

1. Consider the following pairs:

	Currency	Meaning
1.	Hard currency	widely accepted around the world as a form of payment
2.	Hot money	short-term capital flow that exit a country quickly in times of crisis
3.	Soft currency	hyper sensitive and fluctuates frequently

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

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. None of them are correct

Answer: C

Explanation:

- Hard currency refers to money that is issued by a nation that is seen as politically and economically stable. Hard currencies are widely accepted around the world as a form of payment for goods and services and may be preferred over the domestic currency.
- Soft currency is a currency which is hyper sensitive and fluctuates frequently. Such currencies react very sharply to the political or economic situation of a country.
- Hot money refers to short-term capital flow that exit a country quickly in times of crisis.
- **Hence, all the pairs are correctly matched.**

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/how-to-pay-for-the-stimulus/article32279610.ece>

2. With reference to the Nuclear Command Authority (NCA) of India, consider the following statements.

1. It is the authority responsible for command, control and operational decisions regarding India's nuclear weapons programme.
2. The Executive Council is the sole body which can authorize the use of nuclear weapons.
3. The Executive Council is chaired by the Chief of Defence Staff.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Nuclear Command Authority (NCA) of India is the authority responsible for command, control and operational decisions regarding India's nuclear weapons programme. It was constituted in 2003.
- The Nuclear Command Authority comprises a **Political Council** and an **Executive Council**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Political Council is chaired by the **Prime Minister**. It is the sole body which can authorize the use of nuclear weapons.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Executive Council is chaired by the **National Security Advisor**. It provides inputs for decision making by the Nuclear Command Authority and executes the directives given to it by the Political Council.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/taking-nuclear-vulnerabilities-seriously/article32279584.ece>

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Borrowing from RBI becomes cheaper with increase in Repo rate.
2. Increasing Repo rate results in increasing the money supply in the market.
3. Increasing Repo rate is a sign of hawkish monetary policy stance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- Repo rate is the rate of interest which is applied by RBI to commercial banks when the latter borrows from RBI.
- Repo rate is used to control inflation.
- **Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect:** In the event of rising inflation, RBI increases the repo rate which will act as a disincentive for banks to borrow from the central bank. This ultimately reduces the money supply in the economy and thus helps in arresting inflation.
- Similarly, if it wants to make it cheaper for banks to borrow money, it reduces the repo rate.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The term hawkish is used to describe **contractionary monetary policy**. Central banks can be said to be hawkish if they tighten monetary policy by increasing interest rates or reducing the central bank's balance sheet.
- A monetary policy stance is said to be hawkish if it forecasts future interest rate increases.
- Dovish refers to the opposite. When central banks reduce interest rates or increase quantitative easing to stimulate the economy they are said to be dovish.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Reserve-Bank-of-India-keeps-repo-rate-unchanged-at-4-percent&id=396632>

4. The National Board for Wildlife is chaired by

- A. The Prime Minister
- B. Minister in charge of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- C. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
- D. Chairperson of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau

Answer: **A**

Explanation:

- The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) is constituted by the Central Government under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- The role is “advisory” in nature and advises the Central Government on framing policies and measures for conservation of wildlife in the country.
- Primary function of the Board is to promote the conservation and development of wildlife and forests. NBWL has power to review all wildlife-related matters and approve projects in and around national parks and sanctuaries.
- The National Board for Wildlife has 47 members with the **Prime Minister** in the Chair. The Minister in charge of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in the Central Government is the Vice-Chairperson.
- Recommendation of the NBWL is mandatory for alteration of the boundary of a protected area such as National Park, Wildlife sanctuary, Tiger reserve, etc.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/wildlife-nod-not-required-for-rly-projects-ministry/story-Ik4I56MXDMxeQD0q5JQhIK.html>

5. With reference to the Right to Education Act, 2009, consider the following statements.

1. The Act gives effect to Article 21A of the constitution.
2. It mandates a minimum of 25% free seats for children belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups (EWS) in private unaided schools at the entry level.

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: **C**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The 86th Constitution Amendment Act inserted Article 21A in our constitution. Article 21A states that every child between the ages of 6 to 14 years has the right to free and compulsory education. The Right to Education Act, 2009, seeks to give effect to this amendment.
- The Act makes education a fundamental right of every child between the ages of 6 and 14 and specifies minimum norms in elementary schools.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** RTE Act mandates a minimum of 25% free seats for children belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups (EWS) in private unaided schools at the entry level.

- The Right to Education Act lays down norms and standards relating to Pupil-Teacher-Ratios (number of children per teacher), classrooms, separate toilets for girls and boys, drinking water facility, number of school-working days, working hours of teachers, etc.
- To improve performances of children in schools, the Right to Education Act introduced the **Continuous Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE)** system in 2009 to ensure grade appropriate learning outcomes in schools.
- In pursuance of Section 6 of the Act, the Central RTE Rules has notified the area or limits of neighbourhood as one kilometre, within which a primary school and 3 kilometre within which an upper primary school, has to be established.

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/governance/no-smartphones-internet-access-odisha-s-rural-kids-caught-in-digital-divide-72656>