

# **OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY**

**IAS Academy by IAS Officers**

## **Daily MCQ: 25.02.2026**

1) Consider the following statements:

1. India's crude oil import dependence is rising mainly due to increasing domestic fuel demand and stagnant domestic production.
2. High dependence on imported crude oil can widen India's trade deficit and put pressure on the rupee.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2) Consider the following statements regarding the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023:

1. It applies to companies outside India if they offer goods or services to individuals located within India.
2. It allows the processing of personal data for certain legitimate uses without explicit consent.
3. It recognizes the right of individuals to seek correction and erasure of their personal data to protect their privacy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3) Consider the following statements regarding the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

1. TRAI is a statutory body that has the authority to regulate tariffs and pricing of telecom services
2. TRAI functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Communications.
3. Appeals against the decisions of TRAI lie before the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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4) Consider the following statements regarding the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC):

1. It is a regional intergovernmental political and economic union.
2. Iraq and Iran are members of GCC.
3. The GCC is currently India's largest trading partner bloc.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5) Consider the following statements with respect to Minimum Support Price (MSP):

1. MSP is the guaranteed price at which the government buys crops from farmers if market rates fall below that threshold.
2. It is announced at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops.
3. The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) takes the final approval on the MSP.

How many of the above statement is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1 and 3

#### **Explanation**

#### **1) Answer: (C)**

India's crude oil import dependence is indeed rising, primarily due to increasing domestic fuel demand (driven by economic growth, rising vehicle ownership, transportation needs, industrialization, and India becoming the world's largest driver of oil demand growth in recent years) and stagnant (or even declining) domestic production. Recent data from the Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC) shows import dependence reaching 88.6% in the first 10 months of FY26 (up from 88.2% in the same period of FY25 and 88.3% for full FY25), marking a continuing upward trend and approaching record highs. Domestic crude oil production has remained largely flat or shown declines in recent years (e.g., averaging around 700 kb/d in 2023 with projections for further gradual decline), failing to keep pace with surging consumption. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

High dependence on imported crude oil significantly widens India's trade deficit (as crude oil remains one of the largest single items in the import basket, increasing the import bill when volumes or prices rise) and exerts downward pressure on the rupee (due to higher demand for US dollars to pay for imports, contributing to rupee depreciation amid widening current

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account deficit pressures, especially when global oil prices rise). **Hence, statement 2 is correct. Therefore, option C is the correct answer.**

#### **2) Answer: (D)**

The **Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023** is India's primary law governing the processing of digital personal data. It aims to balance an individual's right to privacy with the need to process data for lawful purposes.

The Act has **extra-territorial application**.

It applies not only to entities within India but also to **foreign companies** if they process personal data in connection with:

- Offering goods or services to individuals in India, or
- Profiling individuals within India.

This ensures that global tech platforms and foreign e-commerce companies handling Indian users' data are covered under Indian law. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

While consent is the primary basis for processing personal data, the Act allows certain **"legitimate uses"** where consent is not required.

These include:

- State functions (e.g., subsidies, benefits, licenses)
- Compliance with law or court orders
- Medical emergencies
- Employment-related purposes
- Public interest situations (e.g., disaster response)

**Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

The Act recognizes individuals as **Data Principals** and grants them specific rights:

- Right to access information about their personal data
- Right to correction and updating
- Right to erasure (when purpose is complete or consent is withdrawn)
- Right to grievance redressal
- Right to nominate another person (in case of death/incapacity)

**Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

**Therefore, option D is the correct answer.**

#### **3) Answer: (B)**

**TRAI** stands for **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India**. It is the regulatory body for telecommunications in India. It was established under the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997**.

Its main responsibilities include:

- **Regulating tariffs** to ensure fair pricing for telecom services.
- **Monitoring service quality** to protect consumer interests.

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- **Promoting competition** among service providers to prevent monopolies and encourage innovation. Essentially, TRAI ensures that telecom services are **affordable, reliable, and competitive**. Hence statement 1 is correct.

**The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** is an independent statutory body that functions under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Communications, Government of India**.

While it **advises the government** on policy matters, spectrum allocation, and technology adoption, it does **not directly implement government policies**. This independence allows TRAI to act **impartially** in regulating the sector and resolving disputes between operators. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

Decisions made by TRAI can be **challenged through appeals**, which are heard by the **Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT)**.

TDSAT is a **quasi-judicial body** created to resolve disputes related to licensing, tariffs, and service quality between telecom operators, service providers, and consumers. Any further appeal from TDSAT's orders can only be made to the **Supreme Court**, ensuring a clear legal hierarchy. Hence statement 3 is correct.

**Therefore option B is the correct answer.**

#### **4) Answer: (B)**

- The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is a regional intergovernmental political and economic union established in **1981**. It was created to foster coordination and integration among its member states in the fields of economy, commerce, and politics. Hence statement 1 is correct.
- Neither **Iraq** nor **Iran** are members of the GCC. The council consists of six specific Arab monarchies: **Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman**. Iraq is a Gulf Arab nation but has been historically excluded due to political differences, and Iran is a non-Arab state. Hence statement 2 is incorrect.
- The **GCC is India's largest regional-bloc trading partner**, a position it has maintained through consistent growth. In **2017–18**, bilateral trade stood at **\$104 billion** (a 7% increase from the previous year), outperforming India's trade with both the **EU** and **ASEAN**. Hence statement 3 is correct.
- **Therefore, Option B is the correct answer.**

#### **5) Answer: (C)**

- Minimum Support Price (MSP) is the rate at which the Government of India procures crops from farmers **when market prices fall below a predetermined level**. Its primary objective is to prevent distress sales and encourage the cultivation of essential food crops to ensure national food security. However, **MSP currently lacks statutory backing** and functions as an executive policy rather than a legally enforceable right,

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which has been a major point of debate in recent farmer protests. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**

- The most critical fact is that it is announced twice a year, specifically **before the sowing season begins** for the two major crop cycles. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- The process of fixing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) begins months before the sowing season. It starts with the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**, an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, which undertakes a detailed analysis of factors such as cost of production, demand–supply conditions, market trends, and inter-sectoral price parity. Based on this assessment, the CACP submits its Price Policy Report with recommendations to the government. The **final decision on MSP levels is then taken by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by the Prime Minister of India**, which approves the rates before they are officially announced. **Hence statement 3 is Incorrect.**
- **Therefore, option C is the correct answer.**



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