

1. Consider the following statements about Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019.

1. It empowers both the central and state government to designate an individual a terrorist if they are found committing an act of terror.
2. It requires any investigating officer to take prior permission of the Director General of Police of a state for conducting raids.

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: **D**

Explanation

- The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019 was passed by the Parliament in August 2019. It amends the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The act **empowers the central government** (state government does not have such powers) to designate an **individual a “terrorist”** if they are found committing, preparing for, promoting, or involved in an act of terror. Earlier, the Central Government was having powers only to designate organisations as terrorist organisations.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The UAPA law of 1967 requires an investigating officer to take prior permission of the Director General of Police of a state for conducting raids, and seizing properties that are suspected to be linked to terrorist activities.
- The **amendment act of 2019 however, removes this requirement** if the **investigation is conducted by an officer of the National Investigation Agency (NIA)**. The investigating officer, under the 2019 act, **only requires sanction from the Director General of NIA**.
 - Central agencies such as the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) are required to obtain prior permission** from the state government since law and order is a state subject under the Constitution.
- The UAPA law of 1967 specifies that only officers of the rank of Deputy Superintendent or Assistant Commissioner of Police of the NIA shall have the **power to investigate offences** under the UAPA law. The amendment act seeks to allow **NIA officers of Inspector rank to carry out investigations**.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-designates-nine-individuals-linked-to-khalistan-i-groups-as-terrorists/article31964834.ece>

2. Consider the following statements about the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.

1. The law allows a woman to undergo an abortion only under certain conditions such serious abnormality of the fetus, mental or physical harm to the woman, etc.
2. It capped the upper gestation limit for abortion at 24 weeks.

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:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 allows a woman to undergo an abortion only under certain conditions. A woman can seek abortion if the doctor confirms that the fetus in the womb has serious abnormality or if the continuation of pregnancy could cause mental or physical harm to the woman.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The law allows a woman to undergo abortion **only till 20 weeks, beyond which abortion is prohibited.**

Issues with the current law

- Legal and medical experts feel that a revision of the legal limit for abortion is long overdue.
- Foetal abnormalities show up only by 18 weeks, so just a two-week window after that is too small for the would-be parents to take the difficult call on whether to keep their baby and for the medical practitioner to exhaust all possible options before advising the patient to take the extreme step.
- Since lack of legal approval does not prevent abortions from being carried out beyond 20 weeks, women are put under risk since the abortions then are often conducted in unhygienic conditions by untrained, unqualified persons. It is estimated that about 8% of maternal deaths happen due to unsafe abortions.
- Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the **MTP (Amendment) Bill, 2020**, which allows abortion up to 24 weeks of gestational age for vulnerable categories of women and there is no limit of gestational age in case of pregnancies with substantial foetal abnormalities, diagnosed by a medical board.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/bombay-hc-allows-minor-rape-victim-to-terminate-pregnancy/article31965296.ece/amp/>

3. The World Investment Report is released by

- A. International Monetary Fund

- B. World Economic Forum
- C. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- D. World Trade Organization

Answer: **C**

Explanation:

- The World Investment Report has been published annually since 1991 by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- The Report focuses on trends in foreign direct investment (FDI) worldwide, at the regional and country levels and emerging measures to improve its contribution to development.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/reforming-indias-digital-policy/article31966403.ece>

4. Which among the following are examples of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)?

1. Housing Finance Companies
2. Nidhi Companies
3. Chit Funds
4. Stock Exchanges

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- **Housing Finance Companies**, Merchant Banking Companies, **Stock Exchanges**, Companies engaged in the business of stock-broking/sub-broking, Venture Capital Fund Companies, **Nidhi Companies**, Insurance companies and **Chit Fund Companies** are examples of NBFCs.

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Govt-launches-Special-Liquidity-Scheme-of-30-thousand-crore-rupees-to-improve-liquidity-for-NBFCs-and-HFCs&id=392751>

5. Consider the following statements about convalescent plasma therapy.

1. This includes transfusing neutralising antibodies extracted via plasma from recovered patients to others with infection that can help their immune system to fight it off.
2. For the first time, it is being recommended to treat COVID-19.

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:

What is convalescent plasma?

- People **who have recovered** from COVID-19 have **antibodies** to the disease in their blood. Doctors call this convalescent plasma.
- Researchers hope that convalescent plasma can be given to people with severe COVID-19 to boost their ability to fight the virus.
- Everyone who has suffered from a disease possibly carries what are called **neutralising antibodies** that when extracted via plasma and transfused on to others with the infection can **help their immune system** fight it off. **Statement 1 is correct.**

Earlier trials

- This is **not the first time** that plasma from recovered patients has been used to treat people infected with certain viruses for which drugs are not available. Hence **statement 2 is incorrect.**
- When Ebola struck Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia in 2014, the World Health Organization prioritised the evaluation of treatment with convalescent plasma derived from patients who have recovered from the disease.
- Treatment with convalescent plasma is a classical, time-tested method. It has been used against measles, chickenpox, and rabies.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/health/convalescent-plasma-for-covid-19-patients-not-responding-to-steroids-cdsco/2011043/>