

**1. With reference to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), consider the following statements:**

1. The Convention was formed to ensure freedom of shipping navigation at the sea.
2. It defines an Exclusive Economic Zone as extending 250 nautical miles from shore, within which the coastal state has the right to explore and exploit, and the responsibility to conserve and manage, both living and non-living resources.
3. India is party to UNCLOS.

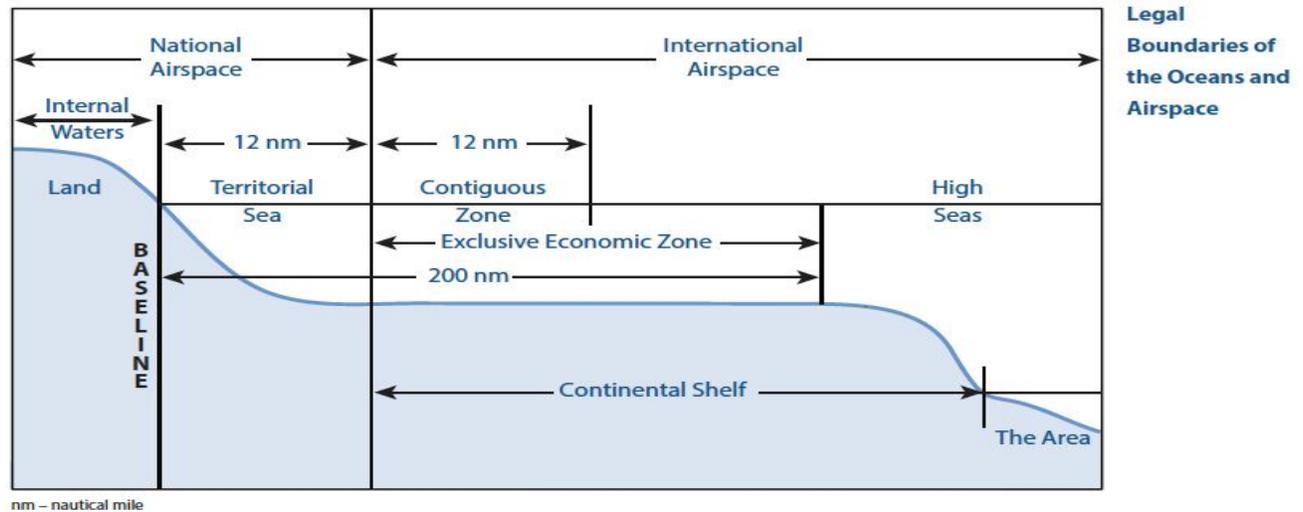
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: **B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), also known as the **Law of the Sea Treaty**, is an international treaty which was adopted and signed in 1982. The Convention was formed to ensure freedom of shipping navigation at the sea.
- The Convention has created three new institutions on the international scene :
  - **the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea,**
  - **the International Seabed Authority,**
  - **the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.**
- **Statement 3 is correct: India** is party to UNCLOS.
- UNCLOS classifies marine areas into five zones. They are:
  - Territorial sea
  - Contiguous zone
  - Exclusive economic zone
  - Continental shelf
  - High Sea



### Territorial sea

- According to UNCLOS, the territorial sea can be defined as the area which extends up to **12 nautical miles** from the baseline of a country's coastal state. The territorial sea is under the jurisdiction of that particular country; however, foreign ships (both merchant and military) ships are allowed passage through it.
- This type of passage of territorial passage of foreign ships is known as an **innocent passage**. However, the right to the innocent passage can be suspended if there is a threat to the security of the coastal state.

### Contiguous Zone

- The contiguous zone can be defined as the belt which **extends 12 nautical miles beyond the territorial sea limit**.
- A coastal state's control on this area is limited to prevention of actions which can infringe its customs, fiscal, and immigration laws. It can also act if any activity in the contiguous zone threatens regulations in the territorial sea.

### Exclusive economic zone

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It defines an Exclusive Economic Zone as extending 250 nautical miles from shore, within which the coastal state has the right to explore and exploit, and the responsibility to conserve and manage, both living and non-living resources.

### Continental Shelf

- The continental shelf can be defined as the area whose outer limit **shall not exceed 350 nautical miles from the baseline** or **shall not exceed 100 nautical miles from the 2500 meters isobath**.
- *Isobath is a line connecting points of equal underwater depth.*
- The coastal state has exclusive rights for exploring and exploiting its natural resources in this area. The state also has the exclusive rights to authorize and regulate drilling on the shelf for all purposes.

### High Seas

- High seas can be defined as the part of the sea that is **not included** in the exclusive economic zone, in the territorial sea, or in the internal waters of a coastal state or archipelagic waters of an archipelagic state.

- High seas are **open to all states** for freedom of navigation, freedom of overflight, freedom to construct artificial islands installation, freedom of fishing, and freedom of scientific research.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/italian-marines-case-india-loses-jurisdiction/article31973247.ece>

**2. Consider the following statements about the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT).**

1. UNCAT allows for no circumstances or emergencies where torture could be permitted.
2. India has ratified the convention.

**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:**

- The United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT) seeks to ensure that countries put in place various institutional mechanisms to prevent the use of torture.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** UNCAT requires signatory parties to take measures to end torture within their territorial jurisdiction and to criminalize all acts of torture. UNCAT generally defines torture as the infliction of severe physical and/or mental suffering committed under the color of law. **UNCAT allows for no circumstances or emergencies where torture could be permitted.**
- CAT was adopted in 1984 and entered into force in 1987.
- The convention Each country that is party to the convention is required to carry out certain steps such as (i) legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent torture, and (ii) ensure that torture is a criminal offence, among others.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Though India had signed the U.N. Convention Against Torture in 1997, it is **yet to ratify it.**

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/indias-torture-culture-needs-to-end-now/article31973431.ece>

**3. Consider the following statements about the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).**

1. It functions as an attached office of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

2. NPPA has been entrusted with the task of enforcing the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order.
3. NPPA can also fix the price for non-scheduled drugs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: **B**

**Explanation:**

- National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), was established in 1997 as an independent body of experts as per the decision taken by the Cabinet committee in 1994 while reviewing Drug Policy as regulator for pricing of drugs.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It has been constituted as an attached office of the **Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.**
- The Authority has been entrusted with the task of
  - Fixation/revision of prices of pharmaceutical products (bulk drugs and formulations),
  - Enforcement of provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order. **Hence, Statement 2 is correct.**
  - Monitoring of the prices of controlled and decontrolled drugs in the country.
- The NPPA currently fixes prices of drugs placed in the **National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)** under **Schedule-I of the DPCO.**
- Non-scheduled drugs are allowed an increase of up to 10 per cent in prices every year, which is monitored by the NPPA.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** NPPA can also fix the price for non-scheduled drugs by invoking extraordinary powers in public interest, under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1635899>

**4. With reference to the Project Tiger, consider the following statements.**

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for in-situ conservation of wild tigers in designated tiger reserves.
2. National Tiger Conservation Authority is the immediate supervising agency of the programme.
3. At present, there are a total of 18 Tiger Reserves in India governed by Project Tiger.

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: **A**

## Explanation:



- **Statement 1 is correct:** Project Tiger is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Government of India which was launched in 1973 for in-situ conservation of wild tigers in designated tiger reserves.
- Broadly, the strategy involves exclusive tiger agenda in the **core/critical tiger habitat**, inclusive people-wildlife agenda in the outer buffer, besides fostering the latter agenda in the corridors.
- This strategy is reflected in a tiger reserve specific Tiger Conservation Plan for each reserve prepared under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The initiative is administered under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC). **National Tiger Conservation Authority**, a statutory body under MoEFCC, is the immediate supervising agency.
- It was launched from the **Jim Corbett National Park** of Uttarakhand.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** At present, there are a total of 50 Tiger Reserves in India governed by Project Tiger.

- There are 18 Biosphere Reserves in India.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/uttar-pradesh-mulling-over-proposal-to-turn-shivalik-forest-into-tiger-reserve/article31968322.ece>

**5. In which one of the following States is Mollem National Park located?**

- A. Kerala
- B. Goa
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Gujarat

Answer: **B**

**Explanation:**

- Spread over 240 sq km in the Western Ghats, Mollem National Park is located in Goa close to the border with Karnataka. The reserve also has several temples dating back to the Kadamba Dynasty.
- The national park showcases a wide variety of birds like fairy bluebird, wagtails, three-toed kingfisher, drongo, golden oriole, great Indian hornbill. Some of the birds found here are native to the region. Butterflies of many species like Blue Mormon, Crimson Rose, Tailed Jay, Malabar Tree Nymph, Tamil Yoeman, Plain Tiger and Lime Butterfly are found in the region.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/120-year-old-rail-track-at-heart-of-green-alarm-in-wildlife-sanctuary-6487564/>