

schemes for artificial recharge and rainwater harvesting for recharge augmentation.

- **The Environment (Protection) Act (EPA)** was enacted in 1986 with the objective of providing the protection and improvement of the environment. It empowers the Central Government to establish authorities charged with the mandate of preventing environmental pollution in all its forms and to tackle specific environmental problems that are peculiar to different parts of the country. The Act is **one of the most comprehensive legislations** with a pretext to protect and improve the environment.

**Q.20) Ans: c**

Exp:

### India-China trade

- India's trade with China is set to cross the 100 billion mark for the first time in 2021, with shipments hitting 100 billion mark for the first time in 2021, with shipments hitting 90 billion after three quarters, an almost 30% jump from pre-pandemic levels.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** India's biggest exports to China are iron ore, cotton, and other raw material-based commodities. Data from China's General administration of customs (GAC) showed two-way trade jumped 49% in the first nine months to 90.37 billion. India imports from China surged 51.7% to 90.37 billion. India imports from China surged 51.768.5 billions, while India's exports rose 42.5% to \$21.9 billion.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** India imports **mechanical and electrical machinery in large quantities**, while imports of medical supplies have soared in the past two years.
- The growth in trade with India was among the fastest for China's major trading partner. While China's total trade rose 22.7% that of its biggest trading partners, ASEAN, the EU and the U.S rose 21.1%, 20.5% and 24.9%, respectively.

**Q.21) Ans: a**

Exp:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** **ABHYAS - the high speed expendable aerial target (HEAT)** was successfully flight-tested by defence research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Bay of Bengal in Odisha. The **vehicle can be used as an aerial target for evaluation of**

**various missile systems.** The performance of the target aircraft was monitored through telemetry and various tracking sensors including radars and electro optical tracking systems (EOTS). The current flight test is carried out as a part of development flight trials. Expressions of interest for production of the vehicle have already been floated to Indian industries.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** **ABHYAS is designed and developed by DRDO's aeronautical development establishment (ADE), Bengaluru.** The air vehicle is launched using a twin under-slung booster which provides the initial acceleration to the vehicle. It is powered by a gas turbine engine to sustain a long endurance flight at subsonic speed. This indigenous target aircraft once developed, will meet the requirements of high speed expendable aerial targets for **Indian armed forces**.

**Q.22) Ans: d**

Exp:

### About the Dhole



- **Dhole** is also known as the **Asiatic wild dog, red dog, and whistling dog**. It is about the size of a German shepherd, but looks more like a **long-legged fox**. Furthermore, it is a highly social animal, living in large clans without rigid dominance hierarchies and containing multiple breeding females. They are native to **Central, South, East Asia, and Southeast Asia**.
- **Ecological role:** Dholes play an important role as **apex predators** in forest ecosystems.
- **Habitat:** Dholes occupy a wide variety of climates and habitats, including dense forests, scrub, steppes, and alpine regions. They vary in colour from **charcoal grey to rust-red to sandy beige**, depending on their habitat. They are found in Western and Eastern Ghats, Central Indian landscape and North East India.
- **Conservation Status-**