

CURRENT AFFAIRS

WITH MINDMAPS

HINGLISH



Practice Question-Polity ✓

Asian Elephant ✓

GRAP and AQI ✓

Blue Flag Certification ✓



वित्त आयोग (Finance Commission) से संबंधित निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए—

FC Act 1951

1. वित्त आयोग के सदस्यों की योग्यताएँ संविधान में निर्दिष्ट की गई हैं।
2. वित्त आयोग के सदस्यों को हटाने की प्रक्रिया सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीशों के समान है।
3. केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों की समान भूमिका होती है वित्त आयोग के सदस्यों की नियुक्ति में।

ऊपर दिए गए में से कौन-सा/से कथन असत्य (Incorrect) है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1
- (b) केवल 1 और 2
- (c) केवल 2 और 3
- (d) 1, 2 और 3

2

निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए—

1. लोकसभा में बहुमत प्राप्त दल का नेता, या वह व्यक्ति जो सदन में बहुमत का विश्वास प्राप्त करने की स्थिति में हो, प्रधानमंत्री नियुक्त किया जाता है।
2. भारत का प्रधानमंत्री, राज्य का प्रमुख (Head of State) और सरकार का प्रमुख (Head of Government) — दोनों होता है।

ऊपर दिए गए कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1
- (b) केवल 2
- (c) 1 और 2 दोनों
- (d) न तो 1 और न ही 2

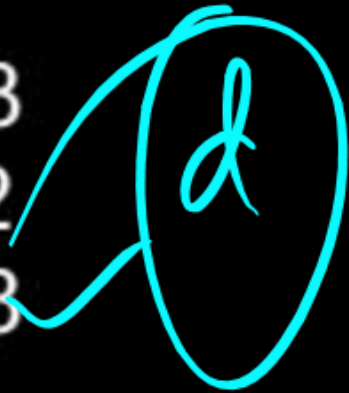
निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए—



1. मंत्रिपरिषद् (Council of Ministers) तीन स्तरों पर आधारित होती है — शीर्ष पर कैबिनेट मंत्री, बीच में उप मंत्री (Deputy Ministers) और सबसे नीचे राज्य मंत्री (Ministers of State) होते हैं।
2. कैबिनेट कार्यपालिका और विधायिका के बीच कड़ी (link) के रूप में कार्य करती है।
3. राज्य मंत्री केवल तभी कैबिनेट बैठकों में भाग लेते हैं, जब उन्हें उनके विभाग से संबंधित किसी विषय पर विशेष रूप से आमंत्रित किया जाता है।

नीचे दिए गए कोड का उपयोग करके सही उत्तर चुनिए—

- (a) केवल 2
- (b) केवल 1 और 3
- (c) केवल 1 और 2
- (d) केवल 2 और 3



निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए—

1. अनुच्छेद 75 के अनुसार, मंत्रिपरिषद् लोकसभा के प्रति सामूहिक रूप से उत्तरदायी (Collectively Responsible) होगी। ✓
2. यदि मंत्रिपरिषद् का कोई सदस्य सरकार की नीतियों का सार्वजनिक रूप से समर्थन करने में असमर्थ होता है, तो वह नैतिक रूप से इस्तीफा देने के लिए बाध्य होता है। ✓

ऊपर दिए गए कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1
- (b) केवल 2
- (c) 1 और 2 दोनों ✓
- (d) न तो 1 और न ही 2

निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए—

1. संविधान में प्रधानमंत्री की शक्तियों और कार्यों का विस्तृत रूप से उल्लेख किया गया है। X
2. प्रधानमंत्री मंत्रिपरिषद के नेता होने के साथ-साथ लोकसभा के नेता भी होते हैं। ✓

ऊपर दिए गए कथनों में से कौन-सा/से सही है/हैं?

- (a) केवल 1
- (b) केवल 2
- (c) 1 और 2 दोनों
- (d) न तो 1 और न ही 2

b

निम्नलिखित कथनों पर विचार कीजिए—

1. प्रधानमंत्री को संसद के विघटन (dissolution) की सिफारिश करने का अधिकार प्राप्त है।
2. प्रधानमंत्री को सरकार के मुखिया के रूप में पद प्रदाय (power of patronage) का अधिकार प्राप्त है।
3. प्रधानमंत्री को संसद के सत्रों को आहूत (summon) करने और स्थगित (prorogue) करने की सिफारिश करने का अधिकार प्राप्त है।

नीचे दिए गए कोड का उपयोग करके सही उत्तर चुनिए —

- (a) केवल 2
- (b) केवल 1 और 3
- (c) केवल 1 और 2
- (d) 1, 2 और 3

d

New count: Elephant population dips nearly 18%, Western Ghats remains primary habitat

NIKHIL GHANEKAR
NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 14

INDIA'S ASIAN elephant population is estimated to be 22,446 — lower by 17.81% from the previous estimate done eight years ago, according to results of the much-delayed Synchronous All India Elephant Estimation (SAIEE) 2021-25 released Tuesday.

Compared to the last all-India estimate in 2017 of 27,312, the population is lower by 4,065 elephants. However, the latest population report added a caveat that the two figures are not directly comparable due to a change in methodology, and said the latest estimate should be treated as a "new baseline".

According to the latest data, elephant numbers remain highest in the Western Ghats (11,934), followed by the North Eastern Hills and Brahmaputra floodplains (6,559), Shivalik Hills and Gangetic plains (2,062), and Central India and Eastern Ghats (1,891).

Among states, Karnataka continues to harbour the largest population (6,013), followed by Assam (4,159), Tamil Nadu (3,136), Kerala (2,785), Uttarakhand (1,792), and Odisha (912).

The *Indian Express* first reported in October last year that the Union Environment Ministry had shelved an earlier version of the Status of Elephants in India

2022-23 report, citing delays in census in the Northeast. The population estimates in that version, which had also indicated a decline in elephant numbers, are consistent with those presented in the latest report.

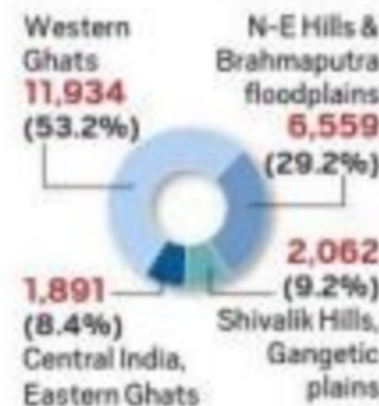
On the mapping exercise in the Northeast, the latest report noted that data gathered during the first sampling period in 2023 — involving surveyors walking demarcated forest blocks — was extremely limited. As a result, it said, "it was not possible to model the density across the landscape" at that stage.

When asked why the population estimated using the new methodology reflected a large change in some states, Qamar Qureshi, one of the lead scientists involved in the exercise, said, "The previous population estimates are likely overestimates due to the methodology followed. The current methodology is scientifically sound, relying on dung sampling to extract DNA and identify individual elephants, which has been done for the first time."

Qureshi, however, added a note of caution that there are concerns regarding the distress and disturbances faced by elephants, especially in the eastern-central landscape. He pointed to challenges, such as loss of habitats due to mining and deforestation, deaths due to railways, power lines and mining related habitat disturbances.

TRACKING ELEPHANT NUMBERS

SHARE IN TOTAL



22,446

Total elephants in India

TOP STATES

Karnataka	6,013
Assam	4,159
Tamil Nadu	3,136
Kerala	2,785
Uttarakhand	1,792
Odisha	912

The latest report flags a range of threats across habitats. In the Western Ghats, once home to a contiguous population, elephants are increasingly disconnected due to changing land use, including expanding coffee and tea plantations, invasive plant species, farmland fencing and rapid development projects.

It calls for better connectivity between elephant habitats and stronger law enforcement to ensure the species' long-term survival, particularly in the Northeast.

In the Western Ghats, Shivalik Hills and Brahmaputra plains, where elephants are most abundant, the report highlights habitat loss, fragmentation and disruption of traditional corridors caused by railway lines, roads, power infrastructure, encroachments and other land-use

changes.

In Central India, mining pressures were identified as a major concern. The report also points to plant invasions, human-induced disturbance and conflict with local communities as persistent challenges requiring cooperative engagement.

The latest exercise adopted a new methodology modelled on the tiger estimation framework, in which forested habitats across 20 states were divided into smaller blocks or cells to record elephant signs and other indicators such as vegetation, presence of other mammals, predators and human disturbance.

What distinguishes SAIEE 2021-25 is the use of a genetic mark-recapture model, where elephant dung samples are collected and analysed in laborato-

ries to identify unique individuals.

Using over 20,000 dung samples, scientists identified 4,065 unique elephants across major landscapes.

Since elephants lack distinctive physical markings like tigers' stripes, DNA extracted from dung allows researchers to identify individuals and estimate population density. The genetic data, combined with ground surveys, was fed into a mathematical model to derive the final estimate of abundance.

Earlier, the elephant census relied on a mix of direct sightings, counts at waterholes and dung-decay methods, where population density was inferred from how quickly dung was deposited and decayed. In recent rounds, this approach was refined by combining dung-decay data with sample block counts in 5 sq km areas, and then using extrapolation to estimate elephant numbers across larger landscapes.

For SAIEE 2021-25, the country's forests were divided into 100 sq km cells, further subdivided into 25 sq km and 4 sq km grids, which is a design borrowed from the tiger estimation program used since 2006.

Data on elephants and other species have been collected under this framework largely for mapping distribution and relative abundance.

22,246

18.1%

5

Species in News

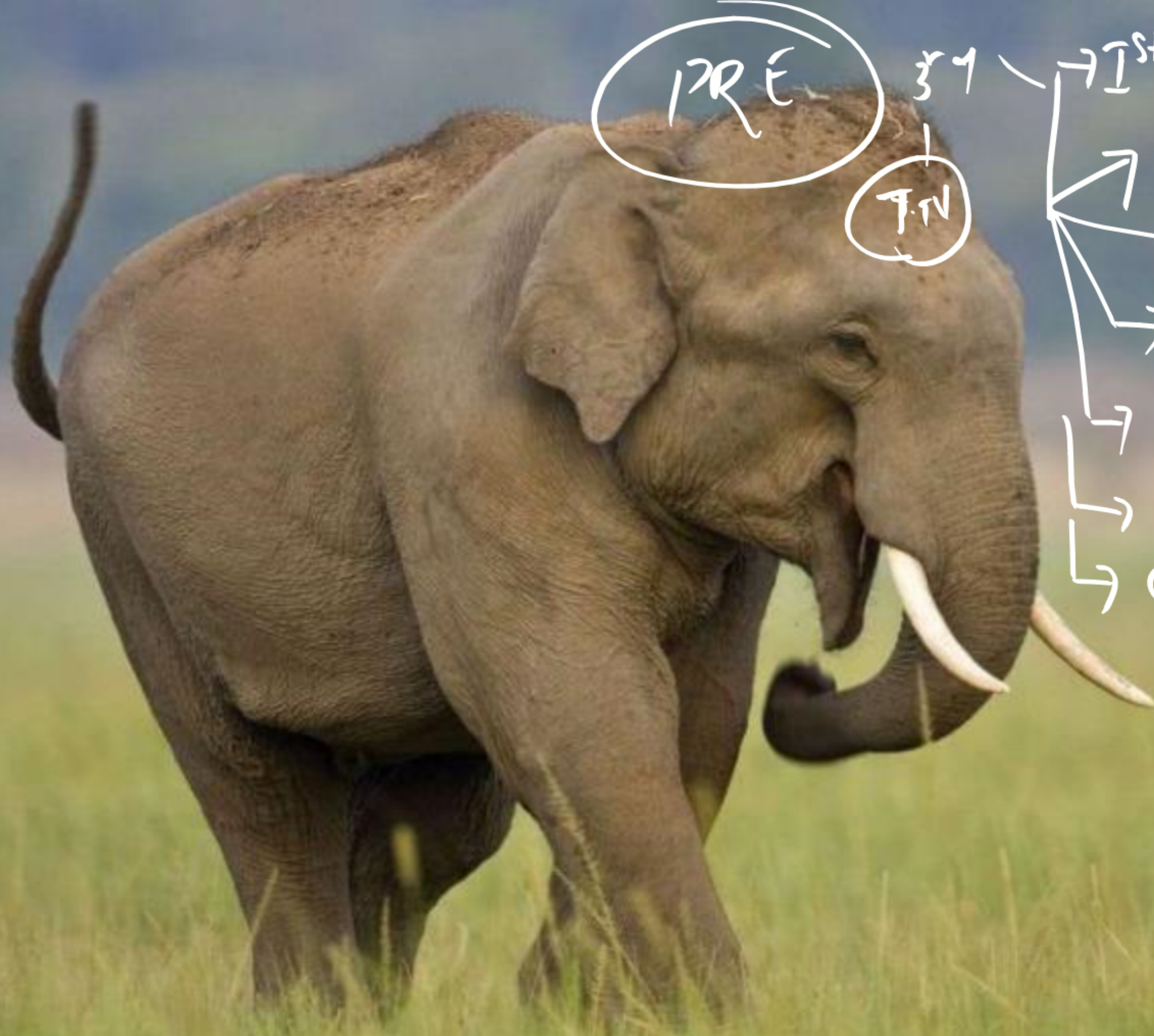
Q. With reference to Indian elephants, consider the following statements: (2020)

1. The leader of an elephant group is a female. ✓
2. The maximum gestation period can be 22 months. ✓
3. An elephant can normally go on calving till the age of 40 years only. ✓ ⁶⁰⁻⁷⁰
4. Among the States in India, the highest elephant population is in Kerala. ✗

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only ✓
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 3 only ✗
- (d) 1, 3 and 4 only ✗

(a)

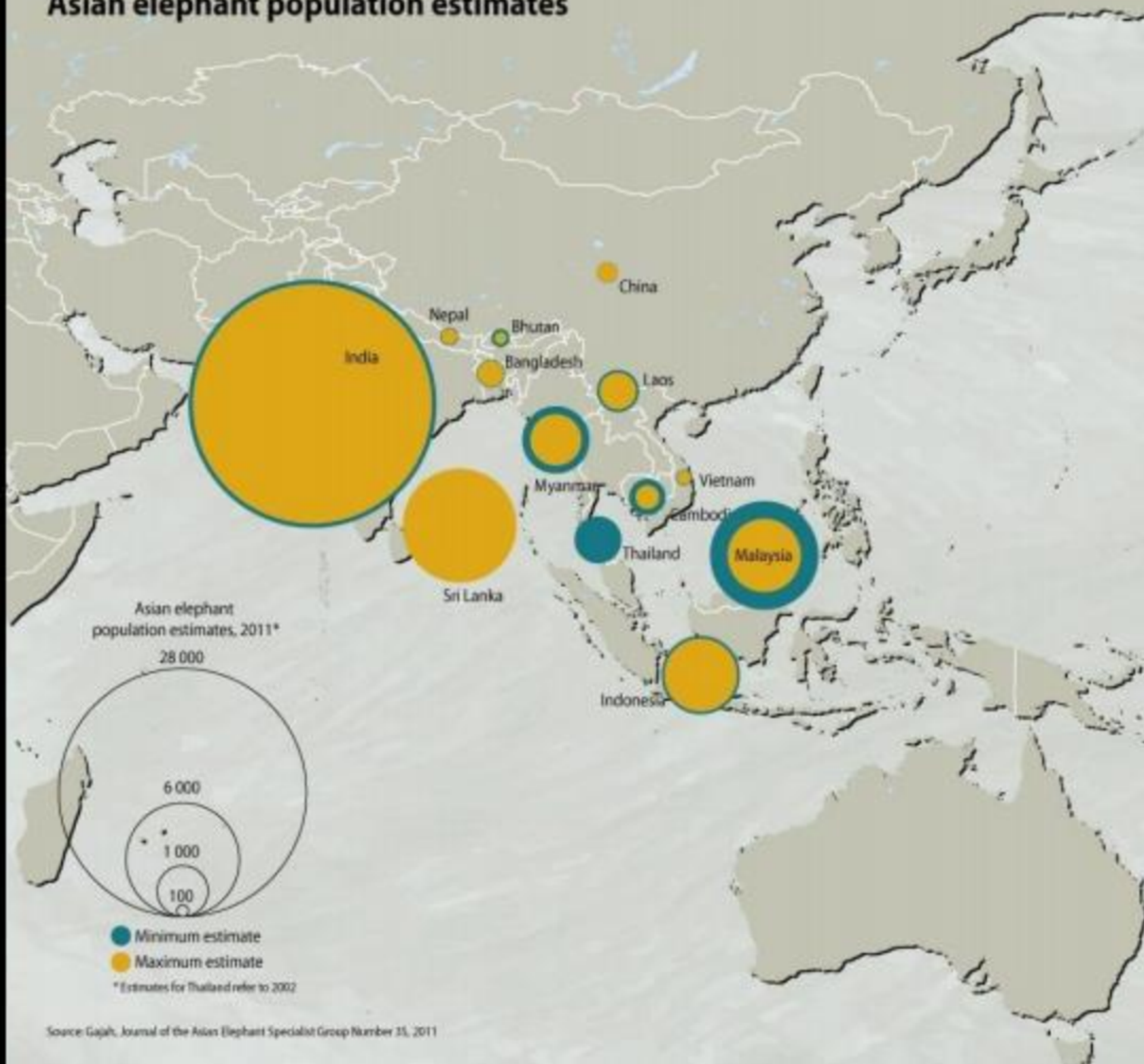


PRE

F.V

- 1st in Karnataka, India
- सबसे बड़ा स्तनधारी जीव
- Head of Female.
- Asiatic Elephant << African Ei.
- IUCN - End. (संक्रान्त)
- Life span 60-70 वर्ष
- Gestation Period = 21.5-22 महीने

Asian elephant population estimates



Key Facts

A

Common Name

Indian elephant

Aa

Scientific Name

Elephas maximus



Geographic habitat

Widely distributed across India



Height

2.3-3.3m



Length

5.5-6.40m (tip of trunk to tip of tail)



Weight

Male: 3500 - 6000kg; Female: 2500 - 4000kg



Population

Around 26,000



Did you know?

Elephants spend about 16 hours a day eating. They require approximately 150-200 kgs of food and up to 200 litres of water each day.



Status

Endangered (IUCN)

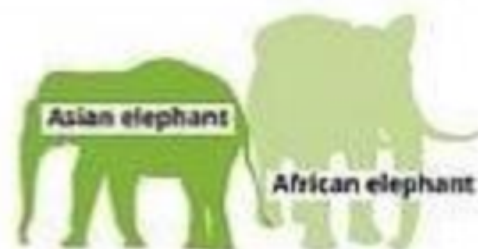


GET TO KNOW

ASIAN ELEPHANTS

AND THEIR PROBLEMS

ASIAN ELEPHANTS ARE...
THE 2ND BIGGEST LAND MAMMALS IN THE WORLD!



CULTURALLY IMPORTANT



ESPECIALLY THREATENED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND CHINA



IMPORTANT ECOSYSTEM ENGINEERS & FOREST GARDENERS



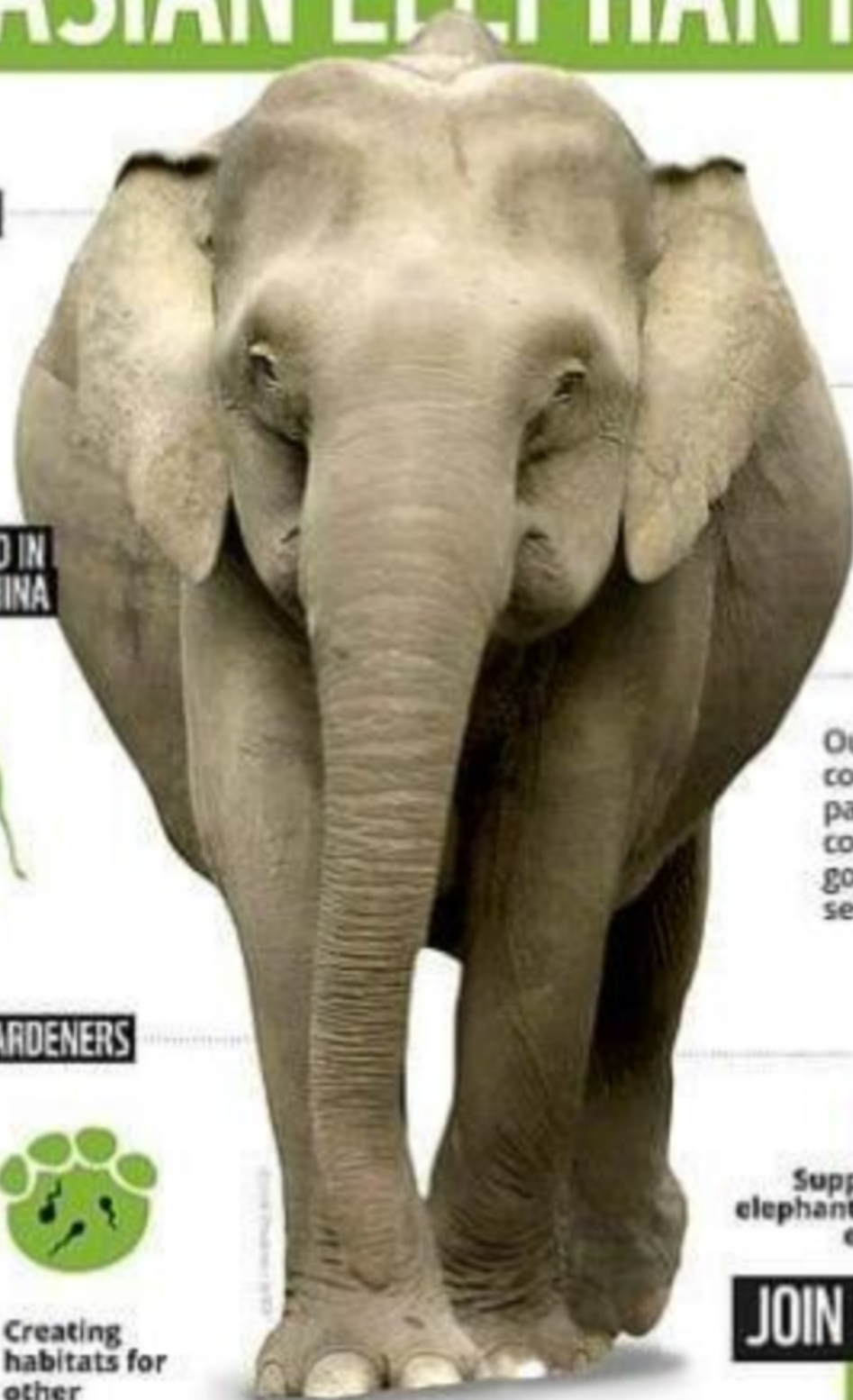
Dispersing seeds, fertilizing the land that helps plants and forests grow



Forging paths in dense forests for other animals



Creating habitats for other organisms



Habitat loss and fragmentation



Human-elephant conflict



Poaching



Small/isolated populations

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Our initiative works in collaboration with partners including communities, governments, private sector and others to...

- Address habitat loss
- Manage human-elephant conflict
- Understand, protect declining elephant populations

YOU CAN BE PART OF THE SOLUTION



Support Asian elephant conservation efforts



Learn more



Spread the word

JOIN US AND BECOME AN ELLY ALLY.

WWW.PANDA.ORG/ASIANELEPHANTS



GRAP STAGE 1 ACTIVATED

Air in Delhi turns 'poor' after four months, high ozone levels recorded



Delhi witnessed a misty morning on Tuesday. *Parvinder Khanna*

WHAT GRAP STAGE 1 ENTAILS

- Proper implementation of dust mitigation measures
- No illegal waste dumping in open areas
- Periodic mechanised sweeping and water sprinkling on roads
- Regular lifting of municipal, construction and hazardous waste from dump sites
- Intensifying use of anti-smog guns and dust suppression measures
- Enforcing prohibition on open burning of biomass and municipal solid waste
- Strict vigilance and enforcement of pollution norms of vehicles
- Complete ban on coal or firewood in tandoor in hotels, restaurants and open eateries
- Using only electricity or clean fuel gas-based applications in hotels, restaurants and open eateries

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 14

FOR THE first time in over four months, Delhi's air turned 'poor' on Tuesday with the 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) reading 211 at 4 pm. Delhi's AQI was 'poor' last on June 11.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board, the main pollutant for the last three days has been ground-level ozone and Particulate Matter (PM) 10.

The dip in AQI had prompted the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas to activate Stage 1 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) to tackle pollution. (See box).

There are two types of ozone — one in the upper atmosphere, which creates a shield against

harmful ultraviolet rays and ground-level ozone, exposure to which may increase frequency of asthma attacks, can aggravate lung diseases such as emphysema, and chronic bronchitis, and inflame airways.

Ground-level ozone is not emitted directly but is formed on warm and sunny days when oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) react with each other. Both are emitted because of vehicular pollution by cars, power plants and industries. Ground-level ozone pollution is primarily an urban affair.

PM 10, meanwhile, is most likely a result of road dust, said Delhi Pollution Control Committee officials, as rain has dried up. India Meteorological Department (IMD) officials said clear sky and a dip in wind speed have led to the accumulation of pollutants. According to the

Centre's Air Quality Early Warning System forecast, the six days at least will record 'poor' AQI.

Delhi has seen a long spell of clean air this year, with July getting 29 days of satisfactory AQI. Heavy rain over the past three months has been a major contributory factor. While the bad air is inevitable as temperatures dip, winds still and rain dries up, the Delhi government is expecting the relief to last a little longer.

A senior government official pointed to the delay in the rice harvest in Punjab and Haryana this year because of late rain and flooding. "As in many areas, the harvest has not even started, by Diwali, it will still be underway. This means that the farm fires might peak in November, instead of October end. So, even as the meteorological conditions deteriorate, the AQI may not dip as rapidly as it usually does in the last

two weeks of October," the official said. "Diwali in Delhi is expected to be better than the past few years because stubble burning may not start in a big way till the end of the month," he added.

Farm fires are set on fire by farmers to get rid of the long stubble left behind after paddy is harvested using machines. Rice stubble, unlike wheat stubble, is not fed to cattle because it is high in silica.

The number of farm fires recorded in Punjab, Haryana, UP, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are the lowest so far this year. UP has recorded more than half of the cases, official data shows. Between September 15 and October 14, 552 incidents of farm fires have been detected in Punjab, Haryana, UP, Delhi, Rajasthan and MP. UP topped the chart with 225 fires in this duration, followed by 93 fires in Punjab.

AQI ⇒ 200-300

Stage ↗

GRAP-1 ↘

In the cities of our country, which among the following atmospheric gases are normally considered in calculating the value of the **Air Quality Index?**

(2016)

1. Carbon dioxide ~~x~~

2. Carbon monoxide ✓

3. Nitrogen dioxide ✓

4. Sulphur dioxide ✓

5. Methane ~~x~~

CO

NO₂

SO₂

CH₄

NH₃

2016

b

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

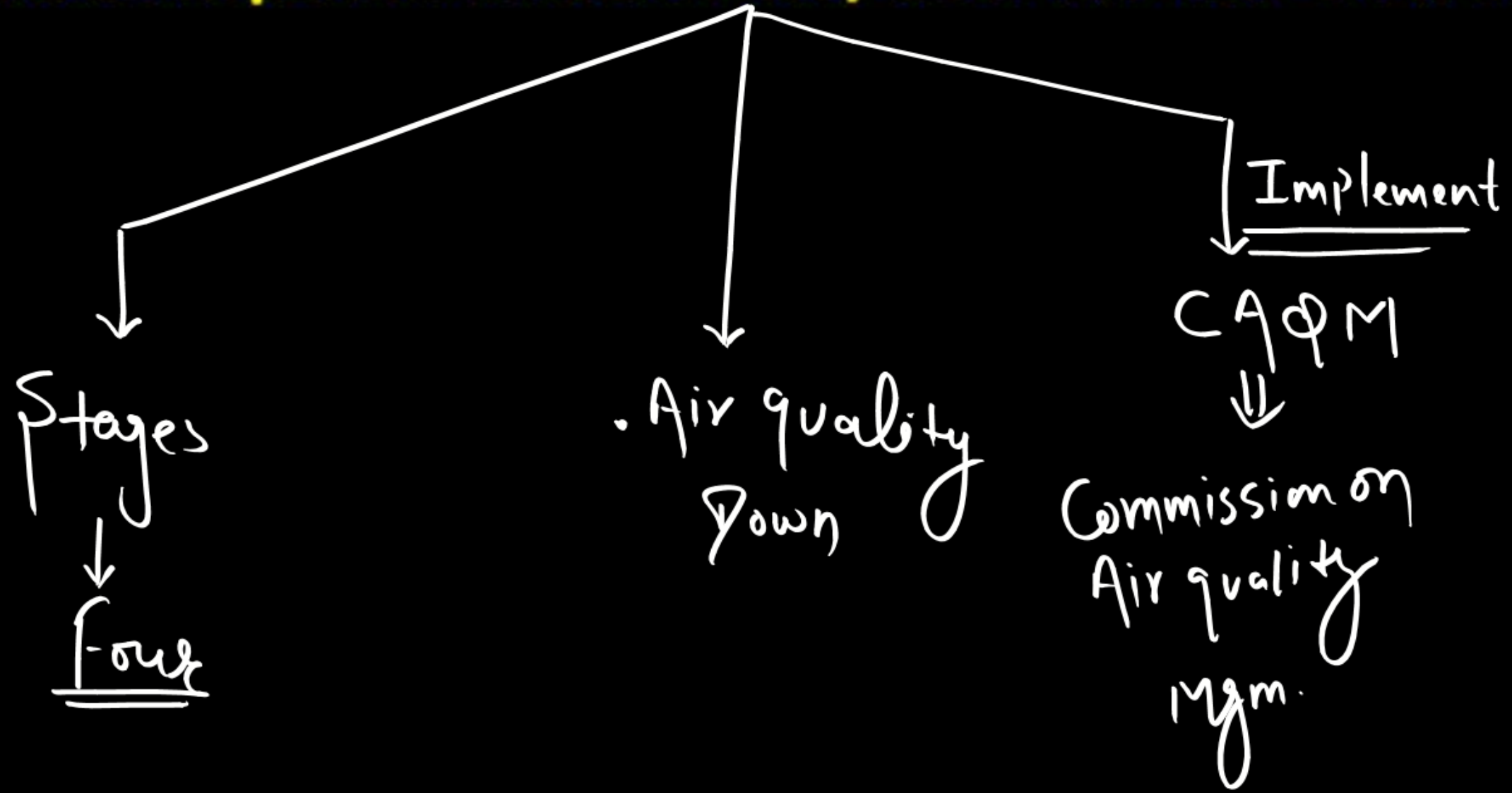
(a) 1, 2 and 3 ~~x~~ only

(b) 2, 3 and 4 only ✓

(c) 1, 4 and 5 only

(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 ~~x~~

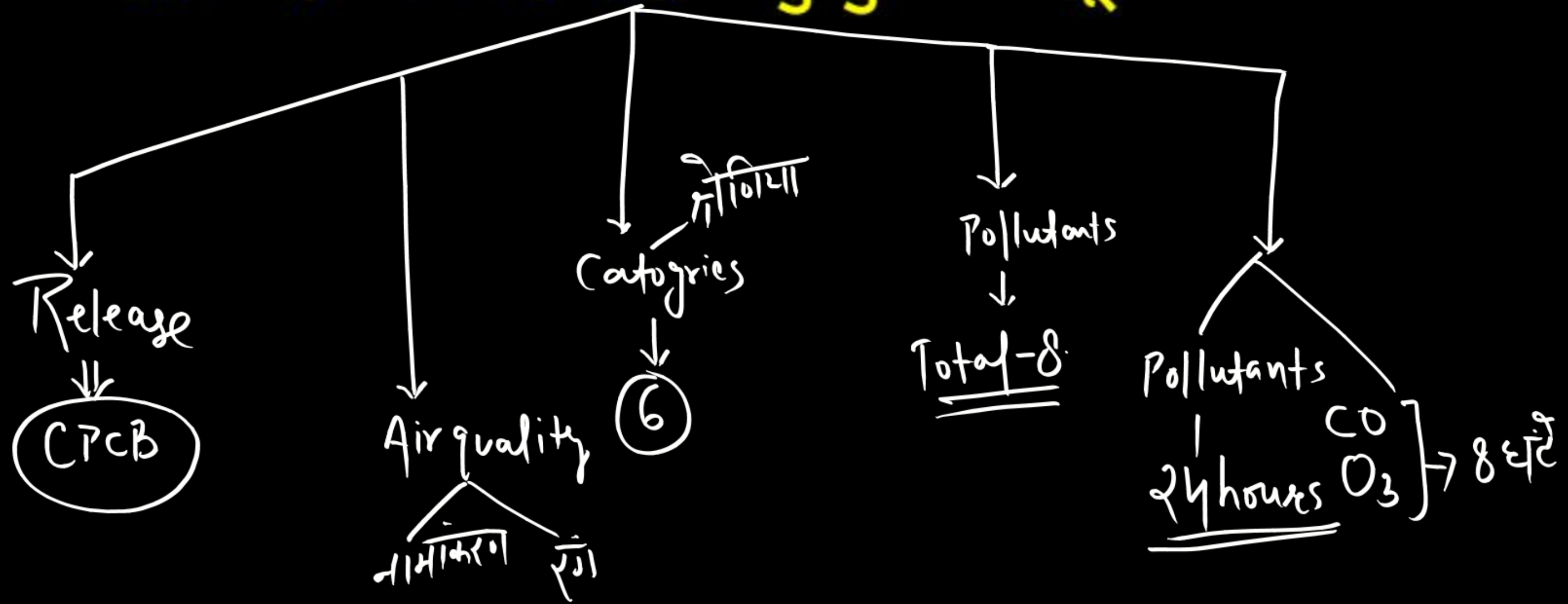
Graded Response Action Plan/ग्रेडेड रिस्पांस एक्शन प्लान





- ✓ **Stage I:** "Poor" air quality (Delhi AQI: 201-300)
- ✓ **Stage II:** "Very Poor" air quality (Delhi AQI: 301-400)
- ✓ **Stage III:** "Severe" air quality (Delhi AQI: 401-450)
- ✓ **Stage IV:** "Severe+" air quality (Delhi AQI > 450)

Air Quality Index (AQI)/वायु गुणवत्ता सूचकांक



AQI Category	AQI	Concentration Range*							
		CPCB							
		PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	NO ₂	O ₃	CO	SO ₂	NH ₃	Pb
Good	0-50	0-50	0-30	0-40	0-50	0-1.0	0-40	0-200	0-0.5
Satisfactory	51 - 100	51-100	31-60	41-80	51-100	1.1-2.0	41-80	201-400	0.5-1.0
Moderately Polluted	101-200	101-250	61-90	81-180	101-168	2.1-10	81-380	401-800	1.1-2.0
Poor	201-300	251-350	91-120	181-280	169-208	10-17	381-800	801-1200	2.1-3.0
Very Poor	301-400	351-430	121-250	281-400	209-748*	17-34	801-1600	1200-1800	3.1-3.5
Severe	401-500	430+	250+	400+	748+*	34+	1600+	1800+	3.5+

* CO in mg/m³ and other pollutants in µg/m³; 24-hourly average values for PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, NO₂, SO₂, NH₃, and Pb, and 8-hourly values for CO and O₃.

Five Maharashtra Beaches Receive Prestigious International Blue Flag Certification

⇒ 5 Beaches

BFC



हाल ही में महाराष्ट्र के पाँच समुद्र तटों (Beaches) को प्रतिष्ठित अंतरराष्ट्रीय “ब्लू फ्लैग प्रमाणन (Blue Flag Certification)” प्राप्त हुआ है, जो उच्च पर्यावरणीय और सुरक्षा मानकों की पहचान करता है।

यह उपलब्धि भारत के पर्यावरण-अनुकूल तटीय पर्यटन (Eco-friendly Coastal Tourism) और सांमुद्रिक पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र संरक्षण (Marine Ecosystem Conservation) के प्रयासों को और सशक्त बनाती है।

PRE ⇒ (33)

□ ब्लू फ्लैग एक वैश्विक पर्यावरणीय मान्यता (Eco-label) है, जो डेनमार्क स्थित "फाउंडेशन फॉर एनवायरनमेंट एजुकेशन (FEE)" द्वारा प्रदान की जाती है। ✓ FEE-NGO (Denmark)

□ यह प्रमाणन उन समुद्र तटों, बंदरगाहों (Marinas) और सस्टेनेबल पर्यटन नौकाओं (Tourism Boats) को दिया जाता है, जो स्वच्छता, सुरक्षा, पर्यावरण प्रबंधन और सततता (Sustainability) से जुड़े (33) सख्त मानकों को पूरा करते हैं।

उत्पत्ति और विस्तार (Origin and Expansion)

- 1985 में फ्रांस में प्रारंभ, प्रारंभिक रूप से केवल यूरोपीय समुद्र तटों पर केंद्रित था। ✓
- 2001 में यह कार्यक्रम वैश्विक स्तर पर विस्तारित हुआ और आज यह विश्व के सबसे प्रतिष्ठित स्वैच्छिक पर्यावरण पुरस्कारों (Voluntary Eco-Awards) में से एक है। ✓
- इसका उद्देश्य पर्यावरण शिक्षा, संरक्षण और सतत विकास (Sustainable Development) के माध्यम से पर्यटन क्षेत्र में सततता (Sustainability) को बढ़ावा देना है। ✓

ब्लू फ्लैग कार्यक्रम **चार मुख्य स्तंभों** पर आधारित है —

1. जल गुणवत्ता (Water Quality): ✓✓

नियमित परीक्षणों के माध्यम से यह सुनिश्चित किया जाता है कि **समुद्र का पानी** प्रदूषणमुक्त और तैराकी योग्य हो।

2. पर्यावरण प्रबंधन (Environmental Management): ✓

कचरा प्रबंधन प्रणाली, प्लास्टिक के उपयोग पर प्रतिबंध, और पर्यावरण-अनुकूल अवसंरचना का विकास।

3. पर्यावरण शिक्षा (Environmental Education): ✓✓

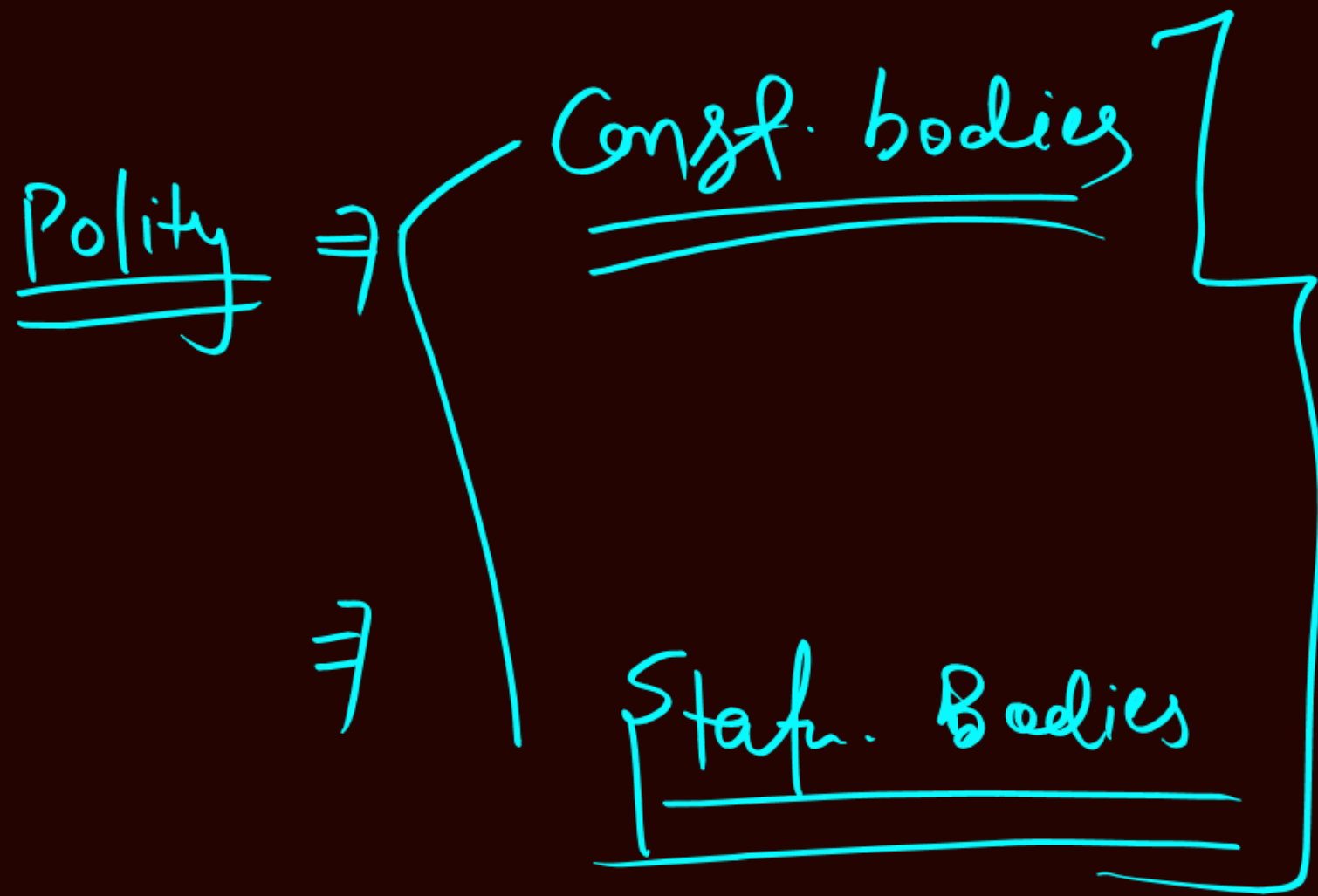
पर्यटकों, विद्यालयों और स्थानीय समुदायों में जागरूकता कार्यक्रमों का आयोजन।

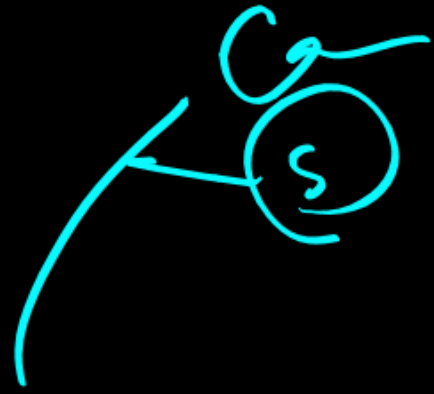
4. सुरक्षा और सेवाएँ (Safety and Services): ✓✓

प्रशिक्षित लाइफगार्ड, प्राथमिक चिकित्सा सुविधाएँ, और दिव्यांगजन अनुकूल पहुँच (Accessibility for differently-abled visitors)। ✓✓

भारत में ब्लू फ्लैग पहल (India's Blue Flag Initiative)

- ❖ भारत में इस पहल का समन्वय पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय (MoEFCC) के अधीन सोसाइटी ऑफ इंटीग्रेटेड कोस्टल मैनेजमेंट (SICOM) द्वारा किया जाता है। ✓
- ❖ वर्तमान में भारत में कुल 17 ब्लू फ्लैग प्रमाणित समुद्र तट हैं — जो सतत तटीय प्रबंधन (Sustainable Coastal Governance) में भारत की प्रगति को दर्शाते हैं। ✓





Daily Targets

Thank

you

