

ENVIRONMENT

India's unusual abstention in CITES vote on reopening ivory trade

❖ **CONTEXT:** India's unusual abstention in CITES vote on reopening ivory trade. Although increasingly squeezed for space and support in a crowded land, the elephant remains one of India's most powerful cultural and religious symbols. A pioneer in banning even the domestic trade in ivory in 1986, India has always been at the forefront of global elephant conservation initiatives.

- That is why India's decision not to vote against a proposal to re-open the international trade in ivory at the ongoing conference of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) surprised many.
- That proposal, to allow a regular form of controlled trade in ivory from Namibia, Botswana, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, was defeated 83-15 in Panama City recently.

➤ **CITES agreement**

- CITES is an international agreement between governments (184 at present) to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species.
- The convention entered into force in 1975 and India became the 25th party (a state that voluntarily agrees to be bound by the Convention) in 1976.
- All import, export and re-export of species covered under CITES must be authorised through a permit system.
 - ✓ CITES Appendix I lists species threatened with extinction — import or export permits for these are issued rarely and only if the purpose is not primarily commercial.
 - ✓ CITES Appendix II includes species not necessarily threatened with extinction but in which trade must be strictly regulated.
- Every two years, the Conference of the Parties (CoP), the supreme decision-making body of CITES, applies a set of biological and trade criteria to evaluate proposals from parties to decide if a species should be in Appendix I or II.

➤ **Tussle over ivory**

- The international ivory trade was globally banned in 1989 when all African elephant populations were put in CITES Appendix I.
- However, the populations of Namibia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe were transferred to Appendix II in 1997, and South Africa's in 2000 to allow two "one-off sales" in 1999 and 2008 of ivory stockpiled from natural elephant deaths and seizures from poachers.
- Subsequently, Namibia's proposal for allowing a regular form of controlled trade in ivory by delisting the elephant populations of the four countries from Appendix II was rejected at CoP17 (2016) and CoP18 (2019). At the ongoing CoP19, the proposal was moved by Zimbabwe but met the same fate.
- The four southern African countries argue that their elephant populations have bounced back and that their stockpiled ivory, if sold internationally, can generate much-needed revenue for elephant conservation and incentivising communities.
- Opponents of the ivory trade counter that any form of supply stokes demand and that sharp spikes in elephant poaching were recorded across the globe after the one-off sales allowed by the CITES in 1999 and 2008.

➤ **India and ivory trade**

- The endangered Asian elephant was included in CITES Appendix I in 1975, which banned the export of ivory from the Asian range countries.
- In 1986, India amended The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to ban even domestic sales of ivory.
- After the ivory trade was globally banned, India again amended the law to ban the import of African ivory in 1991.
- In 1981 when India hosted CoP3, India designed the iconic CITES logo in the form of an elephant. Over the years, India's stand has been unequivocal on the ivory issue.
- **1992 CoP8:** In Kyoto, Japan, Indian delegate Arin Ghosh, then director of Project Tiger, noted a polarisation of parties (one for sustainable use and trade in wildlife, the other favouring total ban and stricter control) with the latter, fortunately, outnumbering the former.
- **1994 CoP9:** At Lauderdale, US, India opposed the down-listing of the elephant population of South Africa from Appendix I to II.
- **1997 CoP10:** At Harare, Zimbabwe, India opposed the proposal to down-list the southern African elephant populations, expressing "concern over repercussions for the Asian elephant, particularly with regard to poaching".
- **2000 CoP11:** At Gigiri, Kenya, India moved a proposal along with the host country to up-list all elephant populations in Appendix II to I.

- At CoP17 and CoP18, India voted against proposals to re-open trade in ivory from the southern African states. In Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2017, “India expressed its willingness to share their experiences of protecting elephants and supporting rural development without recourse to trade in ivory”.
- **What has changed**
- After protracted negotiation, India signed an agreement in July 2022 with Namibia to fly in cheetahs.
- In October 2022 India has agreed to promote “sustainable utilisation and management of biodiversity” by supporting advances in this area of bilateral cooperation “at international forums including meetings of” CITES.
- While the word “ivory” was not mentioned, Namibia sought India’s support under this agreement for the longstanding proposal to re-open the ivory trade at CITES.
- **According to the Environment Ministry:**
 - ✓ Government of India has not received any written communication from the Republic of Namibia regarding lifting of ban on ivory trade.
 - ✓ Though the agreement signed between the Government of the Republic of Namibia and Government of the Republic of India includes ‘wildlife conservation and sustainable biodiversity utilization’ as one of the areas of cooperation, this cannot be construed as support for lifting the ban on trade in endangered species.
 - ✓ However, on November 19, when the proposal on the ivory trade was put to vote at CoP19, India chose to abstain and not vote against it.

At COP27, one hit and many misses

❖ **CONTEXT: At COP27, the decision to set up a loss and damage fund has earned the conference a place among the major milestones in global climate change response. But on many other fronts, the final agreement delivered little.**

- An agreement was reached on 20th November at the UN climate summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt to create a loss and damage (L&D) fund to pay the most vulnerable nations from climate-related disasters.
- A "transitional committee" will provide suggestions for the establishment of the fund and will handle important issues including who will manage the fund, whether contributions from substantial emerging countries are anticipated, and what the fair proportion of donors will be.

➤ **CoP 27 CoP Of Loss And Damages (L&D):**

- A three-decade-old initiative has made some progress which was first started by the island nation of Vanuatu and the Alliance of Small Island States.
- Loss & Damages are those that cannot be mitigated (by reducing greenhouse gas emissions) or adapted to (modifying practices to buffer against climate change impacts).
- The most vulnerable poor nations, who are currently suffering the most from natural disasters linked to climate change, will now have a separate fund set aside for compensation.
- In addition to financial loss to property, they also involve loss of livelihoods, the eradication of biodiversity, and the demolition of culturally significant locations. This increases the potential for impacted countries to seek compensation.

➤ **Concerns**

- The progress on action to keep temperatures from rising beyond 1.5°C of pre-industrial levels was limited.
- These impasses continue to exist how developed nations, which account for the majority of historical emissions, would fulfill a previous commitment to give developing nations \$100 billion annually by 2020. And whether everyone would agree to stop using fossil fuels altogether, not just coal.
- The language passed at Sharm el-Sheikh simply commits to the creation of a fund; future COP meetings will need to discuss how it will be set up and, most critically, who will contribute how much to it.
- Even though Wallonia (Belgium) and Scotland have only made token donations to such a fund, it is believed that L&D is already worth more than \$500 billion.

➤ **Way ahead**

What is “loss and damage”?

The phrase refers to costs already being incurred from climate-fuelled weather extremes or impacts, like rising sea levels

■ Climate funding so far has focused on cutting CO2 emissions, while a third of it went towards helping communities adapt to future impacts

■ Loss and damage funding is expected to cover the cost of damage that countries cannot avoid or adapt to

■ A report by 55 vulnerable countries estimated that their combined climate-linked losses in the last two decades totalled



\$525 billion, or 20% of their collective GDP. This could go upto \$580 billion per year by 2030

■ Vulnerable countries and campaigners argue that rich countries that caused the bulk of climate change with their historical greenhouse gas emissions should pay

- The European Union pushed hard during negotiations this year to include China, the Arab states, and "big, emerging countries" (which may include India) because they were major emitters.
- This creates a new opportunity for conflict at COPs in the future, and the L&D fund may take years to start making a real difference because just a third of committed climate financing has reached developing nations.
- Even while the progress is gradual, nations must maintain their momentum and put up more effort to make sure that COPs continue to serve as credible catalysts rather than being occasions for pyrrhic victories.
- ❖ **A summary of some of the other key outcomes of COP27.**
- **Technology:** COP27 saw the launch of a new five-year work program at COP27 to promote climate technology solutions in developing countries.
- **Mitigation:** COP27 significantly advanced the work on mitigation.
 - ✓ A mitigation work programme was launched in Sharm el-Sheikh, aimed at urgently scaling up mitigation ambition and implementation.
 - ✓ The work programme will start immediately following COP27 and continue until 2030, with at least two global dialogues held each year.
 - ✓ Governments were also requested to revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their national climate plans by the end of 2023, as well as accelerate efforts to phasedown unabated coal power and phase-out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.
 - ✓ The decision text recognizes that the unprecedented global energy crisis underlines the urgency to rapidly transform energy systems to be more secure, reliable, and resilient, by accelerating clean and just transitions to renewable energy during this critical decade of action.
- **Global Stocktake:** Delegates at the UN Climate Change Conference COP27 wrapped up the second technical dialogue of the first global stocktake, a mechanism to raise ambition under the Paris Agreement.
- ✓ The UN Secretary-General will convene a 'climate ambition summit' in 2023, ahead of the conclusion of the stocktake at COP28 next year.
- **Announcements**
- Countries launched a package of 25 new collaborative actions in five key areas: power, road transport, steel, hydrogen and agriculture.
- UN Secretary-General António Guterres announced a USD 3.1 billion plan to ensure everyone on the planet is protected by early warning systems within the next five years.
- The UN Secretary-General's High-Level Expert Group on Net-Zero Commitments published a report at COP27, serving as a how-to guide to ensure credible, accountable net-zero pledges by industry, financial institutions, cities and regions.
- The G7 and the V20 ('the Vulnerable Twenty') launched the Global Shield against Climate Risks, with new commitments of over USD 200 million as initial funding. Implementation is to start immediately in a range of pathfinder countries.
- Announcing a total of USD 105.6 million in new funding, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, and the Walloon Region of Belgium, stressed the need for even more support for the Global Environment Facility funds targeting the immediate climate adaptation needs of low-lying and low-income states.
- The new Indonesia Just Energy Transition Partnership, announced at the G20 Summit held in parallel with COP27, will mobilize USD 20 billion over the next three to five years to accelerate a just energy transition.
- Important progress was made on forest protection with the launch of the Forest and Climate Leaders' Partnership, which aims to unite action by governments, businesses and community leaders to halt forest loss and land degradation by 2030.

PRELIMS

1. **Tamil Nadu gets its first biodiversity heritage site**
- ❖ **CONTEXT:** The Tamil Nadu Government recently, issued a notification declaring Arittapatti and Meenakshipuram villages in Madurai district the first biodiversity heritage site in the State.
- The site comprising 139.63 hectares in Arittapatti village (Melur block) and 53.8 hectares in Meenakshipuram village (Madurai East taluk) will be known as the Arittapatti Biodiversity Heritage site, said a notification.
- Arittapatti village, known for its ecological and historical significance, houses around 250 species of birds including three important raptors - birds of prey, namely the Laggar Falcon, the Shaheen Falcon and Bonelli's Eagle.
- It is also home to wildlife such as the Indian Pangolin, Slender Loris and pythons.

- The area is surrounded by a chain of seven hillocks or inselbergs that serve as a watershed, charging “72 lakes, 200 natural springs and three check dams. The Anaikondan tank, built during the reign of Pandiyan kings in the 16th century is one among them.
- Several megalithic structures, rock-cut temples, Tamil Brahmi inscriptions and Jain beds add to the historical significance of the region.
- ❖ **Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS)**
- BHS are areas that are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems - terrestrial, coastal, inland and marine waters - having a rich biodiversity.
- **The biodiversity comprises any one or more of the components like,**
- Species richness - Wild and domesticated species or intra-specific categories
- High endemism
- Presence of rare, endemic and threatened species, keystone species, species of evolutionary significance
- Presence of wild ancestors of domestic/cultivated species or landraces or their varieties
- Past pre-eminence of biological components represented by fossil beds and having cultural or aesthetic values.
- Area with significant cultural, ethical or aesthetic values; important for the maintenance of cultural diversity
- **As per Section 37 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002**
- ✓ State Governments can notify in the official gazette, in consultation with ‘local bodies’, areas of biodiversity importance as BHS.
- ✓ State Government in consultation with the Central Government may frame rules for the management and conservation of BHS.
- ✓ State Governments can frame schemes for compensating or rehabilitating anyone economically affected by such notification.
- State Biodiversity Boards (SBB) may invite suggestions for the declaration of BHSs, through the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) and other relevant community institutions. Areas having any of the following characteristics may qualify for inclusion as BHS.
- 2. Freedom in the world Index, V-DEM indices, EIU Democracy Index**
- ❖ **CONTEXT: Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister has issued a working paper by Sanjeev Sanyal Member EAC-PM and Akanksha Arora . The Paper analyses three perception-based indices: Freedom in the World Index, V-DEM indices, and EIU Democracy Index**
- Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister member Sanjeev Sanyal and Akanksha Arora raised the issue with these reports towards India
- **Issues:**
- This working paper analyses three perception-based indices: Freedom in the World Index, V-DEM indices, and EIU Democracy Index.
- Freedom in the World Index and V-DEM indices has placed India at the same level as during the Emergency of the 1970s. Moreover, India has been placed below countries like Northern Cyprus. Surely, this is not credible.
- There are serious problems with the methodology used in these perception-based indices.
 - ✓ First, these indices are primarily based on the opinions of a tiny group of unknown “experts”
 - ✓ Second, the questions that are used are subjective and are worded in a way that is impossible to answer objectively even for a country, let alone compare across countries.
 - ✓ Third, there are questions that should be asked but are excluded.
 - ✓ Fourth, certain questions used by these indices are not an appropriate measure of democracy across all countries.
- Since these indices are inputs into the World Governance Indicators, the World Bank should ensure greater transparency and accountability from these institutions.
- Meanwhile, independent Indian think tanks should be encouraged to do similar perception-based indices for the world in order to break the monopoly of a handful of western institutions.
- ❖ **Freedom in the World Index, 2022**
- Freedom in the World is an annual global report on political rights and civil liberties, composed of numerical ratings and descriptive texts for each country and a select group of territories. The 2022 edition covers developments in 195 countries and 15 territories from January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021.
- The report has been published by US-based non-profit organisation Freedom House, which is funded by the US government.
- Political rights indicators such as the electoral process, political pluralism and participation and government functioning.

- Civil liberties indicators related to freedom of expression and belief, associational and organisational rights, the rule of law and personal autonomy and individual rights.
- Countries are declared as “free”, “partly free” or “not free”.
- **India’s position**
- According to Freedom House’s Freedom in the World report India’s status, for the second consecutive year, continues to not completely free country, giving it ‘global freedom score’ of 66/100 after judging it on various political rights and civil liberties.
- In 2022, India has dropped a point to score 66 on 100, compared to 2021. While the reports until 2020 have called India a free country, the scores are consistently dropping since 2017.
- While half a decade ago, India scored 77 on 100, the score dropped to 75 in 2019 and 71 in 2020.
- India’s freedom scores are similar to that of Bolivia, Hungary and Albania. The countries that have scored the worst include South Sudan, Syria, Tibet, Turkmenistan, Eritrea and North Korea. Sixty-nine countries are currently not free worldwide.
- This makes the situation worse than in 1973 when only 63 countries were not free. Apart from the worst scorers, the list also includes Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Thailand and Qatar. This is an increase from the last year, where only 54 countries were not free.
- ❖ **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Democracy Index 2022**
- **About**
- The Democracy Index was started in 2006. It provides a snapshot of the state of democracy worldwide in 165 independent states and two territories.
- The index is based on 60 indicators grouped into five categories: electoral process and pluralism, civil liberties, functioning of government, political participation and political culture.
- Each country will be provided with a score of 0 to 10. These scores are decided based on the above indicators. Based on their scores, each country is then classified into any one of the four types of regime such as full democracy, flawed democracy, hybrid regime and authoritarian regime.
- **Key findings of the latest report**
- Norway has topped the index. It has been classified as a full democracy.
- India is ranked 46th on the 2021 index with an overall score of 6.91. It has been classified as a flawed democracy. (In 2020, India was ranked 53rd in the index).
- Less than half (45.7%) of the world’s population now live in a democracy of some sort, a significant decline from 2020(49.4%).
- Even fewer countries (6.4%) reside in a “full democracy”. Further, more than a third of the world’s population (37.1%) live under authoritarian rule, with a large share being in China.
- **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU):** The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) was created in 1946. It is the research and analysis division of The Economist Group and the world leader in global business intelligence.
- 3. Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI, 2023)**
- ❖ **CONTEXT: India has been ranked amongst top 5 countries in the world, and the best among the G20 countries, based on its Climate Change performance.**
- India jumps 2 spots higher, and is now ranked 8th as per Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI, 2023) published by German Watch, New Climate Institute and Climate Action Network International based in Germany.
- The latest report of CCPI, released at COP 27 in November 2022, shows Denmark, Sweden, Chile and Morocco as the only four small countries that were ranked above India as 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th respectively.
- The first, second and third ranks were not awarded to any country. In effect therefore, India’s rank is the best amongst all large economies.
- **CCPI**
- The CCPI aims to enhance transparency in international climate politics and enables comparison of climate protection efforts and progress made by individual countries.
- Published annually since 2005, the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) is an independent monitoring tool for tracking the climate protection performance of 59 countries and the EU. Every year, the CCPI sets off important public and political debates within the countries assessed.
- The climate protection performance of these 59 countries, which together account for 92% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, is assessed in four categories:
 - ✓ GHG Emissions (40% of overall score)
 - ✓ Renewable Energy (20% of overall score)
 - ✓ Energy Use (20% of overall score)
 - ✓ Climate Policy (20% of overall score)
- India earned a high rating in the GHG Emissions and Energy Use categories, while a medium for Climate Policy and Renewable Energy.

- The aggressive policies of India towards rapid deployment of renewable and robust framework for energy efficiency programs have shown considerable impact. As per the CCPI report, India is on track to meet its 2030 emissions targets (compatible with a well-below-2°C scenario).
- The ranking given by CCPI places India as the only G-20 country in the top 10 rank.
- Union Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy, highlighted various demand side flagship programs such as UJALA, PAT Scheme and Standards and Labelling Programme that have contributed significantly to this notable achievement.
- 4. Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)**
 - ❖ **CONTEXT: France, the outgoing Council Chair, handed over the presidency to India at the third edition of the annual GPAI summit, which began in Tokyo recently.**
 - The third edition of the annual Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) summit began on 21st November 2022 in Tokyo, and handed over the presidency of the group to India, for 2022-23, by the outgoing Council Chair, France.
 - At the summit, which was concluded on 22nd November 2022, was represented by Rajeev Chandrasekhar, the Union Minister of State (MoS) for Electronics and Technology.
 - India called upon member states of Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) to work together for evolving a common framework of rules and guidelines about data governance to prevent user harm and ensure safety of both the internet and AI.
 - **What is Global Partnership in Artificial Intelligence?**
 - Launched on June 15, 2020, with fifteen members, the Global Partnership in Artificial Intelligence is described as the 'fruition of an idea developed within the G7.'
 - It is a multi-stakeholder initiative on artificial intelligence (AI), which aims to fill what it describes as 'the gap between theory and practice on AI,' by supporting cutting-edge research, as well as applied activities, on AI-related priorities.
 - The initiative facilitates international cooperation on artificial technology by bringing together on a single platform, experts from fields such as science, industry, civil society, governments, international bodies, and academia.
 - **Who all are members of GPAI?**
 - At present, GPAI has twenty-five member states: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, the Republic of Korea (South Korea), Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union (EU).
 - The founding members are: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, the UK, the US, and the EU.
 - The G7 countries in GPAI are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK, and the US. In addition, the EU is a 'non-enumerated member' of the G7.
 - **Where were the first two GPAI summits held?**
 - Montreal (Canada) hosted the inaugural edition on December 3 and 4, 2020, followed by Paris, on November 11 and 12, 2021. The two offices of the bloc are also located in these two cities, with one in each location.
 - **What about the Tokyo summit?**
 - Tokyo is the first Asian city which hosted this summit. Being held at Hotel Chinzanso Tokyo in the Japanese capital, the meeting was discussed these four themes:
 - ✓ Responsible AI
 - ✓ Data governance
 - ✓ Future of work
 - ✓ Innovation and commercialisation
 - **How did India get presidency for 2022-23?**
 - In the election for the Council Chair, India received more than a two-thirds majority of the first-preference votes, and was followed by Canada and the US, respectively.
 - However, it is not known which city will host the 2023 edition. Also, in September next year, the G20 summit will take place in New Delhi.

ANSWER WRITTING

Q.' Clean energy is the order of the day.' Describe briefly India's changing policy towards climate change in various international fora in the context of geopolitics.

India's climate change policy has undergone a significant change over the years, from seeking energy security to taking initiative in the field of clean energy at a global level; the country's diplomatic stand at the Conference of Parties reflects its pro-environment outlook. By accepting the net-zero commitments, India has reiterated its stand that its policy on climate change is based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

India, since ancient times, has always promoted harmony with nature. This can be further evidenced by the country's commitment to the Paris Accord and the acceptance of the net-zero targets, proving that India is aware of clean energy's significance.

In this context, the five-point agenda of Panchamrit for dealing with climate change, including ambitious targets related to the use of renewable energy for meeting the country's energy requirements, reduction in carbon emissions and intensity in its economy and achieving the target of net-zero, are a clear statement by India of its commitment towards clean energy as well as its intent for taking a leading role in the same.

- India's geopolitical and global outlook, based on the constantly evolving global environmental challenges, can be witnessed by the country's diplomacy at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- India does not agree to the imposition of legally binding targets since it requires strategic autonomy to
 - (a) Pursue its domestic developmental agenda
 - (b) Identify the method required to commit to targets related to climate change and clean energy
- India, keeping the ambition of enhancing its global profile and power ambitions, has moved away from a reactionary to a participatory approach. This can be seen with India's change in position from its response to the Kyoto Protocol commitments as compared to the Paris Agreement.
- Further, keeping in line with its diplomatic endeavours globally and the recognition of clean energy's significance, India has taken a leading role along with other major global players in several international initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA), the One Sun, One World and One Grid programme and the Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) Movement.
- Further, India has also raised its concerns regarding the reluctance of the developed nations in sharing the necessary technologies with the developing nations to enable them to effectively deal with climate change.

Thus, India has modified its climate change policy according to the developments taking place on a global scale and has taken initiatives in mitigating issues arising out of climate change while keeping in mind its geopolitical objectives.

MCQs

1. With reference to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. IUCN is an organ of the United Nations and CITES is an international agreement between governments.
2. IUCN runs thousands of field projects around the world to better manage natural environments.
3. CITES is legally binding on the States that have joined it, but this Convention does not take the place of national laws.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

2. With reference to the Global Partnership for Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was first officially proposed by the US and Canada at the Biarritz G7 Summit.
2. India assumed the Chair of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) for period of 2022-23 recently.
3. GPAI is a congregation of 25 member countries and India joined in 2020 as a founding member.

Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?

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

3. Consider the following statements regarding Asian Elephants

1. More than 60% of the world's elephant population is in India.
2. Asian elephants are listed as "Critically endangered" on the IUCN Red List of threatened species.
3. Elephant is the Natural Heritage Animal of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

4. Consider the following statements with reference to Climate Change Performance Index consider the following
1. German watch publishes the index biannually in cooperation with the New Climate Institute and Climate Action Network International.
 2. In the latest report of CCPI India's rank improved by two positions and is the best amongst all large economies.

Choose the correct statement/s using the codes given blow

- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only**
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2
5. Which country topped the EIU's Democracy Index 2022 that was released recently?
- a) Sweden
 - b) Finland
 - c) Germany
 - d) Norway**
6. With reference to Biodiversity Heritage sites, consider the following statements:
1. These are areas of rich biodiversity, which lie outside the protected area network.
 2. They are notified only by Central Government but after consultation with State Government.
 3. They are created under Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
 4. Odisha does not have Biodiversity Heritage Sites.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 Only
 - b) 1 and 3 Only**
 - c) 3 and 4 Only
 - d) 1,3 and 4 only
7. With reference to India, consider the following Central Acts.
1. Import and Export (Control) Act, 1947.
 2. Mining and Mineral Development (Regulation) Act, 1957.
 3. Customs Act, 1962.
 4. Indian Forest Act, 1927.

Which of the above Acts have relevance to/bearing on the biodiversity conservation in the country?

- a) 1 and 3 only
 - b) 2, 3, and 4 only
 - c) 1, 2, 3 and 4**
 - d) None of the above Acts
8. With reference to "loss and damage" term used in the context of climate change, consider the following statements:
1. The term for the first time coined in recent UNFCCC COP27.
 2. It is the damage caused by the climatic action that can be sustained by the people.
 3. It is caused by the extreme weather conditions like cyclone and droughts.

Select the correct statements using the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) 2 and 3 only
 - d) 3 only**
9. Gutti Koya tribes recently seen in news are associated with which state/s?
- a) Andhra Pradesh
 - b) Odisha
 - c) Telengana
 - d) All of the above**

10. With reference to Indo-Pacific Regional Dialog consider the following
1. It is being led by the National Maritime Foundation NMF, which is the Indian Navy's knowledge partner.
 2. The "Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue" (IPRD) is the Indian Navy's yearly, recurring, top-level international conference geared at the Indian Navy's strategic level.

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below

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