

1. Consider the following statements about Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API)

- 1) Active pharmaceutical ingredient (API), is the term used to refer to the biologically active component of a drug product
- 2) The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has recently added the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) of paracetamol in the 'restricted for export' list.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has removed the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) of paracetamol (common fever medication) **out of the 'restricted for export' list**. It means the export of the API of paracetamol from the country will be resumed.
- More than two months ago, the raw material of the paracetamol as well as 12 other APIs and formulations made from them were not allowed to be exported by the government amid the COVID-19 outbreak, **fears of disruption in supplies from China and a drug shortage**.
- Paracetamol API was the lone item that remained in the list when the government in April first permitted export of the other 12 APIs and their formulations and thereafter, by another notification, also allowed export of formulations made from Paracetamol.

What are active pharmaceutical ingredients?

- APIs refer to the biologically active component of a drug product.
- Such substances are intended to furnish pharmacological activity or other direct effect in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease or to affect the structure or function of the body.
- Active pharmaceutical ingredient (API), is the term used to refer to the **biologically active component** of a drug product (e.g. tablet, capsule).
- Drug products are usually composed of several components.
- The aforementioned API is the primary ingredient. Other ingredients are commonly known as "excipients."

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- The procedure for optimizing and compositing this mixture of components used in the drug is known as "**formulation**".

### About DGFT

- The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) organisation is an attached office of the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**. It is headquartered in New Delhi.
- This Directorate is responsible for formulating and implementing the **Foreign Trade Policy** with the main objective of promoting India's exports.

### Why in the news?

With an objective to attain self-reliance and reduce import dependence in these critical Bulk Drugs - Key Starting Materials (KSMs)/ Drug Intermediates and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) in the country, the Department of Pharmaceuticals had launched a **Production Linked Incentive (PLI)** Scheme for promotion of their domestic manufacturing by setting up greenfield plants.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1691185>

### 2. Consider the following pairs

#### Mountain passes

#### Located in

- |             |   |                   |
|-------------|---|-------------------|
| 1. Lipulekh | - | Uttarakhand       |
| 2. Nathu La | - | Arunachal Pradesh |
| 3. Zoji La  | - | Nagaland          |

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

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 1 only
- c) 2 and 3 only

d) 1 and 2 only

**Ans: B**

**Explanation**

**Lipulekh**

- Lipulekh is a **Himalayan pass** on the border between **India's Uttarakhand state** and the Tibet region of China, near their trijunction with Nepal.
- Nepal has ongoing claims to the southern side of the pass, called **Kalapani territory**, which is controlled by India.
- The pass is near the **Chinese trading town of Taklakot (Purang)** in Tibet and used since ancient times by traders, mendicants and pilgrims transiting between India and Tibet.

**Nathu La**

- Nathu La is a mountain pass which connects the **Indian state of Sikkim with China's Tibet Autonomous Region**.
- On the Indian side, the pass is 54 km east of Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim. Only citizens of India can visit the pass, and then only after obtaining a permit in Gangtok.
- **Nathu La is one of the three open trading border posts between China and India**; the others are **Shipkila in Himachal Pradesh** and Lipulekh at the trisection point of Uttarakhand-India, Nepal and China.

**Zoji La**

- Zoji La is a high mountain pass in the Himalayas in the **Indian union territory of Ladakh**. Located in the Drass, the pass **connects the Kashmir Valley to its west** with the Drass and Suru valleys to its northeast and the Indus valley further east.
- **The National Highway 1 between Srinagar and Leh** in the western section of the Himalayan mountain range traverses the pass

**3. Consider the following about a river:**

- 1.It is the largest tributary of the Indus.
- 2.This is also known as 'Chandrabhaga'.
- 3.It is formed by joining of two streams at Tandi near Keylong.

**Which of the following rivers is best described by the above features?**

- a) Jhelum
- b) Ravi
- c) Chenab
- d) Satluj

**Answer : C**

**Explanation :**

- Chenab is the largest tributary of the Indus.
- It forms in the upper Himalayas in the Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh, India, and flows through the Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir into the plains of Punjab, Pakistan.
- The waters of the Chenab are allocated to Pakistan under the terms of the Indus Waters Treaty.
- It is also known as Chandrabhaga because the two streams Chandra and Bhaga meet at Keylong.

**Why in the news?**

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for 850 MegaWatt (MW) **Ratle hydropower project on Chenab river** in Jammu and Kashmir.

4. 'National career service' scheme sometimes seen in the news is related to which of the following?

- a) It works towards bridging the gap between job-seekers and employers based on the guidelines framed by Ministry of human resource and development
- b) It is an Initiative of Ministry of Defense to enhance job opportunities for women in armed forces
- c) An Initiative by Union Labour and Employment Ministry which aims to provide a host of career-related services
- d) Instituted by skill development ministry, it calls for measurable commitments from leading companies to train, reskill and upskill the current and future workforce

Ans: C

**Explanation**

**NCS (National Career Service)**

- It is one of the mission mode projects under the **umbrella of E-Governance Plan**.
- It works towards **bridging the gap between job-seekers and employers**, candidates seeking training and career guidance and **agencies providing training and career counselling** by transforming the National Employment Service.
- NCS provides a **host of career-related services such as dynamic job matching**, career counselling, job notifications, vocational guidance, information on skill development courses, internships and alike
- The focus areas for the **National Career Service** platform are listed below:
  - Ø **Enhancing career** and employment opportunities.
  - Ø **Counselling and guidance** for career development.
  - Ø Focusing on **decent employment**
  - Ø Enhancing female labour force participation.
  - Ø **Encouraging entrepreneurial** endeavours

**5. Consider the following islands**

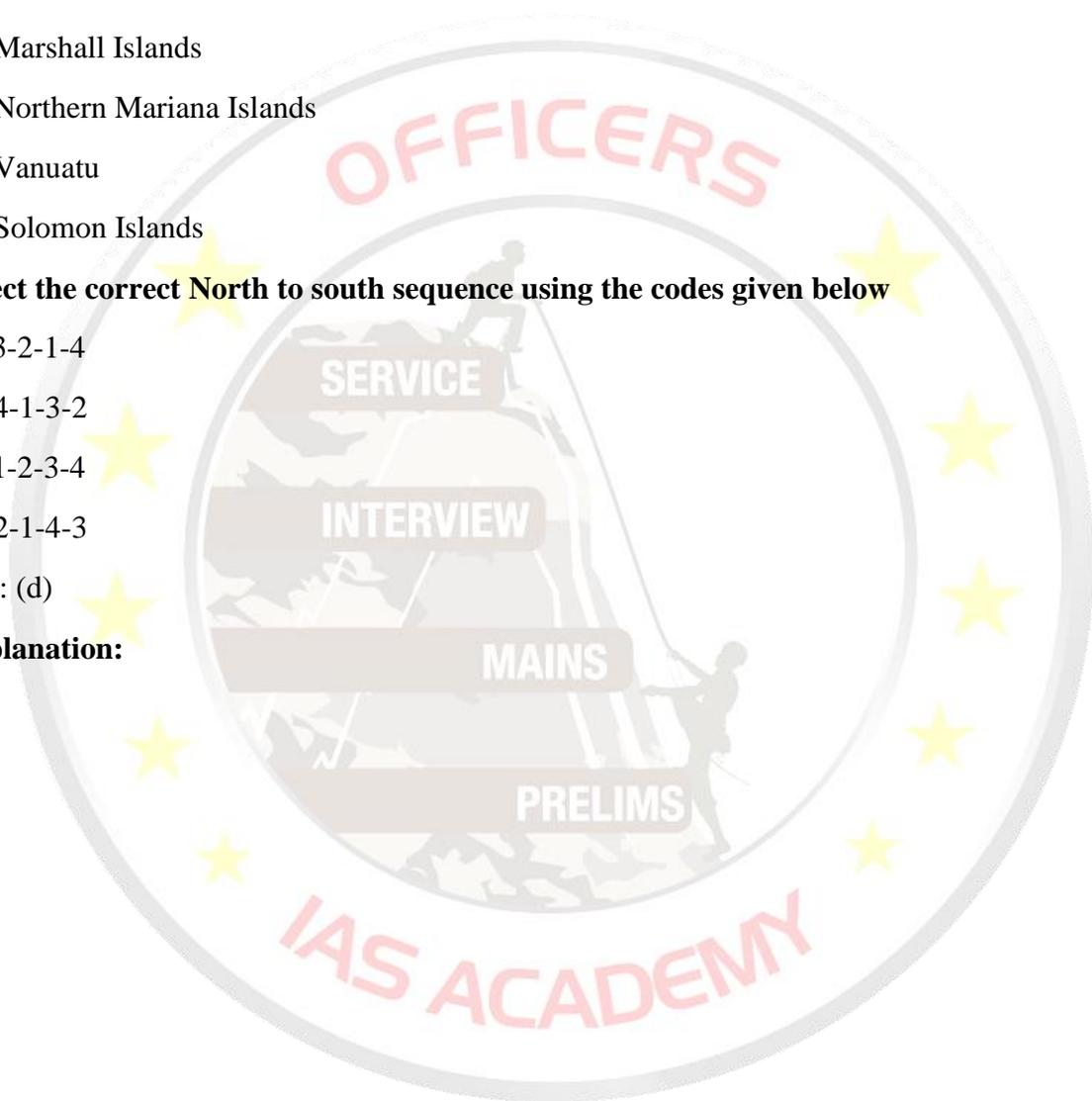
- (1) Marshall Islands
- (2) Northern Mariana Islands
- (3) Vanuatu
- (4) Solomon Islands

**Select the correct North to south sequence using the codes given below**

- (a) 3-2-1-4
- (b) 4-1-3-2
- (c) 1-2-3-4
- (d) 2-1-4-3

Ans: (d)

**Explanation:**



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