

1. Consider the following statements regarding the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL)

1. It is a statutory organization constituted under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
2. No alteration of boundaries in national parks and wildlife sanctuaries can be done without the approval of NBWL
3. The NBWL is chaired by the Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: C

Explanation

National Board for Wildlife

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is a **Statutory Organization** constituted under the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**
- Its roles is “**advisory**” in nature and **advises the Central Government on framing policies** and measures for conservation of wildlife in the country

Composition

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The NBWL is **chaired by the Prime Minister**. It has 47 members including the Prime Minister.
- Among these, **19 members are ex-officio members**. Other members include three Members of Parliament (two from Lok Sabha and one from Rajya Sabha), five NGOs and 10 eminent ecologists, conservationists and environmentalists

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Functions

- The primary function of the NBWL is to **promote the conservation** and development of wildlife and forests
 - It has the **power to review all wildlife-related matters** and approve projects in and around national parks and sanctuaries
 - **Statement 2 is correct:** No alteration of boundaries in national parks and wildlife sanctuaries can be done without the approval of the NBWL
- ✓ The Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) had its first ever video-conferencing meet recently. In the meet, the NBWL cleared infrastructure projects in 11 States

2. 'PRIASoft' is an application software which facilitates better financial management of

- a) Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana
- b) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)
- c) Panchayati Raj Institutions
- d) Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance

Ans: C

Explanation

Panchayati Raj Institutions Accounting Software

- **Panchayati Raj Institutions Accounting Software (PRIASoft)** is one of the applications developed under e-panchayat Mission Mode Project (MMP)
- PRIASoft aims to keep **track of all the in-flow (Receipts) and out- flow (Payments) of the PRIs.** PRIASoft is highly user friendly and simple to use.

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- It not only facilitates maintenance of accounts under MAS, but also ensures **monitoring of allocated funds, expenditure incurred, inter-PRIIs transfers/advances** and automatic generation of desired reports, registers and other financial information just by making basic transaction entries from the vouchers.
- PRIASoft is a **Centralized Accounting Software intended for maintenance of accounts** by all the three levels of Panchayats viz., District, Block and Village Panchayat.
- The software would not only serve the purpose of maintenance of accounts but also works as a good **financial management tool**, leading to the following distinct advantages:
 - a) Improve **transparency and accountability** of the Panchayats in managing large volume of funds
 - b) Enhance credibility of Panchayats which would induce greater devolution of funds to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIIs)
 - c) Enhance ability of higher **authorities to effectively monitor flow and usage of funds** for a better planning of the requirement of PRIIs

<https://apps.nic.in/apps/government/priisoft>

3. With reference to Veerashaivas and Lingayats, consider the following statements

1. Since they were worshippers of Lord Shiva, the beliefs and practices of both the sects were same
2. Unlike Lingayats, the Veerashaivas were not influenced by the preachings of Basavanna

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: D

Explanation

Veerashaivas

- Veerashaivas are **worshippers of Lord Shiva**. They **precede Basavanna**, the founder of Lingayatism.
- **Veerashaivas do not worship any God other than Shiva** and can be found spread across India. Pashupatha Shaiva, Soma Shaiva, Dakshina Shaiva, Kala Mukha Shaiva, Lakula Shaiva, Yavala Shaiva, Samanya Shaiva, Mishra Shaiva, Shuddha Shaiva, Adi Shaiva, Anu Shaiva, Avantara Shaiva are some of the sects within Shaivism.
- **Veerashaiva is one such sect** and people from the community are found largely in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala.
- **All sects of the Veerashaiva follow the 'Pancha Peeta'**, five mutts. Kashi mutt, Rameshwaram Mutt, Ujjaini Mutt, Rambhapura Mutt and Srishaila Mutt are the core holy places for the community

Lingayats

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Lingayats are followers of Basavanna and his teachings. Veerashaivas in Karnataka, **influenced by the preachings of Basavanna adapted the same into their lives** and faith.
- Basavanna's teachings were incorporated to base sects that led to the formation of new sects like Banajiga Lingayat, Panchamasali Lingayat, Ganiga Lingayat, Gowda Lingayat and Veerashaiva Lingayat

Differences

- **Statement 1 is incorrect** Veerashaiva and Lingayat ways of life are different. **Their beliefs, practices and faith are different.**
- Veerashaiva worship Lord Shiva, the one mentioned in Hindu mythology. But the Shiva that Basavanna referred to is not the Hindu mythological Shiva.

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- **Basavanna's Shiva is a formless**, seamless figurative entity. Lingayats argue that this was the very reason that Basavanna never mentioned about the Hindu mythological Shiva in any of his Vachanas
- In terms of religious practice, **Basavanna propagated only the worship of Ishta Linga**. He did **not encourage rituals and ceremonies** of offering, prayer and sacrifice.
- Veerashaivas, however, encourage such rituals in stark contrast. Basavanna had suggested wearing of the Ishtalinga on one's neck but Veerashaivas have done away with the practice.

- ❖ Global Basava Jayanthi – 2020 was observed on 26th April digitally. Basava Jayanti marks the birth anniversary of Lord Basavanna, the **12th-century poet-philosopher**, and the founding saint of the **Lingayat faith**.

<https://www.oneindia.com/india/how-are-veerashaivas-and-lingayats-different-2510776.html>

4. 'Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary' is located in which of the following states?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Assam
- c) Nagaland
- d) Odisha

Ans: B

Explanation

- Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary is **located in the Dibrugarh and Tinsukia Districts of Assam** and covers an area of 111.19 km²
- It is part of the **Assam valley tropical wet evergreen forest** and consists of three parts: Jeypore, upper Dihing River and Dirok rainforest.

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- It was **declared a sanctuary on 13 June 2004**. This sanctuary is also a part of Dehing-Patkai Elephant Reserve.
 - A part of the forest was declared as a wildlife sanctuary by the Government of Assam, while another part falls under the **Dibru-Deomali Elephant Reserve**.
 - The Dehing Patkai forms the **largest stretch of tropical lowland rainforests** in India. The forest is often referred to as "**The Amazon of the east**" owing to its large area and thick forests
- ✓ Recently, the **National Board for Wild Life (NBWL)** has recommended coal mining in a part of Dehing Patkai elephant reserve in Assam.

5. Consider the following pairs

Mountain passes	Located in
1. Shipki La	- Sikkim
2. Rohtang Pass	- Himachal Pradesh
3. Jelep La	- Arunachal Pradesh

Which of the above given pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Ans: A

Explanation

Shipki La Pass

- The **Shipki La Pass or Shipki Pass** is a hill pass in India. It also serves as the **boundary post on the frontier between China and India**.

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- The famous Sutlej River penetrates India from the Tibetan territory through this pass. The Shipki Pass lies in the Autonomous Region of Tibet in PRC (People's Republic of China) and Kinnaur district of **Himachal Pradesh** in India.
- The pass **works as the third frontier post of India for carrying out trade** and commerce activities with China. The other two passes are **the Lipulekh Pass** in Uttarakhand and **Nathula Pass In Sikkim**

Rohtang Pass

- It is a high mountain pass on the eastern Pir Panjal Range of the Himalayas around 51 km from Manali. It connects the Kullu Valley with the Lahaul and Spiti Valleys of **Himachal Pradesh**, Manali-Leh Highway, a part of NH 21, transverses Rohtang Pass. **River Ravi rises west of the Rohtang pass in the Kullu Hills.**

Jelep La

- Jelep La is a high mountain pass between **East Sikkim District**, Sikkim, India and Tibet Autonomous Region, China.
 - It is on a route that connects Lhasa to India. The pass is about 4 km south of Nathu La and although it is higher, Jelep has been used for centuries by traders because of its less rugged terrain.
- ❖ Recently, the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** opened the Rohtang Pass, three weeks in advance, for transporting essential supplies and relief materials to the Lahaul and Spiti districts of Himachal Pradesh amid the lockdown

<https://www.mapsofindia.com/mountains/passes/the-shipki-pass.html>

<https://www.geographyandyou.com/prominent-mountain-passes-in-india/>