

Environment and Natural Resources

Fastrack« Revision

► Environmental Concerns in Global Politics

- There have been many environmental issues that are concerns of the global politics.
- There is a decline in the availability of cultivable land and a substantial portion of existing agricultural land is losing fertility.
- Around 663 million people in developing countries have no access to safe water and 2.6 billion have no access to sanitation according to the Human Development Report, 2006.
- The loss of biodiversity continues due to destruction of habitat in areas which are rich in species the act of deforestation takes place for personal gains, removing the natural inhabitants.
- Another danger to ecosystems and human health is a steady decline in the total amount of ozone in the Earth's stratosphere. Even the coastal waters are becoming increasingly polluted due to land-based activities.
- The environmental consequences of economic growth acquired an increasingly political character from the 1960s onwards.
- International agencies like the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), started holding international conferences to deal with environment issues.
- Earth summit or Rio summit was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 1992 which produced conventions dealing with climate change, biodiversity, and forestry and recommended a lot of development practices called 'Agenda 21.'

► The Protection of Global 'Commons'

- 'Commons' are the resources shared by the community as a whole not individually.
- In the world, there are some areas which are located outside the sovereign jurisdiction of any one state and hence require common governance, by the international community which is known as Global commons. They include Earth's atmosphere, Antarctica, the ocean floor, and outer space.
- A number of agreements were signed which includes the Antarctic Treaty (1959), the Montreal Protocol (1987).
- The history of outer space as a global commons shows that the management of these areas is thoroughly influenced by North-South inequalities.

► Common but Differentiated Responsibilities

- There were differences between the countries of the North and the South over the environmental issues.

- The Northern countries want everyone to be equally responsible for ecological conservation.
- The developing countries of the South believe that the ecological degradation is the product of industrial development undertaken by the developed countries.
- In the Rio summit, 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) provides that the parties should act on the basis of equity.
- It was accepted that a large amount of greenhouse gas emission has originated in developed countries and per capita emissions in developing countries are relatively low.
- Developing countries like India and China were exempted from the requirements of the Kyoto Protocol.

Knowledge BOOSTER



The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement setting targets for industrialised countries to cut their greenhouse gas emissions.

► Common Property Resources

- It represents common property for the group but with a rule that members of the group have both rights and duties with respect to the nature, levels of use of a given resource.
- But issues like
 - Privatisation
 - Agricultural intensification
 - Population growth
 - Ecosystem degradationhave caused common property to dwindle in size.

► India's Stand on Environmental Issues

- India has signed and ratified Kyoto Protocol (1997) in August 2002. Developing countries like India and China were exempt from the requirements of the Kyoto Protocol.
- At the G-8 meeting in June 2005, India pointed out that the per capita emission rates of the developing countries are a tiny fraction of those in the developed world.
- The Indian Government is already participating in global efforts through a number of programmes like Energy Conservation Act (2001), Electricity Act of 2003 and so on.
- In 1997, a review of the implementation of the agreements at the Earth summit in Rio was undertaken by India.
- India suggested that the developing countries must get financial resources and clean technologies from the developed countries in order to meet United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) commitments.

► Environmental Movements

- Some of the most significant responses to the challenge of environmental degradation has come from groups of environmentally conscious volunteers working in different parts of the world.
- The forest movements of the South, in Mexico, Chile, Brazil, Malaysia, Indonesia, Continental Africa and India are faced with enormous pressures regarding forest clearing.
- Another example is of the group which is working against mineral extraction company as it leads to displacement of communities etc.
- Another groups of movements are those involved in struggles against mega dams. In India, **Narmada Bachao Andolan** is one of the best known of these movements.

► Resource Geopolitics

- Resource geopolitics means who gets:
 - What
 - Where
 - When
 - How
- Throughout the cold war the Industrialised countries of the North adopted a number of methods to ensure a steady flow of resources.
- Oil continues to be the most important resources in global strategy. The immense wealth associated with oil generates political struggles to control it.
- West Asia, specifically the Gulf region, accounts for about 30 per cent of global oil production.
- Another important resource relevant to global politics is water. Regional variations and scarcity of fresh water in some parts of the world is a leading source of conflicts in the 21st century.
- A number of studies show that countries that share rivers and many countries do share rivers are involved in military conflicts with each other.

► The Indigenous People and their Rights

- As per the United Nations, indigenous population comprises the descendants of people who inhabited the present territory of a country at the time when person of a different culture arrived there from other parts of the world.
- Indigenous people raised voices in world politics to treat them equally with other communities.
- The areas occupied by indigenous people include Central and South America, Africa, India and South-East Asia.
- The indigenous people appeal to governments to come to terms with the continuing existence of indigenous

nations as enduring communities with an identity of their own.

- In India indigenous people applies to the scheduled tribes who constitute nearly 8 per cent of the population of the country.
- Issues related to the rights of the indigenous communities have been neglected in domestic and international politics for very long.

► Words that Matter

- **Earth Summit:** A conference held in Rio-de-Janeiro (Brazil) in June 1992 on Environment and Development to deal with various environmental problems.
- **Agenda 21:** The Earth Summit recommended a list of practices in reference of development to attain sustainability called Agenda 21.
- **Kyoto Protocol:** An international agreement setting targets for industrialised countries to cut their greenhouse gas emissions was agreed to adopt in 1997 in Kyoto in Japan, based on principles set out in UNFCCC.
- **UNFCCC:** The 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provided that parties should act to protect the climate system with common but differentiated responsibilities.
- **Indigenous People:** Indigenous people comprise the descendants of people who inhabited the present territory of a country at the time when persons of different culture arrived there from different parts of the world.



Important Dates

Date/ Year	Important Events
1959	— Signing of the Antarctica Treaty.
1987	— Agreement of Montreal Protocol.
1991	— Antarctic Environmental Protocol.
June 1992	— First Earth Summit was convened.
1997	— Agreement of Kyoto Protocol.
2001	— Energy Conservation Act was passed.
August 2002	— India Signed and ratified the Kyoto Protocol.
2003	— Electricity Act was passed.
June 2005	— G-8 Meeting was convened.
2nd October, 2016	— India ratified the Paris Climate Agreement.



Practice Exercise



Multiple Choice Questions

Q 1. Which of the following is not a global common?

(CBSE 2023)

- a. Antarctica
- b. Ocean Floor
- c. Outer Space
- d. Forests

Q 2. The World Council of Indigenous People was formed in:

- a. 2007
- b. 1990
- c. 1975
- d. 1950

Q 3. India signed and ratified the 1997 Kyoto Protocol in:

- a. August 2000
- b. August 2002
- c. July 2006
- d. August 2005

Q 4. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was held in:

- a. 2004 b. 1997
- c. 2001 d. 1992

Q 5. World Environment Day is celebrated each year on:

- a. 5th June b. 5th March
- c. 5th January d. 7th June

Q 6. The Earth Summit was held at:

- a. New York b. London
- c. New Delhi d. Rio-de-Janeiro

Q 7. Which among the following are true about the global commons?

- a. The earth's atmosphere, Antarctica ocean floor and outer space are considered as part of the global commons.
- b. The global commons are controlled by some specific nations.
- c. The question of managing the global commons reflected the North-South divide.
- d. The countries of the North are more concerned about the protection of the global commons than the countries of the South.

Q 8. Which among the following resort explains the reason for growing concerns about the environment?

- a. The developed countries are concerned about protecting nature.
- b. Protection of the environment is vital for indigenous people and natural habitats.
- c. The environmental degradation caused by human activities has become pervasive and has reached a dangerous level.
- d. None of the above.

Q 9. At the meeting in June 2005, India pointed out that the per capita emission rates of the developing countries are a tiny fraction of those in the developed world.

- a. UNFCCC b. UNESCO
- c. Rio Summit d. G-8.

Q 10. A review of the implementation of the agreements at the Earth Summit in Rio was undertaken by India in:

- a. 1999 b. 1998 c. 1997 d. 1996

Q 11. Match the following:

Column I	Column II
A 1959	(i) Agreement of Montreal Protocol
B. 1987	(ii) Agreement of Kyoto Protocol
C. 1997	(iii) Electricity Act was Passed
D. 2003	(iv) Signing of Antarctica Treaty

Codes:

- A B C D A B C D
- a. (i) (ii) (iii) (iv) b. (iv) (i) (ii) (iii)
- c. (i) (iv) (iii) (ii) d. (iv) (iii) (ii) (i)

Q 12. Expand UNFCCC:

- a. United Nations Fast Convention on Climate Change.
- b. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Call
- c. United Nations Framework Counters on Climate Change.
- d. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Q 13. Progress that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs is:

- a. The tragedy of global commons.
- b. Sustainable development.
- c. Development without destruction.
- d. The politics of the developed nations.

Q 14. The world council of indigenous people was formed in:

- a. 1973 b. 1974 c. 1975 d. 1976

Q 15. Smog is a combination of:

- a. Air and water vapours b. Water and smoke
- c. Fire and water d. Smoke and fog



Assertion & Reason Type Questions ↘

Directions (Q.Nos. 16-22): In the questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- 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.

Q 16. Assertion (A): The use of Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) is banned throughout the world.

Reason (R): CFC is supposed to be the main reason for ozone depletion.

Q 17. Assertion (A): Presently, global atmosphere is warming up.

Reason (R): The depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer has resulted in an increase in ultraviolet radiation reaching the earth.

Q 18. Assertion (A): In India, land suffers from different types of degradation.

Reason (R): In India, there are appropriate management practices to avoid land degradation.

Q 19. Assertion (A): The crude oil reserves are going down for the entire world and the countries need to find substitute fuel for crude oil.

Reason (R): A country that is dependent on imports for crude oil will demand more crude oil in the future.

Q 20. Assertion (A): Affluence in living standards is causing environmental degradation.

Reason (R): Increase in wealth increases the demand for goods and services.

- Q 21. Assertion (A): Non-renewable resources are abundant in nature.
Reason (R): Non-renewable resources will get exhausted after several years of usage.
- Q 22. Assertion (A): All resources are not exhaustible.
Reason (R): Renewable resources can become non-renewable.



Fill in the Blank Type Questions

- Q 23. The global economy relied on for much of the 20th century as a portable and indispensable fuel.
- Q 24. The Rio Summit recommended a list of development practices called (CBSE SQP 2020)
- Q 25. Grasslands have been and fisheries
- Q 26. India's international negotiating position relies heavily on principles of historical responsibility, as enshrined in
- Q 27. The history of outer space as a shows that the management of these areas is thoroughly influenced by North-South inequalities.



True or False Type Questions

- Q 28. The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement setting targets for developed and developing countries to cut their greenhouse gas emissions.
- Q 29. The UNFCCC acknowledge that developed countries are not responsible for most historical and current greenhouse gas emissions.
- Q 30. In India 'Narmada Bachao Andolan' is one of the best anti-dam pro-river movement.
- Q 31. The developing countries of the South feel that much of the ecological degradation in the world is the product of industrial development undertaken by the developed countries.



Correct and Rewrite Type Questions

- Q 32. "Global commons are those resources which are owned by big countries only." (CBSE 2020)
- Q 33. The Antarctica and the Arctic Polar regions are not subjected to special regional rules of environmental protection.
- Q 34. "India signed and ratified the Kyoto Protocol in 2002 and was compelled to meet the requirements of the Kyoto Protocol because the emission of greenhouse gases in India was not significant." (CBSE 2020)
- Q 35. The Indian government is yet to participate in global efforts through a number of programmes.
- Q 36. India is also of the view that the SAARC countries should work independently on major global environment issues.

Answers

1. (d) 2. (c) 3. (b) 4. (d) 5. (a)
6. (d) 7. (a) 8. (c) 9. (d) 10. (c)
11. (b) 12. (d) 13. (b) 14. (c) 15. (d)
16. (a) 17. (b) 18. (c) 19. (b) 20. (a)
21. (d) 22. (c)
23. oil
24. Agenda 21.
25. overgrazed, overharvested
26. UNFCCC.
27. Global commons.
28. True
29. False
30. True
31. True
32. Global commons refer to the areas or regions which require common governance by international community.
33. The Antarctica and the Arctic polar regions are subjected to special regional rules of environmental protection.
34. India signed and ratified the Kyoto Protocol in 2002 and was compelled to meet the requirements of the Kyoto Protocol because the emission of greenhouse gases in India was significant.
35. The Indian government is already participating in global efforts through a number of programmes.
36. India is also of the view that the SAARC countries should adopt a common position on major global environment issues.



Passage Based Questions

Passage 1

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

In the context of world politics what are the common interests of approximately 30 crore indigenous peoples spread throughout the world including India? There are 20 lakh indigenous people of the Cordillera region of the Philippines. 10 lakh Mapuche people of Chile, six lakh tribal people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh, 35 lakh North American natives, 50,000 Kuna living east of Panama Canal and 10 lakh small peoples of the Soviet North. Like other social movements, indigenous people speak of their struggles, their agenda and their rights. The indigenous voices in world politics call for the admission of indigenous people to the world community as equals. Indigenous people occupy areas in Central and South America, Africa, India (where they are known as Tribals) and South-East Asia.

In India, the description indigenous people is usually applied to the Scheduled Tribes who constitute nearly 8 per cent of the population of the country. With the exception of small communities

of hunters and gatherers, most indigenous populations in India depend for their subsistence primarily on the cultivation of land. For centuries, if not millennia, they had free access to as much land as they could cultivate. It was only after the establishment of the British colonial rule that areas, which had previously been inhabited by the Scheduled Tribe Communities were subjected to outside forces. Although they enjoy a constitutional protection in political representation, they have not got much of the benefits of development in the country. In fact they have paid a huge cost for development since they are the single largest group among the people displaced by various developmental projects since independence.

Q 1. In which region of Philippines the indigenous people live?

- a. Sumatra b. Cordillera
c. Java d. In the capital city

Q 2. The description mentioned in the paragraph for indigenous people living in India is

- a. OBC b. Untouchables
c. Scheduled Tribes d. None of these

Q 3. India constitute of the total population of the indigenous people.

- a. 10% b. 12% c. 9% d. 8%

Q 4. What main occupation the indigenous people depend on?

- a. Gathering b. Land cultivation
c. Weaving d. Hunting

Answers

1. (b) 2. (c) 3. (d) 4. (b)

Passage 2

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

The Antarctic continental region extends over 14 million square kilometers' and comprises 26 per cent of the world's wilderness area, representing 90 per cent of all terrestrial Ice and 70 per cent of planetary fresh water. The Antarctic also extends to a further 36 million square kilometers of ocean. It has a limited terrestrial life and a highly productive marine ecosystem, comprising a few plants (e.g. microscopic algae, fungi and lichen), marine mammals, fish and hordes of birds adapted to harsh conditions, as well as the krill, which is central to marine chain and upon which other animals are dependent. The Antarctic plays an important role in maintaining climatic equilibrium, and deep ice cores provide an important source of information about greenhouse gas concentrations and atmospheric temperatures of hundreds and thousands of years ago.

Who owns this coldest, farthest, and windiest continent on globe? There are two claims about it. Some countries like the UK, Argentina, Chile, Norway, France, Australia and New Zealand have made legal claims to sovereign rights over Antarctic territory. Most other states have taken the opposite view that the Antarctic is a part of the global commons and not subject to the exclusive Jurisdiction of any state. These differences, however, have not prevented the adoption of innovative and potentially far-reaching rules for the protection of the Antarctic environment and its ecosystem. The Antarctic and the Arctic polar regions are subjected to special regional rules of environmental protection. Since 1959, activities in the area have been limited to scientific research, fishing and tourism. Even these limited activities have not prevented parts of the region from being degraded by waste as a result of oil spills.

Q 1. Antarctic continent covers how much percentage of the world's wilderness area?

- a. 27% b. 23% c. 26% d. 25%

Q 2. In what aspect of environment does Antarctic play a vital role?

- a. Cleaning sea water
b. Reducing pollution
c. Eradicating effects of carbon
d. Climatic equilibriums

Q 3. Which of the following countries claims to own Antarctic?

- a. Russia b. UK c. Canada d. India

Q 4. Which activity is carried out in Antarctic?

- a. Mining, Deforestation
b. Research, fishing and tourism
c. Trading such as imports and exports
d. None of the above

Answers

1. (c) 2. (d) 3. (b) 4. (b)

Passage 3

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the most appropriate option:

'Commons' are those resources which are not owned by anyone but rather shared by a community. This could be a 'common room', a 'community centre', a park or a river. Similarly, there are some areas or regions of the world which are located outside the sovereign jurisdiction of any one state, and therefore require common governance by the international community. These are known as res communis humanitatis or global commons.

(CBSE SQP 2023-24)

Q 1. Which of the following is a part of global commons?

- a. Ocean floor b. River Narmada
c. Thar desert d. Nilgiris

- Q 2. The Earth summit was held in
 a. Kyoto b. Rio-de-Janeiro
 c. Rome d. Montreal
- Q 3. Which of the following agencies of the United Nations is associated in dealing with environmental issues?
 a. UNESCO b. ECOSOC c. UNEP d. UNFCCC
- Q 4. Why is cooperation over global commons not easy?
 a. Task cannot be monitored
 b. Lack of consensus on common environmental agendas
 c. Similar approach to environment between the global North and South.
 d. All of the above

Answers

1. (a) 2. (b) 3. (c) 4. (b)

Passage 4

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

The global economy relied on oil for much of the 20th century as a portable and indispensable fuel. The immense wealth associated with oil generates political struggles to control it, and the history of petroleum is also the history of war and struggle. West Asia, especially the gulf region, accounts for about 30 per cent of global oil production. But it has about 64 per cent of the planet's known reserves, and is therefore the only region able to satisfy any substantial rise in oil demand. Saudi Arabia has a quarter of the world's total reserves and is the single largest producer. Iraq's known reserves are second only to Saudi Arabia's. And since substantial portions of Iraqi territory are yet to be fully explored, there is a fair chance that actual reserves might be far larger. The United States, Europe, Japan and increasingly India and China, which consume this petroleum, are located at a considerable distance from the region.

- Q 1. Name the areas which have the potential for oil production.

Ans. West Asian regions have the potential for oil production.

- Q 2. On which mineral resource the global economy depends upon?

Ans. The global economy relied on oil for much of the 20th century as a portable and indispensable fuel. The immense wealth associated with oil generates political struggles to control it which resulted in the history of war.

- Q 3. Which countries consume most of the amount of oil? Name them.

Ans. The United States, Europe, Japan, India and China consume good amount of oil (petroleum).

Passage 5

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

The Indian government is already participating in global efforts through a number of programmes. For example, India's National Auto-fuel Policy mandates cleaner fuels for vehicles. The Energy Conservation Act, passed in 2001, outlines initiatives to improve energy efficiency. Similarly, the Electricity Act of 2003 encourages the use of renewable energy. Recent trends in importing natural gas and encouraging the adoption of clean coal technologies show that India has been making real efforts. The government is also keen to launch a National Mission on Biodiesel, using about 11 million hectares of land to produce biodiesel by 2011-2012 and India has one of the largest renewable energy programmes in the world.

- Q 1. List the step taken by the Indian government in the global efforts for environmental protection.

Ans. India took some major steps to protect environment like

- (i) India's national Auto-fuel policy mandates cleaner fuels for vehicles.
- (ii) The Energy Conservation Act passed in 2001 outlines initiatives to improve energy efficiency.
- (ii) The Electricity Act of 2003 encourages the use of renewable resources.

- Q 2. Give the implications of the Energy Conservation Act and Electricity Act.

Ans. The Energy Conservation Act was passed in 2001 to improve energy efficiency. Electricity Act 2003 on the other hand encourages the use of clean coal technologies and renewable energy.

- Q 3. Highlight the India's strategy toward Biodiesel.

Ans. The Government of India is keen to launch a National Mission on Biodiesel by 2011-2012. Thus, India has one of the largest renewable energy programmes in the world.



Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 1. What does the UNEP stand for?

Ans. UNEP stands for the United Nations Environment Programme. It holds international conferences to promote coordination to effective response to environmental problems.

- Q 2. What is meant by 'global commons'?

Ans. Global commons are the common governance by international community over the areas or regions which are located outside the sovereign jurisdiction of any one state or authority.

Q 3. Which one of the two is more essential construction of mega-dams or an environmental movement that opposes it and why?

Ans. The construction of mega dams is necessary for the progress of the country on the other hand. environmental movement is also important because progress should not be done at the cost of the environmental degradation.

Q 4. Why should the 'environmental concerns' be part of contemporary global politics?

Ans. The environmental concerns should be part of contemporary global politics because no single government can address the environmental concerns in isolation.

Q 5. Define Indigenous population.

Ans. Indigenous populations are tribals or native people whose interests and rights are imperialised by the foreign people who migrated from time-to-time in territories.

Q 6. Why were India and China exempted from the Kyoto Protocol?

Ans. India, China and other developing countries were exempted from the requirements of Kyoto Protocol because their per capita emission was comparatively lower than it was in developed countries.

Q 7. What were the recommendations of the Rio Summit known as?

Ans. The recommendation of the Rio Summit was known as 'Agenda 21'.

Q 8. Why have the issues relating to environmental degradations become part of world politics?

Ans. The issues relating to environmental degradation has become part of world politics because such issues cannot be addressed by one country alone. Thus, they become the part of world politics as shared action is necessary to deal with them.

Cartoon Based Questions ↘

1. Study the cartoon given below and answer the questions that follow:



(i) What does the cartoon represent?

Ans. The methods adopted by industrialised countries to fulfill their essentials from weaker sections is represented by the cartoon.

(ii) Which countries are being shown here?

Ans. In the given cartoon, the stronger country like the USA and the weaker nation like Iraq is shown.

(iii) What message does this cartoon convey?

Ans. The cartoon conveys the following message: Resources are the real strength of a nation and neo-colonialism play politics to obtain it.

2. Study the cartoon given below and answer the questions that follow:



(i) What does above cartoon represent?

Ans. Above cartoon represents 'Industrial Pollution' commenting on 'Global Warming'.

(ii) Why do you think the fingers are designed like chimneys and the world made into a lighter?

Ans. Fingers denote pollution coming out of chimneys from industries and lighter represents burning and depletion of natural resources.

(iii) What message does this cartoon convey?

Ans. This cartoon draws the attention of the world towards industrial pollution, if it continues on, flora and fauna will be depleted which will create an imbalance to ecosystem.

Short Answer Type Questions ↘

Q 1. Suggest any two steps to be taken by the government to check pollution and save environment. (CBSE 2015)

Ans. The two steps to be taken by the government to check pollution and save environment are:

- (i) Clean production and pollution prevention.
- (ii) Ecosystem management.

Q 2. Mention any two outcomes of the Rio Summit.

Ans. The outcomes of the Rio summit were:

- (i) There was an agreement on combining economic growth with ecological responsibility.
- (ii) The summit started the environmental issues and discussions at global levels.

Q 3. What is meant by geopolitics?

Ans. Geopolitics is related to the geographical political affairs which deals with allocation and distribution of natural resources among the nation states of world. It is all about who gets what, when, where and how.

Q 4. What was Earth Summit? List its objectives.

Ans. The Earth Summit was a conference on environment and development held in Rio-de-Janeiro (Brazil) in June 1992.

The main objectives of the summit was to deal with climate change, biodiversity, and forestry and recommended the list of development practices called Agenda 21.

Q 5. Define Indigenous people.

Ans. Indigenous people are the descendants of people who inhabited the present territory of the country at the time when persons of different culture or ethnic origin arrived there from other parts of the world and overruled them.

Q 6. Explain the most obvious threat to the survival of indigenous people.

Ans. Issues related to the rights of indigenous people have been neglected as people of varied cultures from various parts of the world exploited them. Also these people have threat to their survival due to loss of land which is main source of their livelihood. This is the reason they require special protection to protect their rights.

Q 7. Define global commons. (CBSE 2019)

Ans. The area or regions of the world which are located outside the sovereign jurisdiction of any one state and require common governance by the International Community are known as global commons.

They include the Earth's atmosphere, Antarctica, the ocean floor and outer space.

Q 8. What do you mean by common property resources? Explain with examples.

Ans. The term common property signifies that natural resources are common property for the group of countries. The underlying norm here is:

- (i) That members of the group have both rights and duties with respect to the nature, level of use, and the maintenance of the given resources.
- (ii) In the same way, through mutual understanding and centuries of practice, many village communities in India, for example, have defined members' rights and responsibilities.
- (iii) But a combination of factors including privatisation, agricultural intensification, population growth and ecosystem degradation have caused common property to dwindle in size, quality and availability of poor.

- (iv) Like the institutional arrangement for the actual management of the sacred groves on state-owned forest land appropriately fit the description of a common property.

Q 9. Oil as an important resources in global strategy affects the geopolitics and global economy. Comment.

Ans. Oil is the most important resource in global strategy. Throughout the cold war the industrialised countries of North adopted a number of methods to ensure a steady flow of resources (oil).

- (i) These included the deployment of military forces near exploitation sites and along sea lanes of communication.
- (ii) The stockpiling of strategic resources.
- (iii) Efforts to prop up friendly governments in producing countries as well as support to multinational companies and favourable international agreements.
- (iv) During the cold war a particular concern was Western control of oil in the curly and strategic minerals in South and Central Africa.
- (v) On the other side the global economy relied on oil for much of the 20th Century as a portable and indispensable fuel. The immense wealth associated with oil generates political struggles to control it, and the history of petroleum is also the history of war and struggle. It creates conflict between Iraq and Saudi Arabia.
- (vi) Iraq's known reserves are secured only to Saudi Arabia and since substantial portions of Iraqi territory are yet to be fully explored, there is a fair chance that actual reserves might be far larger.

Q 10. What are 'global commons'? Why is it said that international corporation over the global commons is not easy? (CBSE 2016)

Ans. The area or regions of the world which are located outside the sovereign jurisdiction of any one state and require common governance by the International Community are known as global commons.

They include the Earth's atmosphere, Antarctica, the ocean floor and outer space.

Two examples are:

- (i) Earth atmosphere
- (ii) Ocean floor

The international cooperation over the 'global commons' is not easy because:

- (i) It is not easy to do cooperation over the 'global commons': There have been many significant agreements such as the Antarctic Treaty (1959) the Montreal Protocol (1987) and the Antarctic Environmental Protocol (1991). It is very difficult to achieve consensus on common environmental agendas on the basis of vague scientific evidence and time frame.

- (ii) In the same way, the history of the outer space as a 'global commons' clearly shows that the management of these regions is completely influenced by North-South inequalities.

COMMON ERROR

Sometimes students write about global warming instead of global commons.

Q 11. "The Indian Government is already participating in global efforts through a number of programmes related to environmental issue." Give any four examples to support the statement.

Ans. Initiative undertaken by the Indian government in global efforts through a number of programmes to check environmental degradation are:

- (i) India's National Auto fuel policy mandate cleaner fuels for vehicles. The energy conservation Act, passed in 2001, outlines initiative to reform energy efficiency.
- (ii) The Electricity Act of 2003, supports the use of renewable energy. Presently, India is importing natural gas and encouraging the adoption of clean coal technologies. It shows India's sincere efforts in this direction.
- (iii) The Indian government is also sincere to start a 'National Mission on Biodiesel.' Nearly 11 million hectares of land are being used to produce biodiesel.
- (iv) India has also one of the largest renewable energy programmes in the world.

Q 12. Explain the role of environmental movements to meet the challenge of environmental degradation.

OR

(CBSE 2016)

Highlight any three international environmental movements and their importance. (CBSE 2023)

Ans. The role of environmental movements to meet the challenge of environmental degradation is very important. It is justified from the points below:

- (i) Some of the most significant responses to environmental challenges have come not from government but rather from group of environmentally conscious volunteers around the world.
- (ii) The environmental movements are amongst the most vibrant, diverse and powerful social movements all over the world. These movements create new ideas and long-term visions. There are some examples to show that diversity is a significant feature of contemporary environmental movements.
- (iii) The forest movements of the South, in Mexico, Chile, Brazil, Malaysia, Indonesia, Continental

Africa and India are facing lots of pressure. The process of forest clearing in the third world countries is on at an alarming rate, despite 30 years of environmental activism.

- (iv) In the Philippines, a big network of groups and organisations campaigned against the Western Mining Corporation. Vehement opposition to the company in its own country, Australia is based on anti-nuclear sentiments and support for the basic rights of Australian indigenous peoples.
- (v) Another group of movements are involved in struggles against mega-dams. In every country where mega-dams are being built we find the environmental movements opposing the projects. Basically, anti-dam movements are pro-river movements for more sustainable and equitable management of river systems and valleys. "The Narmada Bachao Andolan" is one of the best known of these movements.

Q 13. What was the "Earth Summit"? How far did the summit prove to be useful. Explain (CBSE 2016)

Ans. Meaning of Earth Summit: The growing focus on environmental issues within the coliseum of global politics was firmly consolidated at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held at Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in June 1992. This was named as the 'Earth Summit' in which 170 state, NGO's and MNCs participated in this summit.

Usefulness of Summit: The Rio Summit produced conventions dealing with climate change, biodiversity, forestry and advocated a list of development practices called 'Agenda 21'. There were significant differences and difficulties which were left unsolved. There was an agreement on combining economic growth with ecological responsibility and this approach came to be known as sustainable development.

Outcome of Rio Summit: Rio Summit coined the term 'global commons' and differentiated responsibilities. It focused on ecological conservation. Rio summit started the environmental issue and discussions at global level.

Q 14. "States have common but differentiated responsibilities towards environment." Analyse the statement giving suitable examples.

Ans. India announced in the G-8 meeting that the developing countries emissions are nearly a small fraction of that of the developed nations on the basis of principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, India is of the opinion that the developed countries should take the responsibility to curb this problem as they have accumulated emission over a broad period of time.

A review of the implementation of the agreements at the Earth Summit in Rio was undertaken by India in 1997. There had been no meaningful progress with respect to transfer of new and additional environmentally efficient technology on decided terms to developing countries to enable them to meet their commitments under UNFCCC.

Thus, it can be concluded that states have common but differentiated responsibilities towards environment.

Q 15. Explain any four steps taken by governments of India to curb the emission of greenhouse gases.

Ans. Four steps taken by government of India to curb the emission of greenhouse gases are:

- (i) India signed and ratified the 1997 Kyoto Protocol in the year 2002
- (ii) The government has recommended cleaner and better fuels for vehicles under National Auto Fuel Policy.
- (iii) The Energy Conservation Act was passed in 2001 as to initiate the process of improving energy efficiency.
- (iv) There has been encouragement for using renewable sources of energy through Electricity Act of 2003.

Q 16. What is meant by the protection of 'Global commons' in the world?

Ans. In the world some areas are situated beyond a sovereign jurisdiction of any one state. Hence, they need united control by the international community. They are called global commons:

Two examples are:

- (i) Earth's atmosphere (ii) Ocean floor

For the protection of Global common some of the revolutionary agreements are:

- (i) Antarctic Treaty (1959)
- (ii) Montreal Protocol (1987)
- (iii) Antarctic Environmental Protocol (1991)

In the same way it is proved that the management of outer space of the global commons is affected drastically by North-South differences. One of the main issues with the atmosphere and the Ocean floor is technology and industrial development.



Long Answer Type Questions

Q 1. Explain the meaning of 'global commons.' How are environmental concerns becoming important in global politics? (CBSE 2015)

Ans. The area or regions of the world which are located outside the sovereign jurisdiction of any one state and require common governance by the International Community are known as global commons.

They include the Earth's atmosphere, Antarctica, the ocean floor and outer space.

Two examples are:

- (i) Earth atmosphere (ii) Ocean floor

The environmental concerns are becoming important in global politics due to following issues:

(i) Loss of Expansion and Fertility: Across the vast expanse of land, the fertility is no longer as before and at sometime, the cultivable land is not expanding further. grasslands and fisheries have been overexploited. There is hardly any food production on the polluted and depleted water bodies.

(ii) Lack of Safe Water and Sanitation: The Human Development Report 2006 of the United Nations Development Programme claims that 1.2 billion population in developing nations do not get the supply of pure and safe water and 2.6 billion population do not have proper sanitation facilities which leads to the loss of more than three million children per year.

(iii) Deforestation: Forests have the power to control the climate, moderate water supplies and take care of the biodiversity. Forests are previous to our planet, unfortunately the act of deforestation, takes place for personal gains, removing the natural inhabitants. Hence, we lose those lands that are rich in quality and species.

(iv) Ozone Hole: The reduction in the total amount of ozone in the Earth's stratosphere is known as ozone hole. The ozone layer depletion is a great threat to ecosystem and human health. Some measures instantly have to be taken to improve the conditions.

(v) Coastal Pollution: The coastal waters unlike the open sea waters have become depleted as a result of the actions taking place on land. If proper measures are not taken the conditions will degrade across the globe degrading the marine environment.

Q 2. Who are indigenous people? Describe any four problems of the indigenous people. (CBSE 2015)

Ans. Definition of Indigenous People: There are many definitions given for the indigenous people. But United Nations provides exact definition of indigenous people.

"Population comprising the descendants of people who inhabited the present territory of a country at the time when person of a different culture or ethnic origin arrived there from other parts of the world and overcame them."

In the background of world politics there are some natural interest of almost 30 crore indigenous people expanded throughout the globe. Among the 30 crore people, 20 lakh indigenous people belong to cordillera region of Philippines, 10 lakh Mapuche people of Chile, 6 lakh indigenous people belong to Chittagong Hill in Bangladesh, around 35 lakh are North American natives 50000 Kuna living in East of Panama canal whereas 10 lakh people live in Soviet North. Just like other social movements these people talk about their struggles their problems and their rights.

Threats/problems of the indigenous people are:

- (i) The desire for the entry of indigenous people to the global community as equals. Regions of Central and South America, Africa, India and South Asia are the regions where most of the indigenous people are found and they are known as tribals in these regions. The present day Island states belonging to Oceanic region which include Australia, New Zealand, were occupied by the Polynesian, Melanesian and Micronesian people for thousands of years.
- (ii) They have requested the government to retain the existence of indigenous people and enduring communities with an identity of their own. These people use the expression 'since times immemorial' to refer to the occupancy of the lands from which they originated.
- (iii) Issues related to the rights of indigenous people have been neglected as people of varied cultures from various parts of the world overcame them. Also these people have threat to their survival due to loss of land which is main source of their livelihood.
- (iv) Despite institutional measures, they have not got much benefits of development. In fact, they have paid huge cost for development because they are forced to be displaced from their motherland owing to development project.

Q 3. Explain the concept by 'common but differentiated responsibilities'. How and where was it emphasised upon?

Ans. Agenda 21 : It is a non-binding voluntarily implemented action plan of the United Nations (UN) with regard to sustainable development. It is a product of the United Nation Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro. (Brazil) 1992.

The '21' in Agenda 21 means 21st century. It is a plan to reduce emission which increases chlorofluorocarbon on greenhouse gases resulting in global warming.

Concept of Common but differentiated responsibilities: There are differences between the approaches of the countries; the global North wanted everyone to equally share the ecological responsibilities, whereas the global South claimed that the ecological disturbances were created by the industrial development in the Northern States. Hence, it should be the North's responsibility to improve the conditions and ensure the repair of the damage.

Since the developing nations are on the way to achieve industrialisation, the rules and regulations for North and South should not be the same therefore, the

separates requirements of the developing nations should be considered in the entire process of rules and regulations of international environmental laws. Thus, debate was accepted in the Earth Summit in 1992 in the Rio declaration and is called the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

The most important part of the Rio declaration says the 'state shall cooperate' in the spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem. In view of the different contributions of global environmental degradation, states have common but differentiated responsibilities. The developed countries acknowledge the responsibility that they bear in the international pursuit of sustainable development in view of the pressure their societies place on the global environment and of the technological and financial resources they command.

Q 4. What is meant by environmental movements? Explain its various categories.

OR

"Development mostly causes degradation of environment." Justify the statement referring to two environmental movements. (CBSE 2023)

Ans. Environmental movements are the movements of groups of environmentally conscious volunteers to challenge the environmental degradation. These groups are learning both at the international level and at the national or local level.

- (i) These environmental movements are amongst the most vibrant, diverse and powerful social movements across the globe today.
- (ii) It is within social movements that new forms of political ideals are born or reinvented.

Aims of Environmental Movements

- (i) As a part of its aim the environmental movement raise new ideas and long-term vision of what we should not do in our individual and collective lives.
- (ii) Diversity is also an important trait of contemporary environmental movements, for example the forest movements of the South in Mexico, Chile, Brazil, Malaysia, Indonesia, Continental Africa and India are faced with enormous pressure.

Categories of Environmental Movements

There are various categories of environmental movements in the global era like:

- (i) Forests movements
- (ii) Movements against the Western Mining Corporation and mineral industry for creating water pollution.
- (iii) Anti-Dam movements i.e., against the construction of mega-dams as they disturb the channels of the rivers.



Chapter Test

Multiple Choice Questions

Q 1. The Earth Summit was held in:

- a. London
- b. New York
- c. New Delhi
- d. Rio-de-Janeiro

Q 2. Earth Summit was attended by:

- a. 170 states
- b. 59 states
- c. 191 states
- d. 184 states

Fill in the Blank Type Questions

Q 3. After a lot of discussion at the many conventions were produced dealing with climate change, biodiversity, forestry etc.

Q 4. In June 1992, the held in Rio-de-Janeiro.

Assertion and Reason Type Questions

Directions (Q.Nos. 5-6): In the questions given below, there are two statements marked as Assertion (A) and Reason (R). Read the statements and choose the correct option:

- 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.

Q 5. Assertion (A): Presently, global atmosphere is warming up.

Reason (R): The depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer has resulted in an increase in ultraviolet radiations reaching the earth.

Q 6. Assertion (A): Affluence in living standards is causing environmental degradation.

Reason (R): Increase in wealth increases the demand for goods and services.

Passage Based Question

Q 7. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

The global economy relied on oil for much of the 20th century as a portable and indispensable fuel. The immense wealth associated with oil generates political struggles to control it, and the history of petroleum is also the history of war and struggle. West Asia, especially the gulf region, accounts for about 30 per cent of global oil production. But it has about 64 per cent of the planet's known reserves, and is therefore the only region able to

satisfy any substantial rise in oil demand. Saudi Arabia has a quarter of the world's total reserves and is the single largest producer. Iraq's known reserves are second only to Saudi Arabia's. And since substantial portions of Iraqi territory are yet to be fully explored, there is a fair chance that actual reserves might be far larger. The United States, Europe, Japan and increasingly India and China, which consume this petroleum, are located at a considerable distance from the region.

- (i) Name the areas which have the potential for oil production.
- (ii) On which mineral resource the global economy depends upon?
- (iii) Which countries consume most of the amount of oil? Name them.

Cartoon Based Question

Q 8. Study the cartoon given below and answer the questions that follow.



- (i) What does the cartoon symbolise?
- (ii) Why do you think the fingers are designed like chimneys and the world made into a lighter?
- (iii) What message does this cartoon convey?

Very Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 9. What is meant by 'global commons'?
- Q 10. What was the other name for the 1987 Brundtland Report?

Short Answer Type Questions

- Q 11. Explain the concept of common but differentiated responsibility.
- Q 12. 'Let the polluters pay.' Support this statement with any two suitable arguments.

Long Answer Type Question

- Q 13. Discuss about Environment Movements.