

1. The Rebate of State Levies (RoSL) scheme provides for remission of state levies on exports for which of the following?

- a) Electronic goods
- b) Garments
- c) Horticulture products
- d) Bio-Pharma products

Ans: B

Explanation

- In order to **boost garment exports**, the revenue department has operationalised the Rs 5,500-crore ROSL scheme in 2016
- The main objective of the scheme is to **provide for remission of state levies** in addition to the duty drawback scheme, through the scheme for ROSL on export of garments
- The scheme is in line with the **recognised economic principle of "zero rating" of export products** and in recognition of the fact that at present only central levies are rebated by way of the drawback scheme
- The scheme aims to **boost India's garment exports** thereby facilitating augmenting of investment and creation of more employment in the garment sector
- This scheme enabled the exporters to **enhance competitiveness among the global market**, and compete against countries such as Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Vietnam, who enjoy zero taxation
- This also benefits the traders who export to the European Union (EU), **India's largest export market for the apparel sector**, facing a tariff variation of 9.6 per cent

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- ✓ Recently, the Department of Revenue has allowed the **release of pending Rebate of State Levies (RoSL) worth Rs 464.13 crore to garment exporters**. The ROSL Scheme, which reimburses the State levies that garment and made-up exports incurred, was discontinued on March 7, 2019 and replaced with the **Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies scheme**

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/revenue-dept-allows-release-of-rs-464-cr-rosl-benefits-for-garment-exporters/1821187>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/new-incentives-for-garment-exporters-from-september-20/articleshow/53911823.cms?from=mdr>

2. The 'HCARD' recently seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) It is a performance monitoring tool under Ayushman Bharat
- b) A new monitoring system to check wildlife crime in India
- c) A progress report providing soil fertility status under Soil Health Card Scheme
- d) It is a robotic device to assist frontline COVID-19 healthcare workers

Ans: D

Explanation

- The **robotic device HCARD**, in short for **Hospital Care Assistive Robotic Device**, can help frontline healthcare workers in **maintaining physical distance** from those infected by corona virus. Healthcare workers at hospitals are risking COVID-19 infection while taking care of those infected by it 24/7.
- HCARD is **developed by Durgapur-based CSIR lab**, Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute. The device is equipped with various state-of-the-art technologies and works both in automatic as well as manual modes of navigation.

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- This robot can be controlled and monitored by a nursing booth with a control station having such features as **navigation, drawer activation for providing medicines** and food to patients, sample collection and audio-visual communication
- The cost of this device is less than Rs 5 lakh and the weight is less than 80 kilograms. As spelled out by WHO, **personal protective equipment (PPE) is very important in preventing transmission of coronavirus** in the society, thus the Institute has channelized its resources optimally to develop PPE and community-level safety equipment for helping the public at large and healthcare institutions.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1619169>

3. Which of the following are member countries of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)?

1. China
2. USA
3. India
4. Philippines

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: C

Explanation

- The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a **regional economic forum established in 1989** to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific.

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- APEC aims to create **greater prosperity for the people of the region** by promoting balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure growth and by accelerating regional economic integration
- APEC ensures that **goods, services, investment and people move easily across borders**. Members facilitate this trade through faster customs procedures at borders; more favorable business climates behind the border; and aligning regulations and standards across the region.
- **APEC's 21 member economies** are Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; **People's Republic of China**; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; **The Philippines**; **The Russian Federation**; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; **United States of America**; Viet Nam.

APEC: Cooperation and Consensus

- APEC operates as a cooperative, multilateral economic and trade forum. Member economies participate on the **basis of open dialogue** and respect for views of all participants.
 - In APEC, **all economies have an equal say and decision-making is reached by consensus**. There are **no binding commitments or treaty obligations**.
 - Commitments are **undertaken on a voluntary basis** and capacity building projects help members implement APEC initiatives.
- ✓ The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) region is **expected to post a 2.7 per cent economic decline in 2020 due to the impact of Covid-19**. This will be the most significant fall since the near-zero growth rate logged in 2009 during the global financial crisis.

<https://www.apec.org/About-Us/About-APEC>

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4. 'Global Terrorism Index (GTI)' provides a comprehensive summary of the key global trends and patterns in terrorism. It is being published by which of the following?

- a) Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
- b) Institute for Economics and Peace
- c) INTERPOL
- d) Oxfam International

Ans: B

Explanation

- The **Global Terrorism Index (GTI)** report issued by the **Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)** is based primarily on the **Global Terrorism Database (GTD)** collated by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) at the University of Maryland, besides other sources
- The index provides a **comprehensive summary of the key global trends** and patterns in terrorism since 2000. It produces a composite score in order to provide an ordinal ranking of countries on the **impact of terrorism**
- India has moved to the **seventh position** from the previous year's eighth in the annual **Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2019**. The countries ahead of it are Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria, Syria, Pakistan and Somalia.
- **Niti Aayog has questioned the methodology** adopted by an Australian based institute to rank **India as the seventh worst terrorism affected country** ahead of conflict-ridden countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Sudan, Burkina Faso, Palestine and Lebanon.
- It also questions **the opaque funding of the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)**.

Significance

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- GTI scores are **directly used in the Global Peace Index**, the Global Slavery Report published by the Walk Free Foundation, and indirectly used in computing country scores in the **World Economic Forum's Travel and Tourism Competitiveness** and Global Competitiveness Indices and compilation of Safe Cities Index by the Economist Intelligence Unit

5. Which of the following products have geographical indication (GI) tag in India?

1. Pokkali Rice
2. Kashmir saffron
3. Kandangi Saree

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Ans: D

Explanation

Geographical Indications

- A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a **specific geographical origin** and possess qualities or a **reputation that are due to that origin**.
- A GI is primarily an **agricultural, natural or a manufactured product** (handicrafts and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory
- Typically, such a name **conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness**, which is essentially attributable to the place of its origin

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- Once the GI protection is granted, **no other producer can misuse the name to market similar products**. It also provides comfort to customers about the authenticity of that product
- Any association of **persons, producers, organisation or authority** established by or under the law can be a registered proprietor
- The registration of a geographical indication is **valid for a period of 10 years**. It can be renewed from time to time for further period of 10 years each.
- At the International level: **Geographical Indications are covered as a component of intellectual property rights (IPRs)** under the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property.
- GI is also governed by the **World Trade Organisation (WTO's) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS)**
- In India, Geographical Indications registration is administered by the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** which came into force with effect from September 2003. The first product in India to be accorded with GI tag was **Darjeeling tea** in the year 2004-05
- ✓ Recently, GI tag has been given to **Black rice of Manipur**, Gorakhpur Terracotta and Kadalai Mittai of Kovilpatti and **Kashmir saffron**

https://www.wipo.int/geo_indications/en/

Refer this link for the list of products possessing GI tag in India

http://www.ipindia.nic.in/writereaddata/Portal/Images/pdf/GI_Application_Register_10-09-2019.pdf