

# OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

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Daily MCQ's By Officers' IAS Academy- 15/8/2020

1. With reference to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), consider the following statements.

1. It is an international treaty which aims to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament.
2. Full compliance with the obligations of the NPT is a membership criteria to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group.
3. India is yet to sign the NPT.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to foster the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of disarmament.
- It entered into force in 1970.
- Its 190 states-parties are classified into two categories: **nuclear-weapon states (NWS)**—consisting of the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom—and **non-nuclear-weapon states (NNWS)**.
- Under the treaty, the five NWS commit to pursue general and complete disarmament, while the NNWS agree to forgo developing or acquiring nuclear weapons.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Only four countries (South Sudan, India, Israel, and Pakistan) have not signed the treaty, and one country (North Korea) has signed and then withdrawn from the treaty.

Why didn't India join?

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- The Treaty defines nuclear weapon states as those that had manufactured and detonated a nuclear explosive device prior to 1 January 1967.
- Thus, the spirit of the NPT creates a divide between countries that did develop nuclear power before 1967 and those that didn't develop nuclear power before 1967.
- Being a signatory to NPT means that the party state will cease all development of nuclear weapons and will open doors for inspection of its nuclear facilities by the **International Atomic Energy Agency**.
- The NPT, in India's opinion, doesn't explain the need for this distinction and loss of national sovereignty.

### Nuclear Suppliers Group

- Established in 1975, the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) comprises 48 states that have voluntarily agreed to coordinate their export controls to non-nuclear-weapon states.
- The NSG governs the transfers of civilian nuclear material and nuclear-related equipment and technology.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Full compliance with the obligations of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is a **membership criteria** to join NSG.

### China's blockade

- India has been trying, since 2008, to join the NSG, which would give India access to more sophisticated nuclear technology.
- However, China has repeatedly blocked India's entry into NSG as India is not a signatory to the NPT.
- It should be noted that members are admitted to NSG only by **consensus**.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/gaps-in-the-casting-of-indias-foreign-policy/article32359123.ece>

### 2. Which of the following are components of RBI's reserves?

1. Contingency Fund
2. Currency and Gold Revaluation Account
3. Asset Development Fund
4. Investment Revaluation Account

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- A. 1 and 3 only

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- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: D

Explanation:

- RBI's reserves fall under four main heads: **the Contingency Fund (CF), the Currency and Gold Revaluation Account (CGRA), the Asset Development Fund (ADF) and the Investment Revaluation Account (IRA).**
- CF is the corpus created to take care of unexpected and unforeseen contingencies, including depreciation in the value of securities held, systemic risks and risks arising out of monetary and exchange rate policy operations. The ADF corpus is meant to be drawn upon for investments in subsidiaries and to meet internal capital expenditure etc.
- Of these, the CGRA and the IRA are 'notional' in the sense that they are there to reflect the movements in the market prices of the asset classes (mainly gold, foreign currency and investments) to which they relate. No cash flow is involved in their case and the net credit balance in the CGRA account only indicates the unrealised or potential gain from the disposal by sale of those assets today.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/rbi-board-approves-transfer-of-57128-crore-as-surplus-to-govt/article32356075.ece>

3. Which among the following are examples of Non-tariff barriers?

1. Quotas
2. Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary requirements
3. Rules of Origin
4. Anti Dumping duty

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Select the correct answer using the code given below

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: B

**Explanation:**

- Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) is a way to restrict trade using trade barriers **in a form other than a tariff**. It refers to restrictions that result from prohibitions, conditions, or specific market requirements that make importation or exportation of products difficult and/or costly.
- Quotas, Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary requirements and Rules of Origin are part of Non-Tariff Barriers.
- A **“quota”** is a government-imposed trade restriction that limits the number or monetary value of goods that a country can import or export during a particular period. Countries use quotas in international trade to help regulate the volume of trade between them and other countries.
- **“Sanitary and phytosanitary measures”** are restrictions placed on imports to protect humans, animals, and plants from diseases, pests, or contaminants.
- **“Rules of origin”** are the criteria used to define where a product was made. They are an essential part of trade rules because a number of policies discriminate between exporting countries.
- On the other hand, a tariff barrier is a **price based policy** to restrict trade because it changes the price of import paid by the importer. Eg: Customs duty, **Anti-dumping duty**.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/india-to-take-equal-proportional-measures-if-other-countries-impose-trade-barriers-goyal/article32358864.ece>

4. With reference to the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), consider the following statements.

1. It is a statutory organisation of the Ministry of Science and Technology.
2. It is the nodal agency to deal with cyber security threats and strengthens security-related defence of the Indian Internet domain.
3. "Cyber Swachhta Kendra" is an initiative of the CERT-In.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** CERT-In is a **statutory organisation** of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** established in 2004.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is the nodal agency to deal with cyber security threats and strengthens security-related defence of the Indian Internet domain.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The "Cyber Swachhta Kendra" is a Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre (BCMAC), operated by CERT-In as part of the Government of India's Digital India initiative.
- Its goal is to create a secure cyberspace by detecting botnet infections in India and to notify, enable cleaning and securing systems of end users so as to prevent further infections.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/democracy-needs-an-internet-ombudsman/article32359134.ece>

5. "SRIJAN" portal has been launched with the main objective of

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- A. Improving coordination between the power, coal and railway ministries to ensure coal supplies to power plants.
- B. Facilitating trading across Borders.
- C. Creating awareness of the value of Snow Leopard for the ecosystem.
- D. To promote indigenisation of defence items' production.

Answer: D

**Explanation:**

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently launched the "SRIJAN"- an online portal that provides information about defence equipment and items that can be taken up for indigenisation by private sector companies.
- It aims to promote indigenisation of defence items' production.

<http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=397312>

