

**Daily MCQ: 27.08.2026**

- 1) Consider the following pairs regarding activities in Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs):

Activity	Category
1. Commercial use of natural water	Permitted
2. Establishment of hotels and resorts	Regulated
3. Organic farming	Permitted
4. Widening of roads	Prohibited
5. Use of renewable energy sources	Permitted

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- A. Only two pairs
 - B. Only three pairs
 - C. Only four pairs
 - D. All five pairs
- 2) Consider the following pairs:

International Year	Designated Theme / Focus
1. 2023	International Year of Dialogue as a Guarantee of Peace
2. 2024	International Year of Camelids
3. 2025	International Year of Glaciers' Preservation
4. 2026	International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one pair
 - (b) Only two pairs
 - (c) Only three pairs
 - (d) All four pairs
- 3) With reference to Western Cyclonic Disturbances, consider the following statements:
- 1. Western Disturbances are extra-tropical storms driven into India by subtropical westerly jet streams.
 - 2. Arctic warming weakens the jet stream, pushing these disturbances into late spring and summer.
 - 3. Cold Western Disturbances interacting with warm tropical air inhibit cloud formation, causing dry spells.



Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
- 4) Which one of the following statements about the Information Technology Resilience Index (ITRI) is correct?
- (a) It is an RBI initiative to assess the resilience of digital payment systems.
 - (b) It is a SEBI initiative to strengthen IT resilience of Market Infrastructure Institutions.
 - (c) It is a Ministry of Finance initiative to monitor banking infrastructure.
 - (d) It is a government initiative to regulate private e-commerce platforms.
- 5) Organic matter decomposes extremely slowly due to severe cold, resulting in a low rate of nutrient cycling and a permanently frozen subsoil layer. The natural vegetation is treeless, consisting predominantly of low-growing mosses, lichens, and dwarf shrubs adapted to brief growing seasons." This is the most likely description of
- (a) Taiga biome
 - (b) Savanna biome
 - (c) Tundra biome
 - (d) Temperate grassland biome

Explanation

1) Answer: (B)

- 1. Commercial use of natural water → Incorrect. It is a regulated activity.
- 2. Hotels and resorts → Correct. They are regulated.
- 3. Organic farming → Correct. It is permitted.
- 4. Widening of roads → Incorrect. It is regulated, not prohibited.
- 5. Renewable energy sources → Correct. They are permitted.

Therefore, 3 pairs (2, 3 and 5) are correctly matched.

Prohibited:

Commercial mining, sawmills, polluting industries, major HEPs, commercial use of wood, hot-air balloon tourism, discharge of effluents/solid waste, production of hazardous substances.

Regulated:

Felling of trees, hotels/resorts, commercial use of natural water, electrical cables, drastic changes in agriculture, excessive pesticides/heavy technology, road widening.

Permitted:

Ongoing agriculture/horticulture, rainwater harvesting, organic farming, renewable energy, green technology.

2) Answer: (D)

- **Pair 1 is correctly matched:** The United Nations General Assembly declared 2023 as the **International Year of Dialogue as a Guarantee of Peace** to promote peace, tolerance, and understanding among nations.
- **Pair 2 is correctly matched:** 2024 was officially designated as the **International Year of Camelids** to highlight their crucial role in food security, nutrition, and livelihoods for millions of rural households worldwide.



- **Pair 3 is correctly matched:** 2025 was proclaimed as the **International Year of Glaciers' Preservation** to draw global attention to the rapid melting of glaciers and its impact on the water cycle and sea levels.
- **Pair 4 is correctly matched:** 2026 has been designated as the **International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists** to raise awareness about the ecological importance of rangelands and the sustainable livelihoods of pastoral communities.
- **Therefore, option D is the correct answer.**

3) Answer:**Statement 1 is Correct:**

Western Disturbances are not like tropical cyclones; they are extra-tropical storms originating outside the tropics (usually over the Mediterranean or Caspian Sea). They do not have strong independent forward momentum. Instead, they are steered into the Indian subcontinent by the fast-moving, high-altitude winds known as the subtropical westerly jet streams.

Statement 2 is Correct:

The jet stream is driven by the temperature difference between the freezing Arctic and the warm tropics. Because the Arctic is warming rapidly (Arctic Amplification), this temperature gradient is shrinking. A weaker gradient makes the jet stream "wavier" and more prone to meandering, which disrupts the traditional winter schedule of Western Disturbances, pushing them abnormally into the pre-monsoon and summer months.

Statement 3 is Incorrect:

When a cold upper-air system (the Western Disturbance) interacts with warm, moisture-laden tropical air from the lower levels, it creates massive vertical temperature contrasts. In meteorology, cold air above warm, moist air is the exact recipe for extreme atmospheric instability. Rather than inhibiting cloud formation or causing dry spells, this interaction acts as a violent trigger, resulting in severe convective storms, extreme cloudbursts, heavy rainfall, and catastrophic flooding.

(Sources: NCERT Class 11 Geography - India: Physical Environment, Chapter 4; India Meteorological Department synoptic mechanism reports)

4) Answer: (B)

- **ITRI** stands for **Information Technology Resilience Index**.
- It is a **SEBI initiative** to assess the **functioning and resilience of IT systems of Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs)**.
- MIIs include **stock exchanges, depositories and clearing corporations**.
- **Aim:** To strengthen oversight of IT resilience and **identify weaknesses at an early stage** so that timely corrective action can be taken.
- ITRI is calculated using **nine parameters**, including **availability, security, integrity, governance, business continuity and scalability**.
- **Availability and security** have the highest weightage of **20% each**.
- MIIs calculate the index **half-yearly**.
- They must also develop an **Early Warning System (EWS)** to detect deterioration in IT systems and take remedial measures.
- **Therefore, Option B is the correct answer.**

5) Answer: (C)



The **Tundra** is the coldest of all Earth's terrestrial biomes, characterized by tree-less landscapes, frost-molded topography, extremely low temperatures, little precipitation, and short growing seasons.

Core Characteristics

- **Permafrost:** A sublayer of soil remains permanently frozen year-round. This prevents deep root growth and traps water on the surface during summer thaws, forming boggy pools.
- **Low Biodiversity:** Simple vegetation structure and low species diversity, though population sizes of specific species can fluctuate rapidly.
- **Extreme Climate:** Long, harsh winters (temperatures dropping below -34C) and brief summers (3C to 12C) lasting only 50 to 60 days.
- **Desert-Like Precipitation:** Annual precipitation (including melting snow) is under 15–25 cm, comparable to dry hot deserts.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect

- **Taiga (Boreal Forest):** Dominated by dense coniferous evergreen trees (spruce, pine, fir), not treeless.
- **Savanna:** Tropical/subtropical grassland characterized by distinct wet and dry seasons with scattered trees.
- **Temperate Grassland:** Features deep, highly fertile soils (no permafrost) dominated by continuous grass cover.
- **Therefore, option C is the correct answer.**