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Q68

'Gadgil Committee Report' and 'Kasturirangan Committee Report', sometimes seen in the news, are related to (a) Constitutional reforms (b) Ganga Action Plan (c) Linking of rivers (d) Protection of Western Ghats Official key: D.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims 2016 · General Studies · 2 marks · Environment and Ecology

Environment, ecology, climate, biodiversity - Prelims GS Paper I.

Explanation**(a)**

Constitutional reforms are the domain of bodies such as the Punchhi or **Sarkaria Commissions**, not Gadgil or Kasturirangan. This option is not the key.

(b)

The **Ganga Action Plan** and later Namami Gange are river-cleaning programmes. Neither committee is a Ganga report. This option is wrong.

(c)

Interlinking of rivers is associated with the National Water Development Agency and political debates on ILR, not with these two reports. This option is not the key.

(d) Official key

The Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (Madhav Gadgil, 2011) and the High-Level Working Group (K. Kasturirangan, 2013) both addressed protection of the Western Ghats as an ESA. That is why (d) is the official key.

Summary

Official key is (d) protection of Western Ghats. Gadgil recommended treating the entire Ghats as an ecologically sensitive zone with graded ESZ 1-3 and a statutory Western Ghats Ecology Authority. Kasturirangan narrowed the ESA to a smaller share of villages, which States found more acceptable. Both reports are about Ghats conservation, not the Constitution, Ganga or river linking. The tension between the two remains a standard environment question.

Related possible facts

These can be asked in a future Prelims paper.

WGEEP

Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel, chair Madhav Gadgil

HLWG

High-Level Working Group, chair K. Kasturirangan

ESA / ESZ

Ecologically Sensitive Area / Zone notified under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986

UNESCO

Western Ghats inscribed as a World Heritage serial site in 2012

Gadgil vs Kasturirangan

Nearly entire Ghats vs about 37 per cent as ESA in the later report

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