

Q.1) Consider the following statements about 'Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons'.

1. It bans the use, threatened use, and production, development, stationing, and testing of nuclear weapons
2. India has signed the treaty but not ratified
3. It requires the provision of assistance to victims and remediation of polluted land from nuclear weapon use and testing

Select the correct statements

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

Q.1) Solution (c)

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, or the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty, is the first legally binding international agreement to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons, with the goal of leading towards their total elimination. It was passed on 7 July 2017. In order to come into effect, signature and ratification by at least 50 countries is required. For those nations that are party to it, the treaty prohibits the development, testing, production, stockpiling, stationing, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as assistance and encouragement to the prohibited activities. For nuclear armed states joining the treaty, it provides for a time-bound framework for negotiations leading to the verified and irreversible elimination of its nuclear weapons programme.

According to a mandate adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2016, negotiations on the treaty began in the United Nations in March 2017 and continued from 15 June to 7 July 2017. In the vote on the treaty text, 122 were in favour, 1 voted against (Netherlands), and 1 abstained (Singapore). 69 nations did not vote, among them all of the nuclear weapon states and all NATO members except the Netherlands.

The treaty bans the use, threatened use, production, development, stationing, and testing of nuclear weapons; forbids assistance will all prohibited activities, and requires the provision of assistance to victims and remediation of polluted land from nuclear weapon use and testing.

Text of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons - as adopted on 7 July 2017 –

<http://undocs.org/A/CONF.229/2017/8>

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/editorials/nobel-prize-2017-nuclear-disarmament-ican-india-less-perilous-world/>

Q.2) Consider the following statements about Global Hunger Index (GHI)

1. It is jointly published by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and World Health Organisation (WHO).
2. According to the recent index, India has a child-wasting prevalence over 20%.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.2) Solution (b)

With a global hunger index (GHI) score of 31.4, India is at the high end of the “serious” category.

India’s poor performance brings to the fore the disturbing reality of the country’s stubbornly high proportions of malnourished children—more than one-fifth of Indian children under five weigh too little for their height and over a third are too short for their age.

Data from the report showed that India’s rank (100) was lower than all its neighbours—Nepal (72), Myanmar (77), Bangladesh (88), Sri Lanka (84) and China (29)—except Pakistan (106). Even North Korea (93) and Iraq (78) fared better in hunger parameters and GHI rankings.

The GHI score is a multidimensional index composed of four indicators—proportion of undernourished in the population, prevalence of child mortality, child stunting, and child wasting. On the severity scale, a GHI score of less than 10 means “low” prevalence of hunger while a score of more than 50 implies an “extremely alarming” situation.

On India, the report said that the country’s top 1% own more than 50% of its wealth, India is the world’s second largest food producer, yet it is also home to the second highest population of under-nourished in the world.

The 2017 GHI has been jointly published by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Concern Worldwide, and Welthungerhilfe.

IASbaba's Daily Quiz

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Source: <http://www.livemint.com/Politics/JS3kPSIqoUSRt9QC5JbpTI/Indias-hunger-problem-is-worse-than-North-Koreas-global-h.html>

Q.3) Recently, SC has put in place a new system by introducing a permanent committee and secretariat for evaluation of lawyers, who will also have to face interviews now. Consider the following statements

1. This will be implemented in the apex court as well as in 24 High Courts in the country
2. The permanent committee will be headed by the Chief Justice of India

Select the correct statements

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

Q.3) Solution (c)

SC laid down guidelines for itself and 24 High Courts to govern the exercise of designating lawyers as seniors and ordered setting up of a permanent committee headed by the Chief Justice of India assisted by a secretariat.

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/supreme-court-senior-lawyers-appointment-designation-sc-frames-rules-for-itself-hcs-4887665/>

Q.4) Rafah Crossing Point is the crossing point between

- a) Egypt and Gaza Strip
- b) Jordan and Syria
- c) Kuwait and Iraq
- d) Lebanon and Israel

Q.4) Solution (a)

The Rafah Border Crossing or Rafah Crossing Point is the sole crossing point between Egypt and Gaza Strip. It is located on the Gaza–Egypt border, which was recognized by the 1979 Israel–Egypt Peace Treaty. The original crossing point was named Rafah land port. Only

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passage of persons takes place through the Rafah Border Crossing. All traffic of goods is diverted to the Kerem Shalom border crossing.

Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/fatah-hamas-sign-reconciliation-accord/article19846720.ece>

Q.5) This dance form has characters named Satvika, Rajasika and Tamasika. Identify the dance form:

- a) Bharatanatyam
- b) Kathakali
- c) Lai Haraoba
- d) Chhau

Q.5) Solution (b)

Kerala is the home of several traditional dance and dance - drama forms, the most notable being Kathakali. Kathakali, as a dance form popular today, is considered to be of comparatively recent origin. However, it is an art which has evolved from many social and religious theatrical forms which existed in the southern region in ancient times. Chakiarkoothu, Koodiyattam, Krishnattam and Ramanattam are few of the ritual performing arts of Kerala which have had a direct influence on Kathakali in its form and technique. Legend has it that the refusal of the Zamorin of Calicut to send his Krishnattam troupe to Travancore, so enraged the Raja of Kottarakkara, that he was inspired to compose the Ramattam.

Kathakali is a visual art where a haryam, costume and make-up are suited to the characters, as per the tenets laid down in the Natyashastra. The characters are grouped under certain clearly defined types like the pacha, kathi, thadi, kari or minukku. The face of the artist is painted over to appear as though a mask is worn. The lips, the eyelashes and the eyebrows are made to look prominent. A mixture of rice paste and lime is applied to make the chutti on the face which highlights the facial make-up.

Kathakali dance is chiefly interpretative. The characters in a Kathakali performance are broadly divided into satvika, rajasika and tamasika types. Satvika characters are noble, heroic, generous and refined. In pacha, green colour dominates and kirita (headgear) is worn by all. Krishna and Rama wear special crowns decorated with peacock feathers. The noble characters like Indra, Arjun and the Devas are some of the pacha characters.