

EXAM GENIUS ENGLISH EDITORIAL

WE COVER

- ✓ EDITORIAL
- ✓ SUMMERY
- ✓ VOCABULARY
- ✓ ANTONYMS & SYNONYMS

*Useful for SBI,IBPS,RRB,LIC,SSC,
RAILWAY & OTHER STATE EXAMS*

READ NOW



Visit our website
[HTTPS://EXAMGENIUS.IN/](https://examgenius.in/)



EXAM
Genius

Canary in the canopy: on the India State of Forest Report 2023

Economic growth cannot be allowed to bypass environment laws

Through history, forests for humans have been sites of shelter, food, livelihoods, protection, and strength of spirit. According to the new India State of Forest Report 2023, 25% of India's land is covered by forests or trees, on its face a healthy figure and a step closer to the National Forest Policy's prescriptions. But big numbers always hide problems. Post-Independence, India's forest governance has been **typified** by attempts to **break free from** European colonialists' **insular** view of forests as sources of timber, codified in laws the country inherited. Two significant achievements in this regard were the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 and the Forest (Rights) Act 2006. The counteracting forces of industrial development and the pressures of climate change on the state have however troubled the implementation of both Acts and the government has, sadly, chosen the **easy way out**.

Courts and conservationists have demanded that the state follow the dictionary definition of forests whereas the administration has been **muddying** it to exclude “community” forests, among others, while including plantations and orchards. Even if the administration’s **impetus** is **murky**, it is allowing India to claim it is growing its carbon sink towards its climate commitments while allowing developmental activities to continue **unimpeded**. Thus, the 25% figure hides forest cover loss in the biodiverse Western Ghats, the Nilgiris and the northeast, the shrinking of mangroves in the Kutch and the Andamans, and of ‘moderately dense’ forests and the ongoing **endangerment** of open natural ecosystems. The report also lacks details about whether its estimates of the carbon **sequestration** potential of degraded land account for the specific uses to which they are currently being subjected. Forest loss in biodiverse areas cannot be adjusted with new plantations elsewhere, the consequences of which are exacerbated by the decision to include even commercial plantations, which have lower sequestration and ecological value, and the continued use of the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act. Indeed, the growing gap between theoretical and actual forests also extends to finances. In several northern districts, the extent of forest cover that suffered fire losses has increased by an order of magnitude in two years.

Ground reports by The Hindu have documented a paucity of human resources, skill, and equipment to control fires. Economic growth is essential and trees will be lost, but this is precisely why the friction that laws impose on the growth impulse is essential too. Yet, the government has been weakening environmental safeguards — more recently, the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act 2023 further contracted the 1980 Act's purview — and distorting its official inventory of forests. It is hard to imagine anyone winning in the end.

Summary —

India's forest governance has evolved post-independence to balance conservation and development, with notable laws like the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 and the Forest (Rights) Act 2006. However, the India State of Forest Report 2023 highlights challenges despite claiming 25% forest and tree cover. Issues include biodiversity loss, misleading inclusion of commercial plantations as forests, and weakened environmental safeguards, such as the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act 2023. Additionally, poor resources to manage forest fires and ecological degradation further undermine conservation efforts, reflecting a growing gap between policy and ground realities.

Vocabulary –

1. Insular (Adjective) (संकीर्ण)

Meaning: Narrow-minded or isolated, particularly in outlook or experience.

Synonyms: Narrow, parochial, provincial, isolated

Antonyms: Open-minded, cosmopolitan, broad

Example: The colonial administration had an insular approach to forest management, focusing solely on timber.

2. Murky (Adjective) (अस्पष्ट/गंदा)

Meaning: Not clear; obscure or suspiciously unclear.

Synonyms: Opaque, obscure, ambiguous, dubious

Antonyms: Clear, transparent, explicit

Example: The administration's murky stance on defining forests has raised concerns among environmentalists.

3. Sequestration (Noun) (अलगव/सुरक्षित भंडारण)

Meaning: The act of isolating, storing, or removing something, often used for carbon storage in environmental contexts.

Synonyms: Isolation, removal, confiscation, storage

Antonyms: Release, dispersion, liberation

Example: The forest report's estimates of carbon sequestration potential are questioned for accuracy.

4. Endangerment (Verb) (संकट में डालना)

Meaning: The act of putting something at risk or in danger.

Synonyms: Jeopardy, threat, peril, risk

Antonyms: Safety, protection, security

Example: The endangerment of natural ecosystems is a pressing concern in forest management.

5. Purview (Noun) (दायरा)

Meaning: The scope or range of something, particularly authority or influence.

Synonyms: Scope, extent, range, domain

Antonyms: Limitation, restriction, boundary

Example: The recent amendments have reduced the purview of the Forest Conservation Act.

6. Impetus (noun) प्रेरणा

Meaning - something that encourages a particular activity or makes that activity more energetic or effective.

Synonym: Stimulus, incentive

Antonym: Hindrance, deterrent.

Example - The grant provided the necessary impetus for the company to expand its research and development efforts.

7. Typify (verb) (प्रतीक होना)

Meaning= to represent or symbolise a typical quality or feature.

Synonym: Epitomise, exemplify

Antonym: Differ, deviate

Example: The architecture of the building typifies the style of the late Victorian era.

8. Unimpeded (adj) अवरोधित

Meaning= not obstructed or hindered.

Synonym: Unrestricted, free

Antonym: Hindered, obstructed

Sentence: The cyclist moved unimpeded through the empty streets at dawn.

9. Muddying (verb) गंदा करना

Meaning= making something less clear and more difficult to understand, usually (figuratively).

Synonym: Clouding, obscuring

Antonym: Clarifying, enlightening

Example: The politician was accused of muddying the waters with his ambiguous statements.

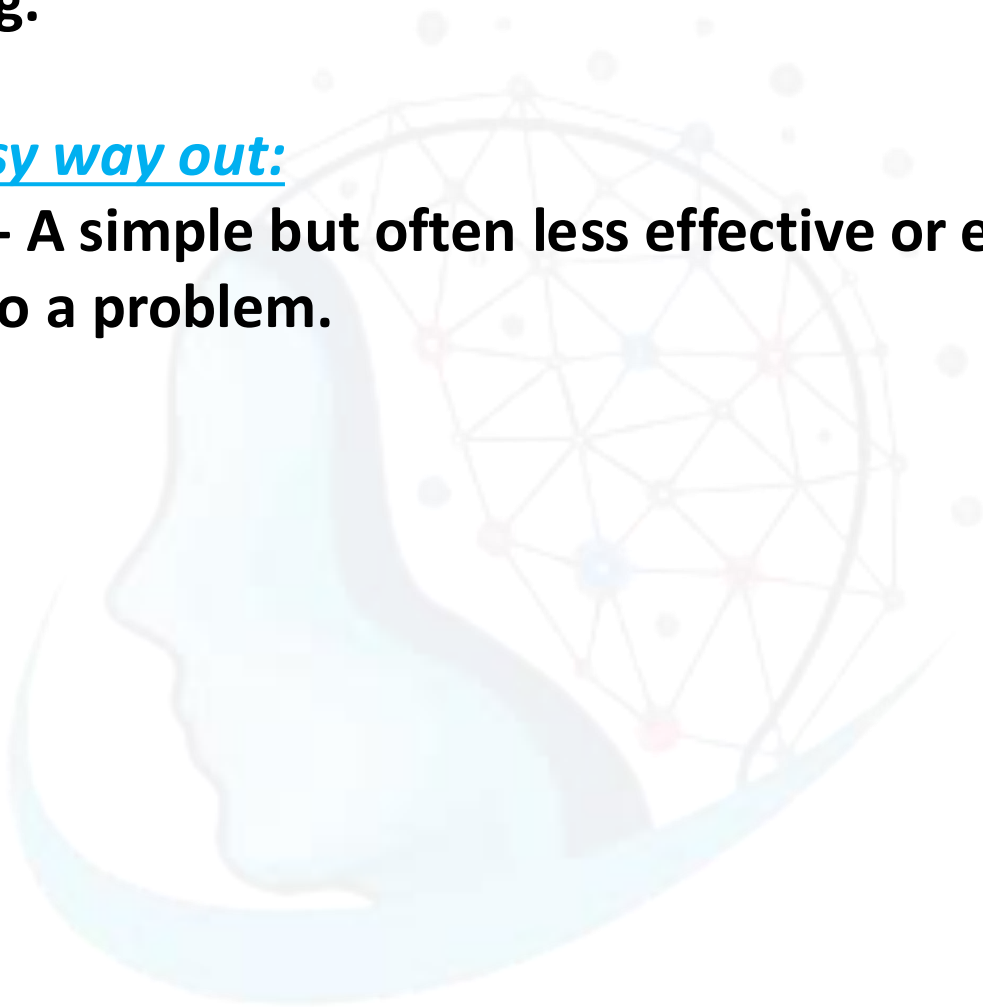
Idioms & Phrases-

1. Break free from:

Meaning - To escape or liberate oneself from something.

2. The easy way out:

Meaning - A simple but often less effective or ethical solution to a problem.



EXAM
Genius