# March 14, 2017

# Q.1) 'Operation Searchlight' refers to

- a) A military operation carried out by the Pakistan Army to curb the Bengali nationalist movement in the erstwhile East Pakistan in March 1971
- b) Operations by the Indian Peace Keeping Force to take control of Jaffna from the LTTE in late 1987 to enforce the disarmament of the LTTE as a part of the Indo-Sri Lankan Accord
- c) India's Army-led rescue and relief mission in quake-hit Nepal
- d) A cross-border counter-insurgency raid in Myanmar

# Q.1) Solution (a)

Bangladesh's unanimously adopted a resolution declaring March 25 as Genocide Day, in remembrance of the atrocities carried out by the Pakistani Army in the night of March 25, 1971.

Operation Searchlight was a planned military operation carried out by the Pakistan Army to curb the Bengali nationalist movement in the erstwhile East Pakistan in March 1971, which the Pakistani state justified on the basis of anti-Bihari violence by Bengalis in early March. Ordered by the central government in West Pakistan, this was seen as the sequel to "Operation Blitz" which had been launched in November 1970. The original plan envisioned taking control of the major cities on 26 March, and then eliminating all opposition, political or military, within one month.

In News - <u>http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/bangladesh-declares-march-25-as-genocide-day/article17453202.ece</u>

# Q.2) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is the nodal Ministry of the Government for the Law of the Sea-related issues.
- 2. The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea is an independent judicial body established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to adjudicate disputes arising out of the interpretation and application of the Convention.
- 3. The purpose of the Commission on Legal Continental Shelf (CLCS) is to facilitate the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the Convention) in respect of the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles (M) from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured

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#### Select the correct statements

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

# Q.2) Solution (d)

The purpose of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (the Commission or CLCS) is to facilitate the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the Convention) in respect of the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles (M) from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured. Under the Convention, the coastal State shall establish the outer limits of its continental shelf where it extends beyond 200 M on the basis of the recommendation of the Commission. The Commission shall make recommendations to coastal States on matters related to the establishment of those limits; its recommendations and actions shall not prejudice matters relating to the delimitation of boundaries between States with opposite or adjacent coasts.

India's would not have a member to the 21-person body, called Commission on Legal Continental Shelf (CLCS) and part of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

The CLCS has a five-year tenure and elections are due in June for the 2017-2022 term. Not having an Indian in this 21-member group would mean that China and Pakistan would likely "grab" two of the five seats allotted to the so-called Asia-Pacific group

The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea is an independent judicial body established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to adjudicate disputes arising out of the interpretation and application of the Convention. The Tribunal is composed of 21 independent members, elected from among persons enjoying the highest reputation for fairness and integrity and of recognized competence in the field of the law of the sea.

The MoES is the nodal Ministry of the Government for the Law of the Sea-related issues.

In News - <u>http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-to-lose-presence-on-un-</u> <u>scientific-panel/article17453348.ece</u>

Q.3) Which of the following countries are members of Uniting for Consensus (UfC)

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- 1. Italy
- 2. Pakistan
- 3. Argentina
- 4. Spain

### Select the correct code

- a) 1, 3 and 4
- b) 1, 2 and 4
- c) 1 and 2
- d) All of the above

# Q.3) Solution (d)

Uniting for Consensus (UfC) is a movement, nicknamed the Coffee Club, that developed in the 1990s in opposition to the possible expansion of permanent seats in the United Nations Security Council. Under the leadership of Italy, it aims to counter the bids for permanent seats proposed by G4 nations (Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan) and is calling for a consensus before any decision is reached on the form and size of the Security Council.

In News - <u>http://www.newindianexpress.com/opinions/editorials/2017/mar/10/the-</u> method-in-indias-unsc-madness-1579693.html

# Q.4) Consider the following statements about 'Vaccine Safety Net Project (VSN)'

- 1. It was initiated by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organisation (WHO)
- 2. The mission of the Vaccine Safety Net is to help internet users find reliable vaccine safety information tailored to their needs

# Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- a) Only 1
- b) Only 2
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

# Q.4) Solution (c)

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Due to the success of immunization, some diseases are no longer perceived as a threat. Certain groups have even questioned the utility of vaccination in spite of its proven success in controlling disease. In recent years, a number of web sites providing unbalanced, misleading and alarming vaccine safety information have been established, which can lead to undue fears, particularly among parents and patients. Acknowledging the abovementioned issues and urged by governments, key non-governmental organizations and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WHO initiated, in 2003, the Vaccine Safety Net Project (VSN).

The mission of the Vaccine Safety Net is to help internet users find reliable vaccine safety information tailored to their needs.

A key player in the Project is the Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety (GACVS), established by WHO in 1999, to respond promptly, efficiently, and with scientific rigour to vaccine safety issues of potential global importance.

At the outset of the Project, GACVS developed four categories of criteria for good information practices - regarding credibility, content, accessibility and design to which sites providing information on vaccine safety should adhere. WHO evaluates websites for their adherence to these criteria.

# Q.5) What causes the tides?

- a) Wind
- b) Seismicity
- c) Ocean currents
- d) Gravity

# Q.5) Solution (d)

Tides are periodic rises and falls of large bodies of water. Tides are caused by the gravitational interaction between the Earth and the Moon. The gravitational attraction of the moon causes the oceans to bulge out in the direction of the moon. Another bulge occurs on the opposite side, since the Earth is also being pulled toward the moon (and away from the water on the far side). Since the earth is rotating while this is happening, two tides occur each day.