

Solutions

DATE : 7th April- 13th April

1) Answer: (d) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct**
 - In a **bear market**, **household wealth** diminishes due to falling stock prices.
 - This reduces **consumer confidence and demand**, lowering **aggregate demand** in the economy.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect**
 - During downturns, **central banks usually lower** benchmark interest rates to **stimulate borrowing** and investment.
 - **Raising rates** would be counterproductive in a bear market.
- **Statement 3 – Correct**
 - Businesses anticipate lower revenues and implement **cost-cutting** like **layoffs and hiring freezes** to maintain profitability.

2) Answer: (b) 1, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct**
 - RRBs were established under the **RRB Act, 1976** to serve rural areas with basic banking services.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect**
 - RRBs **do engage in core banking functions** like deposits, remittances, and credit—especially for agriculture and rural sectors.
- **Statement 3 – Correct**
 - RRBs are included under the **Scheduled Banks** category and must adhere to **Priority Sector Lending (PSL)** norms.
- **Statement 4 – Correct**
 - Their operation is confined to **notified districts**, focusing on **localized rural outreach**.

3) Answer: (c) 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect**
 - Mirrors reflect **light**, not sound. Sound reflection occurs via **hard surfaces** (walls), not optical mirrors.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect**
 - **Rear-view mirrors** in vehicles use **convex mirrors**, which provide a **wider field of view**.
- **Statement 3 – Correct**
 - A **plane mirror** forms a **virtual, erect image** located **behind the mirror**, at the same distance as the object.

4) Answer: (a) A-1, B-2, C-3

Explanation:

- **Sangha – Social Egalitarianism (A-1)**
 - Promoted **casteless, merit-based monastic communities**, allowing **lower castes and women** to join.
- **Jataka – Moral Pedagogy (B-2)**
 - Narratives of Buddha's past lives, teaching **ethical conduct and values**, integrated in **folk literature**.
- **Chaitya-Vihara – Architecture (C-3)**
 - Contributed to **rock-cut architecture**, influencing later **Hindu temple structures**.

5) Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect**
 - The **Chipko Movement (1973)** was about **forest conservation**, not urban pollution. It was rural and **community-led**.
- **Statement 2 – Correct**
 - Indian environmentalism links **ecological protection** with **economic justice**, especially for marginalized groups.
- **Statement 3 – Correct**
 - The **Forest Rights Act, 2006** empowers **tribal communities** to **manage forests sustainably**.
- **Statement 4 – Incorrect**
 - The **Bhopal Gas Tragedy (1984)** led to the **Environmental Protection Act (1986)** and greater industrial safety oversight.

6) Answer: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect**
 - No provision mandates routing of **CSR funds** through this initiative.
- **Statement 2 – Correct**
 - Focuses on **future-ready skilling** in **AI, robotics, energy**, and **Global Capability Centers (GCCs)**.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect**
 - It **supplements**, not **replaces**, the **Skill India Mission**.

7) Answer: (a) A-1, B-2, C-3, D-4

Explanation:

- **Article 200 – A-1**
 - Outlines options for the **Governor on Bills**: assent, return, reserve, or withhold.
- **Article 163 – B-2**
 - Governor acts **on the advice** of the **Council of Ministers**, except in discretionary matters.
- **Article 142 – C-3**
 - Allows the **Supreme Court** to pass orders for **complete justice** in any case.
- **Article 201 – D-4**
 - Deals with the **President's assent** to Bills **reserved by the Governor**.

8) Answer: (c) Consolidate RRBs to enhance efficiency and eliminate redundancy

Explanation:

- The **policy seeks to merge all RRBs within a state** into a **single RRB** with one sponsor bank.
- Objective: **Reduce inefficiencies**, ensure **uniform IT infrastructure**, and **streamline governance**.
- Origin: Recommendation from the **Vyas Committee (2005)**.

9) Answer: (c) GIBs lack frontal vision, making them vulnerable to collision with overhead lines

Explanation:

- **GIBs have lateral vision**, evolved for predator scanning while foraging.
- This makes them **unable to detect wires directly ahead** during flight.
- They are **large and low-flying**, increasing the risk of collision with **overhead transmission lines**.
- Conservationists and courts advocate **underground power lines** in critical habitats like the **Thar Desert**.

10) Answer: (d) None of the above

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect**
 - **Tropical cyclones** require **low vertical wind shear**; high shear disrupts the storm system.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect**
 - **Tornadoes** require **unstable, convective weather**, not calm conditions.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect**
 - **Cyclones form in tropical zones**, where **horizontal temperature gradients are weak**. They derive energy from **warm sea surface temperatures** and latent heat.

11) Answer: (d) None

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect**
 - **ZooWIN** is an **Indian initiative**, developed by the **National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)** under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, with technical support from **UNDP**.
 - It is **not a WHO global initiative**.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect**
 - While the portal is digital, it **does not use Artificial Intelligence** to predict outbreaks.
 - Focus is on **stock tracking** and **patient follow-up** for **anti-rabies vaccine (ARV)** and **anti-snake venom (ASV)**.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect**
 - It is in the **pilot phase** in **five locations**: **Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, and Puducherry**.
 - **Not operational** in all **28 Indian states**.

12) Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect**
 - The report **does not recommend** a complete **shift from cloud to on-premises**. Instead, it advocates **secure cloud adoption** and **zero-trust frameworks**.
- **Statement 2 – Correct**
 - The report **highlights human error** (e.g., phishing, password misuse) as a **key vulnerability** in cybersecurity breaches.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect**
 - It does **not call for banning AI chatbots** but **cautions** about risks in their deployment.

13) Answer: (c) An andesitic stratovolcano known for explosive activity

Explanation:

- **Mount Kanlaon** is part of the **Pacific Ring of Fire**, located in the **Philippines**.
- It is an **andesitic stratovolcano**—characterized by **explosive eruptions** due to intermediate silica content.
- The volcano has **active craters** and historic eruptions.
- **Other options are incorrect:**
 - Rhyolitic domes (a) are more explosive.
 - Shield volcanoes (b) are basaltic and gentle.
 - Caldera complexes (d) may lack vent activity.

14) Answer: (c) The Governor is constitutionally bound to decide on a Bill within a reasonable time

Explanation:

- The SC in **State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu** ruled:
 - The Governor **cannot delay indefinitely** or act **without aid/advice**.
 - Must act **promptly** and **respect constitutional conventions**.
 - **Articles Invoked:**
 - **Art. 200** – Options on assent.
 - **Art. 163** – Ministerial advice binding (except discretionary cases).
 - **Art. 142** – To ensure complete justice.

15) Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect**
 - **Bear market ≠ Recession**.
 - A bear market is defined as **20% fall in stock prices**, not GDP contraction.
- **Statement 2 – Correct**
 - Investors shift to **safe-haven assets** (e.g., **gold, sovereign bonds**) to reduce risk.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect**
 - Economic forecasts are typically **revised downward** during bear markets.

16) Answer: (c) First use of P-band Synthetic Aperture Radar in space-based forest observation

Explanation:

- **Key Innovation:**
 - Use of **P-band SAR** (70 cm wavelength) for **deep canopy penetration** and **3D forest biomass mapping**.
- **Why it matters?**
 - Helps in **carbon stock estimation, climate modeling, and deforestation monitoring**.
- **Other options:**
 - **LIDAR** (d) is precise but lacks wide coverage.
 - **Optical/Thermal sensors** (a & b) can't penetrate dense foliage.

17) Answer: (d) 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect**
 - Not all mirrors produce **real images**.
 - **Plane mirrors** always produce **virtual images**.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect**
 - The **reflective metallic coating**, not the **glass layer**, reflects light.
- **Statement 3 – Correct**
 - **Concave mirrors** can produce:

- **Real image** (object beyond focal point).
- **Virtual image** (object between mirror and focal point).
- **Statement 4 – Correct**
 - Plane mirrors reverse **front-back**, not left-right (perceptual illusion).

18) Answer: (c) Only three

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct**
 - **Sanchi Stupa** built by **Ashoka**, expanded during **Shunga & Satavahana** periods.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect**
 - **Viharas** served as **monasteries and educational hubs**.
 - **Chaityas** were used for **assemblies and prayers**.
- **Statement 3 – Correct**
 - **Ajanta murals** depict **Jataka tales** in narrative art form.
- **Statement 4 – Correct**
 - **Gandhara art** reflects **Greco-Roman influence**, with **realistic drapery, curly hair, and facial features**.

19) Answer: (b) 1 and 3

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct**
 - Environmentalism links **local rights** with **conservation goals** (e.g., **FRA 2006, BDA 2002**).
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect**
 - **EPA 1986** targets **pollution control, not tribal resettlement** or afforestation directly.
- **Statement 3 – Correct**
 - Emphasizes **renewable energy** and **sustainable agriculture** for ecological and economic sustainability.

20) Answer: (b) 2, 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect**
 - 3D Printing **excels at hollow/lattice structures**, especially for **biomedical and aerospace applications**.
- **Statement 2 – Correct**
 - **IP issues** arise due to **digital file replication** and unauthorized printing.
- **Statement 3 – Correct**
 - **Delamination** can occur due to **weak inter-layer adhesion**, affecting strength.
- **Statement 4 – Correct**
 - **Printer bed size limits** large object production, requiring **segment printing and post-processing**.

21) Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect**
 - **CAPTCHA requires user interaction** (e.g., image identification, typing distorted text).
 - It **does not automatically block bots** without interaction.
- **Statement 2 – Correct**
 - **Used against brute-force attacks** by blocking automated login attempts.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect**
 - CAPTCHA is **not used to detect phishing websites**.
 - Phishing detection is handled by **browser filters and cybersecurity systems**.

22) Answer: (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I

Explanation:

- **Statement I – Correct**
 - Protecting tigers safeguards **ecosystem services**, including **freshwater**, forests, and **biodiversity corridors**.
- **Statement II – Correct**
 - **Tigers are apex predators**; they control **prey populations**, indirectly preserving **vegetation, soil, and water systems**.
- **Explanation Link:**
 - **Healthy predator-prey dynamics** maintain ecosystem integrity, making tiger conservation a **keystone** for broader ecological protection.

23) Answer: (c) A-1, B-2, C-3

Explanation:

- **Channapatna Toys – Karnataka (A-1)**
 - Known for **lacquer-coated wooden toys**, a **craft cluster near Bengaluru**.
- **Banarasi Saree – Uttar Pradesh (B-2)**
 - Renowned for **intricate zari work and silk weaving**.
- **Pattachitra – Odisha (C-3)**
 - A **cloth-based scroll painting**, rich in **mythological themes**, linked to **Jagannath cult**.

24) Answer: (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I

Explanation:

- **Statement I – Correct**
 - Dhansiri River forms an **ecological corridor** in the **Brahmaputra basin**, aiding **species migration and gene flow**.
- **Statement II – Correct**
 - Flows through **Intanki National Park**, wetlands, and **biodiverse tributaries**.
- **Explanation Link:**
 - The **protected landscapes and water systems** enhance its **connectivity**, making it **critical for biodiversity**.

25) Answer: (b) Only two statements are incorrect

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect**
 - **Gandhara art** used **stone and stucco**, with **Greco-Roman influences**, not terracotta or nature-only motifs.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect**
 - **Ajanta Caves** date from **2nd BCE to 6th CE**, mainly **Satavahana and Vakataka periods**, not Mauryas.
- **Statement 3 – Correct**
 - **Sanchi Stupa** represents **Dharma Chakra** and **cosmic order**, with symbols like **chatra and toranas**.

26) Answer: (b) It minimizes surface area exposed to solar radiation

Explanation:

- **Design Rationale:**
 - The **conical shape** has **less surface area exposed to sunlight**, reducing **melting rate**.
- **Efficiency Benefit:**
 - Allows **gradual melt** from top down, **providing water** during spring cropping season.
- **Other Options Incorrect:**
 - Does not trap air (a), enable faster melt (c), or direct wind (d).

27) Answer: (d) Establishing a secure nuclear submarine base

Explanation:

- **Project Varsha:**
 - A **classified naval base** under construction near **Visakhapatnam**, for **nuclear submarines**.
- **Key Features:**
 - Includes **underground pens**, supports **second-strike capability**, **strengthens India's nuclear triad**.
- **Strategic Importance:**
 - Ensures **stealth, survivability, and rapid deployment** in the **Indian Ocean Region**.

28) Answer: (d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

Explanation:

- **Statement I – Incorrect**
 - The aim is **not to reduce foreign degree dominance**, but to **evaluate them fairly**.
- **Statement II – Correct**
 - Introduces a **standardised and transparent framework** for evaluating **foreign qualifications**, aligning with **NEP 2020**.

29) Answer: (c) To outline ethical standards expected of judges of higher courts

Explanation:

- **Purpose:**
 - **Non-binding ethical code** adopted by **Supreme Court** to **guide higher judiciary conduct**.
- **Key Principles:**

- Avoiding **bias, media interviews**, and upholding **judicial integrity**.
- **Significance:**
 - Promotes **transparency, public trust**, and judicial **independence** in the **absence of statutory law**.

30) Answer: (b) Lie at the intersection of tectonic plates and major sea routes

Explanation:

- **Geographical Location:**
 - Off the **west coast of Greece**, between **Albania and Peloponnese**.
- **Strategic Aspects:**
 - Located on **Hellenic arc** (earthquake-prone zone) and **Mediterranean trade routes**.
 - Historically important for **naval control** and **maritime connectivity**.
- **Incorrect Options:**
 - Not a **land bridge (a)**, not near **Bosporus (c)**, nor **entry to Black Sea (d)**.

31) Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect**
 - India **does not import 100%** of REEs from China.
 - India has **domestic reserves** and sources REEs through **IREL (India) Limited** and **bilateral cooperation**.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect**
 - **QUAD countries** have initiated REE collaboration under **supply chain resilience** and **strategic mineral security** efforts.
- **Statement 3 – Correct**
 - **India-Australia Critical Minerals Partnership (2023)** includes cooperation on **REEs** like **neodymium** and **dysprosium**, essential for **EVs, electronics, and renewables**.

32) Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect**
 - **Global Tiger Forum** is an **independent intergovernmental body**, not a **CBD treaty-based mechanism**.
- **Statement 2 – Correct**
 - **M-STrIPES** is a **digital system** developed by **NTCA**, used for **patrolling, mapping, and ecological monitoring**.
- **Statement 3 – Correct**
 - **NTCA** was established via **amendment to Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 in 2006**, giving legal backing to **Project Tiger**.

33) Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct**
 - **Treaty of Sugauli (1816)** marked **British recruitment** of Gorkhas, leading to **migration** into India.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect**
 - Gorkhas in India, especially those settled before 1950, are **Indian citizens**, not **Nepalese** by default.
- **Statement 3 – Correct**
 - Gorkhas serve in the **Indian Army** (e.g., Gorkha Rifles) and in **state police forces** across India.

34) Answer: (a) Reed bamboo's natural insulation

Explanation:

- The mat is made from **inner layers of reed bamboo**, providing **natural insulation**.
- This results in **coolness in summer** and **warmth in winter**.
- Other options (wax, silk, palm fibers) do not contribute to this unique **thermal property**.

35) Answer: (d) None

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:**
 - Dhansiri flows into the **Brahmaputra**, not **directly into the Bay of Bengal**.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:**
 - Originates in **Naga Hills (Laisang Peak)**, not **Eastern Himalayas**.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect:**
 - It is a **perennial river**, not seasonal—supports agriculture and biodiversity year-round.

36) Answer: (b) Only two

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct**
 - **First Council (Rajgir, 483 BCE):** Compilation of **Sutta and Vinaya Pitakas**.
- **Statement 2 – Correct**
 - **Fourth Council (Kashmir, under Kanishka)** led to formal **split into Theravada and Mahayana**.
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect**
 - **Second Council (Vaishali)** dealt with **monastic discipline**, not the **Bodhisattva concept**.

37) Answer: (c) The species is known only to persist in captivity or cultivation outside its natural range

Explanation:

- EW species are **no longer found in their natural habitats**, but survive in **zoos, botanical gardens, or artificial enclosures**.
- Example: **Scimitar-horned oryx, Franklinia tree**.

38) Answer: (d) None of the above

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect**
 - Indian Rhino is listed in **Schedule I** of the **Wildlife Protection Act**, providing **maximum protection**.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect**
 - Rhino horn is made of **keratin**, not **ivory** (dentine).
- **Statement 3 – Incorrect**
 - **New Delhi Declaration (2019)** is **multilateral**, not just between India and Nepal.

39) Answer: (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect

Explanation:

- **Statement I – Correct**
 - GI tags **preserve cultural identity, traditional practices, and indigenous production** systems.
- **Statement II – Incorrect**
 - GI products must be produced **within the designated region** (e.g., **Darjeeling Tea, Mysore Silk**).

40) Answer: (c) 3 and 4 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect**
 - **Nalanda** was founded during the **Gupta period**, not Ashoka's reign.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect**
 - **Theravada** focuses on **individual liberation**, not **Mahayana**.
- **Statement 3 – Correct**
 - **Ashoka sent missionaries** to **Sri Lanka, West Asia, and Southeast Asia**.
- **Statement 4 – Correct**
 - **Vajrayana Buddhism** integrated **Tantric rituals** with **Mahayana ideology**; evolved in **eastern India**.

41) Answer: (d) A high-level intergovernmental forum with consensus-based decision-making

Explanation:

- **Establishment:**
 - Formed under the **Ottawa Declaration (1996)**, the **Arctic Council** is **not a treaty-based** organization.
- **Nature:**
 - It is a **non-binding intergovernmental forum** involving **8 Arctic states** and **Indigenous communities**.
- **Key Features:**
 - **Consensus-based decision-making**
 - Focus on **sustainable development, environmental protection, and Indigenous rights**
 - **Excludes military issues**
- **Incorrect Options:**
 - (a) It does not enforce **binding laws**.
 - (b) It is **not part of the Antarctic Treaty**.
 - (c) It is **not a UN body**.

42) Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:**
 - **Extinct (EX)** status means **no reasonable doubt** the last individual has died, based on **exhaustive surveys**.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect:**
 - **Least Concern (LC)** species are **not under stress**; they have **stable/increasing populations**.
 - Protection is **not a requirement** for LC status.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:**
 - **Not Evaluated (NE)** means the species has **not been assessed** under IUCN criteria.
 - Differs from **Data Deficient (DD)**, where assessment occurred but **insufficient data** was available.

43) Answer: (a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I

Explanation:

- **Statement I – Correct:**
 - India is **not a party** to the **Ottawa Convention (Mine Ban Treaty)**.
- **Statement II – Correct:**
 - India **supports the humanitarian goal** but maintains that **landmines are necessary for border defense**(e.g., along Pakistan and China borders).
- **Explanation Link:**
 - Statement II **explains** India's **strategic rationale** behind not acceding to the treaty.

44) Answer: (d) 1, 2, and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Correct:**
 - **Tiger is the National Animal** of India, symbolizing **strength and biodiversity**.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:**
 - Listed in **Appendix I** of CITES, indicating **highest protection** and **ban on international trade**.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:**
 - As per the **All India Tiger Estimation (2022)**, **Madhya Pradesh** has the **highest number** of tigers.
- **Statement 4 – Incorrect:**
 - The **Global Tiger Initiative (GTI)** was launched by the **World Bank**, not UNDP.

45) Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:**
 - Tariffs are **not only consumer-level costs**.
 - **Importers (businesses)** pay them at **customs** and may **pass on costs** or bear them, affecting **supply chains and pricing**.
- **Statement 2 – Correct:**
 - **Anti-dumping tariffs** protect **domestic producers** from **unfair foreign competition**, ensuring **fair pricing**.
- **Statement 3 – Correct:**
 - **Specific tariffs** are levied **per unit** (e.g., **\$10 per ton**), **independent of value**.

46) Answer: (c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect

Explanation:

- **Statement I – Correct**
 - **CSIR-NAL** has developed:
 - **SARAS Mk2** – a 19-seater aircraft for **regional air connectivity**.
 - **Hansa NG** – a light training aircraft for **pilot training institutes**.
 - Aligned with **UDAN scheme** and civil aviation promotion.
- **Statement II – Incorrect**
 - India is **not solely dependent** on imports.
 - Indigenous capabilities exist through:
 - **NAL, HAL, Mahindra Aerospace**.
 - **Emerging private-public partnerships** and **R&D in aviation components**.

47) Answer: (a) Only one

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect**
 - NAL is **not a subordinate** of HAL.

- It is an **independent institution** under **CSIR**.
- **Statement 2 – Incorrect**
 - **Focuses on civil aviation**, not combat drones or military strategy.
- **Statement 3 – Correct**
 - Operates under the **Ministry of Science and Technology**, via **CSIR**.

48) Answer: (b) One of the Leading private AI investment and R&D output in the developing world

Explanation:

- **Correct Statement:**
 - India ranks **10th globally in AI investments** with **\$1.4 billion in 2023**.
 - Among top **3 in R&D publication output** in frontier tech.
- **Incorrect Options:**
 - (a) India ranks **low in ICT access (99)** and **skills index (113)**.
 - (c) India does **not dominate** robotics/biotech patents.
 - (d) Not among **top 3 in industrial automation**.

49) Answer: (d) A-ii-1, B-iii-3, C-i-2

Explanation:

- **A. Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (Tamil Nadu) – 1**
 - Known for **montane rainforests**, part of **Western Ghats** biodiversity hotspot.
- **B. Peppara WLS (Kerala) – 3**
 - Located near **Thiruvananthapuram**; home to **elephants, moist deciduous forests**.
- **C. Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel WLS (TN) – 2**
 - Dedicated to protecting the **Grizzled Giant Squirrel**, an **endangered small mammal**.

50) Answer: (b) 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect**
 - ABR is located in the **Western Ghats**, not the **Eastern Ghats** or Deccan Plateau.
- **Statement 2 – Correct**
 - Named after **Sage Agastya**, a revered figure in **Hindu mythology and Ayurveda**.
 - Mythologically associated with the **southern spread of Vedic culture**.
- **Additional Facts:**
 - **UNESCO-recognized biosphere reserve**.
 - Spread across **Tamil Nadu and Kerala**.
 - High **endemism** and rich **ethno-botanical traditions**.
 - Home to the **Kani tribe**, who practice **sustainable forest use**.