Academy).

Chapter 5 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC))
Contextual & Institutional Overview (2026 Status)	Primary Nodal Portal Verification	All quantitative parameters and mission timelines in Chapter 4 are cross-verified with https://moef.gov.in/ and https://www.pib.gov.in/.
Deep Analytical Breakdown & Technical Specifications	Prelims Statement-Based Readiness	Focus on exact mission architectures, nodal laboratories, implementing ministries, financial outlays, and chronological test sequences highlighted in the comparative matrix above.
Four-Node Operational & Policy Flowchart	Mains Analytical Integration	Use the 4-node operational flowchart and institutional milestones from this chapter to substantiate GS Paper-III answers on indigenous technology self-reliance, space/defence indigenisation, and climate resilience (IUC Academy).

Chapter 5 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

Chapter 5 Statement-Verification Drill #1 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Primary Nodal Portal Verification): All quantitative parameters and mission timelines in Chapter 4 are cross-verified with https://moef.gov.in/ and https://www.pib.gov.in/.

Statement-II (Prelims Statement-Based Readiness): Focus on exact mission architectures, nodal laboratories, implementing ministries, financial outlays, and chronological test sequences highlighted in the comparative matrix above.

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 5: International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), Project Cheetah (Kuno & Gandhi Sagar) & Species Recovery 2026

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 5: International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), Project Cheetah (Kuno & Gandhi Sagar) & Species Recovery 2026

- **Key Study Pillar 1** — Contextual & Institutional Overview (2026 Status)
- **Key Study Pillar 2** — Deep Analytical Breakdown & Technical Specifications
- **Key Study Pillar 3** — Comparative Data & Specification Matrix
- **Key Study Pillar 4** — High-Yield Examination Boxes

Primary Official Sources: https://moef.gov.in/ | https://www.pib.gov.in/ | https://www.iucacademy.com

1. Contextual & Institutional Overview (2026 Status)

In 2026, the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**—launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger and headquartered in **New Delhi, India**—operated as a full-fledged, treaty-based intergovernmental organization after its Framework Agreement entered into force (PIB). Backed by a central

budgetary allocation of **₹150 crore (2023–2028)** and administered via the National Tiger Conservation Authority (**MoEFCC**), IBCA unites 95+ range and non-range countries to conserve the world's **Seven Big Cats: Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah**.

2. Deep Analytical Breakdown & Technical Specifications

• 1. **Seven Big Cats under IBCA & Which 5 Are Found in India**: IBCA covers seven apex feline species belonging to the genera *Panthera*, *Puma*, and *Acinonyx*: **(1) Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), (2) Lion (*Panthera leo*), (3) Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), (4) Snow Leopard (*Panthera uncia*), (5) Jaguar (*Panthera onca*), (6) Puma/Cougar (*Puma concolor*), and (7) Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*)**. Out of these seven, **five Big Cats are now present in the wild in India** (Tiger, Asiatic Lion, Indian Leopard, Snow Leopard, and reintroduced Cheetah), while **two—Jaguar and Puma—are native strictly to the Americas** and are NOT found in India.

• 2. **Project Cheetah Phase-II Expansion in 2026 (Kuno National Park & Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary)**: Following the historic transcontinental translocation of 20 African Cheetahs (8 from Namibia and 12 from South Africa) to **Kuno National Park (Sheopur district, Madhya Pradesh)** and the birth of multiple litters of Indian-born cubs, India operationalised **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary (Mandsaur and Neemuch districts, Madhya Pradesh, on the Chambal River)** and **Banni Grasslands (Kutch, Gujarat)** as secondary cheetah meta-population habitats in 2025–2026 (**PIB**).

• 3. **All-India Snow Leopard Population Assessment (SPAI) & Leopard Report**: Under the first-ever scientific **Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI)** coordinated by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), India recorded **718 Snow Leopards** across six Himalayan states/UTs: **1st Ladakh (477 — 66% of India's total)**, **2nd Uttarakhand (124)**, **3rd Himachal Pradesh (51)**, **4th Arunachal Pradesh (36)**, **5th Sikkim (21)**, and **6th Jammu & Kashmir (9)**. Meanwhile, the 5th cycle **Status of Leopards in India** report estimated **13,874 Indian Leopards**, led by **1st Madhya Pradesh (3,907)**, **2nd Maharashtra (1,985)**, and **3rd Karnataka (1,879)**.

• 4. **Project Lion @ 2047 (Barda Wildlife Sanctuary), Project Dolphin & Great Indian Bustard Recovery**: Under **Project Lion**, the Asiatic Lion population in Gujarat's Saurashtra landscape expanded into **Barda Wildlife Sanctuary (Porbandar/Devbhumi Dwarka)** as a natural second home outside Gir National Park. Concurrently, under the **National Great Indian Bustard Conservation Breeding Programme** at **Sudasari (Desert National Park, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan)**, scientists achieved a global milestone by producing the world's first Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps* — IUCN Critically Endangered) chick via **artificial insemination**.

3. Four-Node Operational & Policy Flowchart

★ **4-Node Process Flow:** **[IBCA Treaty HQ: New Delhi (7 Big Cats)] [Project Cheetah: Kuno NP + Gandhi Sagar WLS] [Snow Leopard Census: 718 (Ladakh #1: 477)] [Leopard Census: 13,874 (MP #1: 3,907)]**

4. Comparative Data & Specification Matrix

Wildlife Assessment / Initiative	National Population / Status (2026)	Top State / UT Ranking	Key Conservation Sanctuary / Milestone
All-India Tiger Estimation (5th Cycle)	3,682 Tigers (~75% of world total)	1. Madhya Pradesh (785), 2. Karnataka (563), 3. Uttarakhand (560)	58 Tiger Reserves; Jim Corbett TR has highest tigers (260) (MoEFCC)
Status of Leopards in India (5th Cycle)	13,874 Leopards	1. Madhya Pradesh (3,907), 2. Maharashtra (1,985), 3. Karnataka (1,879)	Nagarjunsagar-Srisailam (AP) & Panna (MP) hold highest site density
Snow Leopard Population (SPAI)	718 Snow Leopards	1. Ladakh (477), 2. Uttarakhand (124), 3. Himachal Pradesh (51)	Hemis National Park (Ladakh) is India's Snow Leopard capital (PIB)
Project Cheetah (2026 Meta-Population)	Reintroduced African Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*)	Madhya Pradesh & Gujarat	Primary site: Kuno NP (Sheopur); Second home: Gandhi Sagar WLS (Mandsaur/Neemuch)
International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)	Treaty-Based Intergovernmental Org (HQ: India)	₹150 Crore Central Support (2023–2028)	Conserves 7 Big Cats (5 found in India; Puma & Jaguar absent in India)

5. High-Yield Examination Boxes

Did You Know? Out of the **Seven Big Cats** covered by the **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**, the **Clouded Leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*)**—the State Animal of Meghalaya found in Dampa Tiger Reserve—is taxonomically classified as a medium-sized wild cat and is **NOT one of the 7 focal Big Cats** in the IBCA list (which are Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah) (PIB).

Exam Trap Alert: UPSC and State PCS exams frequently test two traps on IBCA and Big Cat censuses: (1) **Jaguar and Puma are NOT found in India**, and **Clouded Leopard is NOT in the 7 IBCA Big Cats**; (2) **Madhya Pradesh ranks #1 in BOTH Tiger population (785) and Leopard population (3,907)**, while **Ladakh ranks #1 in Snow Leopard population (477 out of 718)**.

★ **Memory Formula (5+2=7 Big Cats | 3682-13874-718)**: **5** in India (Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah) + **2** in Americas (Puma, Jaguar) = 7 IBCA Cats | **3,682** Tigers | **13,874** Leopards | **718** Snow Leopards.

6. Key Statutory, Institutional & Exam-Oriented Takeaways *(2026)*

• **Primary Nodal Portal Verification**: All quantitative parameters and mission timelines in Chapter 5 are cross-verified with https://moef.gov.in/ and https://www.pib.gov.in/.

• **Prelims Statement-Based Readiness**: Focus on exact mission architectures, nodal laboratories, implementing ministries, financial outlays, and chronological test sequences highlighted in the comparative matrix above.

• **Mains Analytical Integration**: Use the 4-node operational flowchart and institutional milestones from this chapter to substantiate GS Paper-III answers on indigenous technology self-reliance, space/defence indigenisation, and climate resilience (IUC Academy).

Chapter 6 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC))
Contextual & Institutional Overview (2026 Status)	Primary Nodal Portal Verification	All quantitative parameters and mission timelines in Chapter 5 are cross-verified with https://moef.gov.in/ and https://www.pib.gov.in/.
Deep Analytical Breakdown & Technical Specifications	Prelims Statement-Based Readiness	Focus on exact mission architectures, nodal laboratories, implementing ministries, financial outlays, and chronological test sequences highlighted in the comparative matrix above.
Four-Node Operational & Policy Flowchart	Mains Analytical Integration	Use the 4-node operational flowchart and institutional milestones from this chapter to substantiate GS Paper-III answers on indigenous technology self-reliance, space/defence indigenisation, and climate resilience (IUC Academy).

Chapter 6 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

Chapter 6 Statement-Verification Drill #1 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Primary Nodal Portal Verification): All quantitative parameters and mission timelines in Chapter 5 are cross-verified with https://moef.gov.in/ and https://www.pib.gov.in/.

Statement-II (Prelims Statement-Based Readiness): Focus on exact mission architectures, nodal laboratories, implementing ministries, financial outlays, and chronological test sequences highlighted in the comparative matrix above.

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 6: Indian Carbon Market (CCTS) 2026, Green Credit Programme & National Green Hydrogen Mission

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 6: Indian Carbon Market (CCTS) 2026, Green Credit Programme & National Green Hydrogen Mission

- **Key Study Pillar 1** — Contextual & Institutional Overview (2026 Status)
- **Key Study Pillar 2** — Deep Analytical Breakdown & Technical Specifications
- **Key Study Pillar 3** — Comparative Data & Specification Matrix
- **Key Study Pillar 4** — High-Yield Examination Boxes

Primary Official Sources: https://www.pib.gov.in/ | https://moef.gov.in/ | https://www.iucacademy.com

1. Contextual & Institutional Overview (2026 Status)

As highlighted in the official PIB backgcycleer '*India's Green Pathway: From Conservation to Climate Action*' (April 2026, PRID=2249751, PIB), India operationalised its domestic **Indian Carbon Market (ICM)** under the **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS)** in 2026, transitioning energy-intensive industries from the Perform, Achieve and

Trade (PAT) energy-efficiency regime to mandatory **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission Intensity targets**. Simultaneously, the **National Green Hydrogen Mission (₹19,744 crore)** advanced electrolyser manufacturing and green ammonia auctions, while the **Green Credit Programme (GCP)** incentivised non-carbon ecological actions.

2. Deep Analytical Breakdown & Technical Specifications

• 1. **Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) & Statutory Governance**: Framed under the amended **Energy Conservation Act, 2001** (notified by the Ministry of Power in consultation with MoEFCC), the Indian Carbon Market is governed by the **National Steering Committee for Indian Carbon Market (NSC-ICM)** co-chaired by the Secretaries of the Ministry of Power and MoEFCC. The institutional architecture comprises: (i) **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** as the **Administrator** (setting targets and issuing Carbon Credit Certificates — **1 CCC = 1 tonne of CO2 equivalent [tCO2e]**), (ii) **Grid Controller of India Limited** as the **Registry**, and (iii) **Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)** as the **Market Regulator** for trading on power exchanges (IEX, PXIL, HPX).

• 2. **Nine Mandatory Compliance Sectors & Offset Mechanism (2026)**: Under the **Compliance Mechanism** operationalised for 2025–2026 and 2026–2027 cycles, MoEFCC and the Ministry of Power notified binding **GHG Emission Intensity targets (tCO2e per unit of output)** across **9 energy-intensive industrial sectors: (1) Aluminium, (2) Chlor-Alkali, (3) Cement, (4) Fertiliser, (5) Iron & Steel, (6) Pulp & Paper, (7) Petrochemicals, (8) Petroleum Refinery, and (9) Textiles** (PIB). Obligated entities that reduce emissions below their target earn **Carbon Credit Certificates (CCCs)** to sell on exchanges, while entities falling short must purchase CCCs. A parallel **Voluntary Offset Mechanism** allows non-obligated entities in green hydrogen, offshore wind, compressed biogas, biochar, and reforestation to generate credits.

• 3. **Green Credit Programme (GCP) under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**: Unlike the carbon market (which measures only CO2e), the **Green Credit Rules** notified by MoEFCC under Mission LiFE and administered by the **Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE, Dehradun)** cover **8 non-carbon environmental activities**: Tree Plantation, Water Management, Sustainable Agriculture, Waste Management, Air Pollution Reduction, Mangrove Conservation/Restoration, Ecomark Labelling, and Sustainable Building/Infrastructure.

• 4. **National Green Hydrogen Mission (SIGHT Programme — 2026 Status)**: Backed by **₹19,744 crore** (including ₹17,490 crore for the **SIGHT — Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition** scheme) under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), India targets **5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) per annum** of Green Hydrogen production capacity by 2030, associated with **125 GW of dedicated renewable energy capacity** and abatement of **50 MMT of annual GHG emissions** (PIB). Under India's official definition, **Green Hydrogen** (whether produced via water electrolysis or biomass conversion) must have well-to-gate emissions **not exceeding 2 kg CO2 equivalent per kg of H2**.

3. Four-Node Operational & Policy Flowchart

★ **4-Node Process Flow: [Energy Conservation Act + Environment Protection Act] [BEE (Administrator) + Grid Controller (Registry) + CERC (Regulator)] [9 Compliance Sectors (tCO2e/unit Target)] [1 CCC = 1 Tonne CO2e Traded on Power Exchanges]**

4. Comparative Data & Specification Matrix

Green Market / Mission Mechanism	Statutory Act & Nodal Administrator	Core Quantitative Benchmark / Target	Key Operational Features in 2026 (PIB)		
Indian Carbon Market (CCTS)	Energy Conservation Act, 2001	Administrator: BEE	1 Carbon Credit Certificate (CCC) = 1 tonne CO2e	9 mandatory compliance sectors; Registry: Grid Controller of India; Regulator: CERC	
Green Credit Programme (GCP)	Environment (Protection) Act, 1986	Administrator: ICFRE Dehradun	8 Environmental Activities (Tree plantation, mangroves, water, etc.)	Voluntary market instrument under Mission LiFE; independent of carbon credits	
National Green Hydrogen Mission	MNRE (SIGHT Outlay: ₹17,490 Cr out of ₹19,744 Cr)	5 MMT/annum Green H2 + 125 GW RE capacity by 2030	Official standard: ≤ 2 kg CO2e emitted per 1 kg of Green Hydrogen produced		
PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana	Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)	₹75,021 Crore	1 Crore Households	300 Units Free/Month	Subsidy: ₹30,000 (1 kW), ₹60,000 (2 kW), ₹78,000 (3 kW or higher rooftop solar)
Offshore Wind VGF Scheme	MNRE	₹7,453 Crore Viability Gap Funding	1 GW Initial Offshore Wind (500 MW Gujarat + 500 MW Tamil Nadu)	Includes ₹600 crore for upgrading two coastal ports for wind turbine logistics	

5. High-Yield Examination Boxes

Did You Know? Under India's **Green Hydrogen Standard** notified by MNRE, hydrogen qualifies as **'Green Hydrogen'** only if the non-biogenic greenhouse gas emissions across the entire production chain (water treatment, electrolysis, gas purification, and drying) averaged over 12 months **do not exceed 2 kilograms of CO2 equivalent per kilogram of Hydrogen (≤ 2 kg CO2e / kg H2)** (PIB).

Exam Trap Alert: Keep the three institutional roles in the **Indian Carbon Market (CCTS)** distinct: **Administrator = Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**, **Registry = Grid Controller of India**, and **Trading Regulator = Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)** (NOT SEBI!). Conversely, for the **Green Credit Programme (GCP)** under MoEFCC, the Administrator is **ICFRE (Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education), Dehradun**.

★ **Memory Formula (BEE-GCI-CERC-9 / GCP-ICFRE-8 / H2-5-125-2)**: CCTS = **BEE** (Admin) + **GCI** (Registry) + **CERC** (Regulator) + **9** Sectors | GCP = **ICFRE** + **8** Activities | Green H2 = **5** MMT + **125** GW RE + **≤2** kg CO2/kg H2.

6. Key Statutory, Institutional & Exam-Oriented Takeaways (2026)

• **Primary Nodal Portal Verification**: All quantitative parameters and mission timelines in Chapter 6 are cross-verified with https://www.pib.gov.in/ and https://moef.gov.in/.

• **Prelims Statement-Based Readiness**: Focus on exact mission architectures, nodal laboratories, implementing ministries, financial outlays, and chronological test sequences highlighted in the comparative matrix above.

• **Mains Analytical Integration**: Use the 4-node operational flowchart and institutional milestones from this chapter to substantiate GS Paper-III answers on indigenous technology self-reliance, space/defence indigenisation, and climate resilience (IUC Academy).

Chapter 7 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC))
Contextual & Institutional Overview (2026 Status)	Primary Nodal Portal Verification	All quantitative parameters and mission timelines in Chapter 6 are cross-verified with https://www.pib.gov.in/ and https://moef.gov.in/.
Deep Analytical Breakdown & Technical Specifications	Prelims Statement-Based Readiness	Focus on exact mission architectures, nodal laboratories, implementing ministries, financial outlays, and chronological test sequences highlighted in the comparative matrix above.
Four-Node Operational & Policy Flowchart	Mains Analytical Integration	Use the 4-node operational flowchart and institutional milestones from this chapter to substantiate GS Paper-III answers on indigenous technology self-reliance, space/defence indigenisation, and climate resilience (IUC Academy).

Chapter 7 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

Chapter 7 Statement-Verification Drill #1 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Primary Nodal Portal Verification): All quantitative parameters and mission timelines in Chapter 6 are cross-verified with https://www.pib.gov.in/ and https://moef.gov.in/.

Statement-II (Prelims Statement-Based Readiness): Focus on exact mission architectures, nodal laboratories, implementing ministries, financial outlays, and chronological test sequences highlighted in the comparative matrix above.

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 7: Biodiversity Governance, Biosphere Reserves, Elephant Reserves & Wildlife Protection Rules *2026*

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 7: Biodiversity Governance, Biosphere Reserves, Elephant Reserves & Wildlife Protection Rules 2026

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2	Key Study Pillar 3	Key Study Pillar 4
Contextual & Institutional Overview (2026 Status)	Deep Analytical Breakdown & Technical Specifications	Comparative Data & Specification Matrix	High-Yield Examination Boxes

Primary Official Sources: https://moef.gov.in/ | https://www.pib.gov.in/ | https://www.iucacademy.com

1. Contextual & Institutional Overview *(2026* Status*)*

In 2026, India strengthened its domestic biodiversity regulatory architecture through the implementation of the **Biological Diversity (Amendment) Act** and updated Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) regulations, the **Wildlife (Protection) Licensing Rules**, expansion of the **Project Elephant** network (**33 Elephant Reserves** across 14 states), and management of **18 Biosphere Reserves (12 in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves — WNBR)** (MoEFCC).

2. Deep Analytical Breakdown & Technical Specifications

• 1. **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 Rationalised Schedules (4 Schedules instead of 6)**: Under the amended Wildlife (Protection) Act in force in 2026, the earlier 6 schedules (including the old Vermin Schedule V) have been rationalised into **Four Schedules**: **Schedule I** (Animal species with the highest level of legal protection), **Schedule II** (Animal species with a lesser degree of protection), **Schedule III** (Protected Plant species), and **Schedule IV** (Specimens listed in the Appendices of **CITES** — Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). Furthermore, the **2024–2026 Wildlife (Protection) Licensing Rules** updated regulations regarding trade in snake venom, captive elephant transfer certificates, and taxidermy.

• 2. **Project Elephant & 33 Elephant Reserves in India**: Launched in **February 1992** as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (and now merged with Project Tiger as **Project Tiger and Elephant Division**), India has **33 notified Elephant Reserves** across 14 states. The **33rd Elephant Reserve** is **Terai Elephant Reserve (TER)** in **Uttar Pradesh** (spanning 3,049 sq km across **Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, Kishanpur, and Katarniaghat**), which is UP's 2nd Elephant Reserve. The 31st and 32nd reserves were **Lemru (Chhattisgarh)** and **Agasthyamalai (Tamil Nadu)** respectively. By wild Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*) population, the top states are **1st Karnataka (6,395)**, **2nd Assam (5,719)**, and **3rd Kerala (3,054)**.

• 3. **India's 18 Biosphere Reserves & 12 UNESCO WNBR Sites**: India has designated **18 Biosphere Reserves** under the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) criteria—beginning with the **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (1986, spanning Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka)** and ending with **Panna Biosphere Reserve (2011, Madhya Pradesh)**. Out of these 18, **12 are internationally recognised in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)** (the 12th being **Panna Biosphere Reserve**; the **6 Biosphere Reserves NOT in UNESCO**

WNBR are **Manas, Dibru-Saikhowa, Dihang-Dibang, Kachchh [largest BR by area], Cold Desert, and Seshachalam Hills**).

• 4. **People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR), Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) & Living Animal Species Rules**: Administered via the three-tier structure of the **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA, Chennai)**, State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs), and local **Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs)**, India expanded its **Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS)** under Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002—including **Gupteswar Forest (Koraput, Odisha)** and **Mandagadde Bird Sanctuary (Shivamogga, Karnataka)**—while enforcing mandatory digital reporting on the **PARIVESH 2.0** portal for any person possessing exotic CITES-listed living animal species under Section 49M (**MoEFCC**).

3. Four-Node Operational & Policy Flowchart

★ **4-Node Process Flow:** **[Wildlife Protection Act: 4 Rationalised Schedules] [33 Elephant Reserves (33rd: Terai ER, UP)] [18 Biosphere Reserves (12 in UNESCO WNBR)] [NBA Chennai + SBB + BMC Biodiversity Heritage Sites]**

4. Comparative Data & Specification Matrix

Conservation Network / Statutory Law	Total Count / Key Structure (2026)	Newest / Largest / First Entry	Important Exam Distinction (MoEFCC)
Wildlife (Protection) Act Schedules	4 Schedules (reduced from earlier 6)	Schedule IV is dedicated to CITES Appendices	Old 'Vermin' Schedule V was abolished; Central Govt notifies vermin directly
Elephant Reserves in India	33 Elephant Reserves across 14 States	33rd: Terai Elephant Reserve (Dudhwa-Pilibhit, UP); 32nd: Agasthyamalai (TN)	1st ER: Singhbhum (Jharkhand, 2001); Top elephant population: 1. Karnataka, 2. Assam
Biosphere Reserves in India	18 National Biosphere Reserves (12 in UNESCO WNBR)	1st: Nilgiri (1986); Largest: Rann of Kachchh (Gujarat); Smallest: Dibru-Saikhowa (Assam)	12th in UNESCO WNBR: Panna (MP); 6 BRs (Manas, Kachchh, Cold Desert, etc.) are outside WNBR
Biodiversity Act Governance	3-Tier: NBA (Chennai) + SBBs + Local BMCs	BMCs maintain People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs)	Section 37 empowers State Govts (with local bodies) to notify Biodiversity Heritage Sites
Vulture Conservation Action Plan	Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centres (Pinjore, Rani, Buxa, Bhopal)	Ban on veterinary NSAIDs: Diclofenac, Ketoprofen, Aceclofenac, Nimesulide	Meloxicam and Tolfenamic acid are verified safe veterinary alternatives for cattle

5. High-Yield Examination Boxes

Did You Know? To save India's Critically Endangered *Gyps* vultures (White-rumped, Indian Long-billed, and Slender-billed vultures)
from renal failure caused by feeding on treated cattle carcasses, the Government of India banned veterinary use of **Diclofenac (2006)**, **Ketoprofen and Aceclofenac (2023)**, and **Nimesulide (2026 Compendium)**, while promoting **Meloxicam** and **Tolfenamic Acid** as vulture-safe non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (**PIB**).

Exam Trap Alert: Remember two classic traps: (1) Under the amended **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, there are now **4 Schedules** (Schedule I = Highest protection animals, Schedule II = Lower protection animals, Schedule III = Protected plants, Schedule IV = CITES species)—the old Schedule V (Vermin) no longer exists as a schedule! (2) Among **18 Biosphere Reserves**, **Kachchh (Gujarat)** and **Manas (Assam)** are Indian Biosphere Reserves, but they are **NOT in the 12 UNESCO WNBR list** (even though Manas is a UNESCO World Heritage Site!).

★ **Memory Formula (4-Schedules / 33-Terai / 18-12=6 BRs)**: **4** WPA Schedules (I-II Animals, III Plants, IV CITES) | **33**rd Elephant Reserve = **Terai (UP)** | **18** Biosphere Reserves (**12** in UNESCO WNBR, **6** outside).

6. Key Statutory, Institutional & Exam-Oriented Takeaways *(2026)*

• **Primary Nodal Portal Verification**: All quantitative parameters and mission timelines in Chapter 7 are cross-verified with **https://moef.gov.in/** and **https://www.pib.gov.in/**.

• **Prelims Statement-Based Readiness**: Focus on exact mission architectures, nodal laboratories, implementing ministries, financial outlays, and chronological test sequences highlighted in the comparative matrix above.

• **Mains Analytical Integration**: Use the 4-node operational flowchart and institutional milestones from this chapter to substantiate GS Paper-III answers on indigenous technology self-reliance, space/defence indigenisation, and climate resilience (**IUC Academy**).

Chapter *8* Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC))
Contextual & Institutional Overview (2026 Status)	**Primary Nodal Portal Verification**	All quantitative parameters and mission timelines in Chapter 7 are cross-verified with **https://moef.gov.in/** and **https://www.pib.gov.in/**.
Deep Analytical Breakdown & Technical Specifications	**Prelims Statement-Based Readiness**	Focus on exact mission architectures, nodal laboratories, implementing ministries, financial outlays, and chronological test sequences highlighted in the comparative matrix above.
Four-Node Operational & Policy Flowchart	**Mains Analytical Integration**	Use the 4-node operational flowchart and institutional milestones from this chapter to substantiate GS Paper-III answers on indigenous technology self-reliance, space/defence indigenisation, and climate resilience (IUC Academy).

Chapter 8 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

Chapter 8 Statement-Verification Drill #1 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Primary Nodal Portal Verification): All quantitative parameters and mission timelines in Chapter 7 are cross-verified with https://moef.gov.in/ and https://www.pib.gov.in/.

Statement-II (Prelims Statement-Based Readiness): Focus on exact mission architectures, nodal laboratories, implementing ministries, financial outlays, and chronological test sequences highlighted in the comparative matrix above.

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 8: Pollution Control, Circular Economy, Global Plastics Treaty, E-Waste Rules & NCAP 2026

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 8: Pollution Control, Circular Economy, Global Plastics Treaty, E-Waste Rules & NCAP 2026

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2	Key Study Pillar 3	Key Study Pillar 4
Contextual & Institutional Overview (2026 Status)	Deep Analytical Breakdown & Technical Specifications	Comparative Data & Specification Matrix	High-Yield Examination Boxes

Primary Official Sources: https://moef.gov.in/ | https://www.pib.gov.in/ | https://www.iucacademy.com

1. Contextual & Institutional Overview (2026 Status)

Cycleing out India's 2026 environmental governance framework are the strengthened **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP — targeting a 40% reduction in PM10/PM2.5 by 2026 across 131 non-attainment cities)**, Extended Producer Responsibility (**EPR**) trading portals across **Plastic, E-Waste, Battery, Waste Tyre, Used Oil, and End-of-Life Vehicles**, **Swachh Vayu Survekshan** rankings, **Blue Flag Beaches**, and multilateral negotiations on the **Global Plastics Treaty** and **BBNJ High Seas Treaty** (PIB).

2. Deep Analytical Breakdown & Technical Specifications

• 1. **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP — 2026 Target Year) & PRANA Portal**: Launched in 2019 by MoEFCC across **131 non-attainment and million-plus cities**, NCAP initially aimed for a 20–30% reduction in Particulate Matter (PM10 and PM2.5) by 2024 (over a 2017–18 baseline), which was subsequently revised to a **40% reduction in PM concentrations by 2025–2026**. Progress is tracked in real time on the **PRANA (Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in Non-Attainment cities)** dashboard, and cities are ranked annually under **Swachh Vayu Survekshan** (with **Surat, Jabalpur, and Agra** leading the >10 lakh population category) (PIB).

• 2. **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) & Circular Economy Rules in 2026**: Operated by the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** via centralized online EPR certificate trading portals, India enforces market-based circular economy rules across: (i) **E-Waste (Management) Rules** (covering **106 categories of electrical and electronic equipment across 7 schedules**, including **solar photovoltaic panels/cells**, with mandatory recycling of gold, copper, aluminium, and iron), (ii) **Battery Waste Management Rules** (covering EV, portable,

automotive, and industrial batteries with mandatory minimum domestic recycled content in new batteries), (iii) **Plastic Waste Management Rules** (ban on identified Single-Use Plastic items and mandatory recycled plastic content in rigid/flexible packaging from 2025–2026), and (iv) **Construction & Demolition (C&D) Waste and End-of-Life Vehicles (ELV) Rules (effective April 2025–2026)**.

• 3. **BBNJ High Seas Treaty (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction) & Global Plastics Treaty (INC-5)**: India signed the historic **UN BBNJ Agreement ('High Seas Treaty')** under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (**UNCLOS**), which requires 60 ratifications to enter into force and provides the first legal mechanism to establish **Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in international waters** (beyond the 200-nautical-mile Exclusive Economic Zone) to help achieve the Kunming-Montreal **'30x30' target** (conserving 30% of land and oceans by 2030). Meanwhile, following INC-5 in Busan and resumed negotiations in 2025–2026, nations worked on a legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution.

• 4. **Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam Campaign & Blue Flag Beaches**: Launched on World Environment Day (**5 June**) by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the **'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' (#Plant4Mother)** mass afforestation movement exceeded **100 crore (1 billion) saplings planted across India**, documented via the MeriLiFE portal (**PIB**). Simultaneously, India maintains **12 Blue Flag-certified eco-beaches** awarded by the **Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), Denmark**—including **Minicoy Thundi Beach and Kadmat Beach in Lakshadweep**, Rushikonda (AP), Golden Beach (Puri, Odisha), Shivrajpur (Gujarat), and Radhanagar (Andaman & Nicobar Islands).

3. Four-Node Operational & Policy Flowchart

★ **4-Node Process Flow:** **[NCAP 2026 Target: 40% PM10 Reduction in 131 Cities] [CPCB EPR Portals: E-Waste (106 Items), Batteries, Plastics, ELVs] [Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam: 100+ Crore Trees] [UN BBNJ High Seas Treaty & 30x30 Target]**

4. Comparative Data & Specification Matrix

Environmental Policy / Treaty	Nodal Authority / International Body	2026 Quantitative Benchmark / Scope	Key Exam Takeaway (PIB)
National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)	MoEFCC & CPCB (Monitored via PRANA Portal)	40% reduction in PM10/PM2.5 by 2026 across 131 cities	Base year: 2017–18; Surat ranked 1st in Swachh Vayu Survekshan (>10L cities)
E-Waste (Management) Rules	Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)	106 Electrical & Electronic items across 7 Schedules	Explicitly includes Solar PV modules/cells; tradable EPR recycling certificates
UN BBNJ Agreement (High Seas Treaty)	United Nations (under UNCLOS)	Applies beyond 200 nautical miles EEZ (~two-thirds of global ocean)	4 Pillars: Marine Genetic Resources, Area-Based MPAs, EIAs, Capacity Building
Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam (#Plant4Mother)	MoEFCC & State Forest Departments (MeriLiFE)	100+ Crore (1+ Billion) saplings planted nationwide	World's largest community-led plantation movement under Mission LiFE (**PIB**)

Environmental Policy / Treaty	Nodal Authority / International Body	2026 Quantitative Benchmark / Scope	Key Exam Takeaway (PIB)
Blue Flag Certified Beaches in India	Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), Denmark	12 Certified Beaches in India (including Thundi & Kadmat in Lakshadweep)	33 stringent criteria across water quality, safety, environmental education & management

5. High-Yield Examination Boxes

Did You Know? Under India's **E-Waste (Management) Rules**, **Solar Photovoltaic (PV) modules, panels, and cells** are explicitly regulated: every solar manufacturer and importer must register on the CPCB portal, maintain an inventory of solar panels placed on the market, and store end-of-life solar waste until 2034–2035 for specialised silicon and silver recovery (MoEFCC).

Exam Trap Alert: Do not confuse the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** with the **National Air Quality Index (NAQI)**: **NCAP** tracks **PM10 and PM2.5** across **131 non-attainment cities** (targeting a **40% reduction by 2026** on a 2017–18 baseline) and **does NOT include CO2**, while **NAQI** (6 colour categories from Good to Severe) measures **8 pollutants**: **PM10, PM2.5, NO2, SO2, CO, O3 (Ozone), NH3 (Ammonia), and Pb (Lead)**—and **neither CO2 nor Methane (CH4) is in NAQI**!

★ **Memory Formula (NCAP-40-131 / NAQI-8-NoCO2 / E-106)**: **NCAP** = **40%** PM reduction by 2026 in **131** cities | **NAQI** = **8** pollutants (**NO CO2 or CH4**) | E-Waste = **106** items (including Solar PV).

6. Key Statutory, Institutional & Exam-Oriented Takeaways (2026)

• **Primary Nodal Portal Verification**: All quantitative parameters and mission timelines in Chapter 8 are cross-verified with **https://moef.gov.in/** and **https://www.pib.gov.in/**.

• **Prelims Statement-Based Readiness**: Focus on exact mission architectures, nodal laboratories, implementing ministries, financial outlays, and chronological test sequences highlighted in the comparative matrix above.

• **Mains Analytical Integration**: Use the 4-node operational flowchart and institutional milestones from this chapter to substantiate GS Paper-III answers on indigenous technology self-reliance, space/defence indigenisation, and climate resilience (IUC Academy).

Chapter 9 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC))
Contextual & Institutional Overview (2026 Status)	**Primary Nodal Portal Verification**	All quantitative parameters and mission timelines in Chapter 8 are cross-verified with **https://moef.gov.in/** and **https://www.pib.gov.in/**.
Deep Analytical Breakdown & Technical Specifications	**Prelims Statement-Based Readiness**	Focus on exact mission architectures, nodal laboratories, implementing ministries, financial outlays, and chronological test sequences highlighted in the comparative matrix above.

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC))
Four-Node Operational & Policy Flowchart	**Mains Analytical Integration**	Use the 4-node operational flowchart and institutional milestones from this chapter to substantiate GS Paper-III answers on indigenous technology self-reliance, space/defence indigenisation, and climate resilience (IUC Academy).

Chapter 9 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

Chapter 9 Statement-Verification Drill #1 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Primary Nodal Portal Verification): All quantitative parameters and mission timelines in Chapter 8 are cross-verified with https://moef.gov.in/ and https://www.pib.gov.in/.

Statement-II (Prelims Statement-Based Readiness): Focus on exact mission architectures, nodal laboratories, implementing ministries, financial outlays, and chronological test sequences highlighted in the comparative matrix above.

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy.**

BOOK CA12 — 45 Solved 4-Option Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs)

Each question below is designed on the latest UPSC, State PCS, SSC, and Defence examination pattern with four distinct options and a verified explanation gcycleed in official sources (PIB, IUC Academy).

Practice Question #1 — Solved Exam MCQ

Question 1. Where is the 31st UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP31) held from 9 to 20 November 2026?
(A) Belém, Brazil
(B) Antalya, Türkiye
(C) Baku, Azerbaijan
(D) Sydney, Australia

Correct Answer: (B)

Analytical Explanation: UNFCCC COP31 takes place in Antalya, Türkiye from 9 to 20 November 2026 under COP31 President-Designate Murat Kurum, in a joint partnership arrangement with Australia (Chris Bowen) (PIB).

Practice Question #2 — Solved Exam MCQ

Question 2. According to the official PIB release dated 25 October 2026 (PRID=2328132), what is the total number of designated Ramsar Sites in India as of October 2026?
(A) 85 Ramsar Sites
(B) 91 Ramsar Sites
(C) 96 Ramsar Sites
(D) 103 Ramsar Sites

Correct Answer: (D)

Analytical Explanation: As of October 2026, India has 103 Ramsar Sites covering more than 13.87 lakh hectares across 28 States and Union Territories, ranking 1st in Asia and 3rd in the world (PIB).

Practice Question #3 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 3. As of 2026, how many notified Tiger Reserves exist in India, and which reserve was notified as the 58th Tiger Reserve?
(A) 56 reserves — Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla
(B) 57 reserves — Ratapani Tiger Reserve
(C) 58 reserves — Madhav Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh)
(D) 59 reserves — Sunabeda Tiger Reserve
Correct Answer: (C)
Analytical Explanation: India has 58 notified Tiger Reserves across 18 states covering 84,487.83 sq km; the 58th is Madhav Tiger Reserve in Shivpuri district, Madhya Pradesh (**MoEFCC**).

Practice Question #4 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 4. According to the 18th India State of Forest Report (ISFR), what percentage of India's total geographical area is covered by combined Forest and Tree Cover?
(A) 21.76%
(B) 24.62%
(C) 25.17% (8,27,357 sq km)
(D) 33.33%
Correct Answer: (C)
Analytical Explanation: Total Forest and Tree Cover in India stands at 8,27,357 sq km, which is 25.17% of the geographical area (21.76% Forest Cover + 3.41% Tree Cover) (**FSI**).

Practice Question #5 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 5. In the 18th India State of Forest Report (ISFR), what is the exact breakdown between Forest Cover alone and Tree Cover alone as a percentage of India's geographical area?
(A) Forest Cover: 21.76% | Tree Cover: 3.41%
(B) Forest Cover: 20.50% | Tree Cover: 4.67%
(C) Forest Cover: 22.15% | Tree Cover: 3.02%
(D) Forest Cover: 24.01% | Tree Cover: 1.16%
Correct Answer: (A)
Analytical Explanation: Forest Cover is 7,15,342.61 sq km (21.76%) and Tree Cover is 1,12,014.34 sq km (3.41%), totalling 8,27,357 sq km (25.17%) (**FSI**).

Practice Question #6 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 6. Which three states recorded the maximum net increase in combined Forest and Tree Cover according to the 18th ISFR?
(A) Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Odisha
(B) Chhattisgarh (+684 sq km), Uttar Pradesh (+559 sq km), and Odisha (+559 sq km)
(C) Mizoram, Gujarat, and Nagaland
(D) Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Kerala
Correct Answer: (B)
Analytical Explanation: For combined Forest and Tree Cover, the top gainers are 1st Chhattisgarh (+683.62 sq km), 2nd Uttar Pradesh (+559.19 sq km), 3rd Odisha (+558.57 sq km), and 4th Rajasthan (+394.46 sq km) (**FSI**).

Practice Question #7 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 7. If a question asks specifically for the state recording the maximum net increase in Forest Cover ALONE (excluding tree cover outside forests) in the 18th ISFR, which state ranks first?
(A) Mizoram (+242 sq km)
(B) Chhattisgarh
(C) Uttar Pradesh
(D) Karnataka
Correct Answer: (A)
Analytical Explanation: For Forest Cover alone, the top three gainers are 1st Mizoram (+242 sq km), 2nd Gujarat (+180 sq km), and 3rd Odisha (+152 sq km) (**FSI**).

Practice Question #8 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 8. Which three states have the largest area under Forest Cover alone in India per the 18th ISFR?
(A) Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh
(B) Arunachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Odisha
(C) Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Uttarakhand
(D) Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and Jharkhand
Correct Answer: (A)
Analytical Explanation: By Forest Cover area alone, the top three states are 1st Madhya Pradesh (77,073 sq km), 2nd Arunachal Pradesh (65,882 sq km), and 3rd Chhattisgarh (55,812 sq km) (**FSI**).

Practice Question #9 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 9. What is India's total forest carbon stock reported in the 18th ISFR, and what is its CO2 equivalent?
(A) 5,500 million tonnes (20.1 billion tonnes CO2e)
(B) 7,285.5 million tonnes (30.43 billion tonnes CO2e)
(C) 9,100 million tonnes (33.4 billion tonnes CO2e)
(D) 4,200 million tonnes (15.4 billion tonnes CO2e)
Correct Answer: (B)
Analytical Explanation: India's forest carbon stock reached 7,285.5 million tonnes (an increase of 81.5 Mt), equivalent to 30.43 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent (**PIB**).

Practice Question #10 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 10. Which state/UT holds the highest percentage of its geographical area under forest cover (1) overall including UTs, and (2) among States?
(A) Andaman & Nicobar Islands (overall) and Arunachal Pradesh (States)
(B) Lakshadweep (91.33% overall) and Mizoram (85.34% among States)
(C) Mizoram (overall) and Nagaland (States)
(D) Goa (overall) and Kerala (States)
Correct Answer: (B)
Analytical Explanation: Lakshadweep ranks 1st overall (91.33%), while Mizoram ranks 1st among States (85.34%), followed by Arunachal Pradesh (78.67%) and Meghalaya (75.65%) (**FSI**).

Practice Question #11 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 11. Which global blended-finance mechanism was launched at UNFCCC COP30 in Belém, Brazil to pay tropical forest nations an annual performance fee per hectare of conserved standing forest?
(A) Green Climate Fund 2.0
(B) Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF)
(C) Amazonia Carbon Trust
(D) Global Biofuel Alliance
Correct Answer: (B)
Analytical Explanation: Spearheaded by Brazil at COP30 in Belém, the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF) aims to mobilise $125 billion to reward tropical countries for keeping standing forests intact (**PIB**).

Practice Question #12 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 12. Under the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on Climate Finance agreed under the UNFCCC framework, what is the core annual climate finance mobilisation target for developed countries by 2035?
(A) $100 billion per year
(B) 300 billion per year (scaling toward 1.3 trillion/year from all sources)
(C) $500 billion per year
(D) $2.5 trillion per year
Correct Answer: (B)
Analytical Explanation: The NCQG sets a core goal of at least $300 billion per year by 2035 from developed countries, alongside the Baku-to-Belém Roadmap to mobilise $1.3 trillion per year from public and private sources (**PIB**).

Practice Question #13 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 13. What is the 'Cali Fund' established at UNCBD COP16 in Cali, Colombia?
(A) A fund to clean plastic waste from the Pacific Ocean
(B) A multilateral fund where commercial users of Digital Sequence Information (DSI) of genetic resources contribute a share of profits/revenue to biodiversity conservation
(C) A sovereign debt relief fund for Andean nations
(D) An emergency fund for forest fire suppression
Correct Answer: (B)
Analytical Explanation: The Cali Fund operationalises fair and equitable benefit-sharing from Digital Sequence Information (DSI) on genetic resources, asking pharmaceutical, biotech, and agribusiness firms to contribute 1% of profits or 0.1% of revenue (**MoEFCC**).

Practice Question #14 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 14. In total number of designated Ramsar Sites (103 as of October 2026), what is India's rank in Asia and in the world?
(A) 1st in Asia and 1st in the world
(B) 1st in Asia and 3rd in the world (after UK and Mexico)
(C) 2nd in Asia and 4th in the world
(D) 1st in Asia and 5th in the world
Correct Answer: (B)
Analytical Explanation: With 103 Ramsar Sites as of October 2026, India ranks 1st in Asia and 3rd globally behind the United Kingdom (175) and Mexico (144) (**PIB**).

Practice Question #15 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 15. Which Indian state has the highest number of Ramsar Sites in 2026?
(A) Uttar Pradesh
(B) Tamil Nadu (20 Ramsar Sites)
(C) Odisha
(D) Maharashtra
Correct Answer: (B)
Analytical Explanation: Tamil Nadu leads all Indian states with 20 designated Ramsar Sites (MoEFCC).

Practice Question #16 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 16. Which two Indian cities became the first in the country to receive international 'Wetland City Accreditation' under the Ramsar Convention?
(A) Bhopal and Srinagar
(B) Indore (Madhya Pradesh) and Udaipur (Rajasthan)
(C) Kochi and Kolkata
(D) Guwahati and Puri
Correct Answer: (B)
Analytical Explanation: Indore and Udaipur became the first two Indian cities accredited under the Ramsar Convention's Wetland City Accreditation scheme (PIB).

Practice Question #17 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 17. Which wetland was designated as Sikkim's first-ever Ramsar Site, and which bird sanctuary became Jharkhand's first-ever Ramsar Site?
(A) Tsomgo Lake (Sikkim) and Dalma Sanctuary (Jharkhand)
(B) Khecheopalri Wetland (Sikkim) and Udhwa Lake Bird Sanctuary (Jharkhand)
(C) Gurudongmar Lake (Sikkim) and Hazaribagh Sanctuary (Jharkhand)
(D) Tamze Wetland (Sikkim) and Palamau Lake (Jharkhand)
Correct Answer: (B)
Analytical Explanation: Khecheopalri Wetland in Gyalshing district became Sikkim's first Ramsar Site, and Udhwa Lake Bird Sanctuary in Sahibganj district became Jharkhand's first Ramsar Site (PIB).

Practice Question #18 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 18. Which two Indian Ramsar Sites are currently listed in the Montreux Record?
(A) Chilika Lake and Sundarban Wetland
(B) Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) and Loktak Lake (Manipur)
(C) Wular Lake and Harike Wetland
(D) Sambhar Lake and Vembanad-Kol Wetland
Correct Answer: (B)
Analytical Explanation: Only Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) and Loktak Lake (Manipur) are currently in the Montreux Record; Chilika Lake (Odisha) was removed from the Montreux Record in 2002 after ecological restoration (MoEFCC).

Practice Question #19 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 19. What is the correct chronological order of India's 56th, 57th, and 58th Tiger Reserves?
(A) 56th Ratapani 57th Madhav 58th Guru Ghasidas
(B) 56th Guru Ghasidas–Tamor Pingla (Chhattisgarh) 57th Ratapani (MP) 58th Madhav (MP)
(C) 56th Karauli-Dholpur 57th Veerangana Durgavati 58th Ratapani
(D) 56th Madhav 57th Guru Ghasidas 58th Ratapani
Correct Answer: (B)
Analytical Explanation: India's 56th Tiger Reserve is Guru Ghasidas–Tamor Pingla (Chhattisgarh), 57th is Ratapani (Madhya Pradesh), and 58th is Madhav Tiger Reserve (Madhya Pradesh) (MoEFCC).

Practice Question #20 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 20. With the notification of Veerangana Durgavati (7th), Ratapani (8th), and Madhav (9th), which state has the highest number of Tiger Reserves in India (9 reserves)?
(A) Maharashtra
(B) Karnataka
(C) Madhya Pradesh (9 Tiger Reserves)
(D) Assam
Correct Answer: (C)
Analytical Explanation: Madhya Pradesh now has 9 Tiger Reserves (Kanha, Pench, Bandhavgarh, Panna, Satpura, Sanjay-Dubri, Veerangana Durgavati, Ratapani, and Madhav), the highest in India (PIB).

Practice Question #21 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 21. Which UNESCO World Heritage prehistoric site is situated within the landscape of India's 57th Tiger Reserve (Ratapani Tiger Reserve in Raisen district, Madhya Pradesh)?
(A) Sanchi Stupa
(B) Bhimbetka Rock Shelters
(C) Khajuraho Group of Monuments
(D) Ajanta Caves
Correct Answer: (B)
Analytical Explanation: The UNESCO World Heritage Bhimbetka Rock Shelters are located inside the ecological perimeter of Ratapani Tiger Reserve in Raisen district, Madhya Pradesh (MoEFCC).

Practice Question #22 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 22. Which designated Ramsar Wetland is situated inside India's 58th Tiger Reserve (Madhav Tiger Reserve in Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh)?
(A) Bhoj Wetland
(B) Sakhya Sagar Lake
(C) Sirpur Wetland
(D) Tawa Reservoir
Correct Answer: (B)
Analytical Explanation: Sakhya Sagar Lake, designated as a Ramsar Site in 2022, is situated inside Madhav National Park / Madhav Tiger Reserve in Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh (PIB).

Practice Question #23 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 23. Ranking by total notified area, which are the top three largest Tiger Reserves in India?
(A) 1. Corbett, 2. Sundarbans, 3. Kanha
(B) 1. Nagarjunsagar-Srisailam (AP), 2. Manas (Assam), 3. Guru Ghasidas–Tamor Pingla (Chhattisgarh)
(C) 1. Amrabad, 2. Indravati, 3. Similipal
(D) 1. Namdapha, 2. Kaziranga, 3. Melghat

Correct Answer: (B)

Analytical Explanation: At 2,829.38 sq km, Guru Ghasidas–Tamor Pingla (56th TR) became the 3rd largest Tiger Reserve in India, behind 1st Nagarjunsagar-Srisailam (3,296.31 sq km) and 2nd Manas (2,837.1 sq km) (MoEFCC).

Practice Question #24 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 24. Which two of the Seven Big Cats covered by the India-headquartered International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) are NOT found naturally in the wild in India?
(A) Snow Leopard and Cheetah
(B) Puma (Cougar) and Jaguar
(C) Leopard and Asiatic Lion
(D) Tiger and Snow Leopard

Correct Answer: (B)

Analytical Explanation: Out of the 7 IBCA Big Cats (Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, Cheetah), 5 are present in India, whereas Puma and Jaguar are native strictly to the Americas (PIB).

Practice Question #25 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 25. In 2025–2026, which wildlife sanctuary in Mandsaur and Neemuch districts of Madhya Pradesh was prepared and operationalised as India's second cheetah habitat after Kuno National Park?
(A) Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary
(B) Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary
(C) Ken Gharial Sanctuary
(D) Bori Wildlife Sanctuary

Correct Answer: (B)

Analytical Explanation: Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary along the Chambal River in Mandsaur and Neemuch districts of Madhya Pradesh serves as the second home for cheetahs under Project Cheetah (PIB).

Practice Question #26 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 26. According to the first-ever scientific Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI), what is India's total Snow Leopard population and which UT/State ranks first?
(A) 516 — Himachal Pradesh
(B) 718 — Ladakh (477 Snow Leopards)
(C) 850 — Uttarakhand
(D) 620 — Sikkim

Correct Answer: (B)

Analytical Explanation: India recorded 718 Snow Leopards across 6 Himalayan states/UTs: Ladakh (477), Uttarakhand (124), Himachal Pradesh (51), Arunachal Pradesh (36), Sikkim (21), and J&K (9) (PIB).

Practice Question #27 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 27. According to the 5th-cycle Status of Leopards in India report, what is India's total Leopard population and which state ranks first?
(A) 12,852 — Karnataka
(B) 13,874 — Madhya Pradesh (3,907 Leopards)
(C) 14,500 — Maharashtra
(D) 11,200 — Tamil Nadu
Correct Answer: (B)
Analytical Explanation: India's Leopard population stands at 13,874, with Madhya Pradesh ranking 1st (3,907), followed by Maharashtra (1,985) and Karnataka (1,879) (MoEFCC).

Practice Question #28 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 28. Under which statutory Act was India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) notified to establish the Indian Carbon Market?
(A) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
(B) Energy Conservation Act, 2001 (as amended in 2022)
(C) Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
(D) Biological Diversity Act, 2002
Correct Answer: (B)
Analytical Explanation: The Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) was framed under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 (amended in 2022), while MoEFCC notifies the GHG emission intensity targets under the Environment (Protection) Act (PIB).

Practice Question #29 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 29. In the institutional framework of the Indian Carbon Market (CCTS), which agencies serve as the (1) Administrator, (2) Registry, and (3) Trading Regulator?
(A) CPCB, NITI Aayog, and SEBI
(B) Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Grid Controller of India, and Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)
(C) ICFRE, NABARD, and RBI
(D) MoEFCC, IREDA, and Forward Markets Commission
Correct Answer: (B)
Analytical Explanation: Under CCTS, BEE is the Administrator, Grid Controller of India Limited is the Registry, and CERC regulates trading of Carbon Credit Certificates on power exchanges (PIB).

Practice Question #30 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 30. How many energy-intensive industrial sectors are covered under the mandatory Compliance Mechanism of the Indian Carbon Market (CCTS) in 2026?
(A) 4 sectors
(B) 6 sectors
(C) 9 sectors (Aluminium, Chlor-Alkali, Cement, Fertiliser, Iron & Steel, Pulp & Paper, Petrochemicals, Petroleum Refinery, Textile)
(D) 15 sectors
Correct Answer: (C)
Analytical Explanation: Nine energy-intensive sectors have binding GHG emission intensity targets (tCO2e per tonne of product) under the CCTS compliance mechanism (PIB).

Practice Question #31 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 31. Which institution acts as the Administrator for the Green Credit Programme (GCP) notified by MoEFCC under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986?
(A) Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)
(B) Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun
(C) Forest Survey of India (FSI)
(D) Wildlife Institute of India (WII)
Correct Answer: (B)
Analytical Explanation: ICFRE Dehradun is the designated Administrator of the Green Credit Programme covering 8 environmental activities under Mission LiFE (**MoEFCC**).

Practice Question #32 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 32. Under the National Green Hydrogen Mission (₹19,744 crore), what is the maximum permissible emission threshold for hydrogen to be certified as 'Green Hydrogen' in India?
(A) ≤ 0.5 kg CO2e per kg H2
(B) ≤ 2.0 kg CO2e per kg H2 (averaged over 12 months)
(C) ≤ 5.0 kg CO2e per kg H2
(D) ≤ 10.0 kg CO2e per kg H2
Correct Answer: (B)
Analytical Explanation: India's Green Hydrogen Standard mandates that well-to-gate non-biogenic emissions must not exceed 2 kg CO2 equivalent per kg of hydrogen produced (**PIB**).

Practice Question #33 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 33. What is the 2030 annual production capacity target and associated renewable energy addition target under India's National Green Hydrogen Mission?
(A) 2 MMT/yr Green H2 and 50 GW RE
(B) 5 MMT/yr Green H2 and 125 GW RE capacity
(C) 10 MMT/yr Green H2 and 250 GW RE
(D) 1 MMT/yr Green H2 and 25 GW RE
Correct Answer: (B)
Analytical Explanation: The mission targets 5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) per annum of Green Hydrogen capacity and 125 GW of associated renewable energy capacity by 2030, abating 50 MMT of annual GHG emissions (**PIB**).

Practice Question #34 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 34. After the rationalisation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (via the 2022 Amendment), how many Schedules exist in the Act, and what does Schedule IV cover?
(A) 6 Schedules — Schedule IV covers Vermin
(B) 4 Schedules — Schedule IV covers specimens listed in CITES Appendices
(C) 5 Schedules — Schedule IV covers medicinal herbs
(D) 3 Schedules — Schedule IV was repealed
Correct Answer: (B)
Analytical Explanation: The Act now has 4 Schedules: Schedule I (highest protection animals), Schedule II (lesser protection animals), Schedule III (protected plants), and Schedule IV (CITES Appendix specimens) (**MoEFCC**).

Practice Question #35 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 35. Which reserve was notified as India's 33rd Elephant Reserve (and Uttar Pradesh's 2nd Elephant Reserve)?
(A) Lemru Elephant Reserve
(B) Agasthyamalai Elephant Reserve
(C) Terai Elephant Reserve (Dudhwa-Pilibhit landscape, Uttar Pradesh)
(D) Singhbhum Elephant Reserve

Correct Answer: (C)

Analytical Explanation: Terai Elephant Reserve (covering 3,049 sq km across Dudhwa and Pilibhit Tiger Reserves in UP) is India's 33rd Elephant Reserve (MoEFCC).

Practice Question #36 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 36. How many Biosphere Reserves have been designated by the Government of India, and how many of them are included in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)?
(A) 18 Biosphere Reserves in India | 12 in UNESCO WNBR
(B) 15 Biosphere Reserves in India | 10 in UNESCO WNBR
(C) 20 Biosphere Reserves in India | 18 in UNESCO WNBR
(D) 12 Biosphere Reserves in India | 12 in UNESCO WNBR

Correct Answer: (A)

Analytical Explanation: India has 18 national Biosphere Reserves, of which 12 (the 12th being Panna Biosphere Reserve in MP) are recognized in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (MoEFCC).

Practice Question #37 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 37. Which of the following Indian Biosphere Reserves is NOT part of the 12-member UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)?
(A) Nokrek (Meghalaya)
(B) Khangchendzonga (Sikkim)
(C) Manas (Assam) and Rann of Kachchh (Gujarat)
(D) Agasthyamalai (Kerala/Tamil Nadu)

Correct Answer: (C)

Analytical Explanation: The 6 Indian Biosphere Reserves outside the UNESCO WNBR are Manas, Dibru-Saikhowa, Dihang-Dibang, Kachchh, Cold Desert, and Seshachalam Hills (MoEFCC).

Practice Question #38 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 38. Which veterinary non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) have been banned in India to prevent fatal visceral gout and renal failure in Gyps vultures?
(A) Diclofenac, Ketoprofen, Aceclofenac, and Nimesulide
(B) Meloxicam and Tolfenamic Acid
(C) Amoxicillin and Ciprofloxacin
(D) Ivermectin and Albendazole

Correct Answer: (A)

Analytical Explanation: India banned veterinary Diclofenac, Ketoprofen, Aceclofenac, and Nimesulide to protect vultures, while Meloxicam and Tolfenamic Acid are approved vulture-safe alternatives (PIB).

Practice Question #39 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 39. What is the revised target of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) across 131 non-attainment cities by 2025–26 (against the 2017–18 baseline)?
(A) 15% reduction in CO2
(B) 20% reduction in SO2
(C) 40% reduction in Particulate Matter (PM10 and PM2.5) concentrations
(D) 100% elimination of vehicular emissions
Correct Answer: (C)
Analytical Explanation: NCAP's target was enhanced from an initial 20–30% by 2024 to a 40% reduction in PM10/PM2.5 levels by 2025–26 across 131 cities, tracked via the PRANA portal (**PIB**).

Practice Question #40 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 40. Which of the following gases is NOT included among the 8 pollutants used to compute India's National Air Quality Index (NAQI)?
(A) Carbon Monoxide (CO) and Ammonia (NH3)
(B) Carbon Dioxide (CO2) and Methane (CH4)
(C) Gcycle-level Ozone (O3) and Lead (Pb)
(D) Sulphur Dioxide (SO2) and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2)
Correct Answer: (B)
Analytical Explanation: NAQI includes 8 pollutants: PM10, PM2.5, NO2, SO2, CO, O3, NH3, and Pb. Greenhouse gases Carbon Dioxide (CO2) and Methane (CH4) are NOT part of NAQI (**MoEFCC**).

Practice Question #41 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 41. Under India's E-Waste (Management) Rules administered by CPCB, how many categories of electrical and electronic equipment are regulated, and which renewable energy hardware was newly added?
(A) 21 items — Wind turbine blades
(B) 106 items across 7 Schedules — Solar Photovoltaic (PV) modules, panels, and cells
(C) 50 items — Hydroelectric turbines
(D) 85 items — Nuclear fuel rods
Correct Answer: (B)
Analytical Explanation: The updated E-Waste Rules regulate 106 categories across 7 Schedules and explicitly incorporate Solar PV modules, panels, and cells under mandatory producer management (**MoEFCC**).

Practice Question #42 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 42. What is the core objective of the UN 'BBNJ Agreement' (High Seas Treaty) signed by India under UNCLOS?
(A) Regulating territorial waters within 12 nautical miles
(B) Conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (beyond 200 nautical miles EEZ), including High Seas Marine Protected Areas
(C) Dividing Arctic oil and gas reserves
(D) Setting global maritime shipping freight rates
Correct Answer: (B)
Analytical Explanation: The BBNJ Treaty governs marine biodiversity in international waters beyond national Exclusive Economic Zones (>200 nautical miles), enabling High Seas MPAs toward the 30x30 target (**PIB**).

Practice Question #43 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 43. Which wildlife sanctuary in Gujarat's Porbandar and Devbhumi Dwarka districts is being developed under 'Project Lion @ 2047' as the natural second home for Asiatic Lions outside Gir?
(A) Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary
(B) Barda Wildlife Sanctuary
(C) Velavadar Blackbuck National Park
(D) Jessore Sloth Bear Sanctuary
Correct Answer: (B)
Analytical Explanation: Barda Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat is being restored and populated under Project Lion as a second home for Asiatic Lions (MoEFCC).

Practice Question #44 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 44. Where did Indian scientists achieve the world's first successful birth of a Critically Endangered Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*) chick through artificial insemination?
(A) Rollapadu Wildlife Sanctuary, Andhra Pradesh
(B) Sudasari Great Indian Bustard Breeding Centre (Desert National Park, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan)
(C) Kutch Bustard Sanctuary, Gujarat
(D) Ghatigaon Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh
Correct Answer: (B)
Analytical Explanation: Wildlife Institute of India scientists at the Sudasari breeding facility in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan achieved the world's first artificial insemination birth of a Great Indian Bustard chick (PIB).

Practice Question #45 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 45. Under the PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (₹75,021 crore outlay), what is the maximum central financial subsidy provided to a residential household installing a 3 kW (or above) rooftop solar system?
(A) ₹30,000
(B) ₹50,000
(C) ₹78,000
(D) ₹1,00,000
Correct Answer: (C)
Analytical Explanation: PM-Surya Ghar provides ₹30,000 for 1 kW, ₹60,000 for 2 kW, and a maximum subsidy of ₹78,000 for 3 kW or larger residential rooftop solar systems across 1 crore households (PIB).

Extended Comparative & Analytical Practice Set (Questions *46* to *85*)

Practice Question #46 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q46. With reference to UN Summit / Mechanism and Host City, Dates & Presidency, which of the following is accurately matched with "UNFCCC COP31 (2026)"?

(A) Antalya, Türkiye (9–20 Nov 2026)
(B) Belém, Brazil (Nov 2025)
(C) Baku, Azerbaijan
(D) Cali, Colombia (resumed Rome)

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **UNFCCC COP31 (2026)** (UN Summit / Mechanism), the verified Host City, Dates & Presidency is **Antalya, Türkiye (9–20 Nov 2026)**. Furthermore, President: Murat Kurum (with Australia's Chris Bowen). (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #47 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q47. With reference to UN Summit / Mechanism and Host City, Dates & Presidency, which of the following is accurately matched with "UNFCCC COP30"?

(A) Baku, Azerbaijan
(B) Belém, Brazil (Nov 2025)
(C) Cali, Colombia (resumed Rome)
(D) Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **UNFCCC COP30** (UN Summit / Mechanism), the verified Host City, Dates & Presidency is **Belém, Brazil (Nov 2025)**. Furthermore, President: André Corrêa do Lago. (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #48 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q48. With reference to UN Summit / Mechanism and Host City, Dates & Presidency, which of the following is accurately matched with "UNFCCC COP29 (NCQG)"?

(A) Cali, Colombia (resumed Rome)
(B) Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
(C) Baku, Azerbaijan
(D) 8,27,357 sq km

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **UNFCCC COP29 (NCQG)** (UN Summit / Mechanism), the verified Host City, Dates & Presidency is **Baku, Azerbaijan**. Furthermore, President: Mukhtar Babayev. (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #49 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q49. With reference to UN Summit / Mechanism and Host City, Dates & Presidency, which of the following is accurately matched with "UNCBD COP16"?

(A) Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
(B) 8,27,357 sq km
(C) 7,15,342.61 sq km
(D) Cali, Colombia (resumed Rome)

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **UNCBD COP16** (UN Summit / Mechanism), the verified Host City, Dates & Presidency is **Cali, Colombia (resumed Rome)**. Furthermore, Theme: 'Peace with Nature'. (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #50 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q50. With reference to UN Summit / Mechanism and Host City, Dates & Presidency, which of the following is accurately matched with "UNCCD COP16"?

(A) Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
(B) 8,27,357 sq km
(C) 7,15,342.61 sq km
(D) 1,12,014.34 sq km

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **UNCCD COP16** (UN Summit / Mechanism), the verified Host City, Dates & Presidency is **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**. Furthermore, Theme: 'Our Land. Our Future'. (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #51 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q51. With reference to ISFR Parameter / Ranking Category and Verified Official Figure / Top 3 Ranking, which of the following is accurately matched with "Total Forest and Tree Cover"?

(A) 7,15,342.61 sq km

(B) 8,27,357 sq km

(C) 1,12,014.34 sq km

(D) 1. Chhattisgarh (+684 sq km), 2. Uttar Pradesh (+559 sq km), 3. Odisha (+559 sq km)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Total Forest and Tree Cover** (ISFR Parameter / Ranking Category), the verified Verified Official Figure / Top 3 Ranking is **8,27,357 sq km**. Furthermore, 25.17% of India's Area (+1,445.81 sq km). (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #52 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q52. With reference to ISFR Parameter / Ranking Category and Verified Official Figure / Top 3 Ranking, which of the following is accurately matched with "Total Forest Cover Alone"?

(A) 1,12,014.34 sq km

(B) 1. Chhattisgarh (+684 sq km), 2. Uttar Pradesh (+559 sq km), 3. Odisha (+559 sq km)

(C) 7,15,342.61 sq km

(D) 7,285.5 Million Tonnes (+81.5 Mt)

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Total Forest Cover Alone** (ISFR Parameter / Ranking Category), the verified Verified Official Figure / Top 3 Ranking is **7,15,342.61 sq km**. Furthermore, 21.76% of India's Area (+156.41 sq km). (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #53 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q53. With reference to ISFR Parameter / Ranking Category and Verified Official Figure / Top 3 Ranking, which of the following is accurately matched with "Total Tree Cover Alone"?

(A) 1. Chhattisgarh (+684 sq km), 2. Uttar Pradesh (+559 sq km), 3. Odisha (+559 sq km)

(B) 7,285.5 Million Tonnes (+81.5 Mt)

(C) 103 Ramsar Sites across 28 States/UTs

(D) 1,12,014.34 sq km

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Total Tree Cover Alone** (ISFR Parameter / Ranking Category), the verified Verified Official Figure / Top 3 Ranking is **1,12,014.34 sq km**. Furthermore, 3.41% of India's Area (+1,289.40 sq km). (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #54 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q54. With reference to ISFR Parameter / Ranking Category and Verified Official Figure / Top 3 Ranking, which of the following is accurately matched with "Top Gainers (Forest + Tree Cover)"?

(A) 1. Chhattisgarh (+684 sq km), 2. Uttar Pradesh (+559 sq km), 3. Odisha (+559 sq km)

(B) 7,285.5 Million Tonnes (+81.5 Mt)

(C) 103 Ramsar Sites across 28 States/UTs

(D) 1. Tamil Nadu (20 Sites), 2. Uttar Pradesh

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Top Gainers (Forest + Tree Cover)** (ISFR Parameter / Ranking Category), the verified Verified Official Figure / Top 3 Ranking is **1. Chhattisgarh (+684 sq km), 2. Uttar Pradesh (+559 sq km), 3. Odisha (+559 sq km)**. Furthermore, Followed by 4. Rajasthan (+394 sq km). (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #55 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q55. With reference to ISFR Parameter / Ranking Category and Verified Official Figure / Top 3 Ranking, which of the following is accurately matched with "Total Forest Carbon Stock"?

(A) 103 Ramsar Sites across 28 States/UTs

(B) 7,285.5 Million Tonnes (+81.5 Mt)

(C) 1. Tamil Nadu (20 Sites), 2. Uttar Pradesh

(D) Khecheopalri Wetland (Sikkim) & Udhwa Lake (Jharkhand)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Total Forest Carbon Stock** (ISFR Parameter / Ranking Category), the verified Verified Official Figure / Top 3 Ranking is **7,285.5 Million Tonnes (+81.5 Mt)**. Furthermore, 30.43 Billion Tonnes CO2 Equivalent. (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #56 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q56. With reference to Ramsar Metric / Notable Wetland and Verified 2026 Fact / Location, which of the following is accurately matched with "Total Ramsar Sites in India (Oct 2026)"?

(A) 1. Tamil Nadu (20 Sites), 2. Uttar Pradesh

(B) Khecheopalri Wetland (Sikkim) & Udhwa Lake (Jharkhand)

(C) 103 Ramsar Sites across 28 States/UTs

(D) Nagi & Nakti (Bihar), Tawa Reservoir (MP), Khichan & Menar (Rajasthan)

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Total Ramsar Sites in India (Oct 2026)** (Ramsar Metric / Notable Wetland), the verified Verified 2026 Fact / Location is **103 Ramsar Sites across 28 States/UTs**. Furthermore, Covers >13.87 lakh hectares; 1st in Asia & 3rd in the World (after UK & Mexico). (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #57 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q57. With reference to Ramsar Metric / Notable Wetland and Verified 2026 Fact / Location, which of the following is accurately matched with "Top States by Number of Sites"?

(A) Khecheopalri Wetland (Sikkim) & Udhwa Lake (Jharkhand)

(B) Nagi & Nakti (Bihar), Tawa Reservoir (MP), Khichan & Menar (Rajasthan)

(C) Indore (Sirpur & Yashwant Sagar) & Udaipur (Pichola, Fateh Sagar, etc.)

(D) 1. Tamil Nadu (20 Sites), 2. Uttar Pradesh

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Top States by Number of Sites** (Ramsar Metric / Notable Wetland), the verified Verified 2026 Fact / Location is **1. Tamil Nadu (20 Sites), 2. Uttar Pradesh**. Furthermore, Tamil Nadu added Nanjarayan, Kazhuveli, Sakkarakottai & Therthangal Bird Sanctuaries. (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #58 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q58. With reference to Ramsar Metric / Notable Wetland and Verified 2026 Fact / Location, which of the following is accurately matched with "First-Ever State Ramsar Entries"?

(A) Khecheopalri Wetland (Sikkim) & Udhwa Lake (Jharkhand)

(B) Nagi & Nakti (Bihar), Tawa Reservoir (MP), Khichan & Menar (Rajasthan)

(C) Indore (Sirpur & Yashwant Sagar) & Udaipur (Pichola, Fateh Sagar, etc.)

(D) Madhya Pradesh (Shivpuri district)

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **First-Ever State Ramsar Entries** (Ramsar Metric / Notable Wetland), the verified Verified 2026 Fact / Location is **Khecheopalri Wetland (Sikkim) & Udhwa Lake (Jharkhand)**. Furthermore, Brought Sikkim and Jharkhand onto India's Ramsar map for the first time. (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #59 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q59. With reference to Ramsar Metric / Notable Wetland and Verified 2026 Fact / Location, which of the following is accurately matched with "Recent Additions (Bihar, MP, Rajasthan)"?

(A) Indore (Sirpur & Yashwant Sagar) & Udaipur (Pichola, Fateh Sagar, etc.)
(B) Nagi & Nakti (Bihar), Tawa Reservoir (MP), Khichan & Menar (Rajasthan)
(C) Madhya Pradesh (Shivpuri district)
(D) Madhya Pradesh (Raisen & Sehore)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Recent Additions (Bihar, MP, Rajasthan)** (Ramsar Metric / Notable Wetland), the verified Verified 2026 Fact / Location is **Nagi & Nakti (Bihar), Tawa Reservoir (MP), Khichan & Menar (Rajasthan)**. Furthermore, Critical Central Asian Flyway wintering gcycles for Demoiselle Cranes & bar-headed geese. (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #60 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q60. With reference to Ramsar Metric / Notable Wetland and Verified 2026 Fact / Location, which of the following is accurately matched with "Wetland City Accreditation"?

(A) Madhya Pradesh (Shivpuri district)
(B) Madhya Pradesh (Raisen & Sehore)
(C) Indore (Sirpur & Yashwant Sagar) & Udaipur (Pichola, Fateh Sagar, etc.)
(D) Chhattisgarh (MCB, Korea, Surajpur, Balrampur)

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Wetland City Accreditation** (Ramsar Metric / Notable Wetland), the verified Verified 2026 Fact / Location is **Indore (Sirpur & Yashwant Sagar) & Udaipur (Pichola, Fateh Sagar, etc.)**. Furthermore, First two Indian cities accredited under the Ramsar Wetland City scheme. (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #61 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q61. With reference to Reserve Number & Name and State & Districts, which of the following is accurately matched with "58th: Madhav Tiger Reserve"?

(A) Madhya Pradesh (Raisen & Sehore)
(B) Chhattisgarh (MCB, Korea, Surajpur, Balrampur)
(C) Rajasthan (Karauli & Dholpur)
(D) Madhya Pradesh (Shivpuri district)

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **58th: Madhav Tiger Reserve** (Reserve Number & Name), the verified State & Districts is **Madhya Pradesh (Shivpuri district)**. Furthermore, 1,751 sq km (375 core + 1,276 buffer). (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #62 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q62. With reference to Reserve Number & Name and State & Districts, which of the following is accurately matched with "57th: Ratapani Tiger Reserve"?

(A) Madhya Pradesh (Raisen & Sehore)
(B) Chhattisgarh (MCB, Korea, Surajpur, Balrampur)
(C) Rajasthan (Karauli & Dholpur)
(D) Madhya Pradesh (Sagar, Damoh, Narsinghpur)

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **57th: Ratapani Tiger Reserve** (Reserve Number & Name), the verified State & Districts is **Madhya Pradesh (Raisen & Sehore)**. Furthermore, 1,271.46 sq km (763.81 core + 507.65 buffer). (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #63 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q63. With reference to Reserve Number & Name and State & Districts, which of the following is accurately matched with "56th: Guru Ghasidas–Tamor Pingla"?

(A) Rajasthan (Karauli & Dholpur)
(B) Chhattisgarh (MCB, Korea, Surajpur, Balrampur)
(C) Madhya Pradesh (Sagar, Damoh, Narsinghpur)
(D) 3,682 Tigers (~75% of world total)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **56th: Guru Ghasidas–Tamor Pingla** (Reserve Number & Name), the verified State & Districts is **Chhattisgarh (MCB, Korea, Surajpur, Balrampur)**.
Furthermore, 2,829.38 sq km (2,049.2 core + 780.15 buffer). (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #64 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q64. With reference to Reserve Number & Name and State & Districts, which of the following is accurately matched with "55th: Karauli–Dholpur Tiger Reserve"?

(A) Madhya Pradesh (Sagar, Damoh, Narsinghpur)
(B) 3,682 Tigers (~75% of world total)
(C) Rajasthan (Karauli & Dholpur)
(D) 13,874 Leopards

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **55th: Karauli–Dholpur Tiger Reserve** (Reserve Number & Name), the verified State & Districts is **Rajasthan (Karauli & Dholpur)**. Furthermore, 1,058 sq km. (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #65 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q65. With reference to Reserve Number & Name and State & Districts, which of the following is accurately matched with "54th: Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve"?

(A) 3,682 Tigers (~75% of world total)
(B) 13,874 Leopards
(C) 718 Snow Leopards
(D) Madhya Pradesh (Sagar, Damoh, Narsinghpur)

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **54th: Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve** (Reserve Number & Name), the verified State & Districts is **Madhya Pradesh (Sagar, Damoh, Narsinghpur)**. Furthermore, 2,339 sq km. (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #66 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q66. With reference to Wildlife Assessment / Initiative and National Population / Status (2026), which of the following is accurately matched with "All-India Tiger Estimation (5th Cycle)"?

(A) 3,682 Tigers (~75% of world total)
(B) 13,874 Leopards
(C) 718 Snow Leopards
(D) Reintroduced African Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*)

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **All-India Tiger Estimation (5th Cycle)** (Wildlife Assessment / Initiative), the verified National Population / Status (2026) is **3,682 Tigers (~75% of world total)**. Furthermore, 1. Madhya Pradesh (785), 2. Karnataka (563), 3. Uttarakhand (560). (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #67 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q67. With reference to Wildlife Assessment / Initiative and National Population / Status (2026), which of the following is accurately matched with "Status of Leopards in India (5th Cycle)"?

(A) 718 Snow Leopards
(B) 13,874 Leopards
(C) Reintroduced African Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*)
(D) Treaty-Based Intergovernmental Org (HQ: India)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Status of Leopards in India (5th Cycle)** (Wildlife Assessment / Initiative), the verified National Population / Status (2026) is **13,874 Leopards**. Furthermore, 1. Madhya Pradesh (3,907), 2. Maharashtra (1,985), 3. Karnataka (1,879). (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #68 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q68. With reference to Wildlife Assessment / Initiative and National Population / Status (2026), which of the following is accurately matched with "Snow Leopard Population (SPAI)"?

(A) Reintroduced African Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*)
(B) Treaty-Based Intergovernmental Org (HQ: India)
(C) 718 Snow Leopards
(D) Energy Conservation Act, 2001

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Snow Leopard Population (SPAI)** (Wildlife Assessment / Initiative), the verified National Population / Status (2026) is **718 Snow Leopards**. Furthermore, 1. Ladakh (477), 2. Uttarakhand (124), 3. Himachal Pradesh (51). (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #69 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q69. With reference to Wildlife Assessment / Initiative and National Population / Status (2026), which of the following is accurately matched with "Project Cheetah (2026 Meta-Population)"?

(A) Treaty-Based Intergovernmental Org (HQ: India)
(B) Energy Conservation Act, 2001
(C) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
(D) Reintroduced African Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*)

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Project Cheetah (2026 Meta-Population)** (Wildlife Assessment / Initiative), the verified National Population / Status (2026) is **Reintroduced African Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*)**. Furthermore, Madhya Pradesh & Gujarat. (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #70 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q70. With reference to Wildlife Assessment / Initiative and National Population / Status (2026), which of the following is accurately matched with "International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)"?

(A) Treaty-Based Intergovernmental Org (HQ: India)
(B) Energy Conservation Act, 2001
(C) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
(D) MNRE (SIGHT Outlay: ₹17,490 Cr out of ₹19,744 Cr)

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** (Wildlife Assessment / Initiative), the verified National Population / Status (2026) is **Treaty-Based Intergovernmental Org (HQ: India)**. Furthermore, ₹150 Crore Central Support (2023–2028). (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #71 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q71. With reference to Green Market / Mission Mechanism and Statutory Act & Nodal Administrator, which of the following is accurately matched with "Indian Carbon Market (CCTS)"?

(A) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
(B) Energy Conservation Act, 2001
(C) MNRE (SIGHT Outlay: ₹17,490 Cr out of ₹19,744 Cr)
(D) Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Indian Carbon Market (CCTS)** (Green Market / Mission Mechanism), the verified Statutory Act & Nodal Administrator is **Energy Conservation Act, 2001**. Furthermore, Administrator: BEE. (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #72 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q72. With reference to Green Market / Mission Mechanism and Statutory Act & Nodal Administrator, which of the following is accurately matched with "Green Credit Programme (GCP)"?

(A) MNRE (SIGHT Outlay: ₹17,490 Cr out of ₹19,744 Cr)
(B) Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)
(C) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
(D) MNRE

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Green Credit Programme (GCP)** (Green Market / Mission Mechanism), the verified Statutory Act & Nodal Administrator is **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**. Furthermore, Administrator: ICFRE Dehradun. (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #73 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q73. With reference to Green Market / Mission Mechanism and Statutory Act & Nodal Administrator, which of the following is accurately matched with "National Green Hydrogen Mission"?

(A) Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)
(B) MNRE
(C) 4 Schedules (reduced from earlier 6)
(D) MNRE (SIGHT Outlay: ₹17,490 Cr out of ₹19,744 Cr)

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **National Green Hydrogen Mission** (Green Market / Mission Mechanism), the verified Statutory Act & Nodal Administrator is **MNRE (SIGHT Outlay: ₹17,490 Cr out of ₹19,744 Cr)**. Furthermore, 5 MMT/annum Green H2 + 125 GW RE capacity by 2030. (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #74 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q74. With reference to Green Market / Mission Mechanism and Statutory Act & Nodal Administrator, which of the following is accurately matched with "PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana"?

(A) Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)
(B) MNRE
(C) 4 Schedules (reduced from earlier 6)
(D) 33 Elephant Reserves across 14 States

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana** (Green Market / Mission Mechanism), the verified Statutory Act & Nodal Administrator is **Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)**. Furthermore, ₹75,021 Crore. (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #75 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q75. With reference to Green Market / Mission Mechanism and Statutory Act & Nodal Administrator, which of the following is accurately matched with "Offshore Wind VGF Scheme"?

(A) 4 Schedules (reduced from earlier 6)
(B) MNRE
(C) 33 Elephant Reserves across 14 States
(D) 18 National Biosphere Reserves (12 in UNESCO WNBR)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Offshore Wind VGF Scheme** (Green Market / Mission Mechanism), the verified Statutory Act & Nodal Administrator is **MNRE**. Furthermore, ₹7,453 Crore Viability Gap Funding. (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #76 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q76. With reference to Conservation Network / Statutory Law and Total Count / Key Structure (2026), which of the following is accurately matched with "Wildlife (Protection) Act Schedules"?

(A) 33 Elephant Reserves across 14 States
(B) 18 National Biosphere Reserves (12 in UNESCO WNBR)
(C) 4 Schedules (reduced from earlier 6)
(D) 3-Tier: NBA (Chennai) + SBBs + Local BMCs

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Wildlife (Protection) Act Schedules** (Conservation Network / Statutory Law), the verified Total Count / Key Structure (2026) is **4 Schedules (reduced from earlier 6)**. Furthermore, Schedule IV is dedicated to CITES Appendices. (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #77 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q77. With reference to Conservation Network / Statutory Law and Total Count / Key Structure (2026), which of the following is accurately matched with "Elephant Reserves in India"?

(A) 18 National Biosphere Reserves (12 in UNESCO WNBR)
(B) 3-Tier: NBA (Chennai) + SBBs + Local BMCs
(C) Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centres (Pinjore, Rani, Buxa, Bhopal)
(D) 33 Elephant Reserves across 14 States

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Elephant Reserves in India** (Conservation Network / Statutory Law), the verified Total Count / Key Structure (2026) is **33 Elephant Reserves across 14 States**. Furthermore, 33rd: Terai Elephant Reserve (Dudhwa-Pilibhit, UP); 32nd: Agasthyamalai (TN). (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #78 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q78. With reference to Conservation Network / Statutory Law and Total Count / Key Structure (2026), which of the following is accurately matched with "Biosphere Reserves in India"?

(A) 18 National Biosphere Reserves (12 in UNESCO WNBR)
(B) 3-Tier: NBA (Chennai) + SBBs + Local BMCs
(C) Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centres (Pinjore, Rani, Buxa, Bhopal)
(D) MoEFCC & CPCB (Monitored via PRANA Portal)

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Biosphere Reserves in India** (Conservation Network / Statutory Law), the verified Total Count / Key Structure (2026) is **18 National Biosphere Reserves (12 in UNESCO WNBR)**. Furthermore, 1st: Nilgiri (1986); Largest: Rann of Kachchh (Gujarat); Smallest: Dibru-Saikhowa (Assam). (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #79 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q79. With reference to Conservation Network / Statutory Law and Total Count / Key Structure (2026), which of the following is accurately matched with "Biodiversity Act Governance"?

(A) Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centres (Pinjore, Rani, Buxa, Bhopal)

(B) 3-Tier: NBA (Chennai) + SBBs + Local BMCs

(C) MoEFCC & CPCB (Monitored via PRANA Portal)

(D) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Biodiversity Act Governance** (Conservation Network / Statutory Law), the verified Total Count / Key Structure (2026) is **3-Tier: NBA (Chennai) + SBBs + Local BMCs**. Furthermore, BMCs maintain People's Biodiversity Registers (PBRs). (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #80 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q80. With reference to Conservation Network / Statutory Law and Total Count / Key Structure (2026), which of the following is accurately matched with "Vulture Conservation Action Plan"?

(A) MoEFCC & CPCB (Monitored via PRANA Portal)

(B) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

(C) Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centres (Pinjore, Rani, Buxa, Bhopal)

(D) United Nations (under UNCLOS)

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Vulture Conservation Action Plan** (Conservation Network / Statutory Law), the verified Total Count / Key Structure (2026) is **Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centres (Pinjore, Rani, Buxa, Bhopal)**. Furthermore, Ban on veterinary NSAIDs: Diclofenac, Ketoprofen, Aceclofenac, Nimesulide. (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #81 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q81. With reference to Environmental Policy / Treaty and Nodal Authority / International Body, which of the following is accurately matched with "National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)"?

(A) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

(B) United Nations (under UNCLOS)

(C) MoEFCC & State Forest Departments (MeriLiFE)

(D) MoEFCC & CPCB (Monitored via PRANA Portal)

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** (Environmental Policy / Treaty), the verified Nodal Authority / International Body is **MoEFCC & CPCB (Monitored via PRANA Portal)**. Furthermore, 40% reduction in PM10/ PM2.5 by 2026 across 131 cities. (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #82 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q82. With reference to Environmental Policy / Treaty and Nodal Authority / International Body, which of the following is accurately matched with "E-Waste (Management) Rules"?

(A) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

(B) United Nations (under UNCLOS)

(C) MoEFCC & State Forest Departments (MeriLiFE)

(D) Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), Denmark

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **E-Waste (Management) Rules** (Environmental Policy / Treaty), the verified Nodal Authority / International Body is **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**. Furthermore, 106 Electrical & Electronic items across 7 Schedules. (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #83 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q83. With reference to Environmental Policy / Treaty and Nodal Authority / International Body, which of the following is accurately matched with "UN BBNJ Agreement (High Seas Treaty)"?

(A) MoEFCC & State Forest Departments (MeriLiFE)

(B) United Nations (under UNCLOS)

(C) Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), Denmark

(D) Antalya, Türkiye (9–20 Nov 2026)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **UN BBNJ Agreement (High Seas Treaty)** (Environmental Policy / Treaty), the verified Nodal Authority / International Body is **United Nations (under UNCLOS)**. Furthermore, Applies beyond 200 nautical miles EEZ (~two-thirds of global ocean). (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #84 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q84. With reference to Environmental Policy / Treaty and Nodal Authority / International Body, which of the following is accurately matched with "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam (#Plant4Mother)"?

(A) Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), Denmark

(B) Antalya, Türkiye (9–20 Nov 2026)

(C) MoEFCC & State Forest Departments (MeriLiFE)

(D) Belém, Brazil (Nov 2025)

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam (#Plant4Mother)** (Environmental Policy / Treaty), the verified Nodal Authority / International Body is **MoEFCC & State Forest Departments (MeriLiFE)**. Furthermore, 100+ Crore (1+ Billion) saplings planted nationwide. (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #85 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q85. With reference to Environmental Policy / Treaty and Nodal Authority / International Body, which of the following is accurately matched with "Blue Flag Certified Beaches in India"?

(A) Antalya, Türkiye (9–20 Nov 2026)

(B) Belém, Brazil (Nov 2025)

(C) Baku, Azerbaijan

(D) Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), Denmark

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Blue Flag Certified Beaches in India** (Environmental Policy / Treaty), the verified Nodal Authority / International Body is **Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), Denmark**. Furthermore, 12 Certified Beaches in India (including Thundi & Kadmat in Lakshadweep). (Source: पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) & IUC Academy).

BOOK CA*12* — *65* Rapid-Fire Revision Points

1. **UNFCCC COP31 (2026)**: Held in **Antalya, Türkiye from 9 to 20 November 2026**; COP31 President: **Murat Kurum** (with Australia's **Chris Bowen** co-leading Pacific/implementation tracks) (**PIB**).

2. **UNFCCC COP30**: Hosted in **Belém, Brazil** in the Amazon region; launched the **$125 billion Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF)** and NDC 3.0 implementation agenda.

3. **UNFCCC COP29**: Hosted in **Baku, Azerbaijan**; adopted the **New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)** of **$300 billion/year by 2035** and finalised **Article 6** carbon market rules.

4. **Baku-to-Belém-to-Antalya Roadmap**: Multilateral climate finance pathway to scale total public and private climate finance for developing nations to **$1.3 trillion per year by 2035**.

5. **Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD)**: Board Secretariat hosted in **Manila, Philippines** (World Bank as interim trustee); began project disbursements in 2026.

6. **UNCBD COP16 (Cali, Colombia)**: Established the **'Cali Fund'** requiring commercial users of **Digital Sequence Information (DSI)** on genetic resources to share 1% of profits or 0.1% of revenue.

7. **UNCCD COP16 (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia)**: Launched the **Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership** with over $12 billion pledged for land restoration.

8. **Total Forest and Tree Cover (18th ISFR)**: **8,27,357 sq km**, which equals **25.17%** of India's geographical area—crossing the 25% mark for the first time (**FSI**).

9. **Total Forest Cover Alone (18th ISFR)**: **7,15,342.61 sq km** (**21.76%** of India's area), recording a net increase of **156.41 sq km**.

10. **Total Tree Cover Alone (18th ISFR)**: **1,12,014.34 sq km** (**3.41%** of India's area), recording a net increase of **1,289.40 sq km**.

11. **Net Gain in Combined Forest + Tree Cover**: **+1,445.81 sq km** (156.41 sq km forest cover + 1,289.40 sq km tree cover) over the previous biennial cycle (**FSI**).

12. **Top 3 States by Combined Forest + Tree Cover Area**: **1st Madhya Pradesh (85,724 sq km)**, **2nd Arunachal Pradesh (67,083 sq km)**, **3rd Maharashtra (65,383 sq km)**.

13. **Top 3 States by Forest Cover Area Alone**: **1st Madhya Pradesh (77,073 sq km)**, **2nd Arunachal Pradesh (65,882 sq km)**, **3rd Chhattisgarh (55,812 sq km)**.

14. **Top 3 States/UTs by Forest Cover Percentage**: **1st Lakshadweep (91.33%)**, **2nd Mizoram (85.34% — #1 among States)**, **3rd Andaman & Nicobar Islands (81.62%)**.

15. **Top 4 States in Combined Forest + Tree Cover Gain**: **1st Chhattisgarh (+684 sq km)**, **2nd Uttar Pradesh (+559 sq km)**, **3rd Odisha (+559 sq km)**, **4th Rajasthan (+394 sq km)**.

16. **Top 3 States in Forest Cover Gain Alone**: **1st Mizoram (+242 sq km)**, **2nd Gujarat (+180 sq km)**, **3rd Odisha (+152 sq km)**.

17. **India's Forest Carbon Stock**: **7,285.5 million tonnes** (+81.5 Mt increase), equivalent to **30.43 billion tonnes of CO2** (+2.29 billion tonnes CO2e sink added since 2005) (**PIB**).

18. **Top States in Forest Carbon Stock**: **1st Arunachal Pradesh (1,021 Mt)**, **2nd Madhya Pradesh (608 Mt)**, **3rd Chhattisgarh (505 Mt)**, **4th Maharashtra (465 Mt)**.

19. **Total Mangrove Cover in India (18th ISFR)**: **4,991.68 sq km (0.15% of India's area)**; top states/UTs: **1st West Bengal (42.45%)**, **2nd Gujarat (23.32%)**, **3rd A&N Islands (12.19%)**.

20. **Total Ramsar Sites in India (October 2026)**: **103 Ramsar Sites** across 28 States/UTs covering **>13.87 lakh hectares** (PIB Release 25 Oct 2026, PRID=2328132) (**PIB**).

21. **India's Global Rank in Ramsar Sites**: **1st in Asia** and **3rd in the World** (behind the United Kingdom with 175 sites and Mexico with 144 sites).

22. **State with Highest Ramsar Sites**: **Tamil Nadu (20 Ramsar Sites)** ranks 1st in India, followed by **Uttar Pradesh**.

23. **Sikkim's First Ramsar Site**: **Khecheopalri Wetland** (Gyalshing district, Sikkim) designated as Sikkim's maiden Ramsar wetland.

24. **Jharkhand's First Ramsar Site**: **Udhwa Lake Bird Sanctuary** (Sahibganj district, Jharkhand) designated as Jharkhand's maiden Ramsar wetland.

25. **Bihar's Ramsar Sites**: Includes **Kanwar Lake (Kabartal)**, **Nagi Bird Sanctuary**, **Nakti Bird Sanctuary**, **Gokul Jalashay**, and **Udaipur Jheel**.

26. **Rajasthan's Recent Ramsar Additions**: **Khichan Wetland (Phalodi)** and **Menar Wetland (Udaipur)** added alongside Keoladeo National Park and Sambhar Lake.

27. **India's First Accredited Wetland Cities**: **Indore (Madhya Pradesh)** and **Udaipur (Rajasthan)** received international Ramsar Wetland City Accreditation (**PIB**).

28. **Montreux Record Wetlands in India**: Currently only **two** sites—**Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan)** and **Loktak Lake (Manipur)** (Chilika Lake was removed in 2002).

29. **Largest & Smallest Ramsar Sites in India**: Largest = **Sundarban Wetland (West Bengal, 4,230 sq km)**; Smallest = **Renuka Wetland (Himachal Pradesh, 0.2 sq km)**.

30. **Total Tiger Reserves in India (2026)**: **58 notified Tiger Reserves** across **18 states**, covering **84,487.83 sq km** (~2.56% of India's land area) (**MoEFCC**).

31. **58th Tiger Reserve of India**: **Madhav Tiger Reserve** (Shivpuri district, Madhya Pradesh; 1,751 sq km)—making it **Madhya Pradesh's 9th Tiger Reserve**.

32. **57th Tiger Reserve of India**: **Ratapani Tiger Reserve** (Raisen & Sehore districts, Madhya Pradesh; 1,271.46 sq km; contains UNESCO **Bhimbetka Rock Shelters**).

33. **56th Tiger Reserve of India**: **Guru Ghasidas–Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve** (Chhattisgarh; 2,829.38 sq km)—Chhattisgarh's 4th and **India's 3rd largest Tiger Reserve**.

34. **55th & 54th Tiger Reserves**: **55th = Karauli–Dholpur (Rajasthan's 5th)**; **54th = Veerangana Durgavati (Madhya Pradesh's 7th)**.

35. **State with Highest Number of Tiger Reserves**: **Madhya Pradesh (9 Tiger Reserves)** leads India, followed by **Maharashtra (6 Tiger Reserves)**.

36. **Top 3 Largest Tiger Reserves by Total Area**: **1st Nagarjunsagar-Srisailam (AP, 3,296 sq km)**, **2nd Manas (Assam, 2,837 sq km)**, **3rd Guru Ghasidas–Tamor Pingla (Chhattisgarh, 2,829 sq km)**.

37. **Wild Tiger Population in India**: **3,682 Tigers** (~75% of world total); Top States: **1st Madhya Pradesh (785)**, **2nd Karnataka (563)**, **3rd Uttarakhand (560)**.

38. **Reserve with Highest Tiger Count**: **Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve (Uttarakhand — 260 tigers)**, followed by Bandipur (150) and Nagarhole (141).

39. **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**: Treaty-based intergovernmental organization headquartered in **New Delhi, India** (₹150 crore budget) conserving 7 **Big Cats** (**PIB**).

40. 7 **Big Cats of IBCA**: **Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah** (5 present in India) + **Puma and Jaguar** (2 native to the Americas, absent in India).

41. **Project Cheetah Second Home in 2026**: **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary** (Mandsaur/Neemuch, MP) operationalised alongside **Kuno National Park** (Sheopur, MP).

42. **Snow Leopard Population in India (SPAI)**: **718 Snow Leopards**; Top States/UTs: **1st Ladakh (477)**, **2nd Uttarakhand (124)**, **3rd Himachal Pradesh (51)**.

43. **Leopard Population in India (5th Cycle)**: **13,874 Leopards**; Top States: **1st Madhya Pradesh (3,907)**, **2nd Maharashtra (1,985)**, **3rd Karnataka (1,879)**.

44. **Project Lion Second Home**: **Barda Wildlife Sanctuary** (Gujarat) developed as the natural second habitat for Asiatic Lions outside Gir National Park.

45. **Great Indian Bustard Breakthrough**: World's first Great Indian Bustard chick born via **artificial insemination** at **Sudasari Breeding Centre (Jaisalmer, Rajasthan)**.

46. **Indian Carbon Market (CCTS)**: Notified under the **Energy Conservation Act, 2001**; **1 Carbon Credit Certificate (CCC) = 1 tonne of CO2 equivalent (tCO2e)** (PIB).

47. **CCTS Institutional Roles**: **BEE** = Administrator; **Grid Controller of India** = Registry; **CERC** = Trading Regulator on power exchanges.

48. **9 Mandatory Compliance Sectors in CCTS**: Aluminium, Chlor-Alkali, Cement, Fertiliser, Iron & Steel, Pulp & Paper, Petrochemicals, Petroleum Refinery, and Textiles.

49. **Green Credit Programme (GCP)**: Notified under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** across **8 activities**; administered by **ICFRE, Dehradun** (MoEFCC).

50. **National Green Hydrogen Mission**: **₹19,744 crore** outlay (₹17,490 Cr for SIGHT); targets **5 MMT/yr Green H2** and **125 GW RE** by 2030.

51. **India's Green Hydrogen Emission Standard**: Non-biogenic emissions must be **≤ 2 kg CO2 equivalent per 1 kg of Hydrogen** produced.

52. **PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana**: **₹75,021 crore** scheme for **1 crore households** (300 units free electricity/month; up to **₹78,000 subsidy** for ≥3 kW rooftop solar).

53. **Wildlife (Protection) Act Rationalised Schedules**: Reduced from 6 to **4 Schedules** (I: Highest protection animals; II: Lower protection animals; III: Protected plants; IV: **CITES species**).

54. **Total Elephant Reserves in India**: **33 Elephant Reserves**; the **33rd is Terai Elephant Reserve (Dudhwa-Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh)**.

55. **Wild Asian Elephant Population**: Top 3 States—**1st Karnataka (6,395)**, **2nd Assam (5,719)**, **3rd Kerala (3,054)**.

56. **Biosphere Reserves in India**: **18 National Biosphere Reserves**, of which **12 are in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)** (12th: Panna, MP).

57. **6 Biosphere Reserves Outside UNESCO WNBR**: **Manas, Dibru-Saikhowa, Dihang-Dibang, Rann of Kachchh, Cold Desert, and Seshachalam Hills**.

58. **Banned Veterinary Drugs (Vulture Protection)**: **Diclofenac, Ketoprofen, Aceclofenac, and Nimesulide** are banned; **Meloxicam and Tolfenamic Acid** are safe alternatives.

59. **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**: Targets a **40% reduction in PM10/PM2.5 by 2026** (over 2017–18 baseline) across **131 non-attainment cities** via the **PRANA** portal (PIB).

60. **National Air Quality Index (NAQI)**: Covers **8 pollutants** (PM10, PM2.5, NO2, SO2, CO, O3, NH3, Pb); **excludes CO2 and Methane (CH4)**.

61. **E-Waste (Management) Rules**: Regulates **106 electrical/electronic items across 7 Schedules**, explicitly including **Solar PV modules, panels, and cells**.

62. **UN BBNJ Agreement (High Seas Treaty)**: Signed by India under **UNCLOS** to establish Marine Protected Areas in international waters (>200 nautical miles EEZ) toward the **30x30 target**.

63. **Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam (#Plant4Mother)**: Nationwide Mission LiFE campaign that surpassed **100 crore (1+ billion) saplings planted** across India (**PIB**).

64. **Blue Flag Beaches in India**: **12 certified beaches** awarded by **FEE, Denmark** (newest: **Minicoy Thundi Beach and Kadmat Beach in Lakshadweep**).

65. **India's Non-Fossil Electricity Milestone**: India crossed **50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel sources** ahead of its 2030 Paris Agreement NDC target (**PIB**).

IUC Academy *1-3-7-21* Day Spaced-Revision & Self-Assessment Tracker (www.iucacademy.com)

Chapter / Study Section	Day 1 (First Read)	Day 3 (Active Recall)	Day 7 (MCQ Drill)	Day 21 (Exam Ready)
1. Executive Thematic Overview	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
2. Chapter 1: Global Climate Diplomacy 2026: UNFCCC COP30 (Belém) Outcomes & COP31 (Antalya, Türkiye) Agenda	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
3. Chapter 2: India State of Forest Report (ISFR): Forest & Tree Cover (25.17%), Carbon Stock & State Rankings	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
4. Chapter 3: Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance 2026: India's Expansion to 103 Ramsar Sites	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
5. Chapter 4: Tiger Reserves in India 2026 (58 Reserves): Guru Ghasidas–Tamor Pingla (56th), Ratapani (57th) & Madhav (58th)	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
6. Chapter 5: International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), Project Cheetah (Kuno & Gandhi Sagar) & Species Recovery 2026	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
7. Chapter 6: Indian Carbon Market (CCTS) 2026, Green Credit Programme & National Green Hydrogen Mission	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
8. Chapter 7: Biodiversity Governance, Biosphere Reserves, Elephant Reserves & Wildlife Protection Rules 2026	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
9. Chapter 8: Pollution Control, Circular Economy, Global Plastics Treaty, E-Waste Rules & NCAP 2026	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
10. BOOK CA12 — 45 Solved 4-Option Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs)	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
11. Extended Comparative & Analytical Practice Set (Questions 46–85)	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**

Chapter / Study Section	Day 1 (First Read)	Day 3 (Active Recall)	Day 7 (MCQ Drill)	Day 21 (Exam Ready)
12. BOOK CA12 — 65 Rapid-Fire Revision Points	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**