

Current Test Explanation 23

Question 1

Answer: C

Major Provisions:

o Definition: It proposes to amend the definition of major airport to include a group of airports. The 2008 Act designates an airport as a major airport if it has an annual passenger traffic of at least 35 lakh. The central government may also designate any airport as a major airport by a notification.

o Tariff: It will allow AERA to regulate tariff and other charges for aeronautical services for not just major airports with annual passenger traffic of more than 35 lakh, but also a group of airports.

o Profitable Clubbing: The government will be able to club profitable and non-profitable airports as a combination/package to bidders to make it a viable combination for investment under PPP (Public-Private Partnership) mode.

Significance:

o It will help in expanding the air connectivity to relatively remote areas and as a result, expediting the UDAN regional connectivity scheme.

o It will encourage development of smaller airports.

Concern:

o Lack of clarity in the bill on the criterion for deciding which airports will be clubbed together to qualify under 'a group of airports' definition, whether it will be the passenger traffic of more than 3.5 million or some other factors too.

Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India

Background:

o Initially, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) was running and managing the airports. After some time, a change was made in the civil aviation policy as some private players were also given airports to run. The reason behind this was to provide consumers with great services.

o Typically, airports run the risk of becoming a monopoly because cities usually have one civilian airport which controls all aeronautical services in that area.

o To ensure that private airport operators do not misuse their monopoly, the need for an independent tariff regulator in the airport sector was felt.

Question 2:

Answer: C

Conservation Status of Tiger:

o Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I

o International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List: Endangered.

o Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): Appendix I.

Question 3:

Answer: C

Significance of Tiger Conservation:

o Tiger conservation is a symbol of conservation of forests.

- o The tiger is a unique animal which plays a pivotal role in the health and diversity of an ecosystem.
- o It is a top predator which is at the apex of the food chain and keeps the population of wild ungulates (primarily large mammals) in check. Thus, Tiger helps in maintaining the balance between prey herbivores and the vegetation upon which they feed.
- o Therefore, Tiger Conservation is not just about saving a beautiful animal. It is about making sure that we live a little longer as the forests are known to provide ecological services like clean air, water, pollination, temperature regulation etc.
- o Further, the significance of Tiger conservation can be reflected by the Status of Leopards, Co-predators and Megaherbivores-2018' report.
 - According to the report, the overall leopard population in the tiger range landscape of India in 2018 was estimated at 12,852.
 - This is a significant increase from the 2014 figure that was 7,910 in forested habitats of 18 tiger bearing states of the country.
 - The report is a testimony to the fact that conservation of tigers leads to the conservation of the entire ecosystem.

Question 4

Answer: A

14 Tiger Reserves which have been accredited are:

- Manas, Kaziranga and Orang Tiger Reserve in Assam,
- Satpura, Kanha and Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh,
- Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra,
- Valmiki Tiger Reserve in Bihar,
- Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh,
- Sunderbans Tiger Reserve in West Bengal,
- Parambikulam Tiger Reserve in Kerala,
- Bandipur Tiger Reserve of Karnataka
- Mudumalai and Anamalai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu

Question 5:

Answer: D

14 Tiger Reserves which have been accredited are:

- Manas, Kaziranga and Orang Tiger Reserve in Assam,
- Satpura, Kanha and Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh,
- Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra,
- Valmiki Tiger Reserve in Bihar,
- Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh,
- Sunderbans Tiger Reserve in West Bengal,
- Parambikulam Tiger Reserve in Kerala,
- Bandipur Tiger Reserve of Karnataka
- Mudumalai and Anamalai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu