

**1. Consider the following statements regarding the 'floor test' in State legislature**

1. It is the determination on the floor of the House whether the Chief Minister commands the support of the majority of the MLAs
2. The voting process can happen orally, with electronic gadgets or a ballot process

**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: C**

**Explanation**

- A floor test is **the determination on the floor of the House** whether the Chief Minister commands the support of the majority of the MLAs
- This can be done by **means of a voice vote**, or by recording the vote of each MLA in the House. This determination of majority is done in a sitting of the legislature, for which the legislature has to be convened
- This voting **process happen in the state's Legislative Assembly** or the Lok Sabha at the central level
- Technically, the chief minister of a state is appointed by the Governor. The appointed chief minister usually belongs to the single largest party or the coalition which has the '**magic number**'
- The magic number is the total number of seats required to form a government, or stay in power. It is the half-way mark, plus one. In case of a tie, the **Speaker casts the deciding vote**

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- However, at times, a **government's majority can be questioned**. The leader of the party claiming majority has to move a vote of confidence
  - If some MLAs **remain absent or abstain from voting**, the majority is counted on the basis of those present and voting. This effectively reduces the strength of the House and in turn brings down the majority-mark.
  - The **voting process can happen orally**, with electronic gadgets or a ballot process.
  - The Governor can also ask the Chief Minister **to prove his or her majority in the House** if the stability of the government comes into question
- ✓ Recently, the Supreme Court has upheld Madhya Pradesh Governor Lalji Tandon's March decision asking the then Kamal Nath led-Congress government to prove majority by holding a floor test in the Legislative Assembly after the resignation of 22 Congress MLAs

**Observations made by the Court**

- In a situation where the governor has reasons to believe that the council of ministers headed by the chief minister has lost the confidence of the House, **constitutional propriety requires that the issue be resolved by calling for a floor test**
- The governor in calling for a floor test **cannot be construed to have acted beyond the bounds of constitutional authority**. This means, while directing a trust vote, the Governor should not favour a particular political party.
- A Governor **need not wait for the Speaker's decision on the resignation of rebel MLAs before calling for a trust vote**

**2. Recently, the US Department of State has approved a Foreign Military Sale of Harpoon missile system to India. In this context, Harpoon Missile System is a**

- a) Nuclear capable submarine-launched ballistic missile
- b) Anti-satellite missile system

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c) Beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile (BVRAAM)

d) Anti-ship missile system

**Ans: D**

**Explanation**

**Harpoon Missile System**

- Harpoon was initially **developed for the US Navy** in 1983 and was later adapted for use on the B-52H bombers.
  - The Harpoon was first deployed in 1977 and is **an all-weather, over-the-horizon, anti-ship missile system.**
  - This missile is being used by Armed forces in over 30 countries across the world and Boeing has delivered over 7,000 Harpoon missiles to date
  - Further, the **Harpoon missile uses GPS-aided inertial navigation** to hit the designated target.
  - Its warhead weighs over 500 pounds and is capable of delivering lethal firepower against targets, including **land-based targets, coastal defence sites**, surface-to-air missile sites, exposed aircraft and industrial or port facilities
  - The Harpoon missile system will be **integrated into the P-8I aircraft** to conduct anti-surface warfare missions in defense of critical sea lanes while enhancing interoperability with the United States and other allied forces
- ✓ The US Department of State **approved a possible Foreign Military Sale** to India of 16 MK 54 all round up lightweight torpedoes and in another deal, **approved ten AGM-84L Harpoon Block II air-launched missiles.**

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3. Which of the following are founding members of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)?

1. Malaysia
2. Cambodia
3. Thailand
4. Singapore

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Ans: C

**Explanation**

- The **Association of Southeast Asian Nations** is a regional organization which was established to **promote political and social stability amid rising tensions** among the Asia-Pacific's post-colonial states. The motto of ASEAN is "**One Vision, One Identity, One Community**"
- ASEAN Secretariat – Indonesia, Jakarta
- Established in 1967 with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (**Bangkok Declaration**) by its founding fathers. Founding Fathers of ASEAN are: **Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.**

**Members**

- Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam

**Institution Mechanism**

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- **Chairmanship of ASEAN rotates annually**, based on the alphabetical order of the English names of Member States
- **ASEAN Summit:** The supreme policy making body of ASEAN. As the highest level of authority in ASEAN, the Summit sets the direction for ASEAN policies and objectives
- ✓ In an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit held online recently, leaders of the virus-hit region **warned of the crippling economic cost of COVID-19**, calling for trade routes to reopen to protect jobs and food supplies, as well as the stockpiling of medical equipment

**4. The World Economic Outlook (WEO) report is being published by**

- a) World Bank
- b) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- c) United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- d) World Economic Forum (WEF)

**Ans: B**

**Explanation**

- Recently, the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has released its World Economic Outlook (WEO) report
- WEO is a survey by the IMF that is usually **published twice a year** in the months of April and October
- It analyzes and **predicts global economic developments** during the near and medium term

**Key Points**

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- The Covid-19 pandemic is having a **severe effect on the world economy**. As countries implement necessary quarantines and social distancing practices to contain Covid-19, the world has been put in a Great Lockdown
- It is expected to **cause a -3% change** (i.e. a contraction) in global output in 2020, which is **much worse than the 2008-09 financial crises**.
- India's growth is **expected to dip to 1.9% in 2020** and rebound to 7.4% in 2021.
- India's growth projection for 2020 is **3.9% less** than what was projected for the country in the January update to the WEO while its rebound in 2021 is 0.9 % higher than the January projection

**5. Consider the following statements regarding the SATYAM programme**

1. It aims to foster scientific research on the effects of yoga and meditation on physical & mental health
2. It was initiated by NITI Aayog in partnership with the World Health organisation (WHO)

**Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?**

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

**Ans: B**

**Explanation**

- Recently, the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** has initiated the **Science and Technology of Yoga and Meditation (SATYAM) programme**
- It was conceptualized in 2015 by the DST under its Cognitive Science Research Initiative (CSRI)

**Objectives**

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- To **foster scientific research on the effects of yoga and meditation** on physical & mental health and on cognitive functioning in healthy people as well as in patients with disorders
- Investigations on the effect of Yoga and Meditation on physical and mental health and wellbeing
- Investigations on the **effect of Yoga and Meditation** on the body, brain, and mind in terms of basic processes and mechanisms
- Scientists/academicians with research background in 'Yoga and Meditation' and having regular positions are invited to participate in this initiative.
- **Practitioners actively involved in yoga** and meditation practices are also encouraged to apply in collaboration with academic and research institutions of repute
- The project is tenable for a **maximum period of three years.**
- Under SATYAM, **DST has recently invited proposals** to study appropriate intervention of yoga and meditation in fighting Covid-19 and similar kinds of viruses.