

VAID ICS LUCKNOW

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

05/08/2025

ANSWER & EXPLANATION:

Qn 1:

Answer: d) 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

Statement 1: Correct

The proposed **Global Plastics Treaty** aims to be **legally binding** and is designed to **address the full lifecycle of plastic** — including **production, product design, and waste management**. This is a major shift from earlier efforts that focused mostly on end-of-life plastic waste.

Statement 2: Incorrect

India has **not committed** to a legally binding **cap on virgin plastic production**. In fact, India and several developing countries have raised concerns about such caps, citing their developmental and industrial needs. India supports national action plans and flexibility rather than uniform global caps.

Statement 3: Correct

The treaty is being negotiated under the framework of the **United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)**. The **Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC)** is conducting the talks, and both **state** and **non-state actors** (like NGOs, industry groups, and civil society) are actively participating in the discussions.

Qn 2:

Answer: a. 2 only

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 – Incorrect:**

- While **CPCB** has significant powers under both Acts, **it cannot directly impose penalties or recover environmental compensation**. It can initiate proceedings or recommend action, but **only courts or governments** (under environmental compensation mechanisms or Supreme Court orders) can enforce such penalties. However, **recent Supreme Court rulings (e.g., 2024)** have enhanced the power of Pollution Control Boards to **levy environmental compensation**, but this is still not a blanket power **under the original Acts**.

Statement 2 – Correct:

- The **Air Act, 1981** is largely **technocratic and regulatory** in structure. It **does not include explicit provisions for citizen participation, public hearings, or community rights** in the process of setting up polluting industries. These provisions are present in other laws like the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986** and **EIA Notification**, but **not in the Air Act itself**.

Statement 3 – Incorrect:

- The **definition of ‘pollution’ under the Water Act** includes **any contamination or alteration of physical, chemical, or biological properties**, which **does include thermal pollution**. Groundwater is also included. So, the statement that it includes **only** groundwater but **not** thermal pollution is **false**.

Qn 3: Answer: c. 1 and 3 only

Explanation:

Statement 1: Correct

- The **CPCB** was initially constituted in **1974 under the Water Act**, but it was also **entrusted with powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**.
- Though technically formed under the **Water Act, 1974**, its legal authority is extended to air pollution control via the **Air Act**, making this a **tricky but acceptable** statement.

Statement 2: Incorrect

- **SPCBs were constituted under the Water Act, 1974**, but like the CPCB, they **also derive powers under the Air Act, 1981** and the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.
- Therefore, it's incorrect to say they derive powers **solely** from the Water Act.

Statement 3: Correct

- In a recent judgment, the **Supreme Court ruled** that **Pollution Control Boards have the power to impose and recover environmental compensation or restitutionary damages**, strengthening the "**polluter pays**" principle.
- This includes action **even without prior adjudication** by a tribunal, provided the action is fair and guided by reasoned parameters.

Qn 4:

Correct Answer: C. 3 only

Explanation:

Statement 1: Incorrect.

Most HAPs in India **are not legally binding**. Studies (including recent reports by CPR and NRDC) show that HAPs are often **non-binding advisory frameworks**, lacking statutory enforcement. They do not have a clear legal mandate under national or state environmental or disaster management laws.

Statement 2: Incorrect.

While NDMA recognizes heatwaves as a disaster under the Disaster Management Act, **it has not issued detailed, enforceable guidelines** for HAPs like it does for floods or cyclones. There is limited central guidance, leading to **variation in quality and scope** across states and cities.

Statement 3: Correct.

The **Ahmedabad Heat Action Plan**, launched in **2013**, was indeed the **first city-level HAP in South Asia**. It was developed after a deadly heatwave in 2010 and has been widely recognized and replicated by other Indian cities like Nagpur, Bhubaneswar, and Surat.

Qn 5:

Answer: d. 2 and 3 only

Explanation:

Statement 1: Incorrect.

- E20 fuel is a blend of **20% ethanol with 80% petrol, not diesel**.
- Diesel blending follows a separate biodiesel program, not EBP.
- Ethanol is primarily blended with petrol because of their chemical compatibility and ignition characteristics.

Statement 2: Correct.

- **Ethanol burns cleaner** than petrol and can reduce **carbon monoxide (CO)** and **hydrocarbon emissions**.
- However, studies show that E20 **can lead to a slight increase in NOx emissions**, which are harmful pollutants contributing to smog and acid rain.

Statement 3: Correct.

- As per the **Ethanol Blending Roadmap (2020-2025)**, the Indian government set a target to **achieve pan-India rollout of E20 fuel by 2025**.
- This aligns with goals for **energy security, reducing oil imports, and climate change mitigation**.

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