

Q: Recently the Environment Performance Index (EPI) 2022 was released. Consider the following statement:

1. The EPI is an analysis by researchers of Yale and Columbia University.
2. India rank is lower than China.
3. Norway was the top the list in this index.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

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

Ans: a

Explanation:

- The EPI is an analysis by researchers of Yale and Columbia University which provides a data-driven summary of the state of sustainability around the world.
- India ranked at the bottom with a total score of 18.9, while Denmark was the top scorer as the world's most sustainable country.
- India is now ranked **last in a list of 180 countries** compared to 168th in 2020, having prioritised, per the report, "economic growth over environmental sustainability".
- It has been **ranked poorly across 40 indicators divided into 11 categories**—climate change mitigation, air quality, waste management, water and sanitation, heavy metals, biodiversity and habitat, ecosystem services, fisheries, agriculture, acid rain, and water resources.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding the rejection of votes in Rajya Sabha and choose the incorrect option:

- a) Open ballot voting applies in elections to Council of States only.
- b) Under Rule 39AA, MLAs belonging to a political party shall show their ballot papers to the authorised agent of other parties.
- c) Independent MLAs are required to insert the marked ballot paper.
- d) MLA has to mark his or her choice of candidates by ranking them and they also have to use a special pen provided by the EC.

Ans: b

Explanation:

- Open ballot voting applies in elections to Council of States only. Every political party which has MLAs can appoint an authorised agent to verify whom its members have voted for.
- The spirit behind Rule 39AA of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 is that MLAs belonging to a political party shall show their ballot papers (after marking their vote) to the authorised agent of that party only and not to the authorised agent of other parties.
- Independent MLAs are required to insert the marked ballot paper in the ballot box without showing the marked ballot to any agent.
- MLA has to mark his or her choice of candidates by ranking them and they also have to use a special pen provided by the EC. If they use any other pen, or if their ballot papers remain incomplete, the vote would be regarded as invalid.

Q: Consider the following statement:

1. India became party to TRIPS Agreement in 1995.
2. India is a signatory to Berne Convention.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) 1 and 2 Both
- d) None of the above

Ans: c

Explanation:

- India has gradually aligned itself with international regimes pertaining to intellectual property rights. It became a party to the **Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement** following its membership to the World Trade Organization on January 1, 1995.
- Following this, it amended its internal patent laws to comply with TRIPS, most notably in 2005, when it introduced pharmaceutical product patents into the legislation.
- India is also a signatory to several IPR related conventions, including the **Berne Convention**, which governs copyright, the **Budapest Treaty**, the **Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property**, and the **Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)**, all of which govern various patent-related matters.

Q: Consider the following statement regarding the water crisis in Bundelkhand:

1. The rainfall is capricious and erratic in amount, pattern, intensity and distribution.
2. It has a larger share of rocky formation with slopy terrain.
3. This region has an unusually high rate of water run-off gushing towards the north, creating deep gorges and rapids.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

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

Ans: d

Explanation:

- In the past, the **water crisis in Bundelkhand has been attributed to deforestation, mismanagement and wrong priorities** and not necessarily to inherent water shortage. It is important to remember that: Bundelkhand normally receives about 900 to 1000 mm. annual rainfall.
- Bundelkhand **has a network of seven major rivers** – Chambal, Sind, Betwa, Dhansan, Ken, Tons and Yamuna, and ten smaller rivers – Pahuj, Paisuni, Baghein, Sonar, Vyarma, Mahuar, Urmil, Lakheri, Jamni, Bina, and their numerous tributaries.
- This region had also been rich in traditional water collection sources.
- The **rainfall is capricious and erratic in amount, pattern, intensity and distribution**. Extreme deviations from the normal are quite common. **About 90 per cent of the total rainfall is received during four months, July to September**. The high intensity of rain hardly leaves any time for the water to infiltrate into the soil, and the deforestation has left little scope to capture the rainwater and transport it to ground-water levels.
- Among the regions to the south of the Himalayan Foothills, **Bundelkhand has a larger share of rocky formation with slopy terrain**. Because of the Vindhyan plateaus flanked by high steep cliffs, this region has an unusually **high rate of water run-off gushing towards the north**, creating deep gorges and rapids. This has meant greater problems of water retention.

Q: Recently, the 118th meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) comprising the Indus Commissioners of India and Pakistan was held in New Delhi. Consider the following statement:

1. Pakistan raised objections regarding the technical design features of the Kishanganga and Ratle hydroelectric power plants located on the tributaries of the Jhelum and the Chenab.
2. Indus Water Treaty allocated Jhelum and the Chenab River to India.

Choose the correct option from the codes given below:

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) 1 and 2 Both
- d) None of the above

Ans: a

Explanation:

- The Indus Water Treaty establishes a **cooperative mechanism** for exchanging information between the two countries regarding the use of the western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) allocated to Pakistan and **the eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) allocated to India.**
- For instance, both countries held different positions when **Pakistan raised objections regarding the technical design features of the Kishanganga** (330 megawatts) and **Ratle** (850 megawatts) hydroelectric power plants located **on the tributaries of the Jhelum and the Chenab**, respectively, designated as “Western Rivers”.
- However, under Articles III and VII of the treaty, India is permitted to construct hydroelectric power facilities on these rivers (subject to constraints specified in Annexures to the Treaty).