



**Daily MCQ: 26.03.2026**

1) With reference to the microplastics, consider the following statements:

1. They can enter the food chain through aquatic organisms.
2. They can act as carriers of toxic chemicals.
3. They are completely removed during conventional wastewater treatment.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

2) Consider the following statements:

1. A cess is a tax levied for a specific purpose, and its proceeds are not shared with the States.
2. A surcharge is an additional tax on an existing tax, and its proceeds form part of the divisible pool shared with the States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

3) Consider the following countries:

1. Ethiopia
2. Eritrea
3. Somalia
4. Sudan
5. Djibouti.

Which of the countries given above are part of the Horn of Africa?

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

4) With reference to the World Trade Organization (WTO), consider the following statements

1. The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations.
2. The "Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies"officially entered into force in September 2025, following ratification by two-thirds of the WTO membership.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only



- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

5) Consider the following statements about UDAN Scheme:

1. It is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Civil Aviation to improve regional air connectivity.
2. Viability Gap Funding (VGF) is provided to airlines to ensure affordability.
3. The Air Navigation Service Provider charges Terminal Navigation Landing Charges (TNLC) on UDAN flights.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Explanation**

1) **Answer: (A)**

Microplastics are ingested by plankton, fish, and other marine organisms, and then move up the food chain (bioaccumulation). **Hence, Statement 1 is correct.**

Microplastics can adsorb harmful pollutants like heavy metals and persistent organic pollutants (POPs), acting as vectors of toxicity. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**

Conventional wastewater treatment plants are **not fully efficient** in removing microplastics; many particles still escape into water bodies. **Hence, Statement 3 is incorrect.**

**Therefore, option A is the correct answer.**

2) **Answer: (A)**

A **Cess** is a "tax on tax" levied for a specific purpose (like the Health and Education Cess). Under **Article 270** of the Constitution, while most taxes are shared between the Centre and the States, cesses and surcharges are specifically excluded from the "divisible pool." This means the Central Government retains 100% of the proceeds. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

A **Surcharge** is an additional tax on an existing tax liability. Like a cess, a surcharge is **not** part of the divisible pool. It is collected by the Union for Union purposes and is not shared with the States. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

**Constitutional Context**

- **Article 270:** Governs the distribution of net proceeds of taxes between the Union and the States. It explicitly excludes surcharges (under Article 271) and cesses from this distribution.
- **Article 271:** Empowers Parliament to levy a surcharge at any time for the purposes of the Union.
- **Therefore, option A is the correct answer.**



3) Answer: (C)

- The **Horn of Africa (HoA)**, also known as the **Somali Peninsula**, is a large peninsula and **geopolitical region** in East Africa. Located on the easternmost part of the African mainland, it is the **fourth largest peninsula** in the world. It is composed of **Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia** and **Djibouti**. Therefore **Option C is the correct answer**.



4) Answer: (C)

The World Trade Organization (WTO) stands as the unique global body mandated to govern the rules of international trade, having transitioned from the provisional GATT framework to a formal legal institution via the Marrakesh Agreement in 1995. At its core, the organization functions as a forum for 166 member nations to negotiate trade agreements and resolve commercial disputes through a structured judicial process. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

A significant milestone in its recent history is the **Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies**, which, after being adopted in 2022, officially entered into force in **September 2025** following ratification by the required two-thirds of the membership. This agreement is a landmark in "trade-and-environment" diplomacy, as it creates legally binding global rules to curb subsidies for illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

**Therefore, option C is the correct answer.**

5) Answer: (A)

The UDAN Scheme is indeed a **flagship initiative of the Ministry of Civil Aviation aimed at improving regional air connectivity**. It was launched in 2016 under the National Civil Aviation Policy. The primary objective is to make air travel accessible and affordable to the common citizen. It focuses on connecting unserved and underserved airports across the country. By enhancing regional connectivity, it also promotes balanced regional development. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

Viability Gap Funding (VGF) is a key feature of the UDAN scheme. It is provided to airlines to bridge the gap between the cost of operations and expected revenue. This ensures that



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airlines can operate on less profitable regional routes without incurring losses. The funding helps in keeping airfares affordable for passengers, with capped ticket prices on certain seats. VGF is jointly funded by the central and state governments. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

Under the UDAN scheme, several concessions are provided to reduce operational costs for airlines. These include reduced airport charges, lower VAT on aviation turbine fuel, and exemptions from certain fees. **Importantly, Terminal Navigation Landing Charges (TNLC) are waived for UDAN flights, not charged. This waiver is provided by the Airports Authority of India acting as the Air Navigation Service Provider.** The aim is to further reduce the cost burden on airlines. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**

**Therefore, option A is the correct answer.**

