

**1. Consider the following statements regarding the Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, 1979**

1. It is applicable to every establishment that employs hundred or more migrant workmen from other States
2. The principal employer is prohibited from employing inter-State workmen without a certificate of registration from the relevant authority

**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

**Ans: B**

**Explanation**

- A key piece of legislation governing inter-state migrants in India is the **Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979**.
- The Act was enacted to **prevent the exploitation of inter-state migrant workmen** by contractors, and to ensure fair and decent conditions of employment.
- The law requires all establishments hiring **inter-state migrants to be registered**, and contractors who recruit such workmen be licensed.
- **Contractors are obligated to provide details of all workmen to the relevant authority.** Contractors are also required to **ensure regular payment, non-discrimination, provisioning of suitable accommodation**, free medical facilities and protective clothing for the workmen.

**Key provisions**

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- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is applicable to **every establishment that employs five or more migrant** workmen from other States; or if it had employed five or more such workmen on any day in the preceding 12 months.
- It is also applicable to contractors who **employ a similar number of inter-State workmen.**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The principal employer is prohibited from employing inter-State workmen **without a certificate of registration from the relevant authority.**
- The law also lays down that **every contractor** who recruits workmen from one State for deployment in another State **should obtain a licence** to do so
- ❖ Those working in the field of labour welfare have **recalled the Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act, 1979 to regulate the employment and working conditions** of inter-State migrants, but feel that the lack of serious implementation has led to their rights being ignored.
- ❖ Since the **Act is barely implemented**, it exists as another law that potentially provides rent-seeking opportunities to enterprising government inspectors while failing in its main objective.
- ❖ Another consequence of weak implementation is the **absence of government preparedness** and the consequent failure in preventing genuine hardships for vulnerable groups. Almost, **no state seems to have implemented this law in letter and spirit**

<https://clc.gov.in/clc/acts-rules/inter-state-migrant-workmen>

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/india-lockdown-inter-state-migrant-workmen-act-6400710/>

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2. India's foreign exchange (Forex) reserves include which of the following?

1. Foreign Currency Assets
2. Gold
3. Special Drawing Rights
4. Reserve Tranche Position

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Ans: C

**Explanation**

- Forex reserves are **foreign currency assets** held by the **central banks of countries**. These assets include **foreign marketable securities, monetary gold, special drawing rights (SDRs) and reserve position in the International Monetary Fund (IMF)**.
- The main purpose of holding foreign exchange reserves is to make **international payments and hedge against exchange rate risks**
- Foreign-exchange reserves act as the **first line of defense for India in case of economic slowdown**
- Foreign exchange reserves facilitate **external trade and payment** and promote orderly development and maintenance of foreign exchange market in India

**The Forex reserves of India consist of**

- Foreign Currency Assets
- Gold
- Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)
- Reserve Tranche Position

**Reserve tranche Position**

- Reserve tranche is a portion of the required **quota of currency each member country must provide to the International Monetary Fund (IMF)** that can be utilized for its own purposes

**Special Drawing Rights**

- The SDR is an **international reserve asset**, created by the IMF in 1969 to **supplement its member countries' official reserves**
- The SDR is **neither a currency nor a claim** on the IMF
- Initially SDR was defined as **equivalent to 0.888671 grams of fine gold**, which at the time was also equivalent to one U.S. dollar
- After the collapse of the Bretton Woods system, the **SDR was redefined as a basket of currencies**
  - This **basket includes five currencies**—the U.S. dollar, the euro, the Chinese renminbi, the Japanese yen, and the British pound sterling
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) bought 40.45 tonnes of gold in financial year 2019-20, **taking its total holdings of the yellow metal to 653.01 tonnes**
- ❖ The RBI's total gold reserves were 612.56 tonnes in the preceding fiscal ended March 2019. With the addition of more stocks, the **value of gold reserves rose to \$30.57 billion** (around Rs 2,32,000 crore) by March 2020 from \$23.07 billion in March 2019
- ❖ As much as 360.71 tonnes of gold was **held overseas in safe custody with the Bank of England** and the Bank for International Settlements, while the **remaining gold is held domestically**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/business/banking-and-finance/rbi-gold-reserves-up-40-4-tonnes-in-2019-20-more-than-half-of-total-holdings-held-overseas-6403555/>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indias-economy-dashboard/indian-railways-operating-ratio-/slideshow/67755946.cms>

3. He was a Moderate nationalist leader who joined the Indian National Congress (INC) in 1899. Between 1899 and 1902, he was a member of the Bombay Legislative Council followed by a stint at the Imperial Legislative Council from 1902 till his death. He became the president of INC at its Banaras session in 1905. According to him, the greatest need of the hour in India during those times was industrial education.

The above description refers to?

- a) Madan Mohan Malaviya
- b) Pherozeshah Mehta
- c) Dadabhai Naoroji
- d) Gopal Krishna Gokhale

Ans: D

Explanation

- Following the 1857 Sepoy Mutiny, there arose a brand of **liberal political leaders** in India who sought a greater role for Indians in running the country's affairs while pledging allegiance to British rule. In the **Bombay Presidency**, the prominent leaders who adopted constitutional methods as a means of achieving political reform included **Sir Pherozeshah Mehta, Dadabhai Naoroji, and Justice MG Ranade**
- It was in this very line of thought that Bombay gave the nation another notable leader at the turn of the century – the **liberal giant Gopal Krishna Gokhale (1866-1915)**.
- A protege of Ranade and influenced by the British philosopher-parliamentarian Edmund Burke, Gokhale worked towards **realising constitutional ideals in India** for three decades and abjured the use of reactionary or revolutionary ways.

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- In 1905, Gokhale **founded the 'Servants of India Society'** with the object of training men to devote themselves to the service of India as **national missionaries** and to promote by all constitutional means the national interests of the Indian people.
- While appreciating the benefits of British rule in general, he never **failed to criticize unjust policies and high-handed actions** of the Government.
- In his opinion, the economic results of British rule in India were absolutely disastrous, resulting in frightful poverty. According to him, **the greatest need of the hour in India was industrial education**

**Professor-turned-political leader**

- Gokhale hailed from the Ratnagiri district in present-day Maharashtra and studied at the Elphinstone College in Mumbai before joining as a professor at the **Fergusson College** in Pune, where he taught political economy and history.
- Gokhale first arrived on the national scene after cross-examining British colonial expenditure at the **Welby Commission** of 1897 in England.
- Gokhale's work earned him praise in India as he **laid bare British military financing policies** that heavily burdened Indian taxpayers much to the chagrin of then Viceroy Lord Curzon — regarded among the most vituperative of racists to occupy that post
- **In 1899, Gokhale joined the Indian National Congress**, emerging as one of the main leaders of its 'moderate' wing, and gave up teaching three years later to work as a lawmaker for the remainder of his life

**Positions in colonial legislatures**

- Gokhale is best remembered for his extensive work in colonial legislatures. Between 1899 and 1902, he was a **member of the Bombay Legislative Council** followed by a stint at the Imperial Legislative Council from 1902 till his death.

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- At Bombay, Gokhale **opposed the British government's onerous land revenue policies**, advocated free and compulsory primary education, and asked for the creation of equal opportunities to fight against untouchability
- At the Imperial legislature, Gokhale played a **key role in framing the Morley-Minto reforms of 1909** and advocated for the expansion of legislative councils at both the Centre and the provinces.
- A critic of British imperial bureaucracy, Gokhale **favoured decentralisation** and the promotion of panchayat and taluka bodies
- He also **spoke for the Indian diaspora living in other parts of the British Empire** and opposed tooth and nail the indentured labour system, raising their problems in the Imperial legislature as well as at Congress sessions

**Work in the Congress**

- Gokhale became Congress president at its **Banaras session in 1905**. This was also the time when bitter differences had arisen between his group of 'Moderates' and the 'Extremists' led by Lala Lajpat Rai and Bal Gangadhar Tilak among others.
  - Matters came to a head when the **two factions split at the Surat session of 1907**.
  - Historians note that despite ideological differences, Gokhale maintained cordial relations with his opponents. In **1907, he fervently campaigned for the release of Lala Lajpat Rai**, who was imprisoned that year by the British at Mandalay in present-day Myanmar.
  - **After Mahatma Gandhi's return to India**, he joined Gokhale's group before going on to lead the independence movement. **Gandhi regarded Gokhale as his political mentor**, and wrote a book in Gujarati dedicated to the leader titled 'Dharmatma Gokhale'.
- ❖ Recently, the Prime Minister **paid tribute to Gopal Krishna Gokhale on his 154th birth anniversary** on 9th May 2020

<https://indianexpress.com/article/who-is/who-was-gopal-krishna-gokhale-liberal-nationalist-mahatma-gandhi-6403225/>

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1622402>

4. Arrange the following Islands in Indian Ocean as one proceeds from north to south?

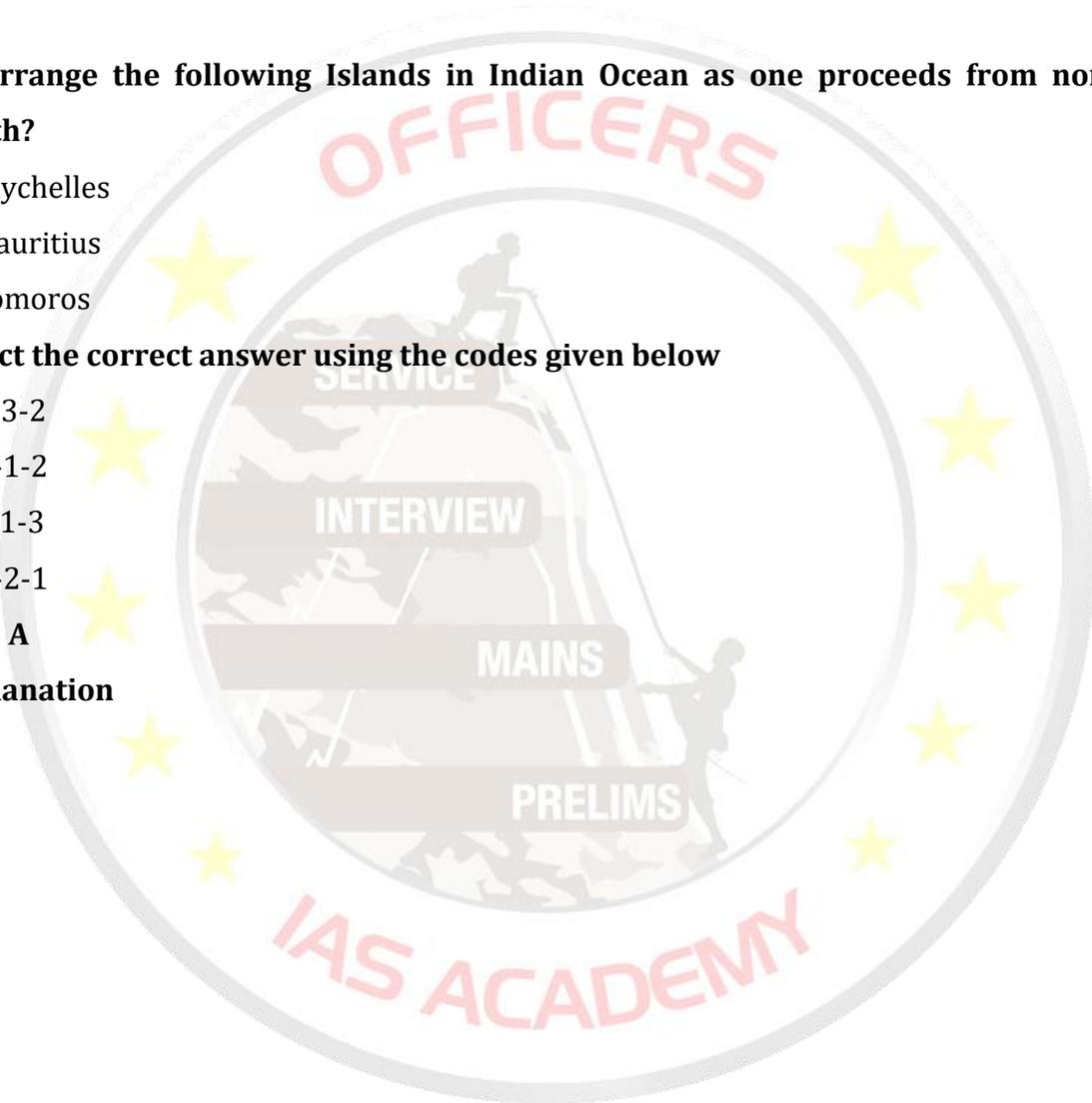
1. Seychelles
2. Mauritius
3. Comoros

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- a) 1-3-2
- b) 3-1-2
- c) 2-1-3
- d) 3-2-1

Ans: A

Explanation



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- Recently, India launched **Mission Sagar** as part of the government's outreach initiative towards five Island nations in the Indian Ocean amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic
- **Indian Naval Ship Kesari** has departed for **Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar and Comoros**, to provide Food Items, **COVID related Medicines** and Special Ayurvedic

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Medicines as part of the Government of India outreach amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic

- The operation is being progressed in close coordination with the Ministries of Defence and External Affairs, and other agencies of the Government of India
- **Mission Sagar** is inspired by Prime Minister's vision of **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)**

**SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)**

- Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) **was launched in 2015**. It is India's strategic vision for the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)
- Through SAGAR, India **seeks to deepen economic and security cooperation** with its maritime neighbours and assist in building their maritime security capabilities
- Further, **India seeks to safeguard its national interests and ensure Indian Ocean region to become inclusive, collaborative and respect international law**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/mission-sagar-india-sends-ins-kesari-with-medical-teams-food-to-indian-ocean-countries/articleshow/75658568.cms>

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2020/may/11/india-launches-mission-sagar-to-assist-island-nations-in-eastern-indian-ocean-2141684.html>

**5. With reference to Battle of Haldighati, consider the following statements**

1. The battle was fought during the reign of Mughal Emperor Jahangir
2. Though the Mughal forces defeated Rajputs, they failed to retain the captured territory

**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

**Ans: B**

**Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The historic **Battle of Haldighati**, took place in the year 1576 AD between **Rana Pratap Singh**, the great Rajput ruler of Mewar in Rajasthan and **Raja Man Singh of Amber**, the great general of the **Mughal Emperor Akbar**.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** This battle is considered as one of the **most significant events in the history of the Rajputs**. Maharana Pratap fought a brave war, **but was defeated by Mughal forces**. But the **Mughals failed to capture him**. Maharana **re-gathered his forces**, fought and **recovered Western Mewar including Kumbhalgarh, Udaipur and Gogunda**

**The reasons that led to the battle**

- Maharana Pratap or Pratap Singh, belonging to the **Sisodia clan of Rajputs**, became the ruler of **Mewar in Rajasthan in 1572**.
- In the meantime, by mid 1500s, the **Mughal Emperor Akbar**, due to his desire to rule all over India, **continued his conquests of several Rajput kingdoms** such as Chittor, Rathambor and others.
- In fact, nearly **all Rajput kingdoms had surrendered to Akbar and his rule, except Mewar**. This was the only Rajput kindom, under the able leadership of Rana Pratap, which was **not willing to compromise on its independence**.
- After waiting for almost 3 years for Mewar ruler's submission, **Akbar sent his general Raja Man Singh of Amber to have talks on peace treaties** and persuade Rana Pratap Singh to submit.

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- However, **Rana Pratap** agreed to sign the treaty on his own terms and conditions. His condition was that he would not come under or tolerate the leadership of any ruler, especially the foreigners
- ✓ Recently, the Prime Minister and Vice President of India paid tributes to Maharana Pratap on his 480th birth anniversary  
**Maharana Pratap**
- **Rana Pratap Singh** also known as Maharana Pratap was born on May 9th 1540 in Kumbhalgarh, Rajasthan.
- He was the **13th Rajput king of Mewar** and was the eldest son of Udai Singh II
- Maharana Udai Singh II ruled the kingdom of Mewar, with his capital at Chittor. Udai Singh II was also a **founder of the city of Udaipur (Rajasthan)**

<https://www.mapsofindia.com/history/battles/battle-of-haldighati.html>