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**Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Revised Kyoto Convention (RKC)'**

1. It is the legal instrument of the World Customs Organization (WCO)
2. It aims to simplify and harmonize international customs procedures globally, in order to achieve faster, more predictable and efficient customs clearances

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.1) Solution (c)**

The World Customs Organization (WCO) is an intergovernmental organization headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. The WCO is noted for its work in areas covering the development of international conventions, instruments, and tools on topics such as commodity classification, valuation, rules of origin, collection of customs revenue, supply chain security, international trade facilitation, customs enforcement activities, combating counterfeiting in support of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), drugs enforcement, illegal weapons trading, integrity promotion, and delivering sustainable capacity building to assist with customs reforms and modernization. The WCO maintains the international Harmonized System (HS) goods nomenclature, and administers the technical aspects of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreements on Customs Valuation and Rules of Origin.

The International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs procedures (revised Kyoto Convention or RKC) was originally adopted in 1974 and was subsequently revised in 1999; the revised Kyoto Convention came into force in 2006. The RKC comprises several key governing principles: transparency and predictability of customs controls; standardization and simplification of the goods declaration and supporting documents; simplified procedures for authorized persons; maximum use of information technology; minimum necessary customs control to ensure compliance with regulations; use of risk management and audit based controls; coordinated interventions with other border agencies; and a partnership with the trade. It promotes trade facilitation and effective controls through its legal provisions that detail the application of simple yet efficient procedures and also contains new and obligatory rules for its application. The WCO revised Kyoto Convention is sometimes confused with the Kyoto Protocol, which is a protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC or FCCC).

India became the member on 15th Feb 1971.

**Q.2) Consider the following statements about World Customs Organization (WCO)**

1. It is an intergovernmental organisation based in Geneva
2. The Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System is developed and maintained by the WCO

**Select the correct statements**

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

**Q.2) Solution (b)**

The World Customs Organization (WCO) is an intergovernmental organization headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. The WCO is noted for its work in areas covering the development of international conventions, instruments, and tools on topics such as commodity classification, valuation, rules of origin, collection of customs revenue, supply chain security, international trade facilitation, customs enforcement activities, combating counterfeiting in support of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), drugs enforcement, illegal weapons trading, integrity promotion, and delivering sustainable capacity building to assist with customs reforms and modernization. The WCO maintains the international Harmonized System (HS) goods nomenclature, and administers the technical aspects of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreements on Customs Valuation and Rules of Origin.

The Harmonized System (HS) nomenclature was developed by the WCO and entered into force on 1 January 1988 through a Convention. Although Article II of the GATT (Schedules of Concessions) does not establish a specific nomenclature to be used by Members in this respect, and despite the fact that other nomenclatures such as the BTN and CCCN were used in the past, the HS has become the de facto standard for Members in this respect. The HS has also been used by WTO Members as a tool to define the products which are covered by certain agreements, the most important of which is probably Annex 1 of the Agreement on Agriculture. This Annex defines, in terms of Chapters, headings and subheadings of the 1992 version of the HS, which are the agricultural products. Therefore, changes in the HS have important legal implications for WTO Members, in particular with respect to their schedules.

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The Harmonized System Committee of the WCO undertakes a periodic review of the HS to take account of changes in technology and patterns in international trade, and recommends amendments to the HS.

Read More - [https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/coherence/wto\\_wco\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/coherence/wto_wco_e.htm)

<http://www.wcoomd.org/en/about-us/what-is-the-wco.aspx>

**Q.3) 'Nalaban Bird Sanctuary' is located in**

- a) Odisha
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) West Bengal
- d) Mizoram

**Q.3) Solution (a)**

Chilika is the largest brackish water lagoon in Asia and the second-largest in the world. The lake is also the largest wintering ground for migratory waterfowl found anywhere on the Indian sub-continent. Some rare, and endangered species listed in the IUCN Red List inhabit the lagoon for at least part of their life cycle, making the lake one of the hotspots for biodiversity in the country. A number of islands are located in the lagoon, some with and a few without habitation. Prominent among those are Krushnaprasad, Nalaban, Kalijai, Somolo, Honeymoon, Breakfast and Birds Island.

Nalaban Bird Sanctuary or Nalaban Island is the core area of the Ramsar designated wetlands of Chilika Lake, which was declared a bird sanctuary under the Wildlife Protection Act in 1973.

**Q.4) Consider the following statements with respect to 'National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)'**

1. It is a statutory Corporation under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
2. It raises funds from Central Government, Internal Accruals, and market borrowings

**Select the correct statements**

- a) 1 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.4) Solution (c)**

The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) was established by an Act of Parliament in 1963 as a statutory Corporation under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

**Functions**

- Planning, promoting and financing programmes for production, processing, marketing, storage, export and import of agricultural produce, food stuffs, certain other notified commodities e.g. fertilisers, insecticides, agricultural machinery, lac, soap, kerosene oil, textile, rubber etc., supply of consumer goods and collection, processing, marketing, storage and export of minor forest produce through cooperatives, besides income generating stream of activities such as poultry, dairy, fishery, sericulture, handloom etc.
- NCDC Act has been further amended which will broad base the area of operation of the Corporation to assist different types of cooperatives and to expand its financial base. NCDC will now be able to finance projects in the rural industrial cooperative sectors and for certain notified services in rural areas like water conservation, irrigation and micro irrigation, agri-insurance, agro-credit, rural sanitation, animal health, etc.
- Loans and grants are advanced to State Governments for financing primary and secondary level cooperative societies and direct to the national level and other societies having objects extending beyond one State. Now, the Corporation can also go in for direct funding of projects under its various schemes of assistance on fulfilment of stipulated conditions.

NCDC raises funds from Central Govt. (DOAC&FW, SDF), Internal Accruals, market borrowings, funding from multinational organisations like World Bank, EEC etc.

**Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Tall Ship Sail-Together' Expedition**

1. It will retrace the trade links that existed between the erstwhile Malabar Coast and the Persian Gulf.
2. It is held as part of the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS).

**Select the correct code:**

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

### Q.5) Solution (c)

The 'Tall Ship Sail-together' expedition was flagged off from naval base, Kochi on 14 Nov 18. The event which was organised by the the Indian Navy as part of the 10th Anniversary celebrations of IONS, was attended by chiefs from navies and delegates from 26 countries participating in the 10th anniversary commemorative activities besides a large gathering of Indian naval personnel.

The Royal Omani Vessel Zinat-al-Bihaar along with two Indian Naval Sailing Ships Sudharshini, Tarangini, with one each "Sea Rider" from Sri-Lanka, China, United Kingdom, Australia, Bangladesh and Maldives are participating in this 'Sail Together' which is planned over a distance of 1200 nm to Muscat and back. It seeks to retrace the maritime trade route of yesteryears between the Malabar Coast and the Persian Gulf.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Kochi/tall-ships-sail-together-expedition-today/article25488265.ece>

