

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

1. With reference to the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, consider the following statements.

1. The Act recognised women as coparceners for property partitions.
2. Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains and followers of Arya Samaj, Brahma Samaj are also considered Hindus for the purposes of this law.

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:

About Hindu Succession Act, 1956

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Hindu Succession Act, 1956 governed succession and inheritance of property but recognised **only males as legal heirs**.
- The law applied to everyone who is not a Muslim, Christian, Parsi or Jew by religion.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains and followers of Arya Samaj, Brahma Samaj are also considered Hindus for the purposes of this law.
- In a Hindu Undivided Family (HUF), several legal heirs through generations can exist jointly.
- Traditionally, HUF includes only the male descendants of a common ancestor along with their mothers, wives and unmarried daughters. The legal heirs hold the family property jointly.

2005 Amendment

- The 1956 Act was amended in September 2005 and **women were recognised as coparceners** for property partitions arising from 2005.

A **coparcener** is the one who shares equally in the inheritance of an undivided property. Coparcenary property is one which is inherited by a Hindu from his/her father, grandfather or great-grandfather.

- **Section 6** of the Act was amended to make a daughter of a coparcener also a coparcener by birth “in her own right in the same manner as the son”.
- It also gave the daughter the same rights and liabilities “in the coparcenary property as she would have had if she had been a son”.
- The law applies to ancestral property and to intestate succession in personal property, where succession happens as per law and not through a will.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- While the 2005 law granted equal rights to women, questions were raised in multiple cases on whether the law applied retrospectively, and if the rights of women depended on the living status of the father through whom they would inherit.

Supreme Court Judgements

- **Prakash v Phulwati (2015):** The SC held that the benefit of the 2005 amendment could be granted only to “living daughters of living coparceners”.
- **Danamma v. Amar case in 2018:** Contrary to the 2015 ruling, the SC held that the share of a father who died in 2001 will also pass to his daughters as coparceners during the partition of the property as per the 2005 law. Then again in a judgement, the SC reiterated the position taken in 2015.

Why in News?

- The Supreme Court recently held that daughters, like sons, have an equal birthright to inherit joint Hindu family property. A three-judge Bench says that the rights do not depend on whether her father was alive or not when the law was enacted in 2005.
- The Supreme court has overruled the earlier verdict of 2015 that the right to coparcenary of a daughter is by birth, it is not necessary that the father should be alive as on September 9, 2005.
- It overrules the verdicts from 2015 and April 2018. It settles the law and expands on the intention of the 2005 legislation “to remove the discrimination as contained in section 6 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 by giving equal rights to daughters in the Hindu Mitakshara coparcenary property as the sons have”.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/supreme-court-order-on-coparcenary-rights-6562197/>

2. With reference to the National Recruitment Agency (NRA), consider the following statements.

1. The Agency aims to conduct a common preliminary examination, the scores of which will be used for various central government recruitment.
2. The NRA will replace the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Board (RRB), and Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS).
3. Candidates will have to appear for the exams in either Hindi or English.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The central government chaired by PM Narendra Modi decided to set up a common recruitment body called National Recruitment Agency on August 20.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Agency aims to conduct a common preliminary examination, the scores of which will be used for various central government recruitment.
- Initially, the Agency will conduct exams for Group B and C (non-technical) posts. There is a proposal to expand the purview of the exams.
- Currently, the Group B and C recruitment is done by Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Board (RRB), and Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** NRA will conduct a common preliminary exam and based on the scores received by the candidates, IBPS, SSC and RRB will conduct the Tier II and Tier III examinations. This means that these agencies **will remain in place**; however, the preliminary exams will be conducted by the NRA.
- NRA aims to conduct separate exams for graduate candidates, 12th pass candidates, and 10th pass candidates. The scores received in these exams will be valid for 3 years which can be used to apply for Tier II recruitment.
- There is **no restriction on the number attempts** a candidate can make but there will be an **upper age limit for candidates**. The best valid score will be considered as the current score.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Initially candidates will have an option to appear for the exams in **12 languages**. There are plans to expand the number of languages in which the exam will be conducted in the future.
- Special focus would be given on creating examination infrastructure in the **117 Aspirational Districts**.
- Currently, around 2.5 crore candidates appear for these exams for around 1.25 lakh vacancies. The Agency aims to streamline the process of recruitment for various central government positions.
- NRA will have representatives from the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Finance/Department of Financial Services, the SSC, RRB & IBPS.

<https://scroll.in/announcements/970871/national-recruitment-agency-all-you-need-to-know-about-nra>

3. In which of the following circumstances herd immunity can be best achieved?

- A. Preventing an infectious disease from spreading by immunising a certain percentage of the population.
- B. Situation in which sufficient proportions of a population develop immunity for an infectious disease after being infected.
- C. Delaying in acceptance or refusal of vaccines despite availability of vaccination services.
- D. Both A and B

Answer: D

Explanation:

What does herd immunity mean?

- Herd immunity refers to preventing an infectious disease from spreading by **immunising a certain percentage of the population**.
- While the concept is most commonly used in the context of vaccination, herd immunity can also be achieved after **enough people have become immune after being infected**.
- Hence both a and b refers to herd immunity.
- The premise is that if a certain percentage of the population is immune, members of that group can no longer infect another person. This breaks the chain of infection through the community (“herd”), and prevents it from reaching those who are the most vulnerable.

When do we know that a population has achieved herd immunity?

- It depends on multiple factors: how effective the vaccine for a given disease is, how long-lasting immunity is from both vaccination and infection, and which populations form critical links in transmission of the disease.
- Mathematically, it is defined on the basis of a number called “herd immunity threshold”, which is the number of immune individuals above which a disease may no longer circulate.
- Polio has a threshold of 80% to 85%, while measles has 95%. With the current data for COVID-19, experts have estimated a threshold of over 60%. That means more than 60% of the population needs to develop immunity to reach the stage of herd immunity.
- **Option C** refers to **Vaccine hesitancy**.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/why-delhi-is-not-out-of-woods-yet/story-deMbXCbBj5vMutMrT9uVBN.html>

4. Gadgil Report and Kasturirangan Report, sometimes seen in the news, are related to?

- A. Restructuring and reforms of Food Corporation of India
- B. To study various issues relating to data privacy
- C. To address the challenges faced by the current education system
- D. Development and environment protection of Western Ghats

Answer: D

Explanation:

- The Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel under Madhav Gadgil was set up in 2010 to make an assessment of the ecology and biodiversity of the Western Ghats and suggest measures to conserve, protect and rejuvenate the entire range that stretches to over 1500 km along

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

the coast, with its footprints in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.

What did the Gadgil Committee say?

- It defined the boundaries of the Western Ghats for the purposes of ecological management. The total area in this boundary came to 1,29,037 square km, running about 1.490 km north to south, with a maximum width of 210 km in Tamil Nadu and minimum of 48 km in Maharashtra.
- It proposed that this **entire area be designated as ecologically sensitive area (ESA)**. Within this area, smaller regions were to be identified as ecologically sensitive zones (ESZ) I, II or III based on their existing condition and nature of threat.
- It recommended:
 - Ban on cultivation of genetically modified in entire area
 - Plastic bags to be phased out in three years
 - No new special economic zones or hill stations to be allowed
 - Ban on conversion of public lands to private lands, and on diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes in ESZ I and II
 - No new mining licences in ESZ I and II area
 - No new dams in ESZ I
 - No new thermal power plants or large scale wind power projects in ESZ I
 - No new polluting industries in ESZ I and ESZ II areas
 - No new railway lines or major roads in ESZ I and II areas
 - Strict regulation of tourism
 - Cumulative impact assessment for all new projects like dams, mines, tourism, housing
 - Phase-out of all chemical pesticides within five to eight years in ESZ I and ESZ II
- The committee proposed a **Western Ghats Ecology Authority** to regulate these activities in the area.

What was the need for the subsequent Kasturirangan Committee?

- None of the six concerned states agreed with the recommendations of the Gadgil Committee, which submitted its report in August 2011 (its official public release was cancelled).
- In August 2012, then Environment Minister Jayanthi Natarajan constituted a High-Level Working Group on Western Ghats under Kasturirangan to “examine” the Gadgil Committee report in a “holistic and multidisciplinary fashion in the light of responses received” from states, central ministries and others.

What did the Kasturirangan Committee say?

- It broadened the definition of Western Ghats and included a total of 1,64,280 square km in it. It then classified it as comprising **cultural landscape and natural landscape**. It said nearly 60% of the Western Ghats was cultural landscape, where human settlements, agriculture and plantations existed. The remaining was natural landscape, of which the “biologically rich” area was only 37% or about 60,000 sq km.
- It was **only this part that the committee said needed to be classified as ecologically sensitive area (ESA)**.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- Its main recommendations for ESA
 - Ban on mining, quarrying and sand mining
 - No new thermal power projects, but hydro power projects allowed with restrictions
 - Ban on new polluting industries
 - Building and construction projects up to 20,000 sq m was to be allowed but townships were to be banned
 - Forest diversion could be allowed with extra safeguards

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/kerala-idukki-landslide-munnar-quixplained-6558204/>

5. Which of the following acts as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations?

- A. International Court of Arbitration
- B. Permanent Court of Arbitration
- C. International Court of Justice
- D. International Criminal Court

Answer: C

Explanation:

- The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.
- It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations.
- The Court's role is to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies.
- Unlike most other organs of international organizations, the Court is **not composed of representatives** of governments. Members of the Court are **independent judges**.
- The Court is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for terms of office of nine years by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council.
- All members of the UN are **automatic** parties to the statute of the court, but this does not automatically give the ICJ jurisdiction over disputes involving them. The ICJ gets jurisdiction **only on the basis of consent of both parties**.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/jadhav-should-be-represented-by-indian-lawyer-india/article32406857.ece>