Daily subject quiz – Environment (21-11-2026)

https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/daily-subject-quiz/2026-11-21-environment/en

Questions

1. The Ramsar Convention on wetlands was signed in 1971 in which country?

A. Iran

B. Brazil

C. Switzerland

D. Kenya

2. Consider the following statements about biodiversity hotspots:

1. To qualify, a region must have at least 1,500 endemic vascular plant species and must have lost at least 70% of its original habitat.

2. India has parts of four of the world's biodiversity hotspots.

3. The Nicobar Islands are part of the Sundaland hotspot.

Which of the above are correct?

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

3. Match the national park (List I) with its State (List II):

(a) Kaziranga – 1. Gujarat

(b) Gir – 2. Keralam

(c) Silent Valley – 3. West Bengal

(d) Sundarbans – 4. Assam

Codes: (a) (b) (c) (d)

A. 4 1 2 3

B. 4 2 1 3

C. 1 4 2 3

D. 4 1 3 2

4. Assertion (A): Zoological parks, botanical gardens and seed banks are examples of ex-situ conservation.
Reason (R): In ex-situ conservation, species are protected outside their natural habitats.

A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
C. A is true, but R is false
D. A is false, but R is true

5. The Chipko movement of the 1970s, in which villagers hugged trees to stop felling, began in which present-day State?

A. Uttarakhand
B. Karnataka
C. Rajasthan
D. Odisha

6. Consider the following as 'blue carbon' ecosystems that store carbon:
1. Mangroves
2. Seagrass meadows
3. Salt marshes
Which of the above are blue carbon ecosystems?

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

7. Acid rain is mainly caused by the emission of:

A. Carbon monoxide and methane
B. Sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides
C. Chlorofluorocarbons
D. Ozone and water vapour

8. In primary succession on bare rock, the pioneer species are usually:

A. Lichens
B. Large trees
C. Grasses
D. Shrubs

SHANMUGAM IAS ACADEMY
www.shanmugamiasacademy.in
OUR RESPONSE...!

9. Consider the following statements about the Nilgiri tahr:
1. It is the State animal of Tamil Nadu.
2. It is endemic to the Western Ghats.
3. It is also found in the Himalayas.
Which of the above are correct?

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

10. Assertion (A): A high BOD (biochemical oxygen demand) value indicates that a water body is heavily polluted with organic matter.
Reason (R): Micro-organisms use up dissolved oxygen while decomposing organic matter.

A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A
B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A
C. A is true, but R is false
D. A is false, but R is true

Answers with explanations

1. **A) Iran** – It was signed on 2 February 1971 at Ramsar, a town in Iran on the Caspian Sea; 2 February is World Wetlands Day. India became a party in 1982; Chilika (Odisha) and Keoladeo (Rajasthan) were India's first Ramsar sites (1981).

2. **D) 1, 2 and 3** – All three are correct. The criteria (Norman Myers; Conservation International) are 1,500 endemic vascular plants and 70% habitat loss. India's four: the Himalaya, Indo-Burma, Western Ghats and Sri Lanka, and Sundaland (Nicobar Islands).

3. **A) 4 1 2 3** – Kaziranga – Assam (one-horned rhinoceros); Gir – Gujarat (the only wild home of the Asiatic lion); Silent Valley – Keralam (lion-tailed macaque; the 1970s 'Save Silent Valley' movement stopped a hydel project); Sundarbans – West Bengal (mangrove tigers).

4. **A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A** – Both are true and R explains A. In-situ conservation protects species in their natural homes (national parks, sanctuaries, biosphere reserves, sacred groves); ex-situ conservation keeps them outside (zoos, botanical gardens, seed and gene banks, cryopreservation).

5. **A) Uttarakhand** – Chipko began in 1973 in the Chamoli region of the Garhwal Himalaya, then in Uttar Pradesh and now in Uttarakhand. Gaura Devi led the women of Reni village (1974); Chandi Prasad Bhatt and Sunderlal Bahuguna were associated with it.

6. **D) 1, 2 and 3** – All three. 'Blue carbon' is carbon captured and stored by coastal and marine ecosystems – mainly mangroves, seagrass meadows and tidal salt marshes – largely in their waterlogged soils, where it can stay for centuries. The Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay have large seagrass beds.

7. **B) Sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides** – SO2 and NOx from burning coal and oil react with water vapour to form sulphuric and nitric acids; rain with pH below about 5.6 is called acid rain. It damages forests, lakes and monuments – the 'marble cancer' of the Taj Mahal from the Mathura refinery debate is a classic example.

8. **A) Lichens** – Lichens colonise bare rock first; their acids weather the rock and help form a thin soil, which allows mosses, then herbs, shrubs and finally a climax forest. On water (hydrarch succession) the pioneers are phytoplankton.

9. **A) 1 and 2 only** – Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Nilgiri tahr lives only in the Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu and Keralam – its largest population is in Eravikulam National Park; it is Endangered on the IUCN Red List. The Himalayan tahr is a different species. Tamil Nadu launched 'Project Nilgiri Tahr' in 2023.

10. **A) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A** – Both are true and R explains A. BOD is the oxygen that micro-organisms need to break down the organic matter in a litre of water (usually measured over five days at 20 °C). Sewage raises BOD, dissolved oxygen falls and fish die; clean water has a low BOD.

Shanmugam IAS Academy – your next step

- **Courses:** TNPSC Group 1, 2 / 2A (Prelims + Mains), Group 4, UPSC / IAS, Bank, SSC, SI – Coimbatore · Madurai · Online – https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/fees
- **Books (PDF):** TNPSC PYQ books, UPSC books – https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/study-materials
- **More free PDFs:** https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/free-pdf-download · This page: https://www.shanmugamiasacademy.in/daily-subject-quiz/2026-11-21-environment/en

Admissions – call / WhatsApp: 99941 46662 · 99944 27714 · www.shanmugamiasacademy.in