

## OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

**MCQ 03.06.2020 TO 06.06.2020**

**1. Consider the following statements about the International Space Station (ISS).**

1. It is placed in a Low Earth Orbit.
2. The ISS is solely owned by the U.S.

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 International Space Station (ISS) is the **largest single structure humans ever put into space**.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The ISS is in a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) about 400 km to 420 km above Earth's surface
- Its main construction was completed between 1998 and 2011, although the station continually evolved to include new missions and experiments.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The ISS includes contributions from 15 nations. **NASA** (United States), **Roscosmos** (Russia) and the **European Space Agency** are the major partners of the space station who contribute most of the funding; the other partners are the **Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency** and the **Canadian Space Agency**.
- The ISS serves as a microgravity and space environment research laboratory in which crew members conduct experiments in biology, human biology, physics, astronomy, meteorology, and other fields.

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- The station is divided into **two sections**, the **Russian Orbital Segment (ROS)**, which is operated by Russia, and the **United States Orbital Segment (USOS)**, which is shared by many nations.

<https://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/5-8/features/nasa-knows/what-is-the-iss-58.html>

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/spacex-crew-dragon-docks-with-international-space-station/article31717211.ece>

## 2. Which one of the following countries is not a member of the Group of Seven (G7)?

- A. United States
- B. Britain
- C. Japan
- D. Russia

Answer: **D**

### Explanation:

- The Group of Seven (G7) is a collective of seven of the world's most industrialized and developed economies. Their political leaders come together annually to discuss important global economic, political, social and security issues.
- The G7 member countries are the **United States, Britain, France, Japan, Germany, Italy, and Canada.**
- Russia belonged to the forum from 1998 through 2014, when the bloc was known as the G8, but was suspended following its annexation of Crimea.
- **India is not a member** of the G-7 grouping.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/trump-postpones-g7-summit-seeks-to-expand-invitation-list/article31714067.ece>

<https://time.com/5657375/what-is-g7/>

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3. Consider the following statements about the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee (MGNREGA) Scheme.

1. The scheme is restricted only to Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.
2. The scheme is available in both rural and urban areas.
3. One-third of the stipulated workforce must be women.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: **B**

**Explanation:**

- The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme aims to provide **100 days of work to any rural household** willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage. **Hence, statements 1 and 2 are incorrect.**
- The act makes it obligatory for the State to give rural households work on demand. In case such employment is not provided within 15 days of registration, the applicant becomes eligible for an **unemployment allowance.**
- The **Ministry of Rural Development (MRD)**, is monitoring the entire implementation of this scheme in association with state governments.
- **Statement 3 is correct: One-third** of the stipulated workforce must be women.
- The employment will be provided **within a radius of 5 km:** if it is above 5 km extra wage will be paid.
- The wages are revised according to the **Consumer Price Index-Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL).**

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- Work site facilities such as crèche, drinking water, shade have to be provided.
- **Social Audit has to be done by the Gram Sabha**

[https://nrega.nic.in/Circular\\_Archive/archive/nrega\\_doc\\_FAQs.pdf](https://nrega.nic.in/Circular_Archive/archive/nrega_doc_FAQs.pdf)

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/coronavirus-lockdown-many-migrant-workers-struggle-to-find-job-under-mnrega/article31717341.ece>

#### 4. Consider the statements about Jal Jeevan Mission

1. It is an initiative of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.
2. The chief objective of the Mission is to provide Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every household by 2024.

**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

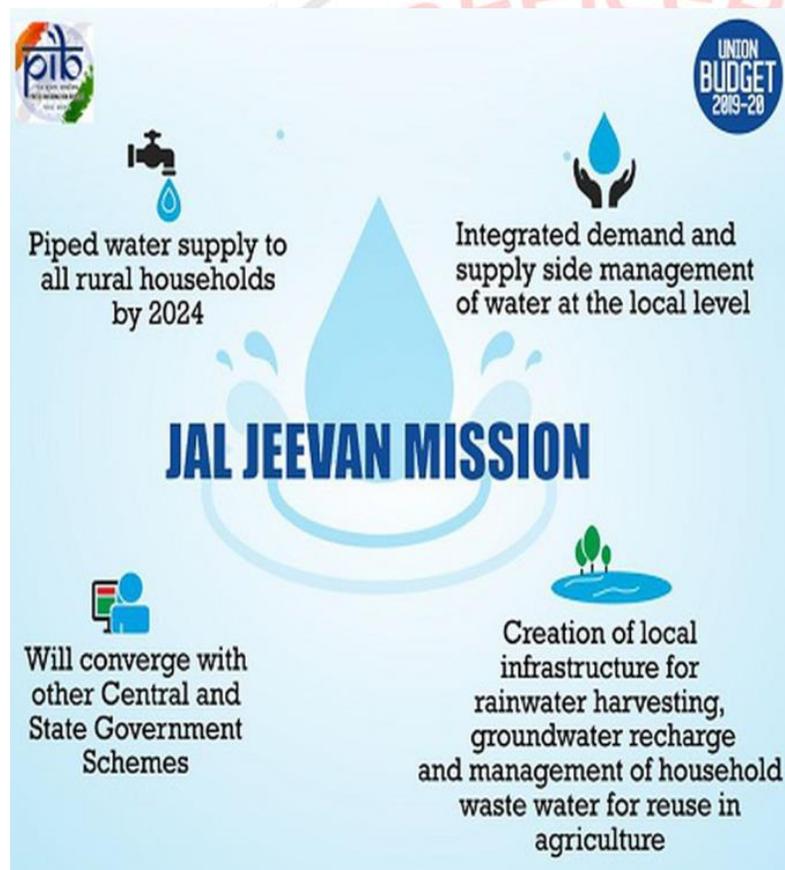
#### Jal Jeevan Mission

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The chief objective of the Mission is to provide Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to **every rural household by 2024** (rural households only, not every household).
- **Statement 1 is correct:** This Mission is under the **Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.**

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- The mission will focus on integrated demand and supply side management of water at the local level, including creation of local infrastructure for source sustainability like rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household wastewater for reuse in agriculture.
- The fund sharing pattern is 90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States; 50:50 for other States and 100% for UTs.



### Why in News?

- The central government has approved Rs 1,407 crore for implementation of Jal jeevan mission in Assam during the year 2020-21.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1628125>

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1595556>

**5. The Vande Bharat Mission is related to**

- A. Drive towards 90% full immunization coverage of India and sustain the same by year 2020.
- B. To provide information, commodities and services to meet the diverse needs of adolescents.
- C. Evacuation of stranded Indians from other countries due to the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdown.
- D. Initiative aimed at providing social security benefits to informal sector workers.

Answer: C

**Explanation:**

**Vande Bharat Mission**

- It is India's major mission to **evacuate stranded Indians from other countries** due to the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdown.
- The Mission, which is focused on the Gulf and the South Asian regions, is expected to involve 64 flights, bringing back 15,000 nationals from different parts of the world through 14 Indian airports.

**Why in News?**

- The Ministry of External Affairs furnished the latest details of the Vande Bharat mission recently.
- **Option A** is related to Mission Indradhanush.
- **Option B** is related to Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=14-special-flight-to-bring-home-over-2000-Indians-from-Gulf-countries-under-Vande-Bharat-Mission&id=390131>

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#### 6. Consider the following statements about the Minimum Support Prices (MSP).

1. It is announced every year before the sowing season.
2. It is approved by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

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:

- Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices.
- The minimum support prices are a **guaranteed price for their produce** from the Government. The major objectives are to **support the farmers from distress sales** and to procure food grains for public distribution.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** MSP is announced every year before the sowing season to provide incentives to farmers for raising the production of the crops.
- **Statement 2 is not correct:** It is approved by the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

#### About CACP

- The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) is an attached office of the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.
- It came into existence in January 1965.

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- It is mandated to **recommend minimum support prices** to incentivize the cultivators to adopt modern technology, and raise productivity and overall grain production in line with the emerging demand patterns in the country.
- As of now, CACP recommends MSPs of **23 commodities**, which comprise **7 cereals** (paddy, wheat, maize, sorghum, pearl millet, barley and ragi), **5 pulses** (gram, tur, moong, urad, lentil), **7 oilseeds** (groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, soyabean, seasmum, sunflower, safflower, niger seed), and **4 commercial crops** (copra, sugarcane, cotton and raw jute).

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/cabinet-approves-msp-for-14-kharif-crops/article31722966.ece>

#### 7. With reference to credit rating agencies, consider the following statements:

1. They are independent companies who evaluate the financial condition of issuers of debt instruments.
2. In India, credit rating agencies are regulated by the RBI.
3. Most of the credit rating agencies in India follow the 'investor pays' model.

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:** Credit rating agencies are independent companies who evaluates the financial condition of issuers of debt instruments and then assigns a rating that reflects its assessment of the issuer's ability to make the debt payments.

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- Potential investors, customers, employees and business partners rely upon the data and objective analysis of credit rating agencies in determining the overall strength and stability of a company.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** In India, credit rating agencies are regulated by the SEBI.

### Issues with CRA structure in India

- CRAs in India follow the '**issuer pays model**', under which the payment for the ratings is provided by the corporate organisation whose credit service capability is assessed. It leads to a conflict of interest scenario and results in compromising the quality of analysis. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- Another major issue in the credit rating structure is the phenomenon of '**rating shopping**', where the paying issuer can pressurise a CRA to award favourable ratings on the threat of denying future business.
- SEBI has recently introduced enhanced disclosure guidelines for CRAs.
- As per the new guidelines, CRAs will now have to disclose the probability of default for the instruments they rate and also clearly state the sensitive factors that could impact the credit worthiness of the entity.
- Further, the rating agencies will have to adopt a standardised terminology to disclose liquidity indicators while rating an instrument.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/moodys-downgrades-indias-rating-to-baa3/article31724316.ece>

8. **With reference to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), consider the following statements.**

1. It is an agency under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

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2. IMD has the responsibility for forecasting, naming and distribution of warnings for tropical cyclones in the Northern Indian Ocean region, including the Malacca Straits, the Bay of Bengal, the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf.

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:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** India Meteorological Department (IMD) is an agency under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** of the Government of India. It is the principal government agency in all matters relating to meteorology, seismology and allied subjects.

- Established in 1875, IMD is headquartered in Delhi and operates hundreds of observation stations across India and Antarctica.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** IMD is also one of the six Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres of the World Meteorological Organization. It has the responsibility for forecasting, naming and distribution of warnings for tropical cyclones in the Northern Indian Ocean region, including the Malacca Straits, the Bay of Bengal, the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf.

- Mandates of IMD

- To take meteorological observations and to provide current and forecast meteorological information for optimum operation of weather-sensitive activities like agriculture, irrigation, shipping, aviation, offshore oil explorations, etc.

- To warn against severe weather phenomena like tropical cyclones, norwesters, dust storms, heavy rains and snow, cold and heat waves, etc., which cause destruction of life and property.

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- To provide meteorological statistics required for agriculture, water resource management, industries, oil exploration and other nation-building activities.
- To conduct and promote research in meteorology and allied disciplines.
- To detect and locate earthquakes and to evaluate seismicity in different parts of the country for development projects.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1628295>

#### 9. “Hydroxychloroquine” sometimes seen in the news in the context of

- A. Antimalarial drug currently in clinical trial to treat SARS-CoV-2 infection
- B. Recently developed vaccine to prevent ebola virus
- C. Popular vaccine to prevent Kyasanur Forest Disease
- D. Chemical substance in commonly used pesticides in India

Answer: A

#### Explanation:

- Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) is an antimalarial drug similar to chloroquine, one of the oldest and best-known anti-malarial drugs.
- It can be bought over the counter and is fairly inexpensive.

Mechanism of action:

- Hydroxychloroquine is an interferon blocker, and works by diminishing the immune system's response to a viral infection.
- This property of HCQ makes it useful in autoimmune disorders such as lupus and rheumatoid arthritis.

Hydroxychloroquine and COVID-19:

- A hyperactive response by the immune system is said to be primarily responsible for pneumonia, also a fallout of a severe SARS-CoV-2 infection.

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- Since it has the ability to diminish the immune system's response to a viral infection it seems to be effective in case of COVID-19 patients.
- The drug has shown to have shortened the time to clinical recovery of COVID-19 patients.
- However, many of these are in small lab controlled testing and no proper human trials have been conducted to determine its efficacy.
- A study in France enrolling 80 patients and a study in Wuhan, the epicentre of outbreak, showed that Hydroxychloroquine alone or in combination with azithromycin appeared to reduce virus levels quicker.
- It's primarily these results that have prompted drug regulators in several countries including India to approve the drug in restricted settings.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/rest-of-world/hydroxychloroquine-a-drug-dividing-the-world/articleshow/76134672.cms>

#### 10. The Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) facility was developed by

- A. National Securities Depository Limited
- B. National Payment Corporation of India
- C. Reserve Bank of India
- D. Atal innovation centre

Answer: **B**

#### Explanation:

- Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) is an initiative to enable fast, secure, reliable cashless payments through mobile phones.
- BHIM is based on **Unified Payment Interface (UPI)** to **facilitate e-payments** directly through banks.
- It is interoperable with other Unified Payment Interface (UPI) applications, and bank accounts.

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- Unified Payment Interface (UPI) is an instant payment system **built over the IMPS infrastructure** and allows users to instantly transfer money between any two bank accounts.
- BHIM is developed by the **National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI)**.
- Money can be sent using a Virtual Payment Address (VPA), Mobile number, Account Number & IFSC, Aadhaar Number or QR code.

<https://tech.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/mobile/bhim-app-data-breach-exposes-data-of-over-7-million-users-report/76131461>

### 11. With reference to the World Health Assembly, consider the following statements.

1. It is the decision-making body of the World Health Organization.
2. Its main functions are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget.

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 World Health Assembly is the **decision-making body of WHO**. It is attended by delegations from all WHO Member States.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget.
- The Health Assembly is held annually in **Geneva**, Switzerland.

- The 73rd World Health Assembly was held recently.
- The assembly unanimously adopted a resolution to conduct an **independent probe** into the World Health Organization's COVID-19 response.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/seizing-the-moment-at-the-who/article31733278.ece>

**12. The Global Economic Prospects report is released by**

- A. World Bank
- B. International Monetary Fund
- C. World Economic Forum
- D. World Trade Organization

Answer: A

**Explanation:**

- Recently, the **World Bank** has released its Global Economic Prospects (GEP) June 2020 report.

**Highlights of the Report**

- The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to have severe short and long term effects on economic growth.
- Sixty million people could be pushed into extreme poverty this year. EMDEs (Emerging Market and Developing Economies) are especially vulnerable.
- The scope and speed with which the COVID-19 pandemic and economic shutdowns have devastated the poor around the world are unprecedented in modern times. Current estimates show that 60 million people could be pushed into extreme poverty in 2020. These estimates are likely to rise further, with the reopening of advanced economies the primary determinant.
- The report said EMDEs face health crises, restrictions and external shocks like falling trade, tourism and commodity prices, as well as capital outflows. These countries are expected to have a 3-8% output loss in the short term, based on studies of previous pandemics.

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<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/coronavirus-60-million-could-be-pushed-into-extreme-poverty-in-2020-world-bank-president/article31733219.ece>

**13. In which one of the following places is the Changpa tribe found?**

- A. Nilgiri hills
- B. Ladakh
- C. Rajmahal Hills
- D. Lakshadweep

Answer: **B**

**Explanation:**

- The Changpa tribe live in the remote, trans-Himalayan Changthan region of **Ladakh**, roughly 16,000-plus feet above sea level.
- They are a mostly shepherding community famous for their world-class Pashmina wool-bearing goats.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/uneasy-frontier-robs-ladakhs-herders-of-pastures/article31734212.ece>

**14. With reference to the Ayushman Bharat programme, consider the following statements.**

1. It envisages 1.5 lakh Health and Wellness Centres to provide comprehensive secondary & tertiary hospitalization services to the population.
2. The insurance component can be availed from any public/private hospitals across the country.
3. The insurance component will be based on the deprivation and occupational criteria of the Socio Economic Caste Census for rural and urban areas respectively.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only

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

Answer: **B**

**Explanation:**

- Ayushman Bharat is an umbrella of two major health initiatives, namely **Health and Wellness Centres** and **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)**.

**Health and Wellness Centres**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Under this 1.5 lakh existing sub centres will bring the health care system closer to the homes of people in the form of Health and wellness centres to provide comprehensive **primary health care** to the population.

**Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana**

- PMJAY will provide health cover to 10.74 crore poor & vulnerable families upto ` 5 lakh per family per year for **secondary & tertiary hospitalization**.
- To ensure that nobody is left out (especially women, children and elderly) there will be **no cap on family size** and age in the scheme.
- The benefit cover will also include pre and post-hospitalisation expenses.
- A defined transport allowance per hospitalization will also be paid to the beneficiary.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country and a beneficiary covered under the scheme will be allowed to take cashless benefits from any public/**private empanelled hospitals** across the country.

**Eligibility criteria**

- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Scheme has been rolled out based on the deprivation and occupational criteria of the **Socio Economic Caste Census** for rural and urban areas respectively.

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#### Implementation Strategy

- At the national level to manage, a **National Health Authority** has been set up. It will be chaired by the Minister of Health & Family Welfare which will enable the decision making at a faster pace, required for smooth implementation of the scheme.
- States/ UTs are advised to implement the scheme by a dedicated entity called State Health Agency (SHA).

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Delhi-Police-busts-a-fraud-of-running-fake-Ayushman-Bharat-Yojana-website&id=390240>

#### 15. With reference to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), consider the following statements.

1. There are a total of ten members in the UNSC including five permanent members.
2. Only the five permanent members of the UNSC enjoy the veto power.
3. Currently, India is one of the non-permanent members of the UNSC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: **B**

#### Explanation:

- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was established in 1946 as one of the six principal organs of the UN. It is generally viewed as the apex of the UN system.
- It is responsible for the maintenance **of international peace and security**.

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- Its powers include the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the establishment of **international sanctions**, and the authorization of military action through Security Council resolutions.

- It is the only UN body with the authority to issue **binding resolutions** to member states.

#### Membership

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** UNSC consists of 15 Members (including 5 permanent members- (P-5) United States, Russia, China, United Kingdom and France) and each member has one vote.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The UN Charter affords the **veto power only to the five permanent members** of the UNSC.

- These permanent members can veto any substantive Security Council resolutions, including those on the admission of new member states.

- The Security Council also has 10 non-permanent members, elected on a regional basis. Each year the 193-member UN General Assembly (UNGA) elects five non-permanent members for a two-year term.

- The body's presidency rotates monthly among its members.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The present composition of ten non-permanent members (with end of term year):

- Belgium (2020)

- Dominican Republic (2020)

- Estonia (2021)

- Germany (2020)

- Indonesia (2020)

- Niger (2021)

- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (2021)

- South Africa (2020)

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- Tunisia (2021)
- Viet Nam (2021)

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Pakistan-remains-epi-center-of-international-terrorism%2c-reiterates-India-citing-UN-Security-Council-report&id=390296>

### 16. Consider the following statements about the Essential Commodities Act (ECA).

1. It was enacted to curb hoarding and black marketing of essential commodities.
2. The act covers agricultural commodities only.
3. The act empowers both the Central and state governments to control production, supply and distribution of certain commodities in view of rising prices.

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: C

#### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Essential Commodities Act (ECA) was enacted by the Central Government in 1955 to control and regulate trade and prices of commodities declared essential under the Act.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Act empowers the Central and state governments concurrently to control production, supply and distribution of certain commodities in view of rising prices.
- The measures that can be taken under the provisions of the Act include, among others, licensing, distribution and imposing stock limits. The governments also have the power to fix price limits, and selling the particular commodities above the limit will attract penalties.

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- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Some of the major commodities that are covered under the act:
  - Petroleum and its products
  - Food stuff, including edible oil and seeds, vanaspati, pulses, sugarcane
  - Drugs- prices of essential drugs are still controlled by the DPCO
  - Fertilisers

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved an amendment to the Essential Commodities Act, removing cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes from the list of essential commodities.
- The amendment will be made effective immediately via an ordinance.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/cabinet-nod-for-amendment-to-essential-commodities-act-two-ordinances-to-promote-barrier-free-trade/article31740277.ece>

#### 17. With reference to the territory of Hong Kong, consider the following statements.

1. It was a former French colony returned to the People's Republic of China in 1997.
2. At present, Hong Kong is a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China.

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**

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#### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** 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.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** 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.

#### Why in News?

- Recently, the Government of Nepal said that it considers Hong Kong to be an integral part of China and Nepal believes in non-interference in the internal affairs of any country.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/hong-kong-belongs-to-china-nepal/article31741966.ece>

18. Which of the following are the conditions favourable for the formation and intensification of tropical storms?

1. Large sea surface with temperature higher than  $27^{\circ}\text{C}$
2. Absence of the Coriolis force
3. Small variations in the vertical wind speed
4. A pre-existing weak low-pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation
5. Upper divergence above the sea level system

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: **B**

**Explanation:**

• The conditions favourable for the formation and intensification of tropical storms are:

- (i) Large sea surface with temperature higher than  $27^{\circ}\text{C}$ ;
- (ii) **Presence of the Coriolis force;**
- (iii) Small variations in the vertical wind speed;
- (iv) A pre-existing weak low-pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation;
- (v) Upper divergence above the sea level system

<http://www.ncert.nic.in/ncerts/l/kegy210.pdf>

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/with-winds-at-90-100-km-hr-centre-of-cyclone-nisarga-crosses-alibag-6440704/>

19. Consider the following statements about the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India.

1. MSMEs contribute around 30% of GDP and 50% of Indian Exports.
2. According to the new classification of MSMEs, MSMEs will be categorised based only on the investment in machinery or equipment.
3. The criteria for manufacturing units and service units will be different for the classification of MSMEs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** MSMEs contribute 29.7% of GDP and 49.66% of Indian Exports.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Recently, the government has changed the basic definition of MSME and also **end the difference between the manufacturing and services sector**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Till now, MSMEs are categorised based only on the investment in machinery or equipment. The new classification has **raised the investment limit** and included **annual turnover** as an additional criteria.
  - Accordingly, units having investment less than Rs 1 crore and turnover less than Rs 5 crore will be called Micro units.
  - Investment between Rs 1 and Rs 10 crore and turnover of Rs 5 crore to Rs 50 crore will be categorised as Small Enterprises.

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○ Units having investment between Rs 10 crore but up to Rs 50 crore and turnover between Rs 50 crore and Rs 250 crore will now be known as Medium Enterprises.

#### Rationale for the move

- It has been a long-standing demand from industry to hike the investment limits, as with inflation, units often cross the threshold that will bring them benefits. To prevent this, they either run their operations at a reduced level or incorporate multiple units so that turnover is distributed in a way that they remain within the threshold that will give them the benefits.
- With the revised definitions of MSMEs, they will not have to worry about growing their size and can still avail benefits.

<https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1594475>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/sme-sector/msmes-to-be-classified-based-on-new-criteria-from-july/articleshow/76175735.cms>

**20. With reference to the Inner Line Permit (ILP), which one of the following statements is not correct?**

- A. ILP is an official travel document that allows Indian citizens to stay in an area under the ILP system to protect the interests of the indigenous population.
- B. The ILP is issued by the concerned state government.
- C. The concept originates from the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act (BEFR), 1873.
- D. The document is currently required by visitors to Jammu & Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram.

Answer: **D**

#### Explanation:

- **Statement A is correct:** The Inner Line Permit (ILP) is an official travel document that allows Indian citizens to stay in an area under the ILP system.

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- **Statement D is incorrect:** The document is currently required by visitors to **Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram.**
- **Statement B is correct:** The ILP is issued by the concerned state government. The permits issued are mostly of different kinds, provided separately for tourists, tenants and for other purposes.
- The main objective of the ILP system is to prevent settlement of other Indian nationals in the notified states in order to **protect the indigenous population.** It also offers protection for the locals with regards to lands, jobs and other facilities.

### History of ILP

- **Statement C is correct:** Under the **Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act, 1873**, the British framed regulations restricting the entry and regulating the stay of outsiders in designated areas.
- This was to protect the Crown's own commercial interests by preventing "British subjects" (Indians) from trading within these regions.
- In 1950, the Indian government replaced "British subjects" with "Citizen of India". This was to address local concerns about protecting the interests of the indigenous people from outsiders belonging to other Indian states.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/inner-line-permit-what-is-its-cao-context-6441390/>