



# UPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS MCQs 10-09-2023

QUES1.

Consider the following statements regarding Offshore Wind Energy in India:

1. As far as wind power is concerned India stands in 5th position across the globe after China, Brazil, the US, and Germany
2. Offshore wind farms must be at least 200 nautical miles from the shore and 50 feet deep in the ocean.
3. Offshore wind turbine installation and operation are governed by national and international laws, primarily UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea).

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (A) Only one
- (B) Only two
- (C) All three
- (D) None

Answer: (B)

Explanation:

In the last decade the Government of India has really done a commendable job in promoting renewable energy, and precisely because of that India is very well placed on the world map of renewable power by occupying 4th position (163 GW) after China (1161 GW), US (352 GW) and Brazil (175 GW). As far as wind power is concerned India (42 GW) again stands in 4th position across the globe after China (365 GW), the US (140 GW), and Germany (66 GW) Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

Wind energy is typically classified into two types: onshore wind farms, which are large installations of wind turbines located on land, and offshore wind farms, which are installations positioned in bodies of water. Offshore wind energy involves the utilization of sea winds to generate electricity. These wind farms can employ either fixed-foundation turbines, constructed in shallow waters, or floating wind turbines, designed for deeper ocean locations. Floating wind farms are still in the early stages of development.

To qualify as offshore wind farms, they must be situated a **minimum of 200 nautical miles** from the coastline and in **waters at least 50 feet deep**. These offshore wind turbines generate electricity, which is transmitted back to the shore via cables buried in the ocean floor. Hence statement 2 is correct.

The installation and operation of offshore wind turbines are governed by national and international laws, primarily the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The specific regulatory rules depend on the maritime zone in which the turbines are located:



In territorial waters (up to 12 nautical miles from the coast), the coastal State has full sovereignty, giving it complete control over offshore wind turbine regulation.

Within the exclusive economic zone (up to 200 nautical miles from the coast), the coastal State has exclusive jurisdiction and control, including the ability to establish safety zones around wind farms. These safety zones must be respected by all ships, provided due notice has been given, and they cannot obstruct crucial international sea lanes.

Beyond exclusive economic zones lie the high seas or international waters. Here, the legal status of offshore wind facilities and their energy production purpose is less clear, as it is not explicitly mentioned as a high seas freedom under UNCLOS. Hence statement 3 is correct.

QUES2.

Consider the following statements about Kaziranga National Park:

1. It gained the status of a national park in 1974 and was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985.
2. The reserve is renowned for its rich biodiversity, including the iconic Indian one-horned rhinoceros.
3. Kaziranga is not recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International for the conservation of avifaunal species.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (A) Only one
- (B) Only two
- (C) All three
- (D) None

Answer: (B)

Explanation:

Kaziranga Tiger Reserve is located in the Indian state of Assam, in the northeastern part of the country. It was established as a reserve forest in 1908 and later declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1950. It gained the status of a national park in 1974 and was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985. Hence statement 1 is correct.

Kaziranga National Park is home to significant breeding populations of 35 mammal species, with 15 of them classified as threatened according to the IUCN Red List. Among its notable distinctions, the park boasts the world's largest population of Indian rhinoceros (2,401), wild water buffalo (1,666), and eastern swamp deer (468). Collectively, the Indian rhinoceros, royal Bengal tiger, Asian elephant, wild water buffalo, and swamp deer are known as the 'Big Five' of Kaziranga. Hence statement 2 is correct.

Kaziranga has been identified by Birdlife International as an Important Bird Area. It is home to a variety of migratory birds, water birds, predators, scavengers, and game birds. Hence statement 3 is incorrect.



QUES3.

Consider the following statements regarding Global Stocktake:

1. The global stocktake is part of the Paris Agreement, where countries meet every two years to assess progress in combating climate change, starting in 2023.
2. The Global Stocktake links the implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) with the overarching goals of the Paris Agreement and has the ultimate aim of raising climate ambition.
3. The modalities for implementation agreed at the Climate Change Conference in Katowice provide for two stocktake phases.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (A) Only one
- (B) Only two
- (C) All three
- (D) None

Answer: (A)

Explanation: **The global stocktake is part of the Paris Agreement**, where countries meet every five years to assess progress in combating climate change, **starting in 2023**. The first official report of this stocktake, after nearly two years of preparation, will set the foundation for COP28, a United Nations climate negotiation event in Dubai COP28, scheduled for late November, will address how countries respond to the findings of the global stocktake and what additional actions they can take. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

The Global Stocktake is a fundamental component of the Paris Agreement which is used to monitor its implementation and evaluate the collective progress made in achieving the agreed goals. The Global Stocktake thus links the implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) with the overarching goals of the Paris Agreement and has the ultimate aim of raising climate ambition. Hence statement 2 is correct.

### **Global Stocktake process outlined in the Katowice agreement**

Phase 1 (Data Collection): Gather climate information from sources like NDCs, IPCC reports, and input from stakeholders. Publish this data in synthesis reports and focus on specific areas like mitigation, adaptation, and emissions status.

Phase 2 (Technical Assessment): Evaluate the collected information to measure progress in Paris Agreement goals. Engage stakeholders in technical dialogues to discuss findings, identify ways to enhance climate responses, and document outcomes in reports.



Phase 3 (Political Messages): Translate assessment results into actionable policies, helping Parties improve climate actions and promote international cooperation. The specific documentation method, such as a declaration or formal decision, is yet to be determined.

Hence statement 3 is incorrect.

4. Consider the following statements about Bhitarkanika National Park:

1. It was declared as a national park in 1998.
2. Ramsar site status attained in 2002, the second in Odisha after Chilika Lake
3. Houses India's second-largest mangrove ecosystem.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- (A) Only one
- (B) Only two
- (C) All three
- (D) None

Answer: (C)

Explanation:

Bhitarkanika National Park is a 145 km<sup>2</sup> (56 sq mi) large national park in northeast Kendrapara district in Odisha in eastern India. It was designated on 16 September 1998 and obtained the status of a Ramsar site on 19 August 2002. The area is also been designated as the second Ramsar site of the State after the Chilika Lake. Hence statements 1 and 2 are correct.

It is surrounded by Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary, which is spread over 672 km<sup>2</sup> (259 sq mi). Gahirmatha Beach and Marine Sanctuary are to the east, separating the swamp region and mangroves from the Bay of Bengal. The national park and wildlife sanctuary is inundated by the rivers Brahmani, Baitarani, Dhamra, and Pathsala. It hosts many mangrove species and is the second-largest mangrove ecosystem in India. Hence statement 3 is correct.

5. Consider the following statements regarding Hunga - Tonga Volcano:

1. Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha‘apai volcano is a submarine volcano in the West Pacific Ocean.
2. It created the world's youngest land mass, a new island about 65 kilometers northwest of Nuku'alofa.
3. It is not a part of the highly active Kermadec-Tonga subduction zone and its associated volcanic arc.

How many of the above statements are correct?



- (A) Only one
- (B) Only two
- (C) three
- (D) None

Answer: (A)

Explanation:

**Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha‘apai is a submarine volcano in the South Pacific** located about 30 km (19 miles) south of the submarine volcano of Fonuafo‘ou and 65 km (40 mi) north of Tongatapu, Tonga's main island. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

Its most recent eruption in January 2022 generated a tsunami that reached as far as the coasts of Japan and the Americas and a volcanic plume that reached 58 km (36 mi) into the mesosphere. As of May 2022, the eruption is the largest volcanic eruption in the 21st century. **It created the world's youngest land mass**, a new island about 65 kilometers northwest of Nuku'alofa. Hence statement 2 is correct

It is part of the highly active **Kermadec-Tonga subduction zone** and its associated volcanic arc, which extends from New Zealand north-northeast to Fiji and is formed by the **subduction** of the **Pacific Plate under the Indo-Australian Plate**. Hence statement 3 is incorrect.