

1. With reference to generic drugs, which one of the following statements is not correct?
- A generic drug is a medication created to be the same as an existing approved brand-name drug in dosage form, safety, strength, route of administration, quality, and performance characteristics.
 - Approved generic medicines are generally sold after patents and exclusivities protecting the brand-name version end.
 - Generic drugs have to repeat animal and clinical studies to demonstrate safety and effectiveness before approval.
 - Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) is a campaign to provide generic drugs to the masses.

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement A is correct:** A generic drug is a medication created to be the same as an existing approved brand-name drug in dosage form, safety, strength, route of administration, quality, and performance characteristics.
- It works in the same way and provides the same clinical benefits as its brand-name version.
- **Statement B is correct:** Approved generic medicines are generally sold after patents and exclusivities protecting the brand-name version end.
- **Statement C is incorrect:** Generic medicines tend to cost less than their brand-name counterparts because they do not have to repeat animal and clinical (human) studies that were required of the brand-name medicines to demonstrate safety and effectiveness.
- In addition, multiple applications for generic drugs are often approved to market a single product; this creates competition in the marketplace, typically resulting in lower prices. Typically results in prices about 85% less than the brand-name.
- **Statement D is correct:** Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses. PMBJP stores have been set up to provide generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs.

<https://www.pressreader.com/india/the-hindu/20200622/281487868606905>

2. In which one of the following States is Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary located?
- Maharashtra
 - Assam

- C. Sikkim
- D. Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- Golden langurs occupy moist evergreen and tropical deciduous forests as well as some riverine areas and savannas. They are found **only in Assam and parts of Bhutan**.
- Its range has been considerably depleted and fragmented with a total gross estimated population in Bhutan and India of about 4,500–5,000 individuals.
- It is listed in Appendix I of CITES, as Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, and in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- In Assam, its main population is in the Manas Biosphere Reserve and **Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- Chakrashila is India's first wildlife sanctuary with golden langur as the primary species.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/even-golden-langurs-suffer-forced-abortion-infanticide/article31883455.ece>

3. Which of the following is/are statements are correct with reference to the interim report of the 15th Finance Commission?

1. It introduced performance-based incentives to states on two parameters — demographic performance and taxation efforts.
2. It introduced Forest and Ecology as a criteria for devolution.
3. The Commission used only 2011 population data for its recommendations.
4. The share of states in the centre's taxes is recommended to keep unchanged at 42%.

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 4 only

Answer: **C**

Explanation:

- Recently, the 15th Finance Commission has submitted its interim report for the financial year 2020-21.
- The final report with recommendations for the 2021-26 period will be submitted by October 30, 2020.

Key recommendations for 2020-21 period

Devolution of taxes to states:

- **Statement 4 is incorrect:** The share of states in the centre's taxes is recommended to be **decreased from 42%** during the 2015-20 period to **41%** for 2020-21.
- The 1% decrease is to provide for the newly formed union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh from the resources of the central government.

Criteria for devolution:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The FC reintroduced **performance-based incentives** to states on two parameters — **demographic performance** and **taxation efforts**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Commission used only 2011 population data for its recommendations.

Criteria	14th FC 2015-2 0	15th FC 2020-2 1
Income Distance	50.0	45.0
Population (1971)	17.5	-
Population (2011)	10.0	15.0
Area	15.0	15.0
Forest Cover	7.5	-
Forest and Ecology	-	10.0
Demographic Performance	-	12.5
Tax Effort	-	2.5
Total	100	100

- **Income distance** - is the distance of the state's income from the state with the highest income. States with lower per capita income would be given a higher share to maintain equity among states.
- The **Demographic Performance** criterion has been introduced to reward efforts made by states in controlling their population. States with a lower fertility ratio will be scored higher on this criterion.
- **Statement 2 is correct: Forest and ecology** - share of dense forest of each state in the aggregate dense forest of all the states.

- **Tax effort:** This criterion has been used to reward states with higher tax collection efficiency.

Grants-in-aid

- In 2020-21, the following grants will be provided to states: (i) revenue deficit grants, (ii) grants to local bodies, and (iii) disaster management grants.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/additional-funds-sought-for-jal-jeevan-mission/article31884021.ece>

4. Which of the following are classified as “Minor Forest Produce” in the country?

1. Bamboo
2. Honey
3. Timber
4. Wild fruits

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- Minor Forest Produce means **all non-timber forest produce** of plant origin and will include **bamboo**, canes, fodder, leaves, gums, waxes, dyes, resins and many forms of food including nuts, **wild fruits**, **Honey**, Lac, Tusser etc.
- MFP is a major source of livelihood for tribals living in forest areas. Tribals derive 20-40% of their annual income from MFP.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Procurement-of-MFP-by-govt-touches-all-time-high%2c-giving-boost-to-tribal-economy&id=391882>

5. With reference to elections to Rajya Sabha, consider the following statements.

1. Only elected members of the State Legislative Assemblies can vote in a Rajya Sabha election.
2. The elections are held through a secret ballot.
3. At present, ‘none of the above’ option is not applicable in Rajya Sabha elections.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only

- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- The legislators send a batch of new members to the Upper House every two years for a six-year term. A third of Members of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha (which is a permanent House and is not subject to dissolution), from each State retire once in two years and polls are held to fill up the vacancies.
- In addition, vacancies that arise due to resignation, death or disqualification are filled up through bypolls after which those elected serve out the remainder of their predecessors' term.

Who elects the members of the Rajya Sabha?

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Elected members of the State Legislative Assemblies. Here the word 'State' includes Puducherry and National Capital Territory of Delhi also.
- Voting is by single transferable vote, as the election is held on the **principle of proportional representation**. In other words, a bloc of MPs belonging to one or more parties can elect a member of their choice if they have the requisite numbers. This is to avoid the principle of majority, which would mean that only candidates put up by ruling parties in the respective States will be elected.
- Candidates fielded by political parties have to be proposed by at least 10 members of the Assembly or 10% of the party's strength in the House, whichever is less. For independents, there should be 10 proposers, all of whom should be members of the Assembly.

Why do not the Rajya Sabha polls have a secret ballot?

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Rajya Sabha polls have a **system of open ballot**, but it is a limited form of openness.
- As a measure to check rampant cross-voting, which was taken to mean that the vote had been purchased by corrupt means, the system of each party MLA showing his or her marked ballots to the party's authorised agent, before they are put into the ballot box, has been introduced.
- Showing a marked ballot to anyone other than one's own party's authorised agent will render the vote invalid. Not showing the ballot to the authorised agent will also mean that the vote cannot be counted.
- And independent candidates are barred from showing their ballots to anyone.

Why does not none of the above, or NOTA, apply to the Rajya Sabha polls?

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) issued two circulars, on January 24, 2014 and November 12, 2015, giving Rajya Sabha members the option to press the NOTA button in the Upper House polls.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** However, in 2018, the Supreme Court of India struck down the provision, holding that the 'none of the above' option is only for general elections held on the basis of universal adult suffrage, and cannot be applied to indirect elections based on proportional representation.

Does cross-voting attract disqualification?

- No. The Supreme Court, while declining to interfere with the open ballot system, ruled that not voting for the party candidate will not attract disqualification under the anti-defection law. As voters, MLAs retain their freedom to vote for a candidate of their choice.
- However, the Court observed that since the party would know who voted against its own candidate, it is free to take disciplinary action against the legislator concerned.

Can a legislator vote without taking oath as a member of the Assembly?

- While taking oath as a member is for anyone to function as a legislator, the Supreme Court has ruled that a member can vote in a Rajya Sabha election even before taking oath as legislator.
- It ruled that voting at the Rajya Sabha polls, being a non-legislative activity, can be performed without taking oath.
- A person becomes a member as soon as the list of elected members is notified by the ECI, it said. Further, a member can also propose a candidate before taking the oath.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/the-hindu-explains-how-are-elections-to-the-rajya-sabha-held/article31879432.ece>