

**31-10-2022****Forest Declaration Assessment 2022****Why in Newspapers?**

The most recently published Forest Declaration Assessment 2022, shows that the rate of deforestation across the world has declined by 6.3% only in the year 2021 as compared to the base year 2018-20.

Quick Issue?

- A total of 145 countries reaffirmed their commitment to prevent and recover forest loss and land degradation by 2030 at the 26th United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP26) of the Parties in Glasgow (Year 2021).
- The Forest Declaration Assessment publishes an annual update on progress towards the global forest goals.
- The New York Declaration on Forests (NYDF) was adopted in 2014 as a political declaration calling for the prevention of natural forest loss and the restoration of 350 million hectares of landscape and forestlands by 2030.

Historical Background?

- Not a single global indicator is on track to stop deforestation by 2030.
- To completely stop deforestation by the year 2030, it needs to be cut by 10% annually.
- While afforestation and restoration efforts have been commendable, more forest area is being lost than achieved.
- Global forest loss decreased in 2021, but the important climate target of halting deforestation by 2030 is still expected to be missed.

Other Key Facts?**Deforestation**

- Deforestation is the permanent cutting/removal of trees to obtain space for work other than forest/forest. This may include clearing land for agriculture or grazing, or using wood for fuel, construction or manufacturing.
- At present, most of the deforestation is happening in the tropical region.
- Deforestation in tropical areas can also affect the way water vapour is produced on the canopy, which will reduce rainfall.
- Deforestation not only kills vegetation that is important for removing carbon dioxide from the air, but the removal of forests causes greenhouse gas emissions.
- It also harms biodiversity and animal life.

Related India Initiatives

- Indian Forest Policy, 1952
- Forest Conservation Act, 1980
- National Forest Policy, 1988
- National Afforestation Program
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- Environment Protection Act, 1986
- Biodiversity Act, 2002
- Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act. 2006



- Contributor to deforestation: - Brazil was the world's largest contributor to deforestation in the year 2021.
- The country registered a 3% increase in the rate of deforestation in the year 2021 as compared to the base year 2018-2020.
- Although Brazil did not show major growth, its overall deforestation rate remained high each year, making it the world's largest contributor.
- Bolivia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo accounted for 6% and 3% of deforestation, respectively.
- Increase in tree cover:- The global tree cover has increased by 130.9 million hectares in the last two decades. Three-fourths of the global gains were mainly received by 13 countries.
- The most significant improvements were seen in Russia (28.4%), Canada, the United States, Brazil and China.
- China recorded the biggest increase in tree cover – 2.1 million hectares. India also recorded a gain of 0.87 MHA in tree cover.
- Globally, 118.6 MHA of total tree cover increase is expected to occur through joint collaboration of natural regeneration and plantation.
- Reduction in deforestation:- Gabon reduced deforestation by 28% in 2021 compared to 2018-20. The country implemented measures to combat illegal logging and enforcement of protected areas.
- Indonesia reduced deforestation after implementing a forest moratorium and improving enforcement measures.
- The moratorium, which covers approximately 66 million hectares of primary forest and peatlands (terrestrial wetland ecosystems), was first introduced in 2011 and aims to reduce emissions from fires caused by deforestation. It has been updated regularly as part of efforts.
- The decline in deforestation rates in Brazil between 2004 and 2012 can be partly attributed to the coordinated implementation of the Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Amazon. This has led to the creation of protected areas and effective monitoring systems. .
- Recent years have seen legal intervention in the European Union, Ecuador and India to protect forests.
- In the year 2021, a constitutional court in Ecuador upheld the rights of the nature enshrined in the country's constitution.

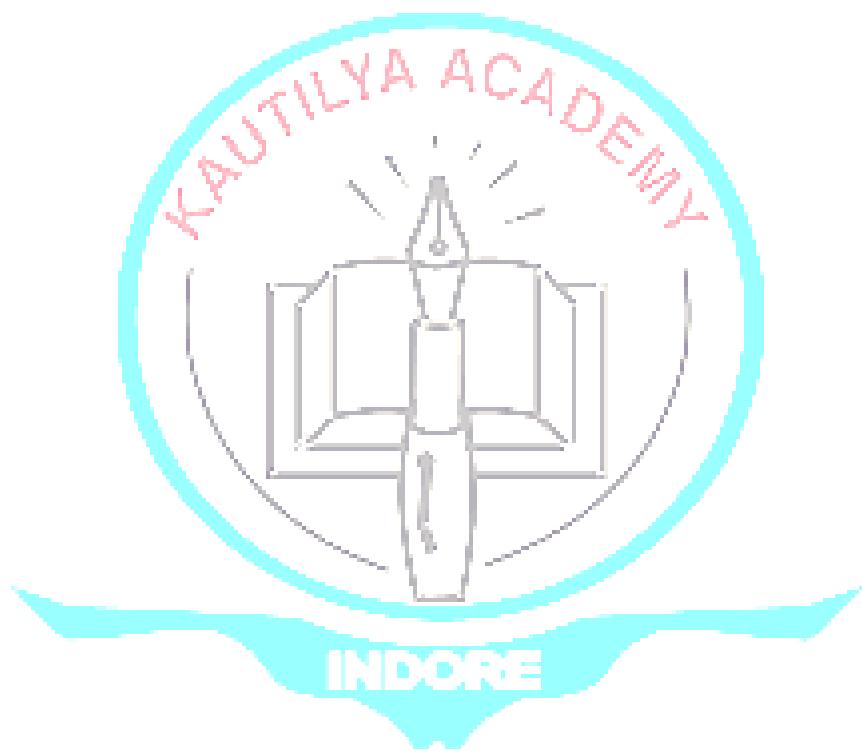
Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

Que. The problem of soil weathering in India is/are related to which of the following?

- ## 1. Vegetarian agriculture 2. Deforestation 3. Tropical climate

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

Answer: (b) 2 only





Israel-Lebanon

Why in Newspapers?

Recently Israel and Lebanon signed a U.S. brokered maritime border deal, which paves the way for offshore gas extraction by technically warring neighbors.

Quick Issue?

- This agreement will create new sources of energy and income for both countries; especially it is important for Lebanon, which is facing energy and financial crisis.
- It could provide Europe with a potential new source of gas amid energy shortages caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Historical Background?

- Lebanon and Israel have been at war officially since the creation of Israel in 1948, and both countries claim approximately 860 square kilometers (330 sq mi) of the Mediterranean Sea.
- There has been a decade-long tension between Israel and Lebanon's competing claims over offshore gas fields in the region, including the Karish gas field and the Qana, part of a potential gas field.
- The Karish gas field being developed by Israel was threatened by Hezbollah, a powerful Lebanese political and terrorist group backed by Iran. The two countries declared overlapping borders in the Mediterranean Sea in 2011.
- Since the two countries were technically at war, the United Nations was asked to mediate.
- The issue gained importance after Israel discovered two gas fields, which could help turn it into an energy exporter.
- It resolves the territorial dispute over the area in the eastern Mediterranean where Lebanon wants to explore natural gas.
- This gas field is located on the maritime border between the two countries and this agreement will allow both countries to receive royalties from the gas.
- Under the deal, Israel has full rights to explore the Karish area.
- Lebanon enjoys full rights in the adjacent Qana region and has agreed to allow Israel to share its share of royalties.
- It set the boundary between Lebanese and Israeli waters for the first time, referred to as Line 23.
- The agreement does not touch the shared land border between Israel and Lebanon, which is still disputed.

Other Key Facts?

Importance of this agreement

- The deal is also expected to avert an immediate threat of conflict between Israel and Hezbollah militants in Lebanon.
- This agreement will create new sources of energy and income for both countries; especially it is important for Lebanon, which is facing energy and financial crisis.
- It could provide Europe with a potential new source of gas amid energy shortages caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.



- This border is also called the Blue Line, a border drawn by the United Nations after Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon in 2000.

Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

Que. Question: Consider the following pairs:

<u>Sea Border</u>	<u>Country</u>
1. Adriatic Sea	:- Albania
2. Black Sea	:- Croatia
3. Caspian Sea	:- Kazakhstan
4. Mediterranean Sea	:- Morocco
5. Red Sea	:- Syria

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
(c) 2 and 5 only (d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: (b) 1, 3 and 4 only

