

1. The term “one country, two systems” is sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of

- A. China
- B. India
- C. Iraq
- D. Nepal

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Hong Kong, a former **British colony**, was returned to the People's Republic of China in 1997 under a policy known as “**one country, two systems**,” which promised the territory a high degree of autonomy.
- As a **Special Administrative Region (SAR)**, Hong Kong allows freedoms not enjoyed in mainland China, including freedom to protest and an independent judiciary.
- But that autonomy, guaranteed under a mini-constitution known as the **Basic Law**, expires in 2047. The joint signed declaration does not state what will happen in 2047 after that agreement officially ends.

- Last month, China passed a controversial national security law in Hong Kong in its parliament to tighten China’s control over the former British colony.
- Many sections in Hong Kong are protesting against the law who fear that it could be the biggest blow to the territory’s autonomy and personal freedoms since 1997 when it came under Chinese rule.
- China has also sought the support and understanding of India and other countries for its new national security law, saying the new legislation is aimed at containing the secessionist forces in Hong Kong.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/china-lawmakers-review-draft-of-hong-kong-national-security-bill/article31938726.ece>

2. With reference to Mappila Rebellion, consider the following statements.

1. The Mappilas were the Muslim tenants inhabiting the Malabar region.
2. The rebellion merged with the Civil Disobedience Movement.

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

Who are Mappilas?

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Mappilas were the Muslim tenants inhabiting the Malabar region where most of the landlords were Hindus.
- The Mappilas had expressed their resentment against the oppression of the landlords during the 19th Century itself.
- Their grievances centred around lack of security of tenure, high rents, renewal fees and other oppressive exactions.

Mappila Revolt or Malabar Rebellion 1921

- Mappilas or Moplahs rose in revolt against their landlords in 1921.
- The Mappila tenants were particularly encouraged by the demand of the local Congress body for a government legislation regulating tenant-landlord relations.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Soon, the Mappila movement was merged with the ongoing **Khilafat agitation**. (Civil Disobedience Movement was launched in **1930**).
- The leaders of the Khilafat-Non-Cooperation Movement like **Gandhi, Shaikat Ali and Maulana Azad** addressed Mappila meetings.
- After the arrest of national leaders, the leadership passed into the hands of local Mappila leaders.

Course of the rebellion

- Things took a turn for the worse in August 1921 when the arrest of a respected priest leader, **Ali Musaliar**, sparked off **large-scale riots**.
- Initially, the symbols of British authority- courts, police stations, treasuries and offices- and unpopular landlords (*jenmies* who were mostly Hindus) were the targets.
- But once the British declared martial law and repression began in earnest, the character of the rebellion underwent a definite change.
- Many Hindus were seen by the Mappilas to be helping the authorities.
- What began as an anti-government and anti-landlord affair acquired **communal overtones**.
- Previously, the outbreak of violence resulted in divergence of the Khilafat-Non-Cooperation Movement and the Mappila rebellion.
- The communalisation of the rebellion completed the isolation of the Mappilas from the Khilafat-Non-Cooperation Movement.
- By December 1921, all resistance had come to a stop.

Why in News?

- With the rebellion turning 100 next year, four movies in Malayalam have been announced with the rebellion as the theme.

- Three of them will narrate the story of freedom fighter **Variyamkunnath Kunhahamed Haji**, who was shot dead by the British police at Kottakkunnu

About Variyamkunnath Kunhahamed Haji

- Chakkiparamban Variyankunnathu Kunhahamed Haji (1877- 20 January 1922) was an activist of Indian independence movement who led the Malabar Rebellion against the British.
- He **ran a parallel government**, in open defiance of British rulers, for more than six months in most parts of the then **Eranadu** and **Valluvanadu** taluks.
- Subsequently he was executed by British.
- Ali Musaliar was his mentor.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/the-hindu-explains-why-is-there-a-controversy-over-a-film-project-on-the-protagonist-of-1921-malabar-rebellion/article31935304.ece>

3. With reference to the Environment Ministry's new rules to regulate the import and export of exotic wildlife species, consider the following statements.

1. Exotic live species will mean animals named under Appendices I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora only.
2. Under the new rules, owners and possessors of such animals and birds must register their stock with the Chief Wildlife Warden of their 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

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- The Environment Ministry's wildlife division has introduced new rules to regulate the import and export of 'exotic wildlife species'.
- Currently, it is the Directorate-General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, that oversees such trade.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under the new rules, owners and possessors of such animals and birds must also register their stock with the Chief Wildlife Warden of their States.
- Officials of the Wildlife Department will also prepare an inventory of such species and have the right to inspect the facilities of such traders to check if these plants and animals are being housed in salubrious conditions.
- Additionally, stockists will have six months to declare their stock.

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The advisory, issued earlier this month, also says 'exotic live species' will mean animals named under **Appendices I, II and III** of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- It will not include species from the Schedules of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

About CITES

- CITES is an international agreement aimed at ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.
- It is also referred to as the **Washington Convention**.
- It is legally binding on the Parties, but it does not take the place of national laws of parties. States have to adopt their own domestic legislation to implement its goals.
- It is administered through the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, Geneva, Switzerland.
- The species covered by CITES are listed in **three Appendices**, according to the degree of protection they need.

Appendix I:

- Most endangered plants and animals.
- Examples include gorillas, giant pandas etc.,.
- They are threatened with extinction and CITES prohibits international trade in specimens of these species except when the purpose of the import is **not commercial**, for instance for scientific research.

Appendix II:

- Not necessarily now threatened with extinction but that may become so unless trade is closely controlled.
- Most CITES species are listed in this Appendix.
- It also includes "**look-alike species**", i.e. species whose specimens in trade look like those of species listed for conservation reasons.
- International trade in specimens of Appendix-II species may be authorized by the granting of an export permit or re-export certificate.

Appendix III

- List of species that are included at the request of a party.
- Trade is allowed with the presentation of documents.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/centre-unveils-new-rules-to-regulate-exotic-animal-trade/article31940125.ece>

4. Which among the following are responsibilities of the National Statistical Office (NSO)?

1. Releasing the Index of Industrial Production
2. Conducting the National Population Register
3. Conducting the Annual Survey of Industries
4. Conducting the all-India Economic Censuses

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- The National Statistical Office (NSO) is the Statistics Wing of the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**.
- In 2019, the central government merged the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) and National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) into the National Statistical Organisation.
- NSO is mandated with the following responsibilities:-
 - acts as the nodal agency for planned development of the statistical system in the country
 - compiles and releases the **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** every month and conducts the **Annual Survey of Industries (ASI)**;
 - organizes and conducts periodic **all-India Economic Censuses**
 - prepares national accounts as well as publishes annual estimates of national product, government and private consumption expenditure, capital formation, savings, etc. as also the state level gross capital formation of supra-regional sectors and prepares comparable estimates of State Domestic Product (SDP) at current prices;
- Monitoring the implementation of Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is the responsibility of **Programme Implementation Wing** of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- National Population Register (NPR) is conducted by the **Office of the Registrar General** under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1634923>

5. Consider the following pairs

Terms	Definition
1. Recession	fall in growth rate
2. Slow down	fall in GDP
3. Deflation	fall in the rate of inflation over a period of time
4. Disinflation	persistent fall in the general price level of goods and services

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

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 4
- D. None of the above

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- Recession- Drop in the gross domestic product (GDP)
- Slow down- Decline in the growth rate of the GDP
- An economic recession signifies a shrinkage in the GDP for two or more consecutive quarters, while an economic slowdown is when the GDP continues to grow but in a slower rate than the previous period in question. A slowdown is a pointer towards recession and usually precedes one but does not necessarily lead to recession.
- Recession means that the country is producing and earning less than what it did before. Consumers tend to spend less as people lose confidence in the growth of the economy. Less spending means that there's a decrease in demand, which, in turn, leads to a dip in production. Such events also lead to lay-offs and job loss and mark a spike in unemployment.
- Slowdown, on the other hand, means that production and earnings of the economy is not growing at the same pace as before.
- Deflation- It is a persistent fall in the general price level of goods and services
- Disinflation- It is a fall in the rate of inflation over a period of time

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explainspeaking-why-in-a-crisis-we-need-to-look-at-absolute-level-of-gdp-more-than-growth-rates-6480633/>