

When the weighted nets and trawl doors are dragged along the seafloor, everything in their path is disturbed or destroyed, including seagrasses, coral reefs or rock gardens where fish hide from predators. Bottom trawls are used in catching marine life that live on the seafloor, such as shrimp, cod, sole and flounder. The damage from bottom trawling is not limited to habitat destruction. As the net drags along the seafloor, all creatures in its path—fish, animals, marine mammals, plants, and turtles—are scooped up along the way. India has taken measures to stop bottom trawling by its fishermen in the waters near the Sri Lankan coastline.

Recent initiatives taken by the Government of India to end bottom trawling in the Palk Bay area include the launch of a programme on diversification of bottom trawlers into deep-sea fishing vessels for tuna long lining under the Blue Revolution Scheme, construction of Mookaiyur and Poompuhar fishing harbours, and capacity-building programmes for fishermen of the Palk Bay area in deep sea tuna long lining.

26) Consider the following statements regarding Flash droughts.

1. Flash droughts are those that occur very quickly, with soil moisture depleting rapidly.
2. In India, more than 70% of the Flash droughts happen during the summer season.
3. Factors like atmospheric anomalies and anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions play an important role in Flash droughts.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 3
- b) 1 only
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: a)

Flash droughts are those that occur very quickly, with soil moisture depleting rapidly.

Normally, developing drought conditions take months, but these happen within a week or in two weeks' time.

Several factors including atmospheric anomalies, anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions play an important role.

It is widely believed that flash droughts will occur during the summer months as was reported in the Western countries, mostly driven by heat waves and very high temperature. **But in India, 82 per cent of such extreme weather events happen during the monsoon period.**