

Daily MCQs: 16/09/2022

1. With reference to the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), consider the following statements.

1. It is a statutory advisory body on Animal Welfare Laws.
2. It was established under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

2. The Cartagena Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international agreement which aims to

- A. Sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way
- B. Ensure the safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs)
- C. Address pollutants that cause acidification and ground-level ozone
- D. Conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats

3. Consider the following statements about the Global Hunger Index.

1. It is prepared by the UN World Food Programme.
2. It is based on 4 indicators viz. Undernourishment, Child wasting, Child stunting and Child mortality.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

4. Consider the following statements about UNESCO Global Geoparks.

1. The purpose of a UNESCO Global Geoparks is to explore, develop and celebrate the links between geological heritage and all other aspects of the area's natural, cultural and intangible heritages.
2. A complete ban on economic activities is placed on Global Geopark sites.
3. Currently, India does not have any sites under the list of UNESCO Global Geoparks.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

5. Government of India's PM GatiShakti plan aims at

- A. Providing credit linked subsidy for setting up of coir units in rural India
- B. To gain the objective of providing gainful employment for the rural poor
- C. To ensure holistic planning and execution of infrastructure projects
- D. To make all national highways free of railway crossings

Solutions:

1. Answer: **A**

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) is a **statutory advisory body** on Animal Welfare Laws and promotes animal welfare in the country.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Established in **1962** under the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960**, AWBI was started under the stewardship of Rukmini Devi Arundale, well known humanitarian.
- From ensuring that animal welfare laws in the country are diligently followed, to providing grants to Animal Welfare Organizations and advising the Government of India on animal welfare issues, the Board has been the face of the animal welfare movement in the country for the last 50 years.
- AWBI's mandate is to prevent the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals, in terms of the provision of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.
- The Board consists of 28 Members. The term of office of Members is for a period of 3 years.

2. Answer: **B**

Sol:

- Signed by 150 government leaders at the **1992 Rio Earth Summit**, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is dedicated to promoting sustainable development.
- Conceived as a practical tool for translating the **principles of Agenda 21** into reality, the Convention recognizes that biological diversity is about more than plants, animals and micro organisms and their ecosystems – it is about people and our need for food security, medicines, fresh air and water, shelter, and a clean and healthy environment in which to live.
- **India** is a party to CBD and enacted the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**, (*Refer Pulse August edition*) to meet the obligations under Convention on Biological Diversity.

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- *Agenda 21 is a non-binding action plan of the United Nations for sustainable development, covering a wide range of specific natural resources and the role of different groups, as well as issues of social and economic development and implementation.*
- *It is a product of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit.*

Objectives

- The CBD entered into force on 29 December 1993. It has 3 main objectives:
 1. The conservation of biological diversity
 2. The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity
 3. The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources

Aichi Targets

- The 'Aichi Targets' were adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP10) which took place in Nagoya, Japan in 2010.
- During the meeting, the parties agreed that previous biodiversity protection targets were not achieved, and therefore they needed to come up with new plans and targets.
- The short-term plan provides a set of **20 time-bound, measurable targets to be met by the year 2020**, collectively known as the **Aichi Biodiversity Targets**, grouped under **five Strategic Goals**.

Protocols to CBD

Cartagena Protocol

- The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international agreement which aims to **ensure the safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs)** resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health.
- It entered into force on 11 September 2003. Number of Parties: 173 (including **India**).

Nagoya Protocol

- The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international agreement which aims at **sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way**.
- It entered into force on 12 October 2014. Number of Parties: 129 (including **India**).

Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol

- Adopted as a **supplementary agreement to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**, the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety aims to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by providing **international rules and procedures in the field of liability and redress relating to living modified organisms**.
- It entered into force on 5 March 2018. Number of Parties: 48 (including **India**).

3. Answer: B

Sol:

- The Global Hunger Index is an annual score ranking countries of the world on hunger levels.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Index is a peer-reviewed report released annually by **Concern Worldwide**, Ireland's largest aid and humanitarian agency and **Welthungerhilfe**, one of the largest private aid organisations in Germany.
- The GHI determines hunger on a **100-point scale**, where 0 is the best possible score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst. Each country's GHI score is classified by severity, from low to extremely alarming.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is based on 4 indicators:
 - **Undernourishment**
 - **Child wasting** - the share of children under the age of five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition
 - **Child stunting** - children under the age of five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition
 - **Child mortality** - the mortality rate of children under the age of five.

4. Answer: C

Sol:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** UNESCO Global Geoparks are **single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance** are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development.
- The purpose of a UNESCO Global Geoparks is to explore, develop and celebrate the links between geological heritage and all other aspects of the area's natural, cultural and intangible heritages.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The **status does not imply restrictions on any economic activity** inside a Geopark where that activity complies with indigenous, local, regional and/or national legislation.

Bottom-up approach

- UNESCO Global Geoparks are established through a bottom-up process involving all relevant local and regional stakeholders and authorities in the area (e.g. land owners, community groups, tourism providers, indigenous people, and local organizations).

Difference between UNESCO Global Geoparks, Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Sites

- UNESCO Global Geoparks, together with the other two UNESCO site designations Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Sites, give a complete picture of celebrating our heritage while at the same time conserving the world's cultural, biological and geological diversity, and promoting sustainable economic development.
- While **Biosphere Reserves** focus on the harmonised management of biological and cultural diversity and **World Heritage Sites** promote the conservation of natural and cultural sites of outstanding universal value, **UNESCO Global Geoparks** give international recognition for

sites that promote the importance and significance of protecting the Earth's geodiversity through actively engaging with the local communities.

What is the Global Geoparks Network?

- The Global Geoparks Network (GGN), of which **membership is obligatory for UNESCO Global Geoparks**, is a legally constituted **not-for-profit organisation**.
- The GGN was founded in **2004** and is a dynamic network where members are committed to work together and exchange ideas of best practise and join in common projects to raise the quality standards of all products and practises of a UNESCO Global Geopark.

India's Case

- **At present, there are 177 UNESCO Global Geoparks in 46 countries.**
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Despite its extremely diverse geological terrain and markings of some of the world's most fabulous geological events, **India does not have a single geopark recognised by UNESCO.**

5. Answer: C

Sol:

- The Government of India has **launched the "PM GatiShakti — National Master Plan"** for infrastructure development aimed at boosting multimodal connectivity and driving down logistics costs.

About the project

- PM GatiShakti is a **digital platform that connects 16 ministries** — including Roads and Highways, Railways, Shipping, Petroleum and Gas, Power, Telecom, Shipping, and Aviation—with a view to **ensuring holistic planning and execution of infrastructure projects**.
- The portal will offer **200 layers of geospatial data**, including on existing infrastructure such as roads, highways, railways, and toll plazas, as well as **geographic information about forests, rivers and district boundaries to aid in planning and obtaining clearances**.
- The portal will also allow various government departments to track, in real time and at one centralised place, the progress of various projects, especially those with multi-sectoral and multi-regional impact.
- The objective is to **ensure that each and every department now has visibility of each other's activities providing critical data while planning and execution of projects in a comprehensive manner**.
- The GatiShakti platform aims to **prevent such situations by addressing the issue of government departments working in silos**.
- The government expects the platform to enable various government departments to synchronise their efforts into a multi-modal network. It will also offer satellite imagery for monitoring of projects. It is also expected to help state governments give commitments to investors regarding timeframes for the creation of infrastructure.

How will the platform help bring down logistics costs?

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- Studies estimate that **logistics costs in India are about 13-14% of GDP as against about 7-8% of GDP in developed economies.**
- High logistics costs impact cost structures within the economy, and also make it more expensive for exporters to ship merchandise to buyers.
- By incorporating infrastructure schemes under various ministries and state governments, and economic zones such as textile and pharmaceutical clusters and electronics parks, the GatiShakti platform aims to boost last-mile connectivity and bring down logistics costs with integrated planning and reducing implementation overlap.

