

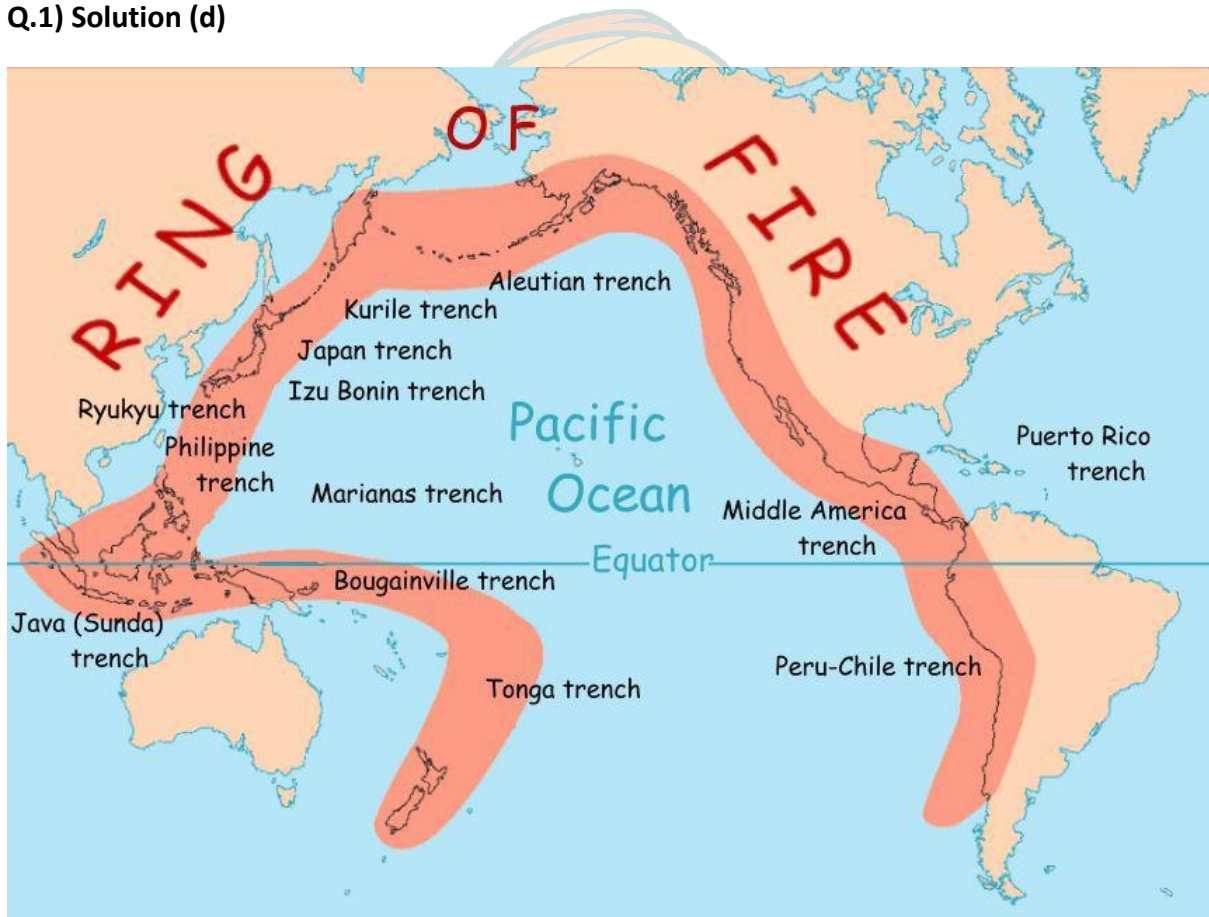
Q.1) The 'Pacific Ring of Fire' wraps which of the following countries?

1. Canada
2. New Zealand
3. Japan
4. Chile

Select the correct code:

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

Q.1) Solution (d)



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**Q.2) Consider the following statements about National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**

1. Environment Protection Act provides for creating the National Tiger Conservation Authority
2. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
3. Project Tiger is administered by the National Tiger Conservation Authority

**Select the correct statements**

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

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

The National Tiger Conservation Authority is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it under the said Act.

The National Tiger Conservation Authority has been fulfilling its mandate within the ambit of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for strengthening tiger conservation in the country by retaining an oversight through advisories/normative guidelines, based on appraisal of tiger status, ongoing conservation initiatives and recommendations of specially constituted Committees. 'Project Tiger' is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Environment, Forests and Climate Change, providing funding support to tiger range States, for in-situ conservation of tigers in designated tiger reserves, and has put the endangered tiger on an assured path of recovery by saving it from extinction, as revealed by the recent findings of the All India tiger estimation using the refined methodology.

**Objective of the NTCA**

- Providing statutory authority to Project Tiger so that compliance of its directives become legal.
- Fostering accountability of Center-State in management of Tiger Reserves, by providing a basis for MoU with States within our federal structure.
- Providing for an oversight by Parliament.
- Addressing livelihood interests of local people in areas surrounding Tiger Reserves
- Powers and Functions of the NTCA

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**Q.3) Consider the following statements about 'Jhum Cultivation'**

1. It is the process of growing crops by first clearing the land of trees and vegetation and burning them thereafter.
2. It is a primitive practice of cultivation in States of Southern India

**Select the correct statements**

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

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

**Jhum Cultivation**

- The practice involves clearing vegetative/forest cover on land/slopes of hills, drying and burning it before onset of monsoon and cropping on it thereafter.
- After harvest, this land is left fallow and vegetative regeneration is allowed on it till the plot becomes reusable for same purpose in a cycle.
- Meanwhile, the process is repeated in a new plot designated for Jhum cultivation during next year.
- Initially, when Jhum cycle was long and ranged from 20 to 30 years, the process worked well.
- However, with increase in human population and increasing pressure on land, Jhum cycle reduced progressively (5-6 years) causing problem of land degradation and threat to ecology of the region at large.
- This practice is considered as an important mainstay of food production for a considerable population in northeast India in States like Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur.

**Q.4) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?**

1. AGMARK – Agriculture
2. RERA – Real Estate
3. NPPA – Medicines

**Select the correct code:**

- a) 1 and 2

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

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

AGMARK is a certification mark employed on agricultural products in India, assuring that they conform to a set of standards approved by the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, an agency of the Government of India.

The RERA seeks to protect the interests of home buyers and also boost investments in the real estate sector.

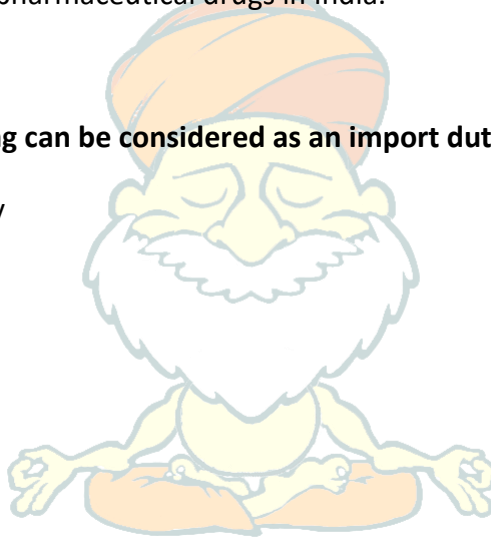
The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) is a government regulatory agency that controls the prices of pharmaceutical drugs in India.

**Q.5) Which of the following can be considered as an import duty?**

- 1. Countervailing Duty
- 2. Safeguard Duty
- 3. Anti-Dumping Duty

**Select the correct code:**

- a) 1 and 3
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 3 Only
- d) 1, 2 and 3



**Q.5) Solution (d)**

Import duties are generally of the following types:

- Basic duty
- Additional Customs duty
- True Countervailing duty or additional duty of customs
- Anti-dumping duty/Safeguard duty

**Countervailing Duty (CVD)**

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This duty is imposed by the Central Government when a country is paying the subsidy to the exporters who are exporting goods to India. This amount of duty is equivalent to the subsidy paid by them. This duty is applicable under Sec 9 of the Customs Tariff Act.

### **Additional Customs Duty or Special CVD**

In order to equalize imports with locals taxes like service tax, VAT and other domestic taxes which are imposed from time to time, a special countervailing duty is imposed on imported goods. Hence, is imposed to bring imports on an equal track with the goods produced or manufactured in India. This is to promote fair trade & competition practices in our country.

### **Safeguard Duty**

In order to make sure that no harm is caused to the domestic industries of India, a safeguard duty is imposed to safeguard the interest of our local domestic industries. It is calculated on the basis of loss suffered by our local industries.

### **Anti-Dumping Duty**

Often, large manufacturer from abroad may export goods at very low prices compared to prices in the domestic market. Such dumping may be with intention to cripple domestic industry or to dispose of their excess stock. This is called 'dumping'. In order to avoid such dumping, Central Government can impose, under section 9A of Customs Tariff Act, anti-dumping duty up to margin of dumping on such articles, if the goods are being sold at less than its normal value. Levy of such anti-dumping duty is permissible as per WTO agreement. Anti-dumping action can be taken only when there is an Indian industry producing 'like articles'.

