

# OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

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Daily MCQs: 17-09-2024

**1. Galathea National Park and Campbell Bay National Park are located in which of the following biosphere reserves?**

- A. Great Nicobar Biosphere reserve
- B. Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve
- C. Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve
- D. Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve

**2. Consider the following statements about the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).**

- 1. At present, NCBC is accorded statutory status by the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 2018.
- 2. The Commission has all the powers of a civil court while trying a suit.
- 3. It is the duty of the commission to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the socially and educationally backward classes.

**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

**3. Which of the following countries share their borders with the Caspian Sea?**

- 1. Kazakhstan
- 2. Uzbekistan
- 3. Turkmenistan
- 4. Azerbaijan

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

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

**4. Consider the following statements about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.**

- 1. It sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected.
- 2. India is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2

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D. Neither 1 nor 2

### 5. Consider the following statements about the 'Classical' language status

1. There must be high antiquity of its early texts or recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years
2. The literary tradition of the classical language must be original and not borrowed from another speech community
3. Currently, twelve languages enjoy the 'Classical' status

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

**Solutions:**

**1. Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Great Nicobar is the **southernmost island of the Nicobar Islands** Archipelago. The Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve harbors a wide spectrum of ecosystems comprising **tropical wet evergreen forests, mountain ranges** reaching a height of 642 m above sea level, and coastal plains.
- It incorporates two National parks of India, the larger **Campbell Bay National Park** on the northern part of the island, and **Galathea National Park** in the southern interior.
- The region is noted for its rich biodiversity. It houses 650 species of angiosperms, ferns, gymnosperms, bryophytes and lichens among others. The tract is **rich in plant diversity** and fosters a number of **rare and endemic species**.
- The region also harbors a large number of **endemic and endangered species** of fauna. Of these, the well-known **Crab-eating Macaque, Nicobar Tree Shrew, Dugong, Nicobar Megapode, Serpent Eagle, saltwater crocodile, marine turtles and Reticulated Python** are endemic and/or endangered.
- In year 2013 it was **included in the list of Man and Biosphere program of UNESCO** to promote sustainable development based on local community effort and sound science
- The **Mongoloid Shompen Tribe**, about 200 in number live in the forests of the biosphere reserve particularly along the rivers and streams. They are **hunters and food gatherers**, dependent on forest and marine resources for sustenance.
- Another Mongoloid Tribe, **Nicobarese** about 300 in number used to live in settlements along the west coast. After the tsunami in 2004, which devastated their settlement on the western coast, they were **relocated to Afra Bay in the North Coast** and Campbell Bay. They survive on fish caught from the sea.

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### 2. Answer: B

#### Explanation

- The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) was initially constituted by the Central Govt by The National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993 and so far the Commission had been reconstituted 7 times up to 2016. The Central Govt has repealed The National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993 w.e.f 15.8.2018.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The present Commission (8th) has been accorded **Constitutional Status** and constituted through **“The Constitution (One Hundred and Second Amendment) Act, 2018” Act**, whereby **Article 338B** has been inserted, forming a Commission for the socially and educationally backward classes to be known as NCBC.
- The Commission consists of a **Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and three other Members** in the rank & pay of Secretary to the Govt of India and their condition of service and tenure of office has been notified by the Central government.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Commission has all the powers of a civil court while trying a suit.
- NCBC has been assigned duties under Section (5) of The Constitution (One Hundred And Second Amendment) Act, 2018 which are as follows:
- It shall be the duty of the Commission—
  - **Statement 3 is correct: to investigate and monitor all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the socially and educationally backward classes under this Constitution or under any other law for the time being in force or under any order of the Government and to evaluate the working of such safeguards;**
  - to inquire into specific complaints with respect to the deprivation of rights and safeguards of the socially and educationally backward classes;
  - to participate and advise on the socio-economic development of the socially and educationally backward classes and to evaluate the progress of their development under the Union and any State;
  - to present to the President, annually and at such other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of those safeguards;
  - to make in such reports the recommendations as to the measures that should be taken by the Union or any State for the effective implementation of those safeguards and other measures for the protection, welfare and socio-economic development of the socially and educationally backward classes; and
  - to discharge such other functions in relation to the protection, welfare and development and advancement of the socially and educationally backward classes as the President may, subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament, by rule specify.

### 3. Answer: A

#### Explanation

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4. Answer: C

### Explanation

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, is a historic document which outlined the rights and freedoms everyone is entitled to. It was the **first international agreement on the basic principles of human rights**.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris in 1948 as a common standard of achievement for all people and all nations.
- It sets out fundamental human rights to be universally protected. The UDHR is widely recognized as having inspired, and paved the way for, the adoption of more than seventy human rights treaties, applied today on a permanent basis at global and regional levels.

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- **Statement 2 is correct:** Nearly every state in the world has accepted the Declaration. **India** is also a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

### 5. Answer: A

#### Explanation

- A classical language in India is defined as a language with a high degree of antiquity, a rich and original literary heritage, and a significant impact on the cultural and intellectual development of the region.

#### Criteria for declaring a language as 'Classical' in India

- The guidelines for declaring a language as 'Classical' are:
  - **High antiquity** of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years;
  - A **body of ancient literature/texts**, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers;
  - The **literary tradition be original** and not borrowed from another speech community;
  - The classical language and literature being **distinct from modern**, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

#### How are the Classical languages promoted?

- Two major **annual international awards** for scholars of eminence in classical Indian languages;
- A **Centre of Excellence** for studies in Classical Languages;
- The University Grants Commission is requested to create a certain number of **Professional Chairs** for the Classical Languages so declared.

#### Current status

- At present, **six languages** enjoy the 'Classical' status:
  - Tamil (declared in 2004),
  - Sanskrit (2005),
  - Kannada (2008),
  - Telugu (2008),
  - Malayalam (2013), and
  - Odia (2014).