

**Q.1) Consider the following statements about The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act**

1. It does not allow abortions above the gestational age of 24 weeks.
2. It provides that “the length of pregnancy shall not apply” in a decision to abort a foetus diagnosed with “substantial foetal abnormalities” or if it is “alleged by the pregnant woman to have been caused by rape”.

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.1) Solution (d)**

The above statements hold true for Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill of 2014

**The Act**

- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act in India was amended in 2003 to facilitate better implementation and increase access for women especially in the private health sector. However, unsafe abortions are widely prevalent even 40 years after the Act came into force.
- The current Act does not allow abortions above the gestational age of 20 weeks. However, legal experts have argued that medical science and technology have made the 20-week ceiling redundant and that conclusive determination of foetal abnormality is possible in most cases after the 20th week of gestational age.
- Under the 1971 Act, even pregnant rape victims cannot abort after 20 weeks, compelling them to move court.

**2014 draft Amendment bill**

- The draft Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill of 2014 seeks to amend Section 3 of the principle The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act of 1971 to provide that “the length of pregnancy shall not apply” in a decision to abort a foetus diagnosed with “substantial foetal abnormalities as may be prescribed”.
- Besides increasing the legal limit for abortion from 20 weeks to 24 weeks, the draft Bill allows a woman to take an independent decision in consultation with a registered health-care provider.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/supreme-court-allows-13-year-old-rape-survivor-to-abort-her-31-week-old-foetus/article19629701.ece>

**Q.2) Consider the following committees**

1. Mudaliar Committee, 1962
2. Shrivastav Committee, 1975
3. Bajaj Committee, 1986

**The Committees are concerned with which of the following?**

- a) Health
- b) Border Security
- c) Agriculture
- d) Industrial Policy

**Q.2) Solution (a)**

**Mudaliar Committee, 1962**

This committee known as the "Health Survey and Planning Committee", headed by Dr. A.L. Mudaliar, was appointed to assess the performance in health sector since the submission of Bhore Committee report. This committee found the conditions in PHCs to be unsatisfactory and suggested that the PHC, already established should be strengthened before new ones are opened. Strengthening of sub divisional and district hospitals was also advised. It was emphasised that a PHC should not be made to cater to more than 40,000 population and that the curative, preventive and promotive services should be all provided at the PHC. The Mudaliar Committee also recommended that an All India Health service should be created to replace the erstwhile Indian Medical service.

**Shrivastav Committee, 1975**

This committee was set up in 1974 as "Group on Medical Education and Support Manpower" to determine steps needed to

- reorient medical education in accordance with national needs & priorities and
- develop a curriculum for health assistants who were to function as a link between medical officers and MPWs.

**It recommended immediate action for:**

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- Creation of bonds of paraprofessional and semiprofessional health workers from within the community itself.
- Establishment of 3 cadres of health workers namely – multipurpose health workers and health assistants between the community level workers and doctors at PHC.
- Development of a “Refferal Services Complex”
- Establishment of a Medical and Health Education Commission for planning and implementing the reforms needed in health and medical education on the lines of University Grants Commission.

Acceptance of the recommendations of the Shrivastava Committee in 1977 led to the launching of the Rural Health Service.

### Bajaj Committee, 1986

An "Expert Committee for Health Manpower Planning, Production and Management" was constituted in 1985 under Dr. J.S. Bajaj, the then professor at AIIMS. Major recommendations are:

- Formulation of National Medical & Health Education Policy.
- Formulation of National Health Manpower Policy.
- Establishment of an Educational Commission for Health Sciences (ECHS) on the lines of UGC.
- Establishment of Health Science Universities in various states and union territories.
- Establishment of health manpower cells at centre and in the states.
- Vocationalisation of education at 10+2 levels as regards health related fields with appropriate incentives, so that good quality paramedical personnel may be available in adequate numbers.
- Carrying out a realistic health manpower survey.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/a-case-for-universal-medical-care/article19631736.ece>

### Q.3) EEPC India is under the Ministry of

- a) Commerce & Industry
- b) Corporate Affairs
- c) Finance
- d) Home Affairs

### Q.3) Solution (a)

EEPC India is the premier trade and investment promotion organization in India. It is sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India and caters to the Indian engineering sector. As an advisory body it actively contributes to the policies of Government of India and acts as an interface between the engineering industry and the Government. Set up in 1955, EEPC India now has a membership base of over 13,000 out of whom 60% are SMEs. EEPC India organizes a large number of promotional activities such as buyer-seller meets (BSM) – both in India and abroad, overseas trade fairs/exhibitions, and India pavilion/information booths in selected overseas exhibitions to demonstrate the capabilities of Indian engineering industry and to provide the overseas buyers with true value as propagated by Brand India. India Engineering Exhibition (INDEE) is EEPC India's own brand and is one of the largest expositions of engineering in the world. This has been happening for the last few decades and is established as the largest and most important showcase for Indian engineering. EEPC India facilitates sourcing from India and boosts the SMEs to raise their standard at par with the international best practices. It also encourages the SMEs to integrate their business to the global value chain. To encourage building global partnerships with India, EEPC India organizes International Engineering Sourcing Show (IESS), the largest display of engineering products and services every year. This is recognized as the only sourcing event in India – showcasing the latest technologies and a preferred meeting place for global buyers & sellers. This show is also important to encourage foreign investments in line with the newly initiated "Make in India" campaign, by Government of India. Extending its regular agenda, EEPC India publishes several reports/studies to make the members aware about the international trends and opportunities in order to enhance their global footprints. Keeping 'Engineering the Future' as the motto, EEPC India serves as the reference point for the Indian engineering industry and the international business community in its efforts towards establishing India as a major engineering hub in the future.

### Key Objectives of EEPC India

- To support, protect, maintain, increase and promote the exports of engineering goods;
- To keep in constant communication with Chambers of Commerce and other mercantile and public bodies throughout the world with a view to taking appropriate and necessary measures for maintaining or increasing the exports of engineering goods;
- To advise or represent to government, Local Authorities and public bodies on the policies and other measures;
- Upgradation of technology in order to boost India's engineering exports and establishing synergy between industry and academia;
- To prepare, edit, print, publish, issue, acquire and circulate books, papers, periodicals, gazettes, circulars and other literatures treating or bearing upon industry, trade or commerce, pertaining to engineering goods.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/business/eepc-seeks-90-gst-refund-for-exporters/article19631589.ece>

**Q.4) Consider the following statements about 'Tibetan Antelope'**

1. It is listed in Schedule I of the India's Wildlife (Protection) Act
2. Shahtoosh is woven from the underfur of a Tibetan Antelope
3. It is classified as "near threatened" under the IUCN's red list

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.4) Solution (d)**

It is a medium-sized bovid native to the Tibetan plateau. Fewer than 75,000 individuals are left in the wild. In recent years, they have become endangered due to poaching. They are hunted for their soft and warm wool which is usually obtained after death. This wool is known as shahtoosh and is used to weave shawls. At present, international trade in their products is strictly prohibited.

The shahtoosh trade was banned globally in 1975 under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to which India is a signatory.

The antelope is listed in Schedule I of the India's Wildlife (Protection) Act, granting it the highest level of protection.

The animal is classified as "near threatened" under the IUCN's red list as its population has dwindled to about 75,000 in recent years.

**Q.5) Which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. The torrid zone refers to the area of the earth between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
2. Norway's Svalbard Islands lie entirely within North Frigid Zone

**Select the correct statements**

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

### Q.5) Solution (c)

Eight modern nations have at least some territory within the North Frigid Zone, while only Antarctica—an unclaimed continent and thus not a nation—lies within the Southern Frigid Zone.

Three nations on the North American continent touch the North Frigid Zone. Canada's northernmost part of the Northwest Territories lies within this region located at 66 degrees, 33 minutes north of the Equator, including Victoria Island, Ellesmere, a large portion of Baffin Island and several other smaller islands. The United States' northernmost area of Alaska, including the Brooks Range of mountains, lies above the Arctic Circle. The coastal city of Barrow, located here, is the northernmost community in the United States. Most of Greenland, a territory of Denmark, lies above the Arctic Circle. (Greenland is covered almost entirely by an ice cap, except for the surrounding rocky coastline.)

The island nation of Iceland in the North Atlantic Ocean has just a tip of its territory, Grimsey Island, situated 41 km north of the main island, touching the line of the Arctic Circle.

Three European nations that make up Scandinavia span partly into the Frigid Zone. Norway's Svalbard Islands lie entirely within this region, as does the northernmost tip of its mainland. Sweden's northernmost region—part of Lapland, an area that includes northern Finland and part of Russia's Kola Peninsula of—extends into the Arctic Circle.

In this area above the Arctic Circle, the sun never sets on some summer nights and never rises on some winter days. The landscape of the Frigid Zone has a general covering of snow, ice and tundra (bare ground permanently frozen at least 10 inches to 3 feet down.) Trees cannot grow here. "Tundra" comes from the Finnish word "tunturia," meaning a barren land.

Russia, the largest nation on Earth, has a long top section within the Arctic Circle that extends from European Russia to Siberia—more Arctic territory than that of any of the other Frigid Zone nations.

The Torrid is also known as the Tropics. The zone is bounded on the north by the Tropic of Cancer and on the south by the Tropic of Capricorn; these latitudes mark the northern and southern extremes in which the sun seasonally passes directly overhead. This happens annually, but in the region between, the sun passes overhead twice a year.

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In the Northern Hemisphere, in the sun's apparent northward migration after the March equinox, it passes overhead once, then after the June solstice, at which time it reaches the Tropic of Cancer, it passes over again on its apparent southward journey. After the September equinox the sun passes into the Southern Hemisphere. It then passes similarly over the southern tropical regions until it reaches the Tropic of Capricorn at the December solstice, and back again as it returns northwards to the Equator.

