

# The Hindu Explains: Office of profit

On January 19, the Election Commission recommended the disqualification of 20 Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLAs from Delhi, citing that they held offices of profit. In 2016, the EC had issued show cause notices to 27 AAP MLAs who held offices as parliamentary secretaries, after a petition was filed seeking their disqualification.

What is an office of profit?

It is a position in the government which cannot be held by an MLA or an MP. The post can yield salaries, perquisites and other benefits. The origin of this term can be found in the English Act of Settlement, 1701. Under this law, "no person who has an office or place of profit under the King, or receives a pension from the Crown, shall be capable of serving as a member of the House of Commons." This was instituted so that there wouldn't be any undue influence from the royal household in administrative affairs.

What do parliamentary secretaries do?

In the Westminster system, a parliamentary secretary is a Member of Parliament who assists a Minister in their duties. Prime Ministers and Chief Ministers usually appoint parliamentary secretaries from their own parties.

Why should an MLA or an MP not hold an office of profit?

According to Articles 102(1)(a) and 191(1)(a) of the Constitution, an MP or MLA is barred from holding an office of profit as it can put them in a position to gain a financial benefit. "A person shall be disqualified for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament, (a) if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State, other than an office declared by

Parliament by law not to disqualify its holder,” says the law.

Under the Representation of People Act too, holding an office of profit is grounds for disqualification.

Do other states in India have MLAs holding offices of profit?

West Bengal, Karnataka, Telangana, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Punjab, Mizoram and Manipur have had similar incidents. In West Bengal, Telangana and Punjab, the respective High Courts called the appointments “unconstitutional” and struck down the appointments. The case regarding appointment of parliamentary secretaries is pending in the Karnataka High Court. In Rajasthan, the State passes a Bill in October 2017 to make the posts constitutional, but the validity of this law has been challenged.

Odisha too has appointed MLAs as chairpersons of district planning committees by amending an Act. The Supreme Court struck down The Assam Parliamentary Secretaries (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2004 in July 2017 leading to a wave of resignations in Northeastern states.

Source: xaam.in

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## **The anatomy of the UPSC interview round explained (Israel Jebasingh IAS)**

The UPSC Interview round is a test of personality, rather than of knowledge, says Israel Jebasingh, of Officers IAS Academy.

Civil Services aspirants who have successfully cleared the first two stages of the UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE) – Prelims and Mains – in 2017, are eagerly waiting to clear the third and most important and challenging stage: the Personality Test, also known as the Interview round. After cracking the CSE twice and securing All India Rank 59 in 2004, Israel Jebasingh served as an IAS officer for about a decade. He currently runs Officers IAS Academy in Chennai. Mr. Jebasingh shares his experience of cracking the exam, and gives aspirants tips on how to face the interview panel and come out with flying colours:

### The interview process

A UPSC Civil Services interview lasts for about 30 minutes. The purpose of the interview is to check whether the candidate is suitable for a career in the civil services. That is, whether the candidate has the potential to demonstrate good administrative skills. The interview carries 275 marks out of the total 2025. The candidate's score in the Mains examination does not play any role in deciding the course of the interview, though the marks of both Mains and Personality Test are considered for ranking.

Many students have a misconception that the CSE interview is a knowledge test. It is not a knowledge test but a personality test. There is no one definite right or wrong answer. The interview panel just observes how a candidate approaches a question. The panel doesn't check the knowledge of the candidates. Rather, it assesses a few personality traits of the candidates. Another misconception is that the panel awards marks subjectively. Candidates who score low marks usually have a tendency to blame the interview board or luck. The members of the panel are highly objective. I strongly believe that it is the candidate who decides the marks based on his/her performance/personality traits.

### Experience

I was neither a school topper nor a college gold medallist, but I successfully cleared the CSE twice. The first time, I qualified for the Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS). The second time, I qualified for the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) with an All India Rank of 59. I strongly believe the reason for my success was due to the strategies I learnt from a few gurus who had already cleared the exam. Those strategies are not rocket science, but a simple approach for all stages of the examination. I strongly believe that successful strategies are always simple. Unfortunately, some candidates think it is too complicated and therefore lose out on success.

### The interview panel

The panel consists of the Chairman of the interview board and four other members. The Chairman of the board is always a UPSC member. The other four members of the panel are usually experts chosen from different fields by UPSC. The panel assesses whether the candidate has the personality traits essential for various Civil Services. I have heard that many candidates attend spoken English classes to get more marks in CSE interviews. But this is not an English proficiency test to recruit English teachers for various central universities. Rather, the panel is selecting candidates who possess the basic personality traits a civil servant is expected to have.

### Common questions and assessment

The panel asks questions from the detailed application form of the candidates. The questions will be on the candidate's place of birth, hobbies, issues of the home state, current national issues, and more. The members of the panel observe how the candidate responds to each question. There is no one definite answer for any question. For example, if a question is related to the Cauvery water issue, a candidate from Tamil Nadu is expected to consider the problems faced by the farmers of Karnataka and a candidate from Karnataka is expected to consider the problems faced by the farmers of Tamil Nadu. The

panel assesses whether the candidate answers like an Indian national or with a regional mindset. Candidates are selected for IAS, IFS, IPS, IRS, and more, where the 'I' stands for Indian. The panel checks whether a candidate has an Indian or regional attitude.

## Preparation

The candidates should not spend their time memorising facts and figures. Rather, I suggest they spend time knowing the other side of any issue. They should take a balanced approach to every issue rather than a parochial approach. For example, a Punjabi candidate should read about the problems of Haryana farmers and the construction of Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal rather than learning the problems of Punjabi farmers alone.

If candidates from Andhra Pradesh or Telengana are asked what is famous about Hyderabad, I suggest the candidates talk about the famous leaders from there like Swami Ramananda Tirtha or Makhdoom Mohiuddin who fought against the Nizam, and for the unification of Hyderabad State with our country rather than talking about biriyani.

## A successful interviewee

In my view, the interview panel assesses whether the candidates are politically neutral, honest and patriotic. A successful candidate is broad-minded, sensitive to the needs of others and has concern towards weaker sections of the society.

## Final tips

Be confident. Be honest. Be polite. Smile. Most importantly, answer every question like an Indian. Use the phrases 'our country' or 'our nation' in your answers. Remember, the interview panel checks whether you have a national outlook or a regional mindset.

# **Important Notice for Candidates appearing for UPSC Prelims 2018**

Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) recently finished its online registration process for Civil Services preliminary exam. The Commission has now released a list of defaulters who failed to do the payment of fees. The list carries 124 candidates whose candidature is not yet confirmed as they have not finished the payment process. The list which was released included the candidate's registration ID, transaction ID and email ID.

The Commission in its notice said that confirmation has not been received from the Bank Authorities regarding receipt of 'Fee of Rs.100' in respect of the 124 candidates for Civil Service (Preliminary) Examination.

The official notice which was dated March 7, 2018, added that candidates who have failed to complete the payment process have been rejected by the commission.

However, if the candidate has completed the whole process but yet their name appears on the list UPSC has asked them to submit the evidence before March 26, 2018. They can post the hard copy of the evidence by speed post or hand it over to 'The Under Secretary (CSP), Union Public Service Commission, Examination Hall No.1, Dholpur House, Shahjahan Road, New Delhi-110069'.

Here are the guidelines:-

i) If you have paid/ deposited the fee through cash mode in the State Bank of India, please submit the system generated pay-in-slip ( in original)

OR

(ii) if you have paid the fee through debit/ credit card or through internet banking or authorized banks, please submit a copy of your debit/ credit card statement or Bank Account Statement as the case maybe. The copy of the statement should be duly authenticated by the bank authorities.

The Civil Service exam will take place on June 3, 2018. There are over 700 vacancies that are to be filled via this exam. There are 32 vacancies reserved for Persons with Benchmark Disability Category.

Source: xaam.in

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## 25 Mock MCQ on India Yearbook 2018 Ch.1 by Mrunal

Q. Incorrect statement(s) about India's Goods and services Tax (GST) regime:

1. India has the highest GST rates in Asia.
2. India is the only country in Asia to have four slabs in GST.
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

**HINT:** While the Guessmasters™ would suggest that both statements ought to be wrong as they've absolute-terms: "highest" and "only" respectively, But In 2018-March, World





- (A2)
2. Unpaid family labour utilized in the crop-production (FL)
  3. Rent on land (R)
  4. Interest on working capital invested (C)

Answer Codes:

1. Only A2
2. Only A2+FL
3. A2+FL+R-C
4. A2+FL+C

**HINT:** At present, Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) formulates and recommends MSP. It computes three types of cost of production:

- A2= Actual cost of farming including seeds, fertilisers, and hired labourers.
- (A2+FL)= A2+ unpaid family labourers (FL)
- C2 = A2 + FL + cost of land rentals and interest on invested capital.

National Commission on Farmers under M.S.Swaminathan (2006) had recommended that farmers be given at least 50 per cent more than the weighted average cost of production. But He had not elaborated on its internal components. Finance minister has clarified that government will use the  $MSP=1.5x (A2+FL)$  whereas PM Modi ( on 17/3/2018) has clarified that  $MSP=1.5x(A2+FL+C)$ . So, depending on the final notification, the correct answer will be either '2' or '4'.

Q. What is the objective of Specific Relief (Amendment) Bill, 2017 passed by Lok Sabha during the Budget session-2018?

1. It provides mechanism for compensation to victims of natural and manmade disasters.
2. It gives statutory backing to the PM Fasal Bima yojana so that the farmers are assured compensation for croploss.
3. It provides civil remedies to a person, if other party has not performed the contractual obligations.

4. It's a fake news, aisa koi bill pass hi nhi hua a.k.a. None of the above.

**HINT:** Specific Relief (Amendment) Bill, 2017 seeks to amend the Specific Relief Act, 1963. The Act sets out the remedies available to parties whose contractual or civil rights have been violated. Gist of the matter is: if your contract is not performed by the second party, you can approach court for 1) forcing the party to do the things OR 2) getting financial compensation OR 3) hiring third party to do the things and forcing second party to pay for it. There will be special courts with powers to attach properties. [prsIndia.org](https://prsIndia.org) summary.

## Polity

Q. In 2018-March, the first tranche of Electoral bonds were sold. Donors could buy these electoral bonds from scheduled banks to pay political parties without revealing their identities. Which among the following parties are eligible to avail funding through these Electoral Bonds?

1. Only a political party which is recognized as "State party" or "National party" by the Election Commission of India.
2. Only registered political party with 2% of seats in the Lok Sabha from at least 3 different States.
3. Only registered political parties which have atleast one MP in parliament or one MLA in Vidhan Sabha.
4. Only registered political parties which have secured not less than 1% of the votes polled in the last Lok Sabha or Vidha Sabha elections.

**HINT:** Victory not necessary, but 1% votes must. [prsIndia.org](https://prsIndia.org) summary.

Q. Aadhar card is mandatory for availing which of the following services?

1. Opening new bank accounts
2. Applying for Tatkal passports

3. Availing LPG subsidy in the bank account.

Answer Codes:

1. Only 1 and 2
2. Only 2 and 3
3. Only 1 and 3
4. None of the above because SC judgement says Aadhar is not mandatory.

**HINT:** In the 2018-March ruling, SC only extended the deadline of linking Aadhar number with (existing) bank accounts, PAN cards and mobile phone connections from 31st March 2018 till final judgement. But the same SC order also mentioned that 1, 2 and 3 will still require Aadhar. But, half-learned idiots without basic comprehension skills will forward anything on whatsapp e.g. fake news that "SC extended Aadhar-mobile link deadline indefinitely"- which can be inferred as "SC is never going to deliver final judgement on Aadhar... only indefinite hearings!?"

## Environment and Agriculture

Q. Union government has banned the sale of poppy husk from April 2016. However, in 2018-March, Madhya Pradesh state Government announced it'll purchase poppy husks from the farmers and then destroy them. Find correct statement(s) about Poppy husk?

1. Poppy husk is the residual matter left in cannabis plant, after removal of its capsule and seeds (khus khus).
2. Poppy husk contains mild amount of morphine.
3. Poppy husk is a Central Nervous system (CNS)-stimulant.
4. All of the above.

**HINT:** Under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, Cannabis (Hashish) is banned everywhere in India, but legal cultivation of Opium poppy is permitted in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Opium plant contains a medical-alkaloid "morphine", which is a CNS-depressant. It

depresses or slows down the central nervous system (CNS), thus relieving pain, especially in cancer patients and gunshot victims. So, accordingly,

- First statement could have been right, HAD I used the word “opium” instead of “cannabis”.
- Second statement is right.
- Third statement can't be right because second statement is right (i.e. morphine is CNS-depressant.)

Q. In 2018, the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MOEF&CC) notified “Dust mitigation norms” for the construction and infrastructure projects. It requires the builder / developer to:

1. Setup wind-breakers and water-sprinklers at the construction site.
2. Cover all vehicles carrying construction material and waste.
3. Roads leading to construction sites must be metalled.

Answer Codes:

1. Only 1 and 2
2. Only 2 and 3
3. Only 1 and 3
4. All of them

**HINT:** In 2018-January, MOEF&CC made these rules under Environment Protection Act. Topic in news because MOEF sent notice to NHAI to implement this by 31/3/18 in their construction projects else face action. All three measures are mentioned.

Q. Apart from Punjab and Haryana, which of the following states are given the Geographical indicator (GI) status for cultivation of Basmati rice?

1. Uttarakhand
2. Andhra Pradesh
3. Telengana
4. All of the above.

**HINT:** Under WTO-TRIPS agreement, Geographical indicator status is given to a unique handicraft or agricultural product traceable to specific geographical locations. 2010: GI status was given to basmati grown only in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh (only western area) and Jammu & Kashmir (2 districts). Topic in news, because Madhya Pradesh applied for GI, but rejected in 2018-March, because existing stakeholders feel basmati prices will decline if there is oversupply.

It's true that Hyderabad's famous biryani prepared in Basmati rice, but neither Andhra Pradesh nor Telangana enjoys GI state for this rice.         tick  .

Q. In 2018-March, 'Nyepi' Hindu festival was celebrated, in which an entire island of Indonesia kept a "day of silence", even internet and public transportation were shut down. This island is:

1. Java
2. Sumatra
3. Bali
4. It's a fake news, Indonesia is an Islamic country aka None of the above.

**HINT:** While the Hindu festival of 'Nyepi' is a public holiday everywhere in Indonesia, Bali is the only island where the rituals of silence are strictly observed. For 2018, English newspapers have shown unprecedented coverage of this festival, in the backdrop of "religious" noise-pollution and associated court judgements, [UP government instructions](#), and [playback singer tweets in India](#). In the grander scheme of things, these are fodder points of essay on "Tolerance and Secularism".

Q. Which of the following step(s) has/have been taken by the Union government against the overuse of Urea in recent years?

1. Allocations for urea subsidy have been gradually reduced in the budgets of 2016, 2017 and 2018.
2. Soil health card scheme has been launched (in 2015).
3. Size of urea bags have been reduced from 50kg to 45kg (in 2018).

Answer Codes:

1. Only 2
2. Only 2 and 3
3. Only 1 and 3
4. All of them

**HINT:** UPSC is fascinated with urea since last three prelims: 2015- asked about the impact of excessive nitrogen fertilizer use? 2016- asked how neem coating of urea helps in cultivation? 2017- asked about soil health card benefit? So, to replicate the obsession and sadism of UPSC examiner, I've deliberately kept first statement open to multiple interpretations: The Budget Estimates for urea subsidy in 2016: 51k cr, 2017: 49k cr, 2018: 45k cr. So, prima-facie statement is correct but whether it's a 'step' to reduce urea-overuse or it's a 'proof' of declining urea consumption!? Think!

Second statement is right: Soil Health Card (SHC) scheme helps the farmers to know the major and minor nutrients available in their soils which will ensure judicious use of fertiliser application.

Third statement is also right from 2018-March, urea is being sold in 45 kg bag instead of 50kg. Government took this step because illiterate farmers are very rigid on using a certain number of bags per hectare of land and do not generally reduce the urea usage despite the advisory given in soil health card.

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Q. Correct statement(s) about Global Energy Transition Index 2018:

1. This index is prepared by IPCC with funding from UNFCCC's adaptation fund.
2. It's a simple index that ranks countries according to their ratio of renewable : non-renewable power generation compared to previous year.
3. Finland has secured first rank, whereas India secured 100th rank.
4. None of the above.

**HINT:** World Economic Forum's Energy Transition index is not a simple ratio of renewable to non-renewable energy generation

in country. It measures country's performance in three dimensions 1) whether energy available to all at affordable prices (access and security) 2) whether it's environmentally sustainable 3) whether energy generation is sufficient for country's economic development and growth? For 2018, Sweden got first rank, Zimbabwe last rank, India got 78th Rank and Pakistan got 86th rank in this Energy index out of 114 nations.

While this would seem to be an *atarangi* MCQ but UPSC does have a proven bad habit of asking random "About us" type of questions related to global environmental funds, treaties and organizations.

BTW, India has got 100th rank in doing biz report 2018 (by World bank- rank improved over last year) and 100th rank in Global Hunger 2017 (by IFPRI, rank degraded than last year.)

Q. In 2018-March, a cloned male buffalo named "Sach-Gaurav" was born in Haryana. Which of the following statements are correct in this regard:

1. It's India's first cloned buffalo.
2. It was produced using the parental genes of an Assamese female buffalo.
3. Cloned offspring has better milk-yield production and disease resistance than its parent.

Answer Codes:

1. Only 1 and 2
2. Only 2 and 3
3. Only 1 and 3
4. None of them

**HINT:** As the 'Guessmasters™' would suggest: the first statement ought to be wrong because it contains absolute term 'first'. Sach-Gaurav is India's first cloned "Assamese" buffalo, otherwise in past too we've produced cloned buffalos- Garima, Cirb Gaurav etc.

Second statement is wrong because clone of a female will be a female and the clone of a male will be a male. Here the question itself has given that "male buffalo born" so its 'parent-gene' can't be female.

Cloning creates genetically similar organism from a single

parent without sexual reproduction and without loss of parental traits. So, cloned offspring will not have better milk production / disease resistance than its parent cattle, unless we modified the parent-genes before creating embryo.

## Science and Defense

Q. Which of the following disease was Stephen Hawking suffering from?

1. Paralysis of the entire body
2. Neuroendocrine Tumour
3. Trigeminal neuralgia
4. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis

**HINT:** Salman Khan suffered from #3 also known as facial nerve disorder / suicide disease. Irfan Khan and Steve Jobs suffering / suffered from #2. Stephen Hawking had #4.

Q. Professor Stephen Hawking:

1. Was an American physicist.
2. Who won Nobel for discovering black holes.
3. Who authored books (1) A Brief History of Time (2) My Brief History.
4. All of the above.

**HINT:** To win Nobel for physics, theoretical scientific discovery has to be confirmed by observational data. Einstein got Nobel (1921) for photoelectric effect and not for gravitational waves because the instruments and technology necessary to prove his gravitational waves could only materialize in 2016. Similarly the technology required to observe "Hawking's radiation" from blackholes is yet to be developed. He was a British physicist. Books are correct.

Q. Find correct pair(s) of indigenously manufactured defense equipment(s):

1. Aditya: Mine-Protected Vehicle (MPV) built by DRDO
2. NETRA: Airborne early warning and control system (AEW&C) built by DRDO
3. Both 1 and 2



4. Neither 1 nor 2

**HINT:** Both are right and in news during 2018-March. 1) Maoists used IED explosives to kill 9 CRPF personnel riding in MPV in Sukhma. 2) DRDO chief said NETRA is better than the Swiss system used by Pakistan.

## 25 Mock MCQ from Current Affairs- March 2018



Q. Which of the following is/are LWE affected area(s) of Chhattisgarh?

1. Sukma
2. Dantewada
3. Jangalmahal
4. Gadhchiroli

Answer Codes:

1. Only 2
2. Only 1 and 2
3. Only 3 and 4
4. Only 1 and 3

**HINT:** Jangalmahal: W.Bengal, Gadhchiroli: Maharashtra. Read full list at [PIB](#).

# India Yearbook (IYB) 2018: Ch.1

*Since nowadays not many UPSC prelim level worthy current-affairs news is occurring, so to reach the fabled target of 25 MCQ, I've drafted these five MCQs from Chapter 1: Land and People, of India 2018, available at amazon in [English](#) and [Hindi](#), including Kindle editions which can be read on desktop / laptop / mobile app also.*

Q. In which of the following part of India will you find diluvial forests?

1. Foothills of Himalaya
2. Foothills of Vindhya hills
3. Deccan plateau
4. Andaman

**HINT:** Diluvial forests occur on diluvial deposits of deep sandy soil lying between the mangrove forests and the hills. As per IYB, Andamans have evergreen, mangrove, beach and diluvial forests.

Q. In which of the following systems will you find rivers of ephemeral nature?

1. Himalayan rivers
2. Deccan rivers
3. Coastal rivers
4. Inland drainage basin rivers

**HINT:** Himalayan rivers flow 24/7/365. No. 2 and 3 are perennial in nature. The streams of inland drainage basin of western Rajasthan are few and far apart. Most of them have ephemeral nature i.e. water lasting for a very short time during the year.

Q. The official seasons of India designated by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) are:

1. Winter, Summer, Monsoon
2. Winter, Summer, Monsoon, Post-Monsoon
3. Spring, summer, monsoon, autumn, winter.

4. Spring, summer, monsoon, early autumn, late autumn and winter

**HINT:** While traditionally, Indians note six seasons: spring, summer, monsoon, early autumn, late autumn and winter. Each of them about two months long. The Himalayan states, being more temperate, experience two additional seasons: autumn and spring. But, IMD designates four official seasons: (i) Winter, from December to early April. (ii) Summer or pre-monsoon season, lasting from April to June (April to July in north-western India). (iii) Monsoon or rainy season, lasting from June to September. (iv) Post-monsoon season: October to December.

Q. Which of the following organization publishes a book on endangered plants, titled "Red Data Book"?

1. IUCN
2. Wildlife Institute of India
3. Forest Survey of India
4. Botanical Survey of India

**HINT:** BSI, Kolkata publishes Red Data book, whereas IUCN publishes Red list.

Q. Which of the following definitions are incorrect regarding the Census of India 2011?

1. Literacy: A person aged five and above, who can both read and write with understanding in any language.
2. Sex Ratio: Number of female per one thousand males.
3. Reference date for the population of India under Census-2011: 1st April 2011.

Answer Codes:

1. Only 1 and 2
2. Only 2 and 3
3. Only 1 and 3
4. None of them

**HINT:** Literacy counted at the age of 7 and above, Sex ratio at 1,000 males and Census reference date: 1st March 2011. Mind it: You've to find incorrect statements.

# RC Comprehension: Kim's Kerala Fans! (3 MCQ)

*Ok, so far reached 22 MCQ, so here comes a reading comprehension passage with three MCQs to reach the T25 target.*

The Communists in Kerala are having a bit of trouble finding an ambassador. Lenin is dated, Stalin discredited, Fidel passed away and Che has been appropriated. They need icons against “global capitalism”. And creeping his way into the pantheon of the champions of scientific socialism in Kerala is, wait for it, Kim Jong Un, the hereditary authoritarian ruler of North Korea- who is neither scientific nor socialist, and is an authoritarian megalomaniac who shows off his hand on the “nuclear button”.

This sudden valorisation of Kim began in December 2017, when the CPM local committee in Pampadumpara in Idukki district put up flex boards with Kim Jong Un's photographs. Idukki district secretary K.K. Jayachandran had said then that “the party does not attest to the stand that the North Korean despot is someone who should be revered as challenging the US. As Marxists ideologues, we conduct concrete analysis of concrete conditions before framing policies and postures.” But something has changed in the new year. CPM politburo member and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan stated the “US is exerting pressure on North Korea because of its strong anti-American stance, yet that country could effectively resist US pressure”. CPM Kerala secretary Kodyeri Balakrishnan went a step further to declare that “to prevent North Korea from emerging as an economic force and for its socialist policies, the US is arming South Korea”. [~230 words]

Q. According to author, who among the following is valorising Kim?

1. K.K. Jayachandran
2. Pinarayi Vijayan
3. Kodyeri Balakrishnan

Answer Codes:

1. Only 1 and 2
2. Only 2 and 3
3. Only 1 and 3
4. All of them

**HINT:** Read K.K. Jayachandran's statement carefully. He is the odd man in this fandom of Kim.

Q. Author will agree with which of the following statements?

1. Kim Jong un is a poor choice as CPM's icon of anti-US imperialism.
2. Even Stalin could be a better choice than Kim Jong un as CPM's icon of anti-US imperialism.
3. In CPM, there is growing gulf between the lofty maxims of Marxism versus its actual practice.

Answer Codes:

1. Only 1
2. 1, 2 and 3
3. Only 3
4. Only 1 and 3

**HINT:** Passage doesn't indicate whether Stalin was better or worst than Kim, only that Stalin was "discredited". A 'true' Marxist should do "concrete analysis" but the passage indicates they've hastily selected Kim – who is a poor choice because he's a megalomaniac dictator who has nothing to do with Marxism or Socialism. Meaning, there is gulf between CPM's lofty maxim vs actual practice.   
 □□□□ □□ □□ □□□ □□□-□□□ □□ concrete analysis □□ □□□ □□ □□□□ □□□□ □□ □□□□ □□□□ □□□□.

Q. (SSC-CGL Vocabulary) From the passage, which of the following pair is/are not antonyms?

1. Valorize: Discredit
2. Megalomaniac: Vainglorious
3. Pantheon: Temple

Answer Codes:

1. Only 1

2. Only 1 and 2
3. Only 2 and 3
4. Only 1 and 3

Megalomaniac is a a pathological egotist. Vainglorious is also a person feeling too self-important. Hence they're synonyms. Pantheon is a temple created for a particular group of Gods. so both terms are not antonyms. Valorize means assign higher value to someone or something whereas discredit means damage reputation of someone / something- so they're antonyms. Mind it: here you've to find pairs that are not antonyms.

Source: xaam.in

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# Yojana March 2018 Budget issue

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# **SUVIDHA under Janaushadhi Pari yojana**

Government launches 100% Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin under Janaushadhi Pari yojana

The Union Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers has launched 'Suvidha', a 100% Oxo-biodegradable Sanitary Napkin, under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP). It was launched by Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs Ananth Kumar on the occasion of International Woman's day.

## **Key Facts**

The affordable Suvidha sanitary napkins will be available for Rs. 2.50 per pad at over 3200 Janaushadhi Kendras across India. It was launched under government's vision of providing Affordable and Quality Healthcare for All. It will ensure 'Swachhta, Swasthya and Suvidha' for underprivileged women. It will ensure affordability, hygiene as well as ease of use and disposal of sanitary napkins.

SUVIDHA napkin has special additive added in it, which makes it biodegradable when it reacts with oxygen after it is used and discarded. It will go long way in making basic hygiene



requirement aid for women affordable especially for the underprivileged sections. It will be physically available at all Janaushadhi Kendras in country by World Menstrual Hygiene Day (May 28, 2018).

## **Background**

According to National Family Health Survey (NHFS) 2015-16, about 58% of women aged between 15 to 24 years use locally prepared napkins, sanitary napkins and tampons. Further, only 48% women in rural areas have access to clean sanitary napkins and about 78% women in urban areas use hygienic methods of protection during menstrual period. The use unhygienic aids during menstrual period due to non-affordability of some of branded of sanitary napkins causes fungal infections, Urinary Tract Infection, Reproductive Tract Infection, Cervical cancer and also make women vulnerable to infertility. Moreover, the disposal of non-biodegradable sanitary napkins creates a huge environmental problem.

## **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)**

**The scheme was launched by Department of Pharmaceuticals to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to masses through special Kendra's known as PMBJP. These special Kendra's provide generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs.**

## **Objectives**

- Making quality medicines available at affordable prices for all, particularly the poor and disadvantaged, through exclusive outlets Jan Aushadhi Medical Store.
- Reduce out of pocket expenses in healthcare by bringing down healthcare budget of every citizen through providing Quality generic Medicines at Affordable Prices.

## Mission

Create awareness among public regarding generic medicines.  
Create demand for generic medicines through medical practitioners.

Provide all commonly used generic medicines covering all therapeutic groups.

Provide all related health care products too under the scheme.

Create awareness through education and awareness program that high price need not be synonymous with high quality.

Source: xaam.in

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