

**87. Answer: (d)****Explanation:**

Committees on the Western Ghats:

the Gadgil Report	the Kasturirangan Report
Also known as the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP). It identified the entire Ghats as an ESA (Eco Sensitive Area).	It marks that only 37% area should be considered as ESA.
It recommended for putting in place a blanket ban on all activities that might harm the environment in any way, like pesticide use, GM crops, etc.	It recommended restrictions only for highly damaging activities, including mining, quarrying, etc.
It asked for setting up a national level Western Ghats Ecology Authority.	It asked for strengthening the existing framework of environmental clearances and setting up of a monitoring agency.
The report was severely criticized for being biased against development.	This panel was tasked with finding a balanced solution, so as to protect the environment and at the same time, address the aspirations for development.

**88. Answer: (c)****Explanation:****Blue Flag Certification –**

- The Environment Ministry body, the Society for Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM), is developing 12 beaches in India for a 'Blue Flag' Certification.

- Eight beaches in India have been awarded the coveted 'Blue Flag' Certification by an eminent international jury, which comprises members of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

**Blue Flag Standards –**

- These standards were established in 1985 by the Copenhagen-based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization.
- The Blue Flag criteria include standards for water quality, safety, environmental education and information, the provision of services and general environmental management criteria.
- To achieve the Blue Flag Standards, a beach must be plastic-free and equipped with a waste management system. Clean water should be available for the tourists, apart from international amenities. The beach should have facilities for studying the environmental impact around the area.
- The Blue Flag Project has been started by the Environment Ministry in December, 2017.

**89. Answer: (d)****Explanation:****The International Centre For Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD):**

- The ICIMOD is a regional intergovernmental learning and knowledge sharing centre, serving the 8 regional member countries of the Hindu Kush Himalaya.
- Members:** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan.